

Thursday Evening, July 9, 2020

## MEDIA COVERAGE OF MAJOR MRFF VICTORY!



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

### MRFF DEMAND, PROTEST, AND THREAT OF LAWSUIT LEAD WALLA WALLA POLICE OFFICER TO ALTER NAZI "SS" TATTOO

**MRFF does not rule out possible lawsuit;  
calls for firing of blatantly incompetent police chief  
who allowed the sickeningly offensive tattoo to  
be prominently sported by Officer Nat Small.**



### THE UNION-BULLETIN COVERS MRFF

#### UPDATE: Walla Walla officer plans to alter controversial tattoo

By: Emily Thornton

Thursday, July 9, 2020

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

Walla Walla police Officer Nat Small announced Wednesday he will **alter his tattoo to remove the double S portion**, the Scout Sniper memorial he has worn since 2010 that has been under recent community fire as a symbol of neo-Nazism.

[...]

His decision — which he stated in the letter was made without pressure from the city or his superiors — was not enough for everyone originally concerned about the symbolism of the design, however.

Members of the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation**, which threatened a lawsuit several weeks ago when alerted to the tattoo, said they **may still file a federal suit if Small doesn't disclose how he plans to alter the tattoo** and when.

**The group's spokesman, Michael Weinstein, also called for Police Chief Scott Bieber to be fired for wrongful exercise of his authority and wrongdoing in his response to the outcry surrounding the tattoo.**

[...]

The **double lightning bolt SS tattoo** was informally adopted by some members of the elite group. But it has also been **highly criticized as the same Schutzstaffel symbol used by the Nazi Party and now neo-Nazis. In 2012 it was denounced by the Marine Corps.**

The **Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a private nonprofit civil rights advocacy organization, in June threatened a federal lawsuit against the Walla Walla Police Department** and others responsible if one of three things didn't happen: removal of the tattoo, alteration of the tattoo or removal of the officer from duty.

Weinstein said in an email after Small's announcement that his organization **had not decided yet to pull the plug on their planned federal lawsuit but "guardedly commends Walla Walla police Officer Nat Small** for his just-announced decision to remove the hideous Nazi SS symbol from the prominent tattoo on his left forearm."

[...]

Weinstein said his organization has clients representing various Jewish, LGBTQ, people of color and related communities in Walla Walla who expressed disappointment "that the city allowed this issue to go on so long and especially the role of the Police Department headed by the blatantly incompetent police chief, Scott Bieber."

[...]

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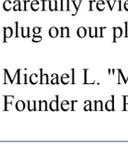
#### Excerpt from MRFF's Lead Walla Walla Client's Statement:

"Many of us in Walla Walla are grateful to have the support and dedication of the MRFF to bring our voices to light in our community."

#### Excerpt from MRFF Supporter Email:

"Many of us feel powerless and afraid in the face of this revelation about WWPD and their response. Having you on our side has given us a sense of hope in this situation."

### Statement From MRFF's Mikey Weinstein Regarding Walla Walla Police Officer's Recent Decision to Alter His "SS" Tattoo



"The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) guardedly commends Walla Walla police officer Nat Small for his just-announced decision to remove the hideous Nazi "SS" symbol from the prominent tattoo on his left forearm. MRFF has been deeply into the preparation of a Federal lawsuit to be swiftly filed against the Walla Walla police department and others responsible for allowing this repulsive travesty to occur in the first place. MRFF is being asked now what our decision will be regarding this planned aggressive Federal litigation. The answer is simple; we must see what the new tattoo is going to look like and know when Officer Small is going to take this action.

Lastly, MRFF wants to express on behalf of its numerous Walla Walla clients who are representatives of the Jewish, LGBTQ, people of color and related communities there how terribly disappointed everyone is that the city allowed this to go on so long and especially the role of the police department headed by the blatantly incompetent police chief, Scott Bieber. MRFF and our Walla Walla clients were horrified by the police chief's blatant Christian proselytizing from the back of that vehicle during the recent public protest and where he (Police Chief Bieber) made it clear that only one person in human history was ever "perfect" who walked the face of the earth; obviously a direct reference to Jesus Christ. MRFF and our numerous Walla Walla, Washington clients demand that the clueless police chief, Scott Bieber, be immediately fired for both misfeasance and malfeasance. So, while MRFF is pleased that this decision has finally been reached, our Foundation will carefully review this matter as described above before we decide to pull the plug on our planned Federal lawsuit."

Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein  
Founder and President, Military Religious Freedom Foundation

### MRFF's Lead Client Statement on Walla Walla Officer's Decision

Many of us in Walla Walla are grateful to have the support and dedication of the MRFF to bring our voices to light in our community. We appreciate this organization for demanding that the WWPD and City of Walla Walla Government take the time to listen to our concerns - rather than hiding behind deleted social media accounts and abruptly ended phone calls. As a citizen of Walla Walla, I am encouraged to see that Officer Nat Small has issued a statement in response to public concerns and division of his tattoo and that he has made the decision to alter the offensive portion of the design.

I do hope that this will start a discussion into the policies in place concerning the WWPD hiring process. The hiring of an Officer with a recognizable hate-symbol (and known gang-tattoo) brings into question the abilities of the WWPD leadership to manage the many diverse members of the community we live in. Along with this, I hope that the changes to the design come quickly. Again, I appreciate Nat Small's recent statement but cannot help but question how it was allowed to get this far?

- MRFF's Lead Client in Walla Walla, WA

### Email from a Grateful MRFF Supporter Who Attended "Stop The Hate" Walla Walla Protest

Hey Mikey,

My name is (name withheld), I was at the protest last Wednesday at the Walla Walla Police Department to stand against having a police officer with an SS tattoo in a visible place on his body. I've written a letter to the city council and I've connected with other who feel the same. My friends and I would like to help in any way we can.

A group of us have reached out to Small through common connections to see if he would meet with us and allow us to give him some perspective on why we are protesting. Honestly doubt he will bite.

I'm also thinking about gathering signatures from my friends who were afraid to show at the rally due to the color of their skin and their professional status in the community.

Is there anything else we should do?

Thanks again for intervening in this issue. **Many of us feel powerless and afraid in the face of this revelation about WWPD and their response. Having you on our side has given us a sense of hope in this situation.**

(name withheld)

### Statement From Walla Walla Police Officer Nat Small Regarding His Tattoo

By: Officer Nat Small

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

*(Excerpts from Officer Nat Small's statement)*

My name is Nat Small, and I have been a police officer for the City of Walla Walla since November of 2017. Prior to my employment as a peace officer, I served as a Scout Sniper in the United States Marine Corps. On June 4, 2020, a picture of me in a short sleeve shirt began circulating on social media referencing a tattoo that, I admit without context could be construed in ways never intended. If you are reading this, you have likely already seen a picture of the tattoo, or read the article in Stars and Stripes Newspaper, where I spoke freely about the topic in 2012. I explained the tattoo's significance, and provided photos of the tattoo. The article was distributed nationally without criticism. I have never tried to hide the tattoo, but I have always kept it covered while on duty as a police officer out of respect to the public, given the possibility of its misinterpretation.

[...]

At one point, the tattoo on my arm was so important to me, that in my young mind, I would have done anything to keep it. I would have let pride interfere with my success, and I would have let it inhibit my ability to help others. I have seen my community divided, with good people on both sides of the aisle. Neighbors have turned against each other and people are refusing to do business with those whose opinions differ. I regret that I have been an unwitting cause of division in the community that I seek to serve. For those reasons, I have decided to alter my tattoo to eliminate the "Double S" portion.

[...]

My actions are my actions alone, and not out of fear of repercussions, but rather in an honest effort to bring healing and unity to the community that I serve, in a time of great division.

[...]

[Click to Read Full Statement](#)

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

7/8/20 – Goodbye Nazi "SS" Tattoo! Walla Walla Police Officer Decides to Alter Nazi "SS" Tattoo After MRFF's Protest & Publicity

6/24/20 - MRFF Endorses "STOP THE HATE" Protest of Police Officer's Nazi SS Tattoo

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.



MRFF Information/Contact:  
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Fight in the Courts and in the Media

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