

## **GOP REP DOUG COLLINS BLAMES "VENDOR ERROR" AND MRFF "GRUDGE" FOR REGULATION-VIOLATING CAMPAIGN ADS**

Campaign spokesman claims the uproar over Collins's bald-faced violation of using photos of himself in Air Force uniform in campaign ads is the result of nothing but a **"long-standing grudge"** that MRFF has against Collins, and disingenuously blames a **"vendor error"** for campaign ads not including disclaimer, disregarding that the ads **would still violate regulations even with a disclaimer.**



One of Rep. Doug Collins's numerous regulation-violating campaign ads

## **GOP REP. COLLINS BLATANTLY VIOLATES DoD DIRECTIVE 1344.10 BY APPEARING IN UNIFORM IN NUMEROUS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ADS FOR HIS SENATE CAMPAIGN**

Click to read DoD Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," the regulation violated by GOP Rep and Air Force Reserve chaplain Doug Collins over two dozen times. (See sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2)

## **MRFF OP-ED ON DAILY KOS**

## **GOP Rep and Military Chaplain Doug Collins Blames "Vendor" for Regulation-Violating Campaign Ads**

By: MRFF Senior Research Director Chris Rodda

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

(Excerpts from Daily Kos/Emphasis Added by MRFF)



Trump sycophant and Air Force Reserve (Lt. Col.) chaplain Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA) is now trying to lie his way out of violating military regulations in his campaign ads, while continuing to violate the same regulations! Is anyone surprised?

[...]

By using images of himself in uniform in his campaign ads, **Collins is flagrantly violating DoD Directive 1344.10**, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," which 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.

In short, the **ONLY** use allowed of a photo in uniform by a candidate for office is as part of a biographical history, and even then it must be accompanied by other non-military photos, and must also be accompanied by a "prominent and clearly displayed disclaimer" stating that the photo does not imply DoD endorsement. **What is absolutely NOT allowed is for a candidate to use a photo of themselves in uniform as the primary image in their campaign ads.**

Doug Collins has violated this regulation **over two dozen times** in recent weeks.

When this was reported to MRFF by numerous service members and other senior DoD personnel last week, **MRFF founder and president Mikey Weinstein** wrote a letter to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper demanding that Collins be ordered to "cease and desist from any further use of photographs of himself in uniform to enhance his current election bid to become a U.S. Senator in Georgia," and that "criminal UCMJ charges be aggressively brought against Collins so that he faces a formal trial by court-martial."

[...]

The Collins campaign told *Business Insider* yesterday that the uproar over the ads was the result of nothing but a **"long-standing grudge"** that MRFF has against Collins.

Campaign spokesman Dan McLagan said:

"For years, Doug has been fighting Mikey Weinstein's heinous attacks on our service members' constitutional — and God-given — right to freedom of religion. ... Mikey is hell bent on eradicating religion from the military, and he hates Doug because he's fighting for every military member's right to worship."

McLagan also claimed that the ads did not "display a properly formatted disclaimer because of a **vendor error.**" This is not only impossible to believe, and an obvious attempt to weasel out of Collins's bald-faced violation of military regulations, but makes no difference. **Even with a disclaimer, these ads would still have violated DoD Directive 1344.10** because it is not part of a biographical history that depicts Collins in the performance of his actual military duties. It is a campaign ad, which is not allowed at all, disclaimer or not.

[...]

As **Mikey Weinstein** told *Business Insider* in response to the Collins campaign's excuse that MRFF has a grudge against Collins and disingenuous claim that the "vendor" did it, **MRFF's message to Doug Collins is:**

**"Shut the eff up and follow the regulations."**

Click to read Article

One of the regulation-violating campaign ads that Rep. Collins has **not** taken down, apparently because it has a "disclaimer" – **that's what that minuscule text, too tiny to be seen with the naked eye, in the upper left-hand corner of the image supposedly is. But this political ad would still violate regulations even if it did have a proper "prominent and clearly displayed" disclaimer.**



**Previous Op-Ed by MRFF Senior Research Director Chris Rodda Provides Backstory: "Doug Collins, GOP Rep. Who Got DoD to Trash Religion Regs, Violates DoD Regs in Senate Campaign Ads"**

## **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**

Tuesday, October 20, 2020



Click to enlarge and read letter

## **Background on GOP Rep. Doug Collins's Regulation-Violating Senate Campaign Ads**

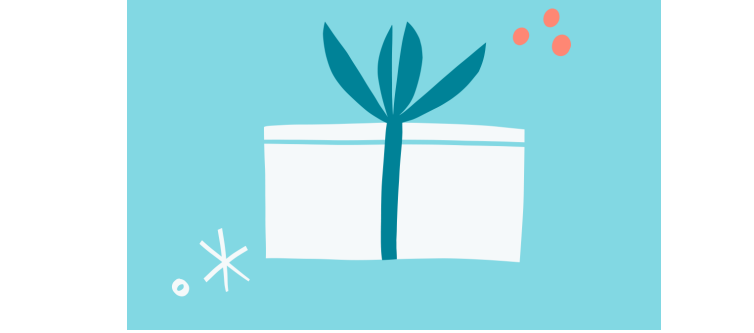
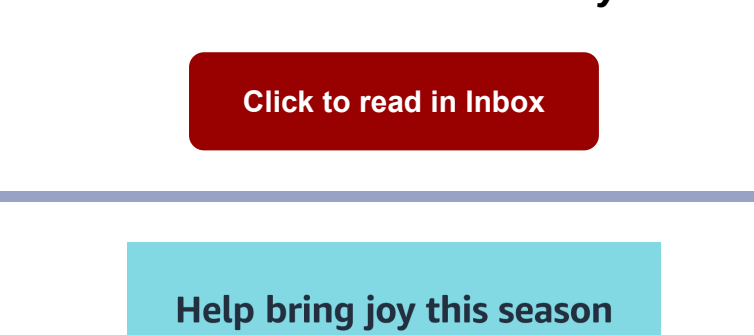
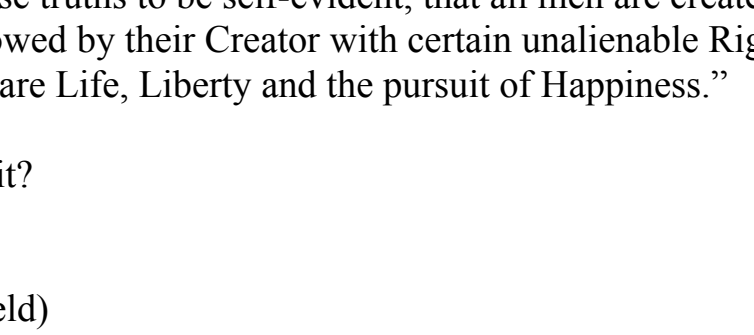
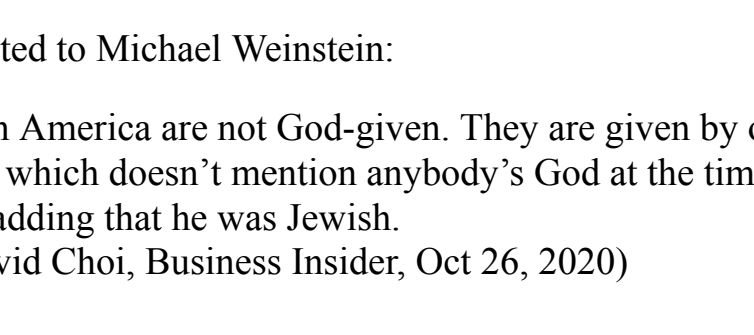
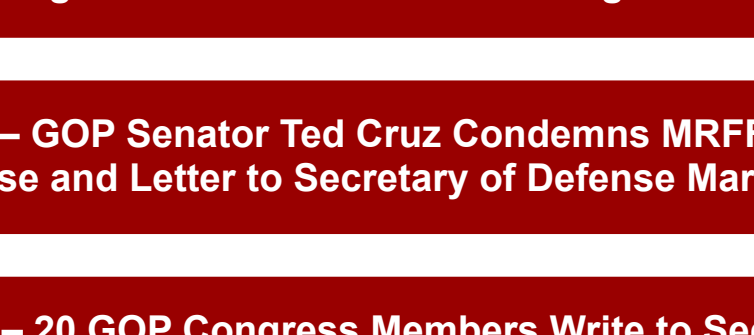
**10/26/20 – Business Insider Coverage – MRFF to GOP Representative Doug "The Thug" Collins: Shut the Eff Up, Follow the Regulations!**

**10/23/20 – Newsweek: MRFF and Incensed Veterans Demand Punishment of GOP Rep/USAF Reserve Chaplain Doug Collins for Regulation-Violating Campaign Ads**

**10/21/20 – Crooks and Liars Covers MRFF Demand that Congressman/USAF Reserve Chaplain Doug Collins be Punished for Regulation-Violating Campaign Ads**

**10/20/20 – MRFF Demands Secretary of Defense Punish GOP Congressman/USAF Reserve Chaplain Doug Collins for Violating Regulations in Campaign Ads**

## **A selection of other 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 – MRFF Landmark Victory! U.S. Army Sides w/ MRFF, Incensing 20 Fundamentalist GOP 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!**



## **"Is Michael Michael Weinstein Confused?"**

Quote attributed to Michael Weinstein:

"Our rights in America are not God-given. They are given by our Constitution, which doesn't mention anybody's God at the time," Weinstein told Insider, adding that he was Jewish. (source – David Choi, Business Insider, Oct 26, 2020)

Small snippet from the US Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

So, which is it?

V/R,  
(name withheld)

To see response from MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein:

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## **MRFF Information/Contact:**

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