



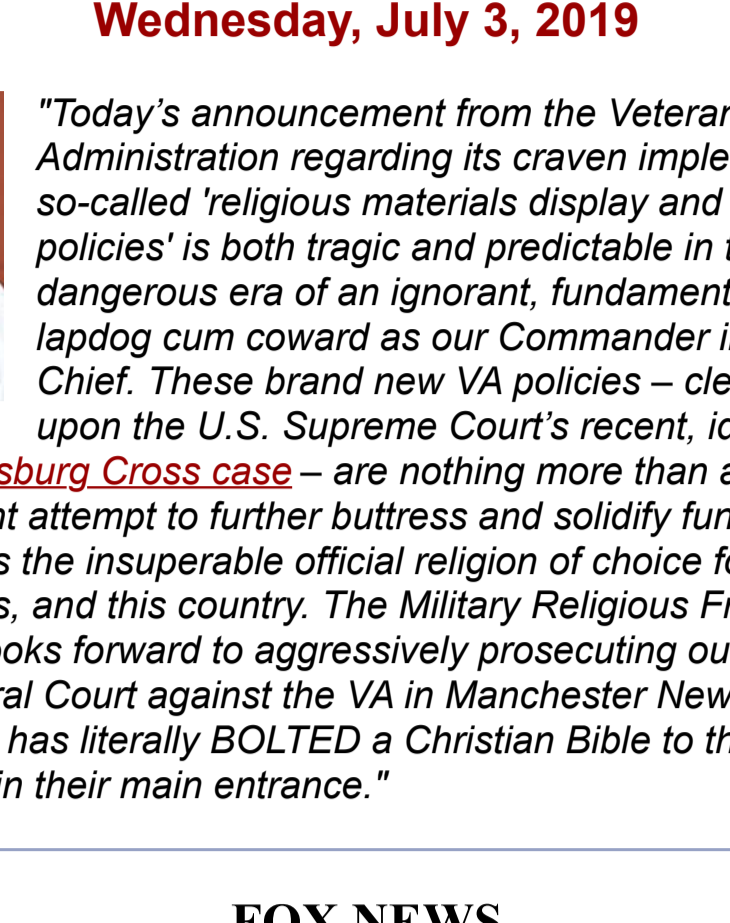
MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOUNDATION

MRFF STRONGLY DENOUNCES VETERANS ADMINISTRATION'S NEW "RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL SYMBOLS POLICIES"

THE VA's NEW POLICY COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE DUE TO MRFF... wink wink

VA's new policy announcement comes just over 7 weeks ago after MRFF client files federal lawsuit to get Bible removed from Manchester, NH Veterans Medical Facility.

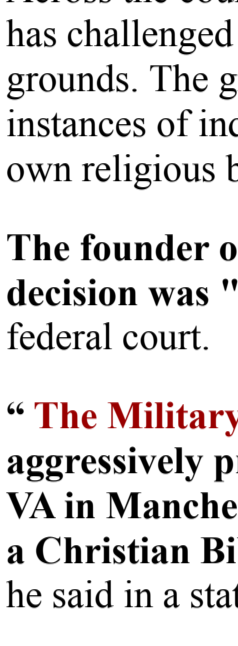
Click to read Veterans Administration's Press Release



This photo of a Catholic Bible bolted down under plexiglass in a prominent POW/MIA table display in the entrance of the Manchester VA medical facility is one example of what would be allowable under the VA's new policies.

MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein's Statement on the Veterans Administration's New "Religious and Spiritual Symbols Policies"

Wednesday, July 3, 2019



"Today's announcement from the Veterans Administration regarding its craven implementation of so-called 'religious materials display and distribution policies' is both tragic and predictable in this hyper-dangerous era of an ignorant, fundamentalist Christian lapdog cum coward as our Commander in Chief. These brand new VA policies - clearly based upon the U.S. Supreme Court's recent, idiotic decision in the Bladensburg Cross case - are nothing more than a transparent and repugnant attempt to further buttress and solidify fundamentalist Christianity as the insuperable official religion of choice for the VA, our Armed Forces, and this country. The Military Religious Freedom Foundation looks forward to aggressively prosecuting our current case in Federal Court against the VA in Manchester New Hampshire where the VA has literally BOLTED a Christian Bible to the POW/MIA table display in their main entrance."

FOX NEWS COVERS MRFF

VA to allow religious symbols amid controversy over Bibles on POW memorial tables

By: Sam Dorman

Wednesday, July 3, 2019

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced on Wednesday that it updated its policy on religious symbols to allow their inclusion in public displays at veterans' facilities.

The policy change came amid a series of lawsuits over religious displays on POW/MIA memorial tables. According to the VA, the new policies would allow the agency to accept donations of religious materials as well as patients and their guests to request religious items -- like literature, symbols, and sacred texts -- during visits to VA chapels.

[...]

Across the country, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) has challenged the inclusion of religious displays on First Amendment grounds. The group specifically advocates against what it perceives to be instances of individuals improperly using the government to promote their own religious beliefs.

The founder of the MRFF, Mikey Weinstein, said Wednesday the VA's decision was "tragic and predictable" and vowed to pursue legal action in federal court.

"The Military Religious Freedom Foundation looks forward to aggressively prosecuting our current case in Federal Court against the VA in Manchester, New Hampshire where the VA has literally BOLTED a Christian Bible to the POW/MIA table display in their main entrance," he said in a statement.

In May, the MRFF sued over a POW/MIA memorial table which included a Bible at a VA facility in New Hampshire -- an inclusion Weinstein called a "repugnant example of fundamentalist Christian triumphalism, exceptionalism, superiority, and domination."

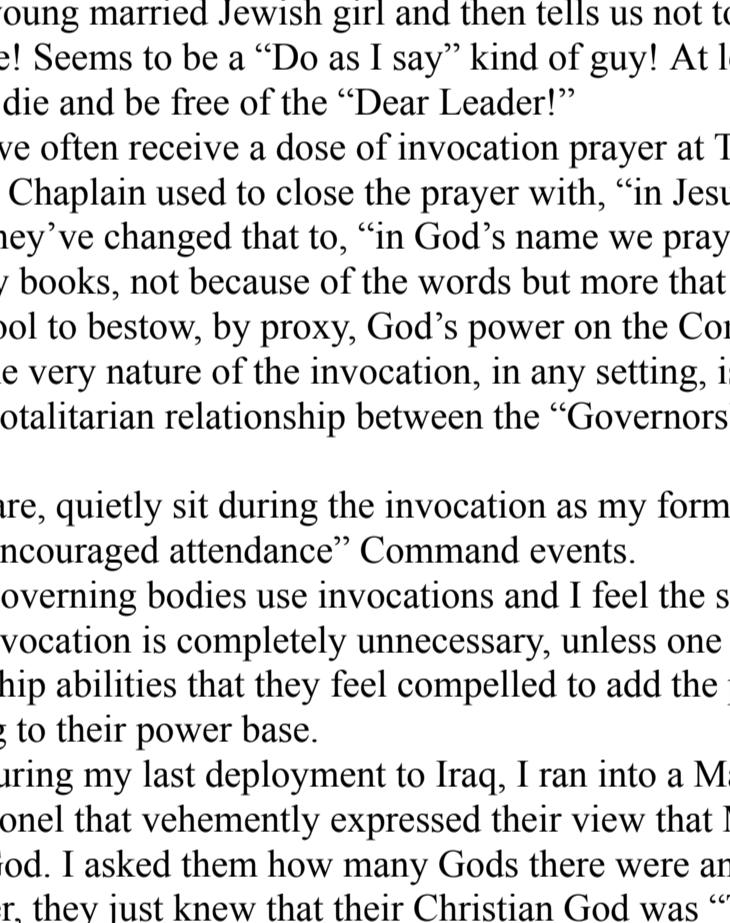
[...]

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FOX & FRIENDS BESMIRCHES MRFF

Atheist group sues New Hampshire VA hospital over Bible display at POW/MIA memorial table.

Thursday, May 9, 2019



The Military Religious Freedom Foundation is calling the display 'repugnant.' The First Liberty Institute's Mike Berry, who represents the group who donated the Bible, reacts.

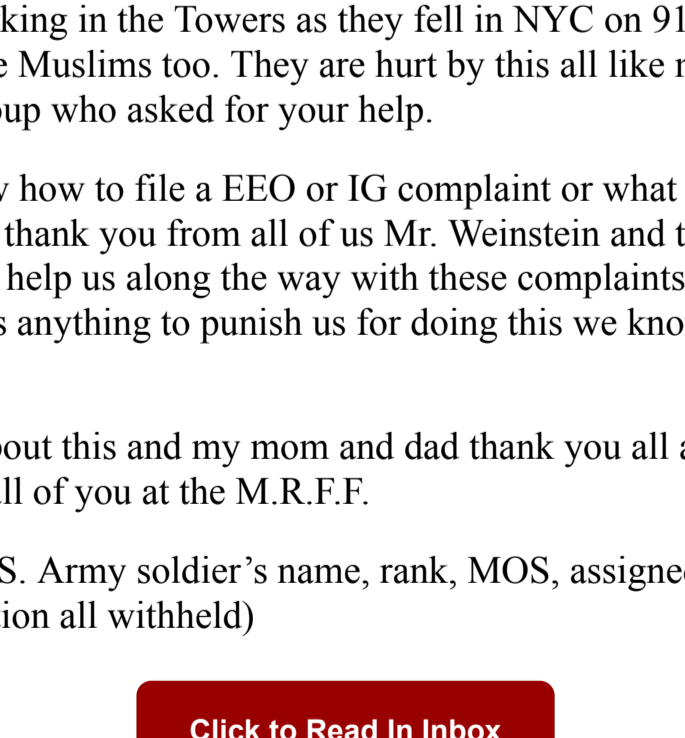
Click to Watch Fox & Friends Video (4min 20sec)

MRFF's LEGAL COUNSEL SENDS YET ANOTHER DEMAND LETTER TO FOX NEWS TO STOP CONTINUALLY AND INTENTIONALLY LYING ABOUT MRFF BEING AN "ATHEIST GROUP"

Click to Read

CLICK TO READ BACKGROUND ON PASTMRFF VICTORIES: BIBLE REMOVALS FROM POW/MIA TABLES AT VA FACILITIES/MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

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



"VA to allow religious material etc."

From: (name withheld)
Date: July 3, 2019 at 8:35:16 AM MDT
To: "mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org"
Subject: VA to allow religious material etc.

Hello Mikey,
I'd first like to thank you for all your work. I know I appreciate it as do many others.
I just got this from the VA and although I haven't read the PDF's I thought you might be interested. At first glance it appears that the VA is going to allow religious displays, expression and literature at the VA I would guess based on the recent wrong Supreme Court ruling. Mikey I am a 100% disabled USMC Sgt-Vietnam 66/67 and while I no longer live in the states, and have no desire to ever return, I can assure you if confronted with some religious crap at a VA it would probably result in arrest for me. I have no use for people that try to force their religious beliefs on another. I practice no religion although brought up in the baptist church by a father who was a deacon and Sunday School superintendent. My mom was a Sunday School teacher also. I was to be the next "Billy Graham". Well I've done a lot of "preaching" just wasn't the kind they had in mind.
https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5279
Best to you and yours, keep up the great work.

(name withheld)
USMC Sgt-Vietnam 66/67
VVAW
Save Our VA member

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"THANKS"

From: (name withheld) MRFF Supporter
Date: Wed, Jul 3, 2019, 11:25
Subject: Thanks!
To: <mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org>

Mikey,
Thanks for all you do! I've written to you a couple of times and your support is incredible!
I'm a (age withheld) year old federal civilian working for the US Army (location withheld) in the heart of the Bible belt. I've been religion free since the age of (age withheld) - what freedom getting away from the old tyrannical invisible white guy in the clouds that tells us if we don't love and worship him he'll make us burn forever! You know, the same guy that knocked up a young married Jewish girl and then tells us not to covet thy neighbor's wife! Seems to be a "Do as I say" kind of guy! At least in North Korea you can die and be free of the "Dear Leader!"
At AMCOM, we often receive a dose of invocation prayer at Town Halls. The Command Chaplain used to close the prayer with, "in Jesus' name we pray amen." They've changed that to, "in God's name we pray amen," still offensive in my books, not because of the words but more that the Command uses this as a tool to bestow, by proxy, God's power on the Command Leadership. The very nature of the invocation, in any setting, is to establish an oppressive totalitarian relationship between the "Governors" and the governed.
I, without fanfare, quietly sit during the invocation as my form of protest at these "highly encouraged attendance" Command events.
I know many governing bodies use invocations and I feel the same about them all. An invocation is completely unnecessary, unless one is so insecure in their leadership abilities that they feel compelled to add the power of the Supreme Being to their power base.
Anecdotal, during my last deployment to Iraq, I ran into a Major and Lieutenant Colonel that vehemently expressed their view that Muslims pray to a different God. I asked them how many Gods there were and they couldn't answer, they just knew that their Christian God was "The Right God!" I further pointed out that they were just as Atheist as I am, I just go a couple of Gods further.
Our "Christianized" military, in my opinion, is an existential threat to the good order and discipline of our Armed Forces and their ability to carry out their mission.
When personal beliefs are allowed to permeate the decision making abilities of our military leadership, it weakens the strength of our capabilities.
Invocations are completely unnecessary. We all know the position power of the Commanding General without his appeal to a higher power to assuage his insecurities and legitimize his standing in the organization! It has the opposite effect in my books. It tells me the Commander is less than confident in his ability to lead, which severely diminishes the synergy and capacity of the organization. From first hand accounts, I know many leaders at AMCOM that truly believe God himself (and he is a he), put them in positions of leadership, it's part of God's plan! Very dangerous!
Thanks for all you and the MRFF do Mikey!
It's very much appreciated!

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"Jesus=Army 4th July Safety Briefing"

U.S. Army Officer Invokes Grateful, R.F.F. Intervenes, 13 Soldiers Grateful!

From: Active Duty U.S. Army Soldier's e-Mail Address Withheld
Subject: Jesus=Army 4th July Safety Briefing
Date: July 2, 2019 at 3:31:25 PM MDT
To: Information Weinstein <mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org>

Mr. Weinstein of the Military R.F.F.
First off thank you all so much for everything! I am a pretty new Army troop. I am a (very junior enlisted rank withheld) stationed at Fort (name withheld) which is one of the biggest bases in the world by square mile size of it and troops at it assigned here.
I am also a Christian who has been raised in a (Protestant denomination withheld) family. Where my dad is deacon in our church and my mom teaches Sunday school every week.
But I know when wrong is wrong. And it just happened. And a OFFICER did it all.
At yesterday's July 4th safety briefing for our (unit name withheld) the Safety Officer kept reminding all of us "to be safe on this 4th July holiday weekend" for which most of the post is on leave to celebrate.
This briefier who again is a OFFICER and should know better then told all of us that July 4th is Independence Day. But that "none of you should be independent from Jesus" and that "the only real permanent safety in life is to accept Jesus as Lord and savior."
Even though some of my fellow soldiers in the (unit name withheld) thought nothing of it me and a bunch of my battle buddies knew it was bogus and jacked for this officer to do this. We were angry but what are we to do? We did not know. Personal telling that officer seemed like suicide.
I went to my (senior NCO rank and title withheld) about what happened and to my surprise he agreed with us that this was total messed up trash. He gave me the M.R.F.F. phone number to call you. And you actually answered yourself. And with what we could do.
Thank you for helping me and the other 12 members of my (unit name withheld) to file a EEO complaint and a IG complaint too. One of my buddies who is with us on this is Jewish. He had his great grandfather who was murdered at a Nazi camp in WW2. And another one of us had his cousin killed while working in the Towers as they fell in NYC on 9/11. And they whole family are Muslims too. They are hurt by this all like me and the others in our group who asked for your help.
None of us knew how to file a EEO or IG complaint or what to say in them. But you did and thank you from all of us Mr. Weinstein and the M.R.F.F. We will need you to help us along the way with these complaints. And if anyone in the chain does anything to punish us for doing this we know you will help us!
I called home about this and my mom and dad thank you all at the M.R.F.F. too. God Bless all of you at the M.R.F.F.
(Active Duty U.S. Army soldier's name, rank, MOS, assigned unit and military installation all withheld)

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"HAPPY 4TH OF JULY"

Prominent Civil Rights Attorney and MRFF Advisory Board Member Pedro L. Irigonegaray beautifully expresses what Independence Day means to him.



My dear brother Mikey,
Good afternoon.
As a political refugee July 4th is particularly significant to me. Independence, a state of being without which the pursuit of happiness is unreachable, must always be protected.

The United States has remained independent because it's citizens, women and men, have historically paid the ultimate sacrifice for its protection. Citizens like you and Bonnie, your parents, your children, Americans serving our nation, defending its principles, protecting its values. Thank you Mikey, on this very special day of celebration for your tireless service to our nation, your fearless defense of our Constitution and your courageous and uncompromising willingness to speak truth to power. I am honored to stand with you brother.
I am most grateful for the gift of freedom which American patriots provided to my family as we fled a communist dictatorship. America's beacon of freedom, shining brightly from the United States to the world, guided us to our new home. My parents recognized that their children's future could not possibly be better protected in any other part of the world.
Mikey I remember a 1962 winter's morning, following a tour of the Kansas Capitol building, standing on its snow covered grounds with my parents and two sisters; I was 13 years old. The Capitol was buzzing with activity on that day. The Legislature and the Supreme Court were in session. As we were walking towards our car my father put his arm around my shoulder and in a quiet and compelling voice he said to me: "In that building laws are created and enforced, remember always that we have no other place to which to run, our new land must be protected". My parents knew that the United States of America had to be protected if we were to remain free.
Happy Fourth of July my brother. Your gallant battles defending justice and equality for all are inspiring.
Best regards Mikey to you and your family.
Pedro Luis Irigonegaray

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MRFF Information/Contact:

(505) 250-7727

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