



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM foundation

MRRF DEMANDS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PUNISH GOP CONGRESSMAN/USAF RESERVE CHAPLAIN DOUG COLLINS FOR VIOLATING REGULATIONS IN CAMPAIGN ADS

After getting the DoD to rewrite religion regs to allow his fellow fundamentalists to shove their religion down others' throats, fundamentalist Christian zealot GOP Congressman Doug Collins shamelessly violates DoD regs in Senate campaign ads.



Following a string of MRFF victories, twenty GOP Congress members, led by fundamentalist Christian zealot Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA), wrote to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper attacking MRFF.

To appease Rep. Collins and his fundamentalist Christian cohorts in Congress, the DoD rewrote a core religion regulation to allow all manner of previously prohibited religious behavior and proselytizing.

NOW DOUG COLLINS IS FLAGRANTLY VIOLATING DoD REGULATIONS BY APPEARING IN UNIFORM IN NUMEROUS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ADS FOR HIS SENATE CAMPAIGN!

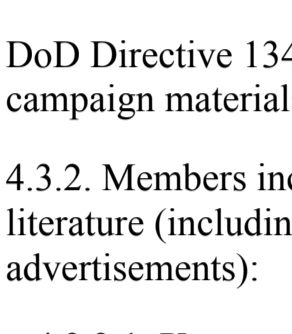
MRFF OP-ED ON DAILY KOS

Doug Collins, GOP Rep. Who Got DoD to Trash Religion Regs, Violates DoD Regs in Senate Campaign Ads

By: MRFF Senior Research Director Chris Rodda

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

(Excerpts from Daily Kos/Emphasis Added by MRFF)



Over the last several months, I've written about a group of twenty GOP House members and one senator who went on the warpath against the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), writing letters to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper decrying MRFF's successes in keeping military members free from unwanted religious proselytizing during the pandemic.

To appease these fundamentalist Christian GOP Congress members, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Matthew P. Donovan rewrote one of the DoD's core regulations on religion, DoD Instruction 1300.17, to allow just about any form of previously prohibited religious behavior and proselytizing, with no regard for the right of service members to be free from unwanted religion.

Leading that group of fundamentalist Christian GOP Congress members was Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA), who is now running in his state's special election to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated in 2019 by Johnny Isakson.

Because this is a special election and there was no primary, Collins is running not only against Democrat Raphael Warnock but also against fellow Republican Kelly Loeffler, who was appointed by Governor Brian Kemp in January 2020 to fill the seat until the special election could be held. While other Republican senators facing reelection are now trying to distance themselves from President Trump, Collins and Loeffler are both running on who is the biggest defender of Trump.

But it seems that same Doug Collins who led the charge for changing DoD regulations to allow his fellow fundamentalist Christians in the military to shove their religion down others' throats has no regard for military regulations when it comes to running his Senate campaign.

DoD Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," contains a detailed section on what is and what is not allowed in campaign materials for active, reserve, or retired members of the military running for office.

[...]

DoD Directive 1344.10 is also very specific about what is not allowed in campaign materials (emphasis added):

4.3.2. Members included in subparagraph 4.3.1. may NOT, in campaign literature (including Web sites, videos, television, and conventional print advertisements):

4.3.2.1. Use or allow the use of photographs, drawings, and other similar media formats of themselves in uniform as the primary graphic representation in any campaign media, such as a billboard, brochure, flyer, Web site, or television commercial. For the purposes of this policy, "photographs" include video images, drawings, and all other similar formats of representational media.

4.3.2.2. Depict or allow the depiction of themselves in uniform in a manner that does not accurately reflect their actual performance of duty. For the purpose of this policy, "photographs" include video images, drawings, and all other similar formats of representational media.

Ad after ad on Collins's Senate campaign Facebook page and Twitter feed contains a photo of Collins in uniform as "the primary graphic representation" or that "does not accurately reflect [his] actual performance of duty." Using the uniform as Collins does to bolster his political image as someone who will "handle the mob" or who "fought Stacey Abrams" is a flagrant and shameless violation of regulations, as is using the uniform to solicit campaign donations.

[...]

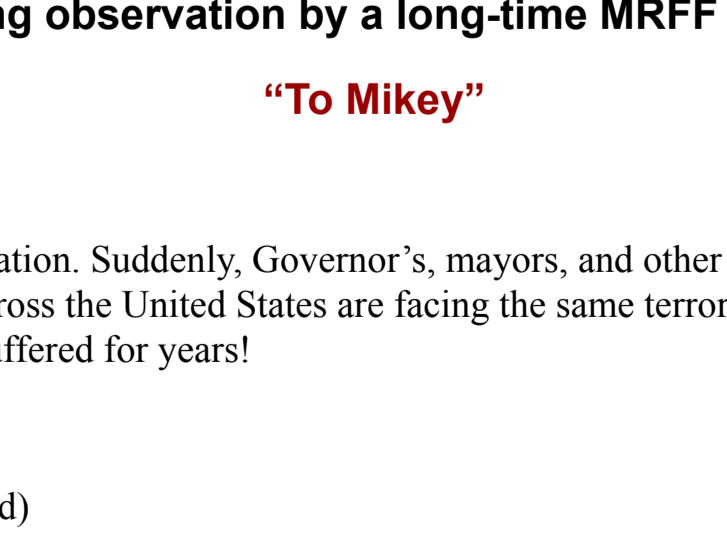
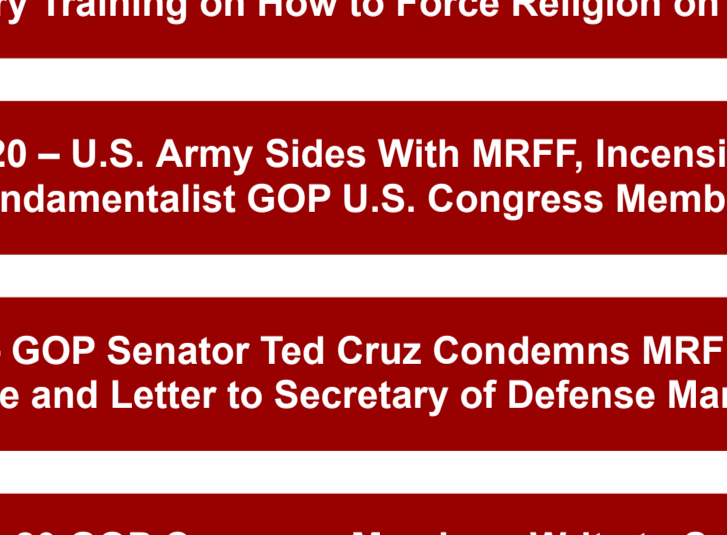
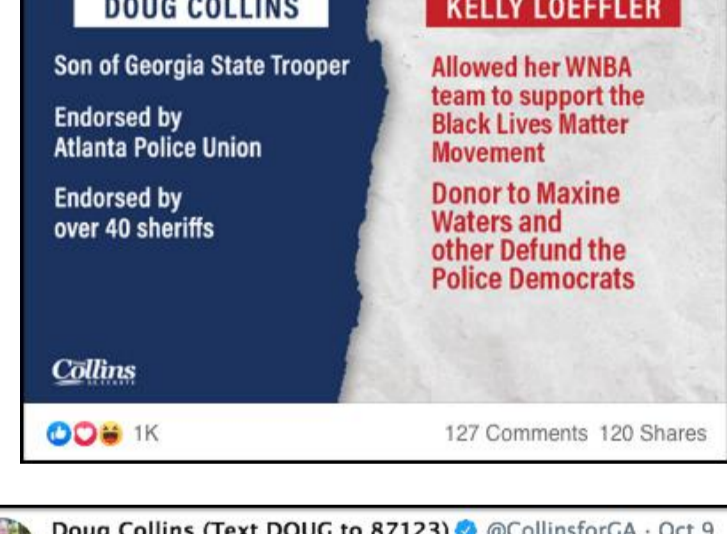
Click to read Article

Letter from MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper demanding immediate punishment of Military Chaplain (Lt. Col., USAF-Reserve) and United States Congressman Doug Collins



Click to enlarge and read letter

A selection of the regulation-violating Senate campaign ads from Rep. Doug Collins's campaign Facebook page and Twitter feed



Background on the GOP's Congressional attacks on MRFF led by Rep. Doug Collins and subsequent rewriting of religion regs by DoD

9/18/20 – MRFF Appalled by Defense Department Under Secretary Rewriting Religion Regs to Appease Fundamentalist GOP Lawmakers

7/6/20 – National Defense Authorization Act to Include Military Training on How to Force Religion on Others

7/2/20 – U.S. Army Sides With MRFF, Incensing 20 Fundamentalist GOP U.S. Congress Members!

6/10/20 – GOP Senator Ted Cruz Condemns MRFF in Press Release and Letter to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper

5/14/20 – 20 GOP Congress Members Write to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper Condemning MRFF!



Disturbing observation by a long-time MRFF supporter

"To Mikey"

Hi Mikey,

Just an observation. Suddenly, Governor's, mayors, and other municipal officials all across the United States are facing the same terror you and your family have suffered for years!

Your friend,

(name withheld)

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MRFF Information/Contact:

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Your Generous Support Allows us to Continue our Fight in the Courts and in the Media

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Join MRFF's Constitution Society (Recurring Donation)

Help Build the Wall : Donate a "Brick"!

