

Thursday, May 9, 2019



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
foundation

VIRAL MEDIA SURGE CONTINUES AFTER MRFF's FEDERAL LAWSUIT FILING AND AERIAL PROTEST OF MANCHESTER NH VA MEDICAL CENTER

[Click to Read Lawsuit Filing](#)

Wednesday, May 8, 2019



MRFF MAKES FRONT PAGE OF ICONIC AND INFLUENTIAL NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

MRFF's Federal Lawsuit Filing and Aerial Protest Message
Against the Manchester NH VA Medical Center

[Click to Read Article on Union Leader](#)

THE YOUNG TURKS (TYT) DAMAGE REPORT INTERVIEWS MRFF'S MIKEY WEINSTEIN

Tuesday, May 7, 2019



**TYT is #1 in News and Politics on all digital platforms
among the Millennial audience (18-24)**

[Click to Watch the Interview Video \(9min 17sec\)](#)

Quote by MRFF Advisory Board Member Lawrence Wilkerson (Col. U.S. Army Ret.)



As "the country defines itself", we must ask ourselves did not we do this before? Have not we already defined ourselves? Have we not so defined ourselves for more than 200 years? And does that definition not contain forcefully and powerfully the separation of church and state? What we are doing today is marching backward. Backward into a form of hell from which we may not emerge. And Donald Trump is our drum major.

Larry Wilkerson is a retired U.S. Army colonel and former chief of staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell. He is the Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Government and Public Policy at the College of William & Mary in Virginia. He is a Republican.

History of the POW/MIA Table

By: Chris Rodda

MRFF Senior Research Dir.



Below are two pieces by MRFF's Senior Research Director Chris Rodda about the history of the POW/MIA table.

The first was a rebuttal to an op-ed from First Liberty Institute in the *Washington Examiner* regarding the tables. Rodda has written a few pieces about the history of this -- specifically pointing out that the original tradition did not include a Bible, and that the Bible wasn't added until thirty years after the original tradition was started.

Bibles don't belong on POW remembrance tables

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/bibles-dont-belong-on-pow-remembrance-tables>

Apparently, the American Legion Hates Jesus

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/apparently-the-american-l_b_11073100

THE HILL COVERS MRFF

Air Force veteran sues VA hospital over Bible display

By: Zack Budryk, Tuesday, May 7, 2019

(Excerpts from The Hill/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A U.S. Air Force veteran filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday arguing a Bible on display at a New Hampshire veterans hospital violates the First Amendment, according to The Associated Press.

James Chamberlain claimed in the lawsuit that the Bible, which is part of a display at the Manchester VA Medical Center, violates the amendment's establishment clause. Chamberlain, himself a Christian, argued in the lawsuit that the table should not single out any one faith, according to the AP.

[...]

The hospital had initially removed the Bible in January in response to a complaint from another group, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFR), which cited objections from over a dozen patients, but the Bible was replaced in the display in February.

[...]

[Click to Read Article](#)

FAR-RIGHT BREITBART FAR FROM RIGHT IN COVERAGE OF MRFF

Anti-Christian Group Sues Dept of Veteran Affairs over Bible Display

By: Thomas Williams, Wednesday, May 8, 2019

(Excerpts from Breitbart/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

An anti-Christian organization filed a lawsuit on Tuesday against the Department of Veterans Affairs over a Bible displayed as part of a POW/MIA memorial, calling the Bible's presence an "outrage."

"From our perspective, it's a repugnant example of fundamentalist Christian triumphalism, exceptionalism, superiority, and domination, and it cannot stand," said Mikey Weinstein, the founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF).

Including a Bible as part of a VA memorial would mean "raising one faith over all the others," Weinstein said.

[...]

[Click to Read Article](#)

GEOBEATS ON MSN COVERS MRFF



[Click to Watch News Report Video \(1min 10sec\)](#)

Lawsuit Filed To Have Bible Removed From Veterans Affairs Facility

By: GeoBeats, Tuesday, May 7, 2019

MANCHESTER INK LINK COVERS MRFF

Federal lawsuit filed over Manchester VA Medical Center Bible display

By: Jon Hopwood, Tuesday, May 7, 2019

(Excerpts from Manchester Ink Link/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

MANCHESTER, NH — James Chamberlain, a devout Christian who receives medical care at the Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center, filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Concord (see below) to force the Department of Veterans Affairs to remove a Catholic Bible from public display in the facility. The Bible is part of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action “Missing Man” table situated in the foyer of the main entrance of the VAMC. **The lawsuit claims that displaying the Bible on federal property violates the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution that mandates the separation of church and state.**

Chamberlain is being represented by Attorney Lawrence Vogelmann of Nixon, Vogelmann, Barry, Slawsky & Simoneau.

In January, 14 users of the Manchester VAMC complained to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation about the placement of the Bible on the POW/MIA “Missing Man” table. A veteran who served as a

pilot in the U.S. Air Force, Chamberlain also objected after the Bible was returned to the table, and decided to sue. He has declined to talk to the press, according to MRFF President Michael Weinstein.

During lunch hour on May 7, the MRFF staged a protest in the air space over the VAMC, which is located on high ground in Manchester's east side. Veterans and staff entering and exiting the facility's two exits who looked up to the sky saw a prop plane towing a banner stating VAMC – HONOR ALL POWER/MIA – REMOVE BIBLE.

[...]

[Click to Read Article](#)

DAILY MAIL COVERS MRFF

'Devout Christian' former Air Force pilot files federal lawsuit to REMOVE Bible on display at POW/MIA table at veterans hospital because it violates First Amendment

By: AP and Daily Mail reporter, Tuesday, May 7, 2019

(Excerpts from Daily Mail/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A US Air Force veteran filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday to remove a Bible on display at a memorial at New Hampshire's veterans hospital because it is a violation of the First Amendment.

The Bible was carried by a prisoner of war in World War II and became part of the Missing Man Table honoring missing veterans and POWs at the entrance way of the Manchester VA Medical Center in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said Tuesday the table was sponsored by a veterans group called the Northeast POW/MIA Network.

[...]

But Mikey Weinstein, founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, said it is the presence of the Bible that is offensive.

'It's incredibly disrespectful, dishonorable, and most importantly, it's illegal,' he said.

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NY DAILY NEWS
COVER MRFF

**‘Devout Christian’ and Air Force veteran
is suing to have bible removed from
display at New Hampshire VA hospital**

By: Jessica Schladebeck, Tuesday, May 7, 2019

(Excerpts from NY Daily News/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A “devout Christian” and Air Force veteran is suing the Department of Veteran’s Affairs over a Bible displayed at a VA medical facility in New Hampshire.

The bible at the center of the controversy was reportedly carried by a prisoner of war in World War II. It’s part of the “Missing Man Table” memorial in the lobby of a veteran’s hospital in Manchester, which commemorates missing and imprisoned service members.

The federal lawsuit, filed Tuesday by the Military Religious Freedom Foundation on behalf of Veteran James Chamberlain, says featuring the holy text in a display diminishes those who are not Christian, but have also served.

[...]

[Click to Read Article](#)

MAY 7, 2019

**MRFF FILED A FEDERAL LAWSUIT
AGAINST MANCHESTER VA OVER
UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHRISTIAN BIBLE**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

JAMES CHAMBERLAIN,)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) **COMPLAINT**
)
ALFRED MONTOYA, MD, DIRECTOR,)
MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER,)
Defendant.)

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This is an action requesting injunctive relief pursuant to the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. The plaintiff, JAMES CHAMBERLAIN, and others are seeking the removal of a Christian Bible from the POW/MIA table in the entrance way of the Manchester VA Medical Center.

JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b).

VENUE

Venue is proper for the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff, JAMES CHAMBERLAIN, is a veteran of the United States Air Force and a resident of New Hampshire. He was raised Catholic but now is a

[Click to Read Final Complaint](#)

**Christian Bible Encased in Plexiglass
and Bolted to POW/MIA Display Table
at VA Manchester, NH.**



Photo credit:
Military Religious Freedom Foundation

**CLICK TO READ BACKGROUND ON
MANCHESTER VA BIBLE ISSUE, PROTEST
FLYOVER, AND FILING OF FEDERAL LAWSUIT**

MRFF's MUST-SEE REVOLTING READ:

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Fort Bragg paratroopers jump in honor of patron saint

By: Rachel Riley, Tuesday, May 7, 2019

(Excerpts from Fayetteville Observer/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

The rumbling of C-17 aircraft filled the sky Tuesday at Sicily Drop Zone on Fort Bragg, cuing hundreds of paratroopers to make their descent for the annual St. Michael's Jump.

More than 380 soldiers from across the 82nd Airborne Division dotted the blue sky with silk parachutes for the event, which was hosted by the division's chaplain corps in honor of the patron saint of paratroopers.

"Saint Michael was God's primary angel, the archangel, the high angel that fights against Satan, fights against evil", said Col. Eddie Cook, chaplain for the division. "That's what the airborne does. We are called to fight evil."

[...]

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INCOMING HATE MRFF'S INBOX

"The bible"

From: (name withheld)
Subject: The bible
Date: May 7, 2019 at 9:05:55 PM MDT
To: info@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

So you want too use a veteran to due too remove a Bible?

WAY TO GO

Look back when we removed god from our schools, and this country, violence, murder, chaos, corrupt government, mass murders, no correcting our children, LGBT!

Thank you so much ,you are part of the problem, not the solution!!
(name withheld)

*To read responses from
MRFF Advisory Board Members Mike Farrell and John Compere:*

[Click to Read in Inbox](#)

"Atheist group sues over Bible display at VA hospital in New Hampshire"

From: (name withheld)
Subject: Atheist group sues over Bible display at VA hospital in New Hampshire
Date: May 8, 2019 at 5:37:10 AM MDT
To: mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

You are a WEAK individual and if you don't like having that bible in there DON'T GO THERE, Are you an Idiot? Did your mother drop you on your head? I don't like Atheist and I don't like you being an ass suing over a book

on a table, you sir are just an outright asshole. If you don't like it than LEAVE this country, we don't need you here, you are nothing but a trouble maker and probably a liberal DEMORAT!!!
(name withheld)

*To read response from
MRFF Advisory Board Member John Compere:*

[Click to Read in Inbox](#)

MRFF Information/Contact:
(505) 250-7727

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our Fight in the Courts and in the Media**

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