

CONSTITUTION, MILITARY & RELIGION

The mission of the military is to defend our diverse nation against all enemies – not promote a religion. The sworn service oath of all military members is “to support and defend the Constitution of the United States...and bear true faith and allegiance to the same” - not a Bible. The Constitution prohibits our government or its representatives from “respecting” any religious establishment. Military service is public, religion is private. Military members may privately practice a religion or no religion of their choice, but they may not use their government service, position or office to impose private religious beliefs on others. Those who disrespect and disregard our Constitution and their sworn service oath subject themselves to disciplinary action. Additionally, a required USA Constitution 101 course and briefing on the legal significance of their sworn service oath should be mandatory. Those who will not support and defend the Constitution nor honor their oath have the right to seek a career in the civilian sector.

The United States Constitution 1st Amendment provides 3 religious liberties for all Americans:

Freedom from religion – our government (which includes the military) is prevented from “respecting” (i.e., favoring, supporting, endorsing, promoting, etc) “an establishment of religion” (any religion, denomination, church, sect, cult, etc). It includes the right to be free from the imposition of private religious beliefs by the government or its representatives.

Freedom of religion - our government is prevented from “prohibiting” the free exercise of religion. Americans have the right to privately practice a religion or no religion of their choice provided it does not violate the rights of others. It does not include the right of the government or its representatives to impose private religious beliefs on Americans.

Freedom to speak about religion – our government is prevented from “abridging” freedom of speech provided it does not violate the rights of others. It does not include the right of the government or its representatives to publicly impose private religious beliefs on Americans.

Separation of church and state was clearly the intent of the Founders in

the 1st Amendment as confirmed above, indisputably documented by historic public records, acknowledged and accepted by every American President since Thomas Jefferson, confirmed by the United States Supreme Court in countless decisions and the long established law in our land. History deniers and revisionists who wish otherwise are sadly mistaken.

Simply stated, we each have the right to our own private religious or non-religious beliefs, but we must respect the right of others to determine and enjoy their own beliefs (i.e., the same right we demand for ourselves). This is known as The Golden Rule and taught by Jesus in the New Testament (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31). Those who do not respect and extend that right to others are guilty of hypocrisy and rejecting Christian teaching.

“There is no argument in the world that carries the hatred that a religious belief one does.” - Will Rogers, American

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