

Thursday, February 7, 2019



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

**U.S. SUPREME COURT
RALLY FEBRUARY 27, 2019
MRFF's MIKEY WEINSTEIN
TO JOIN ROSTER OF
ESTEEMED SPEAKERS**



The American Humanist Association (AHA), in Support of Their Lawsuit Opposing the Bladensburg Cross, Has Organized a Rally Outside of the United States Supreme Court, **8AM EST to 12PM EST, Wed., Feb. 27th, 2019, on the day of Oral Arguments.**

#HonorThemAll

"MRFF is honored to join our allies, the American Humanist Association, Americans United, the ACLU, and a broad coalition of religious and civil rights organizations in opposing this unconstitutional memorial cross display."

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



Photo credit: Ben Jacobson ([Kranar Drogin](#)), World War I Memorial, Bladensburg, Maryland 003. Cropped by Military Religious Freedom Foundation, CC BY-

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The Military Religious Freedom Foundation filed a "Friend of the Court" Amicus Curiae brief in the U.S. Supreme Court on January 30, 2019 in support of the American Humanist Association's lawsuit opposing the Bladensburg Cross.

MRFF believes, as our allies do, that a **Latin cross is not the way to honor the service and sacrifice of all veterans.** MRFF filed the Amicus Curiae brief to ensure that the voices of all military personnel, regardless of religious faith or non-faith, are heard by the court.

**BACKGROUND:
MRFF's "FRIEND OF THE COURT"
AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF AND CONTEXT
REGARDING OPPOSITION OF
BLADENSBURG CROSS**

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

**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

[Click to read](#)

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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President and Founder,
Military Religious Freedom Foundation,
United States Air Force Academy Honor Graduate,
United States Air Force Veteran

Robert Muller
*Nobel Peace Prize, Co-Founder, International
Campaign to Ban Landmines, (1997);
MRFF Advisory Board Member*

Richard C. Harding
Lieutenant General, United States Air Force (ret.)

William T. "Bill" Lord
Lieutenant General, United States Air Force (ret.)

Irving "Irv" Halter
Major General, United States Air Force (ret.)

John Compere
*Judge, Brigadier General, United States Army (ret.);
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*Brigadier General, United States Air Force (ret.);
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*Colonel, United States Army (ret.);
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Rabbi Joel Schwartzman
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David Antoon
Colonel, United States Air Force (ret.)

Gregory J. Petrequin
Colonel, United States Air Force (ret.)

Cynthia R. Lindenmeyer
*Reverend, Dr., Chaplain, American Public University
System (ret.), commissioned as a U.S. Army officer*

**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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