



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

Military Religious Freedom Foundation News

July 6, 2006

We are proud to share with you this inaugural issue of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation newsletter. This bi-weekly publication will keep you updated on the critical work MRFF leadership does day-in and day-out to fight those violating our Constitution by seeking to force our nation's armed forces to adopt their religious doctrine.

Mikey Weinstein, MRFF's president and founder, has been busy working to stop unconstitutional proselytizing by educating public officials on our cause and meeting with journalists and other opinion leaders to spread the word about MRFF's mission.

This newsletter will provide you with all the details you need to know about MRFF's ongoing campaign to preserve our Constitutional rights. Among the items you will find in this issue are a welcome note from our president, Mikey Weinstein, a media update and information about upcoming events.

Your opinions are important to us! Please contact us with feedback and questions.

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Media Update



Jewish Father Tackles Proselytizing in the Air Force After Sons' Harassment

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON, June 15 (JTA) — Betrayal. Contagion. Oceans of blood. That's Mikey Weinstein, describing the threat he believes the United States faces from the Christian evangelists he says are permeating the military. At least, that's the printable Weinstein.

And he says to expect more of the same in-your-face approach as his Military Religious Freedom Foundation picks up steam and continues to pursue lawsuits against the U.S. military.

"We're out of the business of comforting the afflicted, and we've gone into the business of afflicting the comfortable," Weinstein said in Washington last week hours before a fund-raiser at a posh Arlington, Va., address for the foundation he established a year ago.

[Read on...](#)

MRFF Kickoff Fundraiser with Featured Guest Ambassador Joseph Wilson

On Monday, June 5, in Arlington, VA, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation held its first fundraiser. Hosted by Beth Newburger and Richard Schwartz, the event was a tremendous success, attracting nearly 75 people.



Board member Ambassador Joseph Wilson, was the evening's honored guest. The Ambassador spoke passionately about protecting and preserving the separation of church and state in our nation's armed forces and encouraged those attending to help support MRFF's important work.

During the event, Mikey also presented the first annual Thomas Jefferson Award for the Preservation of Religious Freedom to Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY) for his outspoken commitment to this issue. Joshua Paul, one of the Congressman's legislative assistants, accepted the award on the Congressman's behalf. Paul assured guests that Congressman Israel would continue to encourage his colleagues in the House of Representatives to uphold our Constitutional rights.

MRFF would like to again thank those who made this first event such a success.

Religion in USAF Classrooms

As a government institution, the USAF is responsible for upholding the separation of church and state guaranteed in the Constitution. The Air Force and other branches of our nation's armed forces have failed at preserving this Constitutional right and now egregious violations have found their way into military classrooms.

At Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, the following quote appeared on a sign affixed above a door of the formal classroom for the USAF's "Air and Space Basic Course," a class that is mandatory for most new lieutenants.

"...and they shall mount up with wings as eagles..." Isaiah 40:31.

Similar references to the bible and God appear throughout Squadron Officer School (SOS) course material. The course material states, "As a leader, you exert tremendous influence on the morale, morals, habits, actions and attitudes of your subordinates," and, "If you attend chapel regularly, both officers and Airmen are likely to follow this example."

Each additional violation of the Constitution is a reminder of the importance of our work. MRFF will continue to fight these inexcusable and inappropriate references to religion in military curriculum.

Upcoming Events

The first official Military Religious Freedom Foundation Board meeting will take place on July 22 in Chicago. The meeting will be hosted by McGuireWoods, LLP. Board members will discuss the Foundation's successes to date and outline new fundraising and outreach strategies.

A Chicago fundraising event to benefit MRFF is planned for Thursday, July 20.

[Find out more...](#)

A Note from the President



The Military Religious Freedom Foundation has been working hard to defend the separation of church and state in our nation's armed forces. We have developed this newsletter to keep you, our loyal supporter, up-to-date on our efforts. On behalf of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Please continue to share your thoughts and experiences with us.

Sincerely,

Mikey Weinstein, President and Founder

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