

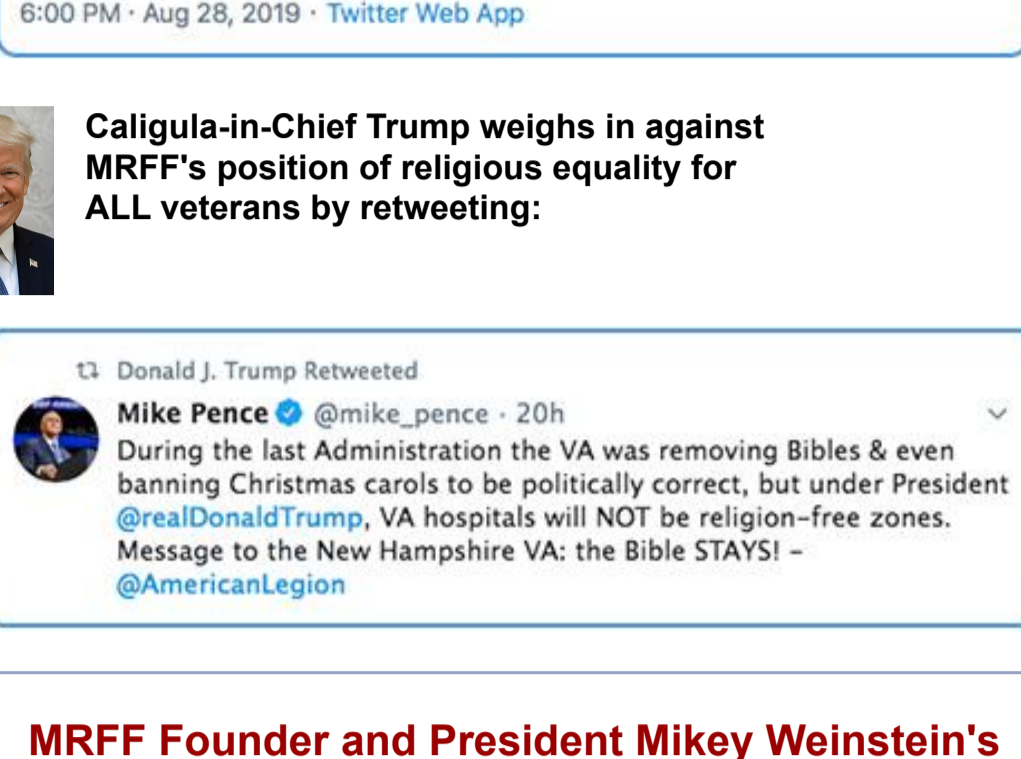


FUNDAMENTALIST PRIVILEGED PENCE AND TWEETER TRUMP JOIN FRAY OPPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL CONSCIENCE MRFF

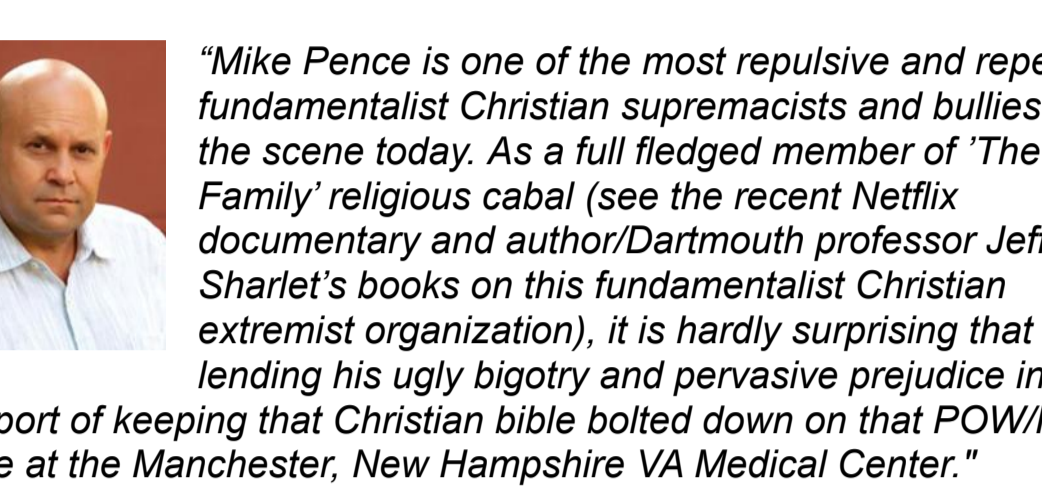
VP Pence Tweets and Trump retweets "The Bible stays," referring to the subject of a MRFF client's lawsuit - the large bolted down Bible on the missing man table at the Manchester VA Medical Center



Vice President Pence's Tweet (retweeted by Donald Trump):



Mikey Weinstein's response:

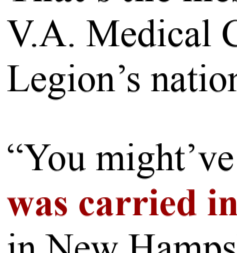


Caligula-in-Chief Trump weighs in against MRFF's position of religious equality for ALL veterans by retweeting:



MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein's Statement on Mike Pence's Tweet

Thursday, August 29, 2019



"Mike Pence is one of the most repulsive and repellent fundamentalist Christian supremacists and bullies on the scene today. As a full fledged member of 'The Family' religious cabal (see the recent Netflix documentary and author/Dartmouth professor Jeff Sharlet's books on this fundamentalist Christian extremist organization), it is hardly surprising that he is lending his ugly bigotry and pervasive prejudice in support of keeping that Christian bible bolted down on that POW/MIA table at the Manchester, New Hampshire VA Medical Center."

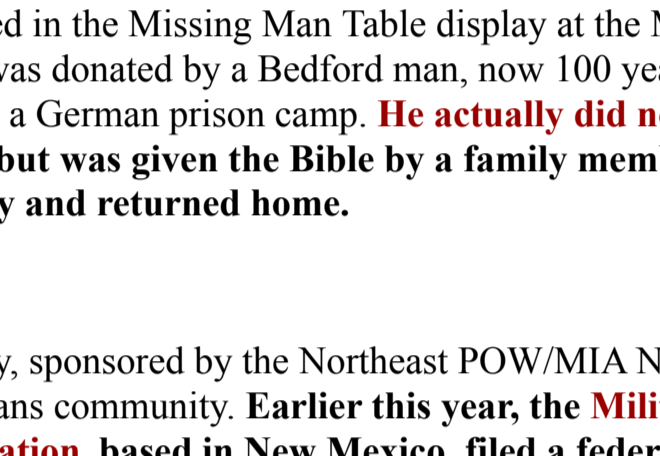


Photo credit: Military Religious Freedom Foundation

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER COVERS MRFF

'The Bible stays' - Vice President Pence weighs in on fight over Manchester VA POW/MIA display

By: Shawne K. Wickham

Thursday, August 29, 2019

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

"The Bible stays."

That's the message Vice President Michael Pence sent to the Manchester V.A. Medical Center on Wednesday, during a speech at the American Legion's national convention.

"You might've heard even today that there's a lawsuit to remove a Bible that was carried in World War II from a Missing Man Table at a V.A. hospital in New Hampshire," Pence told the veterans gathered in Indianapolis. "Let me be clear: Under this administration, VA hospitals will not be religion-free zones."

[...]

The Bible featured in the Missing Man Table display at the Manchester V.A. Medical Center was donated by a Bedford man, now 100 years old, who was a former POW in a German prison camp. He actually did not carry it during the war, but was given the Bible by a family member after he escaped captivity and returned home.

[...]

The lobby display, sponsored by the Northeast POW/MIA Network, has divided the veterans community. Earlier this year, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, based in New Mexico, filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of an Air Force veteran against the Manchester V.A., claiming the inclusion of the Bible in the display is unconstitutional.

[...]

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THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON COVERS MRFF

Veterans Face Off in Court Over Bible Display in V.A. Hospital

By: Yuichiro Kakutani

Thursday, August 29, 2019

(Excerpts from The Washington Free Beacon/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A secular group is petitioning to remove a prisoner of war's Bible from a New Hampshire Veterans Affairs hospital in a lawsuit that has drawn the attention of top White House officials.

The dispute will likely test the implications of the Supreme Court's June decision to preserve a World War I memorial known as the Bladensburg Cross, despite complaints from atheist activists that such displays were unconstitutional. Associate Justice Samuel Alito wrote that "Destroying or defacing the Cross would not be neutral and would not further the ideals of respect and tolerance embodied in the First Amendment" in the 7-2 ruling. Vice President Mike Pence weighed in on the New Hampshire Bible display Thursday night.

"The last Administration was removing Bibles and even banning Christmas carols to be politically correct, but under President @realDonaldTrump, V.A. hospitals will NOT be religion-free zones," Pence tweeted. "Message to the New Hampshire VA: the Bible STAYS!"

[...]

The dispute began in January when 14 veterans, nine of whom were Protestants or Catholics, complained to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) that they found the Bible on the commemorative table in the Manchester New Hampshire V.A. Medical Center, according to the lawsuit. The next day, MRFF founder Mikey Weinstein asked the hospital to remove the religious text.

"When you put one particular religious sign on a sacred memorial like that, that's like a gang sign of the Bloods and the Crips, a middle finger to everyone else," Weinstein told the Washington Free Beacon.

[...]

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THE WASHINGTON TIMES COVERS MRFF

'The Bible stays': Mike Pence blasts 'politically correct' efforts undertaken by Obama

By: Christopher Vondracek

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

(Excerpts from The Washington Times/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

The Bible under bolted glass at the VA Hospital received a hearty note of support from Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday, who spoke to the American Legion national convention in defiance of what he termed efforts to be "politically correct" undertaken by the Obama administration.

[...]

Mr. Pence said under the Trump Administration, VA hospitals will not be "religion-free zones."

"And my message to the New Hampshire VA hospital is: The Bible stays," he said, pointing out to the audience, who responded with whoops of applause.

[...]

Earlier this year, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation and a veteran of the Air Force sued the VA in New Hampshire alleging a violation of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause of Religion for the display of a Bible at a POW/MIA table in the lobby.

[...]

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THE FRIENDLY ATHEIST ON PATHEOS COVERS MRFF

Mike Pence Spreads Lie That President Obama Removed Bibles from VA Hospitals

By: Sarahbeth Caplin

Thursday, August 29, 2019

(Excerpts from The Friendly Atheist/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

Earlier this year, the Manchester VA Medical Center in New Hampshire put up a "Missing Man" table display in the front entrance. These displays are dedicated to prisoners of war or those missing in action, and they're fairly commonplace at military bases. But this particular display had a Bible on the table, suggesting that POW/MIAs were only Christian, and that atheists and people of other faiths didn't make the same sacrifices as other soldiers.

After the Military Religious Freedom Foundation's founder Mikey Weinstein alerted the VA to the problem, he was told the Bible would be removed from the display — and it was... temporarily. It was eventually returned in a "locked plexiglass box."

James Chamberlain, an Air Force veteran who now belongs to the United Church of Christ, soon filed a lawsuit to have the Bible removed. He argued this was a violation of the Establishment Clause. The case is still being decided.

Vice President Mike Pence, however, has a very different version of this story. He's spreading the lie that President Barack Obama ordered the Bible out of those displays at VA hospitals.

[...]

"It's really no surprise," Pence continued. "Because under the last administration, VA hospitals were removing Bibles and even banning Christmas carols in an effort to be politically correct."

[...]

Plot twist: The policy on religious neutrality at these hospitals actually predates the Obama administration.

[...]

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THE WESTERN JOURNAL COVERS MRFF

VA Secretary Slams Obama Admin's Restrictions on Religion: 'They Did Not Know the History of This Country'

By: Joe Saunders

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

(Excerpts from The Western Journal/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie has a perspective of the armed forces few can share.

[...]

But, as The Washington Times describes it, one of the highest-profile fights he's facing now is against the remnants of the Obama administration's efforts to rid the VA system of religious symbols.

"The last administration ... had a very ahistoric approach" to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Wilkie told the newspaper in an interview published Tuesday.

"They did not know the makeup of the force. They did not know the history of this country when it came to religious foundations, the religious support for those in uniform."

Under a policy announced in July, the VA has made it clear that religious content such as Bibles are acceptable in displays at VA facilities.

To most Americans, that might seem like a no-brainer, but a federal lawsuit filed in May by a legal advocacy group called the Military Religious Freedom Foundation is challenging a Bible's presence in a display commemorating POWs in a lobby in a Manchester, New Hampshire, VA medical center.

[...]

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[CLICK TO READ BACKGROUND ON MANCHESTER VA BIBLE ISSUE, PROTEST FLYOVER, AND FILING OF FEDERAL LAWSUIT](#)

[CLICK TO READ BACKGROUND ON PAST MRFF VICTORIES: BIBLE REMOVALS FROM POW/MIA TABLES AT VA FACILITIES/MILITARY INSTALLATIONS](#)

[Click to read Veterans Administration's New "Religious and Spiritual Symbols Policies" Press Release](#)



MRFF Information/Contact: (505) 250-7727

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