

MRFF VICTORY!

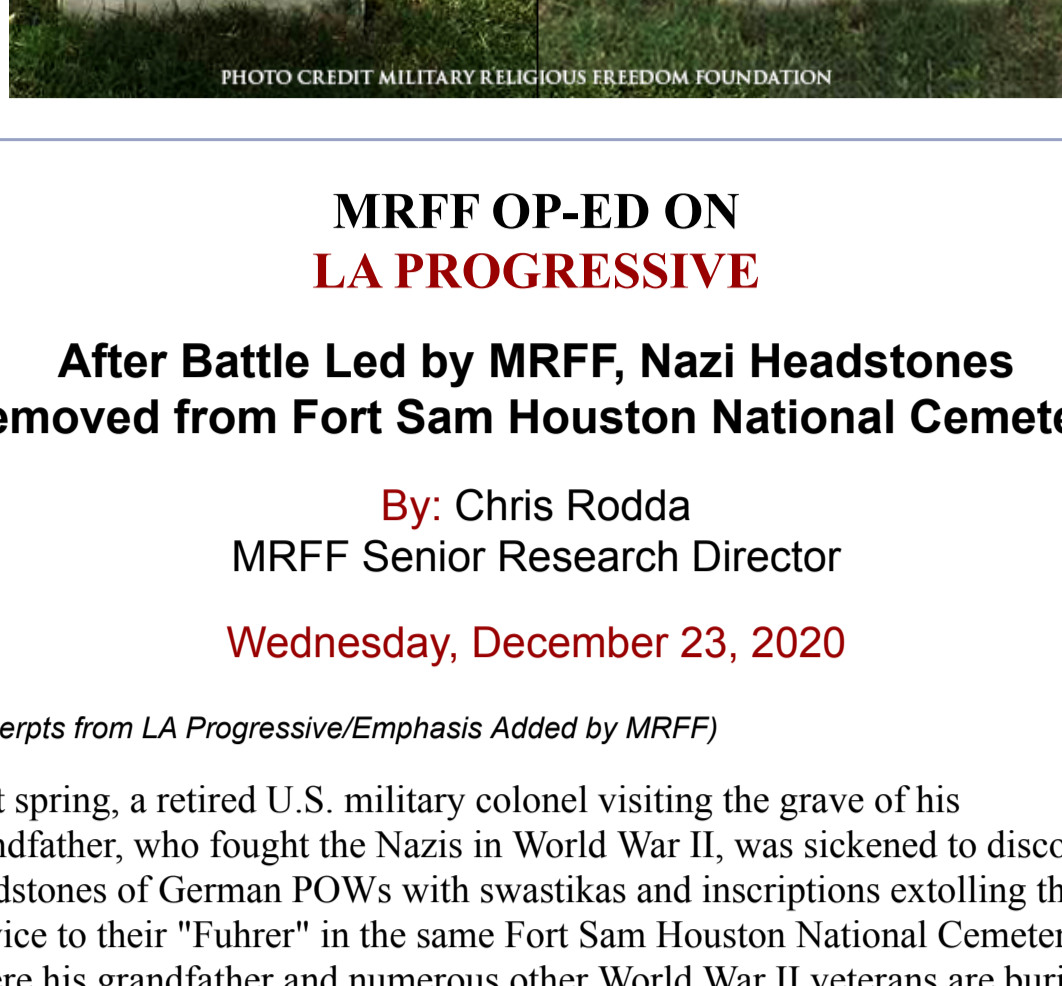


MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
f o u n d a t i o n

MRFF's RESOLUTE EFFORTS PREVAIL! VETERANS ADMINISTRATION FINALLY REMOVES NAZI HEADSTONES FROM FT. SAM HOUSTON NAT'L CEMETERY

"The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), headed by Jewish War Veterans (JWV) member and 1977 Air Force Academy graduate, Mikey Weinstein, took the outside lead in the successful effort to remove these swastika headstones."

—Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc.
Press Release Commends MRFF.
Read press release below.



MRFF OP-ED ON LA PROGRESSIVE

After Battle Led by MRFF, Nazi Headstones Removed from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

By: Chris Rodda
MRFF Senior Research Director

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

(Excerpts from LA Progressive/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

Last spring, a retired U.S. military colonel visiting the grave of his grandfather, who fought the Nazis in World War II, was sickened to discover headstones of German POWs with swastikas and inscriptions extolling their service to their "Fuhrer" in the same Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery where his grandfather and numerous other World War II veterans are buried.

That retired U.S. military colonel contacted the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), which immediately demanded the replacement of the headstones. MRFF's propelling the story into the media gained the support of many Jewish and other civil rights organizations, and even members of Congress, who also demanded that the offensive stones be removed.

[...]

[Click to read full op-ed on LA Progressive](#)

[Click to read full op-ed on Daily Kos](#)

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY (JTA) COVERS MRFF

After Battle Led by MRFF, Nazi Headstones Removed from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

By: Ron Kampeas

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

(Excerpts from Jewish Telegraphic Agency/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

(JTA) — The Department of Veterans Affairs removed two gravestones bearing swastikas from a military cemetery in Texas.

With little fanfare, the VA removed the headstones of the two German soldiers, American prisoners of war, on Monday morning from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a group that advocates for troops and veterans who report discrimination in the military, had launched a campaign for the removal of the headstones in May after a veteran of Jewish descent saw them.

[...]

[Click to read full article](#)

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS COVERS MRFF

Nazi headstones removed at Fort Sam

By: Sig Christenson

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

(Excerpts from San Antonio Express-News/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A pair of headstones bearing Nazi swastikas were removed Wednesday from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery after an outcry that spurred a dramatic turnaround by Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilke.

[...]

"Clearly it took a long time for this to happen and it's obviously the right thing to have been done," said the Military Religious Freedom Foundation's Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein.

"It should never have occurred in the first place, but on behalf of our clients and certainly the ones that were specifically there in the San Antonio area, this was not merely an eyesore, it was an assault on everything that is decent and moral and ethical," he added.

The foundation, which advocates against unwanted religious proselytizing in the armed services, demanded Wilke order them removed and give "an immediate and heartfelt apology to all United States veterans and their families" after learning about the markers last May.

[...]

[Click to read full article](#)

If unable to access the article due to a paywall, San Antonio Express-News' website states: Unlimited Digital Access 99¢ for the first 12 weeks (renews at \$3.99/week, tax included) Cancel Anytime.

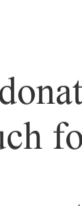
JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Press Release Commends MRFF

Nazi Headstones Removed From Ft. Sam Houston Veterans' Cemetery

By: Lou Michaels
Department Commander, JWV, Dept. of Minnesota

Wednesday, December 23, 2020



JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
P.O. Box 162, 331, and 354
ST. PAUL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
JWV MEMORIAL HALL, ROOM G
1373 ST. PAUL AVENUE
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55116

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUILDING
20 W. 12th St., Suite 300
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER: Lou Michaels
1.612.638.8139(DI)
www.jwv.org info@jwv.org

PRESS RELEASE:

NAZI HEADSTONES REMOVED FROM FT. SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' CEMETERY

On the 76th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, the last gasp of the Third Reich on the Western Front, at 8:15 this morning and without promised notice, the Veterans Administration removed two swastika-carved headstones that marked the final resting places of two German prisoners-of-war who died in American captivity, from Fort Sam Houston Veterans Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), headed by Jewish War Veterans (JWV) member and 1977 Air Force Academy graduate, Mikey Weinstein, took the outside lead in the successful effort to remove these swastika headstones. MRFF deserves credit for taking the point. JWV's persistent legal scholarship and firm dialogue with the Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs yielded hard-earned results on this day.

A link to photographs of the headstone removal is available at:

[https://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Nazi-headstones-removed-at-Fort-Sam-15824562.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral](https://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Nazi-headstones-removed-at-Fort-Sam-15824562.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral)

Lou Michaels
Department Commander
Jewish War Veterans, Department of Minnesota

[Click to enlarge and read](#)

Background on MRFF's Fight with the Veterans Administration to Remove Swastika Headstones

6/3/20 – [CLICK TO READ PREVIOUS COVERAGE OF MRFF'S DEMAND TO REPLACE THE NAZI HEADSTONES, INCLUSIVE OF BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT, AND ULTIMATE VICTORY!](#)

6/29/20 – [JEWISH WAR VETERANS NATIONAL COMMANDER PRAISES MIKEY WEINSTEIN AS "BOAT ROCKER" FOR GETTING VA TO REMOVE SWASTIKA HEADSTONES](#)



"Thank you for your service"

Mr. Weinstein,

When I was in Army basic and failing miserably (early 1971), my chaplain was a source of help and counsel. From what I read far too often these days, that has changed dramatically, especially, it seems, in the Air Force.

So I want to thank you and your colleagues for taking up the battle for poor troopies who have jerk superiors like the there is the "Make Christmas Great Again" hats. As I'm sure you know, there is no position in life where one can feel more alone and desperate than to be at odds with your first kick or CO on politics and/or, religion.

[...]

**To see response from
MRFF Advisory Board Member Lawrence Wilkerson:**

[Click to read in Inbox](#)

"Note from a MRFF Supporter"

Hello Mikey!

We have just donated \$500 yesterday to MRFF.
Thanks so much for your absolutely heroic dedication to this cause.

Everyone of you at MRFF are to be commended all the more for your ongoing achievements given the hindrances of this deadly pandemic. It's appalling how much the situation in the military has deteriorated over the last 4 years under you-know-who.

Here's hoping that his imminent departure may signal the opportunity for some much-needed changes for the better down the road.

[...]

[Click to read in Inbox](#)

MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein's 2020 Year-End Appeal Message



(Video Length: 1min, 39sec)

PLEASE MAKE A 100% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

**Generous Anonymous Donors
are Matching Donations!**

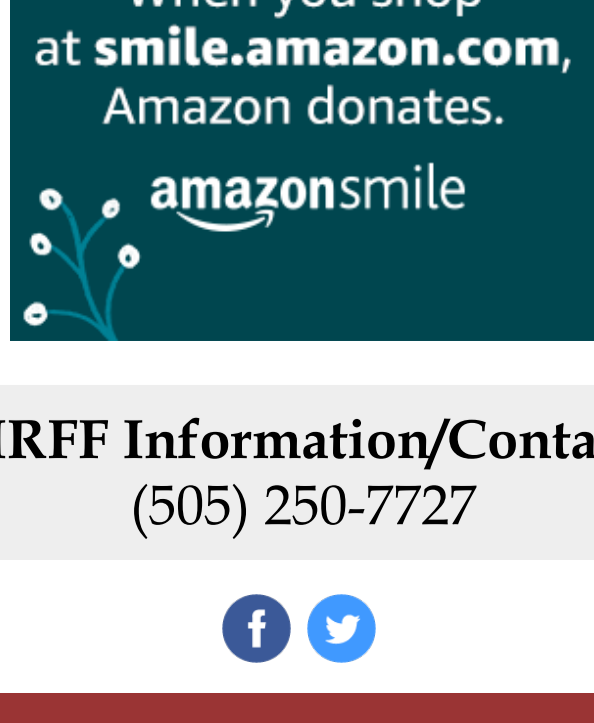
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MRFF is a 501C3 Nonprofit

If you prefer to mail a check, please use this link to download a printable donation form

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