



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
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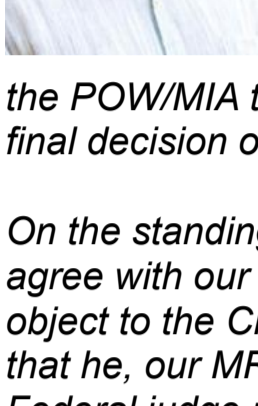
MRFF CLIENT'S FEDERAL LAWSUIT TO REMOVE BIBLE FROM POW/MIA TABLE AT MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER WILL MOVE FORWARD!



Photo credit:
Military Religious Freedom Foundation
Christian Bible Encased in Plexiglass and Bolted to POW/MIA Display Table at VA Medical Center in Manchester, NH

MRFF FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT MIKEY WEINSTEIN'S STATEMENT ON TODAY'S FEDERAL COURT HEARING

Wednesday, September 25, 2019



"We are very pleased by what happened in Federal Court in Concord, New Hampshire today as skillfully argued by Attorney Larry Vogelmann of the Nixon Vogelmann law firm.

The Federal judge, Paul Barbadoro, adopted our MRFF client's argument that discovery had to occur and more facts developed regarding the history of the POW/MIA table and the Christian Bible before he could make the final decision on the merits of the case.

On the standing issue, the Federal judge understood and seemed to agree with our MRFF client's argument that our client had standing to object to the Christian Bible on the POW/MIA table despite the fact that he, our MRFF client, is a Christian. On that issue of standing, the Federal judge reserved judgment and will write an opinion to come later."

NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER COVERS MRFF

Judge questions Christian plaintiff's standing in VA Medical Center Bible suit

By: Mark Hayward

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

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

CONCORD — All sorts of case law and legal precedent exist when religious symbols go up on religious property. Muslims and Jews can sue over a cross or Christmas creche in a town square. Atheists challenge Ten Commandments at a courthouse. But a federal judge on Wednesday said he doesn't know if a Christian can file a legal challenge to the inclusion of the Bible, the holy book of all Christians, on a Missing Man table at the Manchester VA Medical Center. The hearing in U.S. District Court is the first courtroom airing of legal challenges brought by the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation** over the display, which is located in the lobby of the medical center.

[...] District Court Judge Paul Barbadoro said all the case law he knows of in government-religion cases stem from cases brought by atheists or by different religions challenging the religious symbol of another group. **The man challenging the Bible at the VA -- James Chamberlain -- is a Christian** who lives in Barrington and attends a Congregational church.

"If he were an atheist, he would have standing and that would be clear," Barbadoro said. But the Chamberlain case raises a very challenging question, he said. The judge made no decision from the bench but he noted the difficulty in doing so, given its complexity and lack of guidance from case law.

Barbadoro told Manchester lawyer Lawrence Vogelmann that he will have to show that Chamberlain was injured in some aspect. And Barbadoro said that injury has to go beyond the notion that Chamberlain worries that non-Christian veterans might take offense or that it is a constitutional violation.

Vogelmann said Chamberlain has strong religious and philosophical beliefs about the Bible's inclusion in the display, and it offends him as **both a Christian and a veteran**. "Based upon Jim's beliefs and his service to our country and his Christianity, he thinks excluding people is just wrong," Vogelmann told reporters after the hearing.

[...] [Click to Read Article](#)

ASSOCIATED PRESS COVERS MRFF

VA pushes to dismiss lawsuit over Bible at medical center

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

(Excerpts from the Associated Press/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Lawyers for New Hampshire's veterans hospital say a lawsuit over the display of a Bible there should be dismissed because the Air Force veteran who filed it isn't harmed.

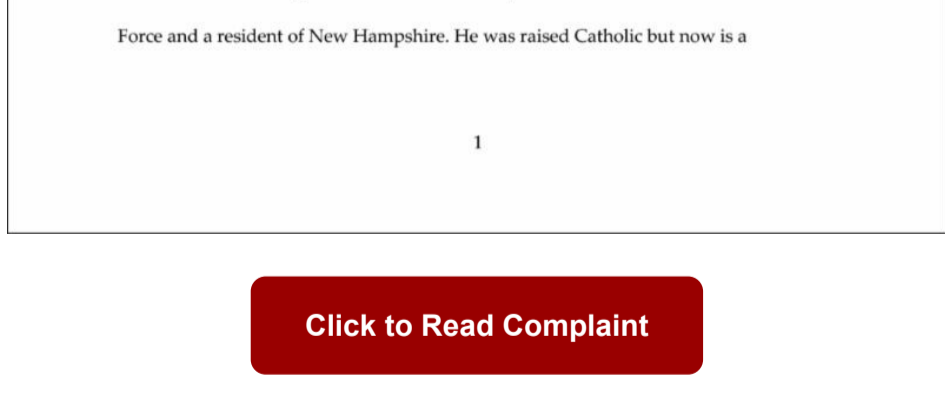
[...] Chamberlain said the Bible's inclusion is in violation of the Constitution, which prohibits discrimination of anyone based on their religious beliefs. His lawyer, Lawrence Vogelmann, argued his **client's religion shouldn't matter in the case**.

The display is at the entranceway of the Manchester VA Medical Center. It was sponsored by a veterans group called the Northeast POW/MIA Network.

[...] [Click to Read Article](#)

MAY 7, 2019

FEDERAL LAWSUIT FILED BY MRFF CLIENT AGAINST MANCHESTER VA OVER UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHRISTIAN BIBLE



[Click to Read Complaint](#)

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



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