



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
foundation

SECOND MRFF CLIENT JOINS MRFF-SPONSORED LAWSUIT AGAINST MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER AS PLAINTIFF

Outcome of September 25 Federal Court Hearing: Court will move forward with MRFF-sponsored lawsuit to remove Bible from POW/MIA table display at Manchester VA Medical Center, but plaintiff's standing in question because he is a Christian. New plaintiff is an Atheist, eliminating standing issue.



MRFF Client Sandra Bell
Second Plaintiff to Join MRFF-Sponsored Lawsuit
Against Manchester VAMC

MRFF CLIENT SANDRA BELL'S BIO

USAF Senior Airman, Signals Intelligence Analyst (1996-2000)
Stationed at National Security Agency - Fort Meade, Maryland

Job Description: Decoded encrypted code, reported team findings at daily briefing to decision makers, analyzed overhead imagery of Russian submarines

Top Secret Clearance
Specialized Compartmented Information Clearance

Joint Service Achievement Medal recognizing outstanding technical expertise and exceptional analytical skills on a strategic target of extreme importance.

Honorable Discharge (2000)

BA in Communication (and minor in Psychology), 2004, University of New Hampshire - Cum Laude

NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER COVERS MRFF

Air Force veteran joins fight to remove Bible in VA POW display

By: Shawne K. Wickham

Friday, October 4, 2019

(Excerpts from the New Hampshire Union Leader/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

An Air Force veteran from the greater Manchester area has added her name as a plaintiff to a federal lawsuit that seeks the removal of a Bible from a display honoring POWs at the Manchester VA Medical Center.

Sandra Bell is identified as an atheist in an amended complaint filed Friday by the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF)**, which is suing the VA to remove the Bible. It states that Bell is a patient of the Manchester medical center and that "she is forced to have unwelcome direct contact with the Bible each time she enters or leaves" that facility.

Mikey Weinstein from the MRFF said Bell was a signals intelligence analyst in the Air Force from 1996 to 2000. She was not one of the original 14 veterans mentioned in the federal lawsuit, but she and two others have since joined the cause, he said.

[...]
"This is not a Christian nation," he said. "We're a secular nation."
Bell's name was added as a named plaintiff after Judge Paul Barbadoro, during a hearing on the case last month, questioned the standing of plaintiff James Chamberlain of Barrington in the case, since Chamberlain is a professed Christian.

Weinstein rejected that Friday. "It's like saying if you're a white person, you can't complain about a whites-only water fountain someplace," he said. "It's a ridiculous argument."

[...]
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JON HOPWOOD ON MEDIUM COVERS MRFF

V.A. Bible Lawsuit Adds Litigant

By: Jon Hopwood

Friday, October 4, 2019

(Excerpts from Medium/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

The "V.A. Bible" lawsuit sponsored by the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation** added a new plaintiff in its action against the Department of Veterans Affairs. Air Force Veteran Sandra Bell, who was once a Christian but is now an atheist, has joined fellow Air Force Veteran James Chamberlain in demanding that a Bible on the POW/Missing Man Table at the Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center be removed.

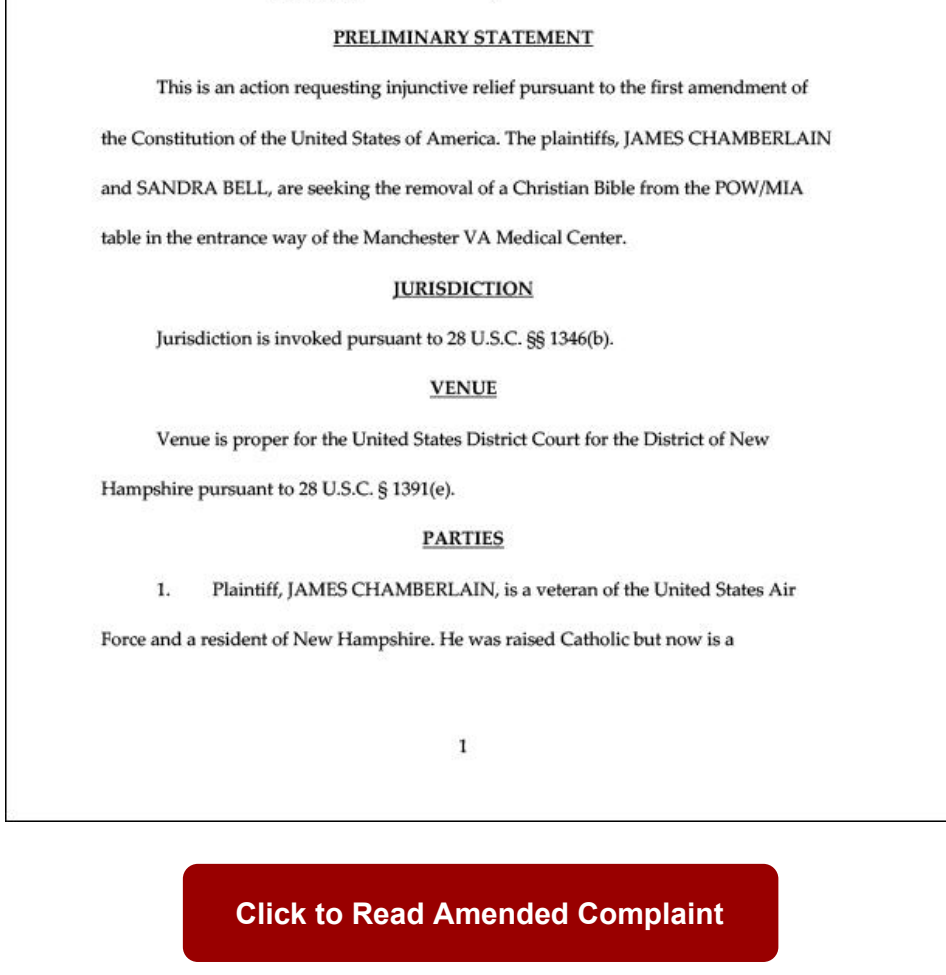
[...]
The addition of Sandra Bell to the lawsuit is significant, due to her being an atheist. At the first hearing of the lawsuit in federal district court on September 25th, the U.S. Department of Justice argued that a believing Christian cannot sue the federal government under the Establishment Clause when the religion being established is their own.
This remarkable defense was made in the District Court of New Hampshire by Cristen C. Handley, of the U.S. Department of Justice's Federal Programs Branch, Civil Division in Washington, D.C., in response to Judge Paul J. Barbadoro's assertion that an atheist or non-Christian would undoubtedly have standing — that is the right to sue in federal court.

[...]
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Christian Bible Encased in Plexiglass and Bolted to POW/MIA Display Table at VA Medical Center in Manchester, NH

AMENDED FEDERAL LAWSUIT COMPLAINT FILED OCTOBER 4, 2019 BY MRFF CLIENTS AGAINST MANCHESTER VA OVER CHRISTIAN BIBLE ON POW/MIA TABLE



[Click to Read Amended Complaint](#)

**CLICK TO READ BACKGROUND ON
MANCHESTER VA BIBLE ISSUE, PROTEST
FLYOVER, BILLBOARD, AND FILING OF
FEDERAL LAWSUIT**



MRFF Information/Contact:
(505) 250-7727

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