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FACTCHECK.ORG VALIDATES MRFF, DEBUNKS PENCE'S STATEMENTS ABOUT VA AND BIBLE AT MANCHESTER VAMC



U.S. Vice President Pence endorses fundamentalist evangelical privilege in the Veterans Administration

MRFF President Mikey Weinstein endorses the constitutionally guaranteed separation of church and state for ALL veterans

FACTCHECK.ORG VALIDATES MRFF

Pence's 'Politically Correct' Obama VA Claim

By: Robert Farley

Thursday, September 5, 2019

(Excerpts from FactCheck.org/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

In an address to veterans, Vice President Mike Pence said "VA hospitals were removing Bibles" and "banning Christmas carols" under the last administration, and "will not be religion-free zones" under this administration. **But VA hospitals have never been "religion-free zones." And there's less to the isolated incidents than Pence's claim suggests.**

[...]
... Pence referenced those policies during a speech on Aug. 28 at the American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis.
Pence, Aug. 28: "And as we meet the health care needs of our veterans, let me make you another promise: This administration will always make room for the spiritual needs of our heroes at the VA as well. 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 VA hospital in New Hampshire. There's a lawsuit underway. It's really no surprise because, under the last administration, VA hospitals were removing Bibles and even banning Christmas carols in an effort to be politically correct. But let me be clear: Under this administration, VA hospitals will not be religion-free zones. We will always respect the freedom of religion of every veteran of every faith. And my message to the New Hampshire VA hospital is: The Bible stays."

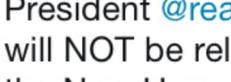
Let's start with Pence's initial reference to a controversy that unfolded this year (under the Trump administration) at the **Manchester VA Medical Center in New Hampshire, where a Bible was displayed atop a "Missing Man Table"** — a common POW/MIA memorial at military and veterans' facilities. **It was temporarily removed from a foyer table at the VA center in January after a complaint from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, which said it was acting at the request of 14 patients of various faiths.** But the Bible returned in February, this time under a protective plexiglass covering.

[...]
However, the Bible in question was not "carried in World War II," as Pence said. A reporter for the New Hampshire Union Leader interviewed the veteran who donated the Bible — a 100-year-old New Hampshire man who was once a POW in a German prison camp. The story noted, **"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."**

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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.

Pence lies about Obama administration VA policies.



Mike Pence
@mike_pence

During the last Administration the VA was removing Bibles & even banning Christmas carols to be politically correct, but under President @realDonaldTrump, VA hospitals will NOT be religion-free zones. Message to the New Hampshire VA: the Bible STAYS! - @AmericanLegion



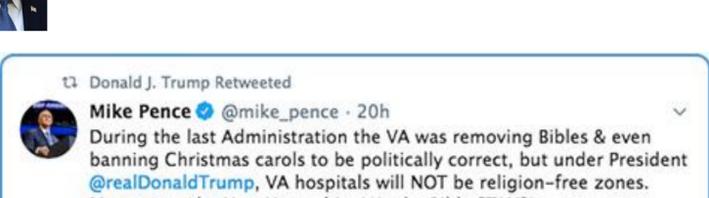
6:31 PM - 28 Aug 2019

[Click to View Twitter Video 1:14](#)

Mikey Weinstein's response:



Caligula-in-Chief Trump weighs in against MRFF's position of retweeting 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), 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."

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

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