



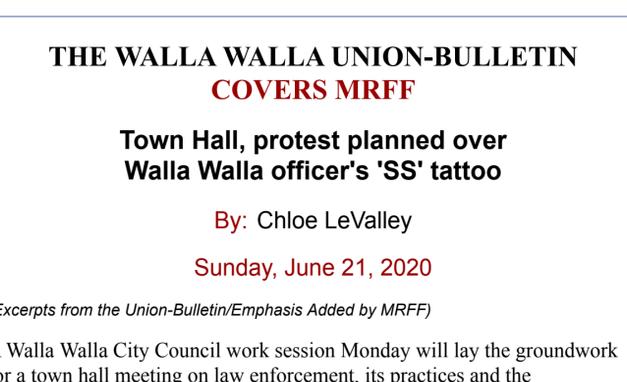
MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
f o u n d a t i o n

**MRFF ENDORSES "STOP THE HATE"  
PROTEST OF WALLA WALLA  
POLICE OFFICER'S NAZI SS TATTOO**

**PROTEST TO BE HELD IN WALLA WALLA, WA  
This Evening  
Wednesday, June 24 @ 5:30 PM (PDT)**

**The Nazi "SS" symbol of hate does NOT belong  
tattooed on the arm of a Police Officer!**

**Click for flyer with details of tonight's "STOP THE HATE"  
protest at the Walla Walla, WA Police Station**



**MRFF is no stranger to the use of this disgusting  
Nazi SS symbology by the U.S. Marine Corps.**

**IT WAS MRFF THAT FORCED THE USMC TO  
ABANDON ITS PRIOR USAGE OF THIS  
REPELLENT NAZI SS ICONOGRAPHY IN 2012.**

**THE WALLA WALLA UNION-BULLETIN  
COVERS MRFF**

**Town Hall, protest planned over  
Walla Walla officer's 'SS' tattoo**

**By: Chloe LeValley**

**Sunday, June 21, 2020**

*(Excerpts from the Union-Bulletin/Emphasis Added by MRFF)*

A Walla Walla City Council work session Monday will lay the groundwork for a town hall meeting on law enforcement, its practices and the **employment of a police officer whose tattoo has led to a call for his resignation.**

The 5 p.m. session will include discussion on the potential format and schedule to be officially decided at Wednesday's virtual City Council meeting, where a protest outside of the Walla Walla Police Department is scheduled to take place.

[...]

The protest was the recommendation of the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation**. The national nonprofit became involved after being contacted by a local resident **when attempts to reach the Walla Walla Police Department multiple times for a response to their concerns and efforts reportedly did not receive a response.**

[...]

**Mikey Weinstein, founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation**, said late last week a response had not been provided.

Weinstein's organization in 2012 called for Marine Corps Commandant General James Amos to order an investigation of a photo that showed a group of Marines posed with their sniper rifles in front of a blue flag with white Nazi "SS" runes, according to Reuters news organization.

The picture had been taken in 2010 in Afghanistan and the photo's description said the "SS" flag had been "adopted and used by the Marines in reference to scout sniper."

**The symbol was denounced by the Marine Corps, in part due to efforts from Weinstein's organization.**

[...]

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**Background on MRFF's Fight Against the  
Marines' and Police Officer's Use of the  
Nazi Schutzstaffel (SS) Bolts Symbol**

**6/11/20 - MRFF Demands Walla Walla Chief of Police Order Officer  
to Immediately Remove or Alter Nazi SS Tattoo**

**MRFF's 2012 Demand that Marine Corps Leadership Immediately  
Investigate Usage of Nazi SS Flag by Marines in Afghanistan**

**MRFF Victory – After investigation, Marine Corps Commandant  
ordered instruction for sniper and reconnaissance Marines about  
the prohibitions against inappropriate symbols.**

**AIR FORCE TIMES  
COVERS MRFF**

**Air Force Academy's Association of Graduates  
apologizes for insensitive comment that  
angered Chinese-Americans**

**By: Kent Miller**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

*(Excerpts from Air Force Times/Emphasis Added by MRFF)*

The Air Force Academy Association of Graduates and one of its class correspondents have **apologized for offending Chinese-American alumni, students, faculty, staff and parents.**

In an off-hand remark that appeared in the June issue of "Checkpoints," a quarterly magazine produced by the Association of Graduates, an independent nonprofit, a class correspondent **mentioned the effect the COVID-19 pandemic** is having on the Air Force community.

[...]

**"We are living in interesting times, which may or may not be a Chinese curse, but under the circumstances certainly seems appropriate,"** he wrote.

That one sentence immediately raised eyebrows among many of the academy graduates who read it.

It also **infuriated 14 Chinese-American families comprising Air Force Academy graduates, faculty members, staff, cadets and parents of soon-to-be basic cadets in the incoming Class of 2024.** The families, who felt the comment blamed people of Chinese heritage for the pandemic, **contacted Mikey Weinstein, founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation**, whose work on religious discrimination and extensive contacts in the Air Force community sometimes get him involved in discrimination against ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ community.

[...]

In an email to Weinstein that same evening, he wrote: "I greatly appreciate your taking the time to speak with me this evening about this situation. I've gone back and re-read the paragraph in question and understand your clients' perspective and frustration at my negligent language. **I apologize to your clients and to anyone else whom I offended by my inarticulateness and very poor choice of words.** Please convey that to them."

**The Association of Graduates offered its own apology** in the June 18 weekly online newsletter for graduates "7258' " (the altitude, in feet, of the academy).

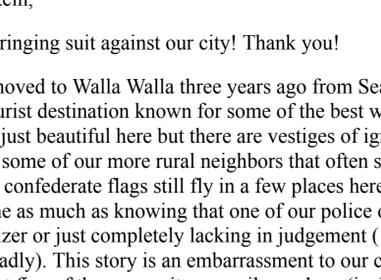
"It's come to our attention that a Class News item in the June 2020 Checkpoints references 'a Chinese curse' in discussing the current pandemic," it reads. "We regret that our team didn't catch the offensive term in editing. We apologize."

[...]

In an interview, **Weinstein said the situation was beginning to settle down, but President Donald Trump's speech at a political rally in Tulsa, Okla., Saturday "ripped the scab off the wound."** In that speech, the president referred to COVID-19 as the **"kung flu"** and the **"Chinese virus."** A number of civil liberties groups have called such speech racist and warned that it is leading to **threats against Chinese-Americans.**

[...]

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**"Thank you from Walla Walla!"**

Dear Mr. Weinstein,

Thank you for bringing suit against our city! Thank you!

My wife and I moved to Walla Walla three years ago from Seattle. Our city is a world class tourist destination known for some of the best wines in the world. And it is just beautiful here but there are vestiges of ignorance, racism and hate among some of our more rural neighbors that often surprise me. It troubles me that confederate flags still fly in a few places but that doesn't worry me as much as knowing that one of our police officers is either a Nazi-sympathizer or just completely lacking in judgement ( I imagine both are likely true, sadly). This story is an embarrassment to our city leaders but I am confident that five of the seven city council members (including the Mayor) will welcome this lawsuit whether they make that known publicly or not. It will give them the cover they need to act.

And that is the point. When this kind of moral rot takes hold in an institution and us citizens learn about it we are too often powerless to address it. And small town niceties are wonderful but they too often prevent our leaders from taking difficult positions even when they are necessary. An outside force of good is needed in this instance. Indeed, you are the voice for us.

If there is anything I can do as a taxpaying citizen of Walla Walla to help the lawsuit succeed please let me know.

Again, thank you!

(name withheld)

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**"Donation to the MRFF"**

To Mikey Weinstein and the wonderful associates at the MRFF:

My name is (name withheld) and I am a proud Air Force Veteran and current employee with the VBA Regional Office in Portland, OR. As a former client of the MRFF, it brings me tremendous pleasure to be making a donation to your organization that does such amazing work for our service members and veterans. As I remember, I contacted the MRFF on a Saturday in October of 2016, and I quickly received desperate help with my case against the Phoenix VA Hospital. I felt like the world was lifted off my shoulders. Your organization provided me the relief, peace of mind, and justice I was looking for. Thanks again for all your hard work. Please consider me a strong ally to your organization and I look forward to making more donations to the MRFF in the future!

(name withheld)

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**"From a MRFF Supporter"**

Dear Mikey and all at MRFF,

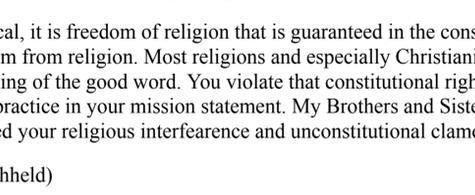
We are pleased to help out with a donation of \$(amount withheld), completed online just now.

I hope and trust you all are staying as safe as you can in this pandemic. Your work has never been more important, and this country needs you healthy and strong.

Thanks to EACH of you for ALL that you do, day in and day out to help keep our military attractive to ALL Americans of any or no faith whatever!

(name withheld)

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**"Paradoxically"**

Your opposition to having a military person express their faith by disallowing a scriptural verse on their dog tags is not "religious freedom". Rather it is the opposite, imposing your atheism on others. Shame on you, and I hope you have quite a day at your turn for judgement.

(name withheld)

**To see response from  
MRFF Advisory Board Member Mike Farrell:**

[Click to read in Inbox](#)

**"Military religious freedom"**

Hypocritical, it is freedom of religion that is guaranteed in the constitution not freedom from religion. Most religions and especially Christianity require the spreading of the good word. You violate that constitutional right of religious practice in your mission statement. My Brothers and Sisters in arms do not need your religious interference and unconstitutional clamor.

(name withheld)

**To see responses from  
MRFF Advisory Board Members Mike Farrell and Marty France,  
and MRFF Board Member John Compere:**

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**MRFF Information/Contact:  
(505) 250-7727**

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

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