

Wednesday Evening, January 30, 2019



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

**MRFF HONORED TO FILE  
"FRIEND OF THE COURT"  
AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF AT  
U.S. SUPREME COURT,  
OPPOSING BLADENSBURG CROSS**

[Click to read MRFF's Amicus Curiae Brief](#)

*"MRFF organized this brief to ensure that the voices of all military personnel, regardless of religious faith or non-faith, are heard by the court, at the urging of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the ACLU, and a broad coalition of religious and civil rights organizations that believe, as MRFF does, that a Latin cross is not the way to honor the service and sacrifice of all veterans.*

*It was also an honor to have worked hand-in-glove with the law faculty & law students at the prestigious Emory University Law school in Atlanta on this... The pending case will be heard before the US Supreme Court justices on February 27 next month."*

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



## Why Does MRFF Oppose The Bladensburg Cross?

### The Answer is Stated Convincingly By AU's Legal Director, Richard B. Katskee

*“... A memorial Cross is not a generic symbol of death; it is a Christian symbol of death that signifies or memorializes the death of a Christian.”*

#### **\*Cross Purposes - Why a Christian Symbol Can't Memorialize All War Dead**

\*Title shortened for formatting purposes

**By: Richard B. Katskee**

Legal Director

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

**December 13, 2018**

To Christians and non-Christians alike, few things are more universally culturally familiar, and perhaps none are more laden with meaning, than the Latin cross. Since the earliest days of Christianity, the cross has been the physical embodiment of Christian tenets of resurrection and redemption — the means to teach religious doctrine while also uniting and rallying communities of believers. [...]

For people of other faiths, however, being confronted with an official display of a Latin cross may be a profound experience in a quite different way: **It is not sacred to them, yet the government is telling them to venerate it** (emphasis added).

That the Bladensburg Cross was later officially rededicated to all veterans only compounds the problem. For as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit explained in a different case a few years ago, **“a memorial Cross is not a *generic* symbol of death; it is a *Christian* symbol of death that signifies or memorializes the death of a Christian** (emphasis added).”

[...]

*Richard B. Katskee*

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## Excerpt from MRFF's Amicus Curiae Brief

*The Bladensburg cross lists the names of Christian servicemen from Prince George's County and Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. who died during World War I, but excludes the names of Jewish servicemen from the same region who similarly gave their lives for their country (emphasis added). Those Jewish servicemen are not honored in any other way in the region...*

Nos. 17-1717, 18-18

**In The Supreme Court of the United States**

AMERICAN LEGION, *et. al.*,  
*Petitioners.*

v.

AMERICAN HUMANIST ASS'N, *et. al.*,  
*Respondents.*

MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING  
COMMISSION,  
*Petitioner.*

v.

AMERICAN HUMANIST ASS'N, *et. al.*,  
*Respondents.*

On Writs of Certiorari  
to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

BRIEF *AMICI CURIAE* FOR THE MILITARY  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOUNDATION AND  
SIXTEEN HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICIALS  
AND VETERANS IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENTS

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Click to read MRFF's Amicus Curiae Brief

# **MRFF's Distinguished "Friend of the Court" Statement Signatories:**

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Military Religious Freedom Foundation,  
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United States Air Force Veteran*

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**William T. "Bill" Lord**  
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**Gregory J. Petrequin**  
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*Reverend, Dr., Chaplain, American Public University*  
*System (ret.), commissioned as a U.S. Army officer*

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**BACKGROUND:**  
**DISTRICT COURT FILING**  
**OPPOSING BLADENSBURG CROSS**

[5/7/15 - MRFF & AHA Join Forces in Court vs. Unconstitutional Bladensburg "Peace Cross"](#)

[2/26/14 - Why We Sued Bladensburg, MD Over a 40-Foot Cross \(\*The Humanist\*\)](#)

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our Fight in the Courts and in the Media

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