

Thursday Evening, May 14, 2020



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
foundation

YOU KNOW YOU'RE WINNING WHEN THIS HAPPENS! 20 CONGRESS MEMBERS WRITE TO SEC. OF DEFENSE CONDEMNING MRFF!

20 Christian nationalist members of Congress have written a letter to Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper attacking MRFF's recent victories and advocacy on behalf of Christian chaplains as "persecution" of Christians

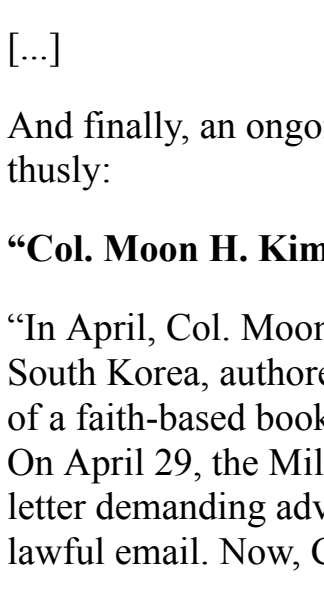


MRFF OP-ED ON DAILY KOS

20 Members of Congress Recognize the Impact of MRFF's Work

By: MRFF Senior Research Director Chris Rodda

Thursday, May 14, 2020



It's always nice to be recognized for your work, and we at the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF)** are deeply touched that **20 members of Congress consider our work so impactful that they warranted it deserving of a letter to the Secretary of Defense.**

The letter, **highlighting several of MRFF's recent victories in keeping proselytizing in the military under control during this "unprecedented time,"** was the work of Doug Collins (R-GA) and nineteen of his fellow Christian nationalist members of Congress, most of their names recognizable as being members of the **Congressional Prayer Caucus.** While the Congressional Prayer Caucus have never been big fans of MRFF, they have always been there over the years to shower us with attention — and letters about us — lots of letters about us.

In this current letter, they highlight **MRFF's recent success in putting a stop to the "porch preaching" of an Air Force officer.** The situation there was that every Sunday during the COVID-19 lockdown at USAG Stuttgart, Germany, Air Force Lt. Col. David McGraw was forcing the other military personnel and their families in his on-base military housing apartment area to listen to his Christian worship services, delivered from his apartment balcony. **Twenty-eight families in the "porch preacher's" apartment area — twenty-two of which were Christian families — came to MRFF for help** in putting a stop to what was in effect a mandatory attendance at these worship services.

[...]

And finally, an ongoing case is described in the Congress members' letter thusly:

"Col. Moon H. Kim, Camp Humphreys, South Korea

"In April, Col. Moon H. Kim, the garrison chaplain at Camp Humphreys in South Korea, authored an email to his chaplain colleagues including a PDF of a faith-based book he thought may help them and the families they serve. On April 29, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) sent you a letter demanding adverse action be taken against Col. Kim in response to his lawful email. Now, Col. Kim's lawful actions are under review."

The letter also says:

"In recent weeks, you and Army commands across the globe have received multiple, unfounded complaints from an organization that has a reputation for preying on military chaplains."

What the letter doesn't say is that the complaints about Col. Moon H. Kim's sending of this "faith-based book" **came from chaplains!**

[...]

Twenty-two Christian chaplains at Camp Humphreys came to MRFF, outraged and disgusted that Chaplain Kim sent them this book. Why were these chaplains outraged and disgusted? Because the book was fundamentalist preacher John Piper's "**Coronavirus and Christ**," a book that espouses the opinion that **the coronavirus is God's judgment for sins, particularly the sin of "homosexual intercourse,"** and this book, with its appalling message, was **sent to them by their senior chaplain.**

[...]

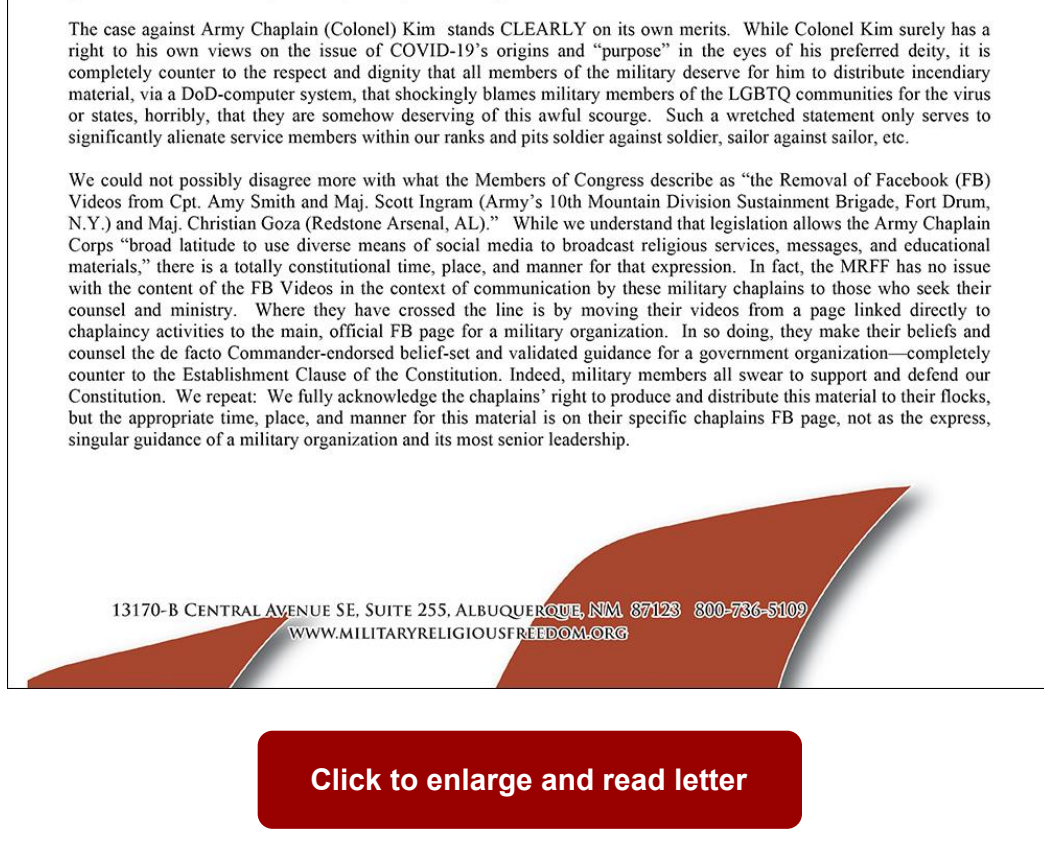
How would Rep. Doug Collins, who, besides being a member of Congress is **also an Air Force Reserve chaplain,** like it if his superior chaplain sent him an unsolicited copy of a book that promoted being gay as the best thing since sliced bread?

[...]

[Click to read Article](#)

[Click to read letter from 20 Congress member to Secretary of Defense Esper](#)

MRFF FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT MIKEY WEINSTEIN'S LETTER TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MARK T. ESPER IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESS MEMBERS' LETTER



[Click to enlarge and read letter](#)

STATEMENT FROM MRFF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER LAWRENCE WILKERSON ON THE CONGRESS MEMBERS' LETTER



No fewer than twenty Members of Congress have just totally shamed themselves, proving why the U.S. Congress's rating in poll after poll is now so consistently low it can be declared single-digit. Doug Collins, W. Gregory Steube, Doug Lamborn, Jim Banks, Ralph Norman, Mike Johnson, Louie Gohmert, Debbie Lesko, Steve King, Andy Harris, Glenn Grothman, Brian Babin, Rick Allen, Tim Walberg, Glenn Keithmyer, Bill Flores, Andy Biggs, Austin Scott, Vicky Hartzler, and that gas-mask-wearing, certified lemon from the Sunshine State of Florida, Matt Gaetz, have penned a letter to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper worthy of being filed with the worst to ever pass from Congress to the Department of Defense. The letter illustrates each Member's rank ignorance of the U.S. Constitution, of the responsibilities of U.S. military chaplains, of the criticality of good order and discipline in the ranks of the military, and of their own responsibility to the secular law before whatever allegiance they might feel to fundamentalist Christian or other biblical, religious, or spiritual law. If they believe the reverse -- which clearly they must -- they should resign immediately from Congress and join the ranks of those American taliban whom they obviously represent. In our country, that's their right. There are probably civilian pulpits aplenty from which they can spew their invectives. But not while in the government and not while using their influence to compel others in that government to "defy the Constitution for Jesus or whatever other deity." Next, these men will be demanding trials for the witches and devils that torment them.

— Lawrence Wilkerson (Colonel, U.S. Army – retired), MRFF Advisory Board Member, Visiting Professor of Government and Public Policy at the College of William and Mary, former Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

THE COLORADO SPRINGS INDEPENDENT COVERS MRFF

Lamborn lashes out at Military Religious Freedom Foundation

By: Pam Zubeck

Thursday, May 14, 2020

(Excerpts from the Colorado Springs Independent/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

Rep. **Doug Lamborn, R-Colorado,** is leading a campaign to urge Secretary of Defense Mark Esper to "protect the religious liberty" of military members against demands by the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF)** to stop pushing Christianity as a condition of military service.

"Far too often, commanders react hastily to vocal anti-religion activists who attempt to obstruct our troops' first amendment rights," Lamborn said in a release. "These decisions are often overturned, but only after the intervention of Congress. These infringements on the constitutional rights of our service members must end."

At issue are **several recent incidents in which military leaders advocated for Christianity to their troops from their military positions, which the MRFF contends violates the separation of church and state,** and military instructions that one religion cannot be favored over another or suggested as a condition of serving in the military.

[...]

But MRFF's founder and CEO **Mikey Weinstein** tells the *Indy* in an email, "**Lamborn has the IQ at about the level of a garden rabbit.**" (MRFF has tangled numerous times with the Air Force Academy, accusing it of favoring Christianity over other religions, though the Academy denies the accusations.)

[...]

[Click to read Article](#)

BACKGROUND ON MRFF'S RECENT VICTORIES AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTED IN THE CONGRESS' MEMBERS LETTER

MRFF PUTS A STOP TO AIR FORCE OFFICER'S "PORCH PREACHING" TO CAPTIVE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN AUDIENCE

MRFF GETS PROSELYTIZING COVID-19 CHAPLAIN VIDEOS REMOVED FROM FOUR OFFICIAL COMMAND FACEBOOK PAGES

MRFF ADVOCATES FOR 22 CHRISTIAN CHAPLAIN CLIENTS APPALLED AT RECEIVING "CORONAVIRUS AND CHRIST" BOOK FROM SENIOR CHAPLAIN (COL) MOON KIM, TELLING THEM THE CORONAVIRUS IS GOD'S JUDGMENT FOR SINS, PARTICULARLY THE SIN OF "HOMOSEXUAL INTERCOURSE"

CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION FAITHFUL AMERICA'S PETITION SUPPORTING MRFF'S CALL FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF CHAPLAIN (COL) KIM

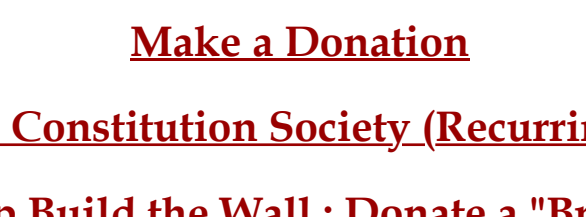
Petition currently has over 11,000 signatures.

"Dear Secretary Esper, Chaplain (Major General) Solhjem, Lieutenant General Bills, and Colonel Tremblay,

"As American Christians, many of whom are veterans or family members of service members and veterans, we were appalled and embarrassed to learn that Chaplain (Colonel) Moon Kim had shared an unsolicited copy of John Piper's book 'Coronavirus and Christ' with subordinate chaplains at Camp Humphreys via his official military email account.

"This book claims that 'some people will be infected with the coronavirus as a specific judgment from God' for same-sex relationships and other so-called 'sins.' Its unsolicited distribution is a violation of an Army chaplain's duty to provide pastoral care to all soldiers and to respect the religious freedom of each and every service member. As Christians, we offer our support to the 22 chaplains who reached out to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, and we echo their call that Chaplain Kim be officially, swiftly, and visibly investigated and disciplined for his actions."

[Click to add your name to the petition](#)



MRFF Information/Contact:

(505) 250-7727

SUPPORT MRFF!

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

[Make a Donation](#)

[Join MRFF's Constitution Society \(Recurring Donation\)](#)

[Help Build the Wall: Donate a "Brick"!](#)

