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MRFF CLIENT'S FEDERAL COURT HEARING IGNITES MAJOR MEDIA COVERAGE

Outcome of Yesterday's Federal Court Hearing: Court Will Move Forward with MRFF Client's Lawsuit to Remove Bible from POW/MIA Table Display at Manchester VA Medical Center



ABC TV WMUR-9 COVERS MRFF

Arguments made in federal court over Bible at VA Medical Center

By: Andy Hershberger

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

[Click to Watch Video \(1 min 52 sec\)](#)

FOX NEWS COVERS MRFF

Lawsuit over Bible in veterans hospital can move forward, judge says

By: Rob DiRienzo

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

(Excerpts from Fox News/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

MANCHESTER, N.H. – A lawsuit over a Bible on display at a memorial for POWs at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center **can move forward, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.**

The ruling failed to end a months-long fight over a Bible display that **prompted even Vice President Mike Pence to chime in.**

The Bible, which sits on the "Missing Man Table" at the Manchester VA Hospital, was donated by a former POW in a German prison camp who is now 100 years old, the Union Leader reports.

But U.S. Air Force veteran James Chamberlain – who is a Christian himself – said it offended him every time he walked past it at the hospital and sued in May with the assistance of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. The organization also bought a billboard in downtown Manchester calling on President Trump and Vice President Pence to “Remove the Bible, Honor All Veterans.”

"Based upon Jim's beliefs and his service to our country and his Christianity," Chamberlain's lawyer, Lawrence Vogelman, said outside the courthouse, "he thinks excluding people is just wrong."

[...]

"My client seriously believes that it diminishes him as a veteran and as a Christian to exclude those other people that he served with," Vogelman said.

[...]

Both sides will meet with the judge within the next few weeks to discuss the next steps. After that, oral arguments are expected to begin.

[...]

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NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC RADIO COVERS MRFF CLIENT'S LAWSUIT

Judge Denies Motion to Dismiss Manchester VA Bible Challenge

By: Peter Biello

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

(Excerpts from New Hampshire Public Radio/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A federal judge Wednesday denied a motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a veteran challenging the presence of a Bible on a display table in the lobby of the Manchester VA Medical Center.

The VA sought to dismiss the case, arguing the man who filed the complaint, James Chamberlain, **is Christian** and therefore could not be personally injured by the presence of the Bible.

Chamberlain's attorney, Larry Vogelman, disagrees.

"Everytime he's forced to go by it, he thinks of those he served with who weren't Christian, and he thinks of those who gave their ultimate sacrifice of their lives to defend our country and our Constitution, and not all of them were Christian, and that hurts him to the quick," says Vogelman.

[...]

Outside the courthouse, Vogelman argued that the Bible's presence in the lobby of the Manchester VA is harmful not only to Chamberlain, but to people of all faiths, because **it symbolizes the government's endorsement of one religion over others.**

[...]

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NEWSMAX COVERS MRFF CLIENT'S LAWSUIT

Judge Says Lawsuit Over Bible in VA Hospital Can Move Forward

By: Solange Reyner

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

(Excerpts from Newsmax/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A lawsuit demanding the removal of a Bible on display at New Hampshire's veteran's hospital **can move forward, a judge ruled Wednesday**, according to Fox News.

Lawyers for the government argued the suit should be dismissed because James Chamberlain, the Air Force veteran who filed it, has not shown he was harmed in any way.

Chamberlain, who is a Christian, sued in May.

He argued the Bible's inclusion in a display honoring missing veterans and POWs at the entrance of the medical center **is in violation of the Constitution, which prohibits discrimination of anyone based on their religious beliefs.**

"Based upon Jim's beliefs and his service to our country and his Christianity," Chamberlain's lawyer, Lawrence Vogelman, said outside the courthouse, "he thinks excluding people is just wrong."

[...]

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STARS AND STRIPES REPRINTS AP ARTICLE ON MRFF CLIENT'S LAWSUIT

Veterans group pushes to dismiss suit over Bible on display at Manchester VA Medical Center

By: Michael Casey

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

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AIR FORCE TIMES REPRINTS AP ARTICLE ON MRFF CLIENT'S LAWSUIT

Veterans group pushes to dismiss suit over Bible on display at New Hampshire VA hospital

By: Michael Casey

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

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MRFF FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT MIKEY WEINSTEIN'S STATEMENT ON 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 Vogelman of the Nixon Vogelman 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.

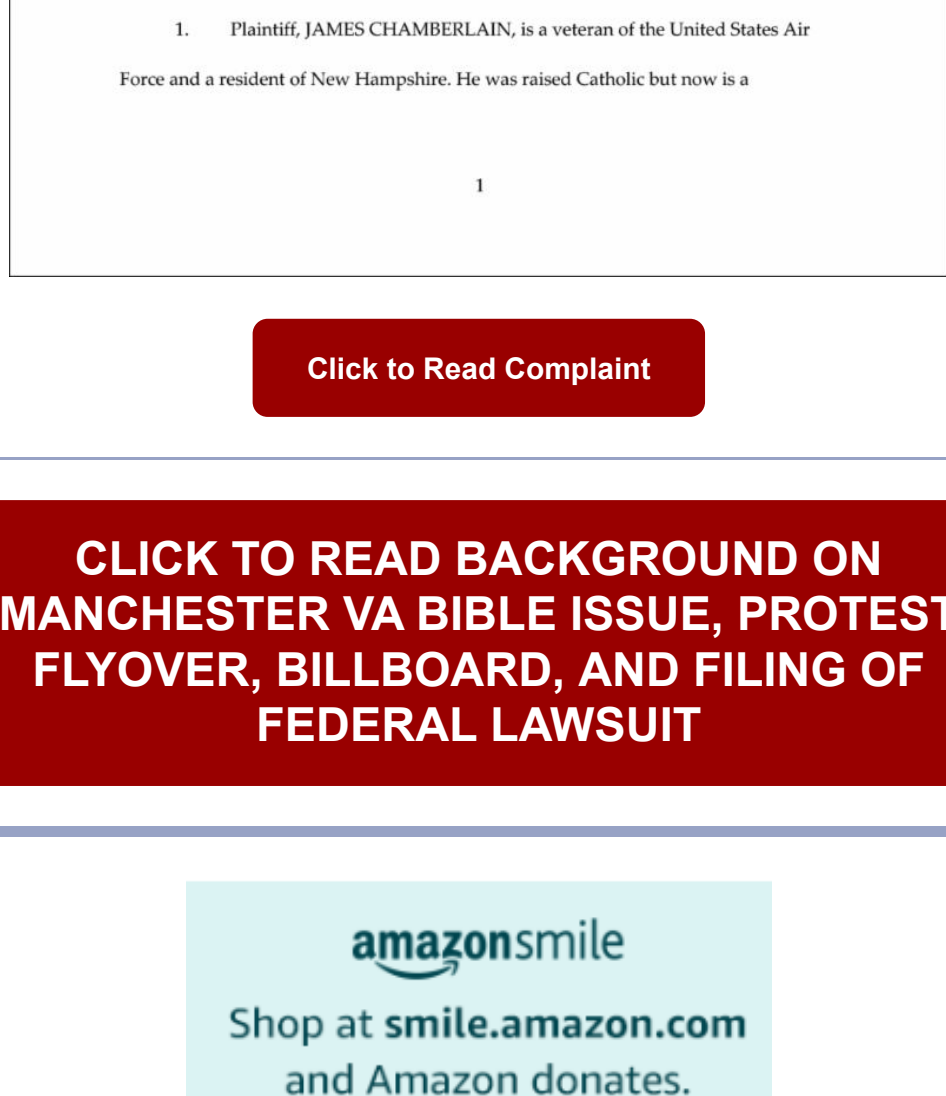
On the standing issue, the Federal judge understood and seemed to agree with our MRFF client's argument that our client had standing to object to the Christian Bible on the POW/MIA table despite the fact that he, our MRFF client, is a Christian. On that issue of standing, the Federal judge reserved judgment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



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

MAY 7, 2019

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



[Click to Read Complaint](#)

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MANCHESTER VA BIBLE ISSUE, PROTEST
FLYOVER, BILLBOARD, AND FILING OF
FEDERAL LAWSUIT**

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