

Tuesday, May 14, 2019



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

**FOX NEWS
MISLABELS MRFF AS AN
"ATHEIST ORGANIZATION"**



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

**MEDIUM
COVERS MRFF**

**Fox News Mislabels Group Seeking Vet Bible Removal
an "Atheist Organization"**

By: John Hopwood, Friday, May 10, 2019

(Excerpts from Medium /Emphasis Added by MRFF)

Fox News' coverage of a lawsuit filed against the Veterans Administration seeking to have a Bible removed from a POW/MIA "Missing Man" table at a veterans health facility incorrectly labeled the Military Religious Freedom Foundation as an "atheist organization." The mischaracterization of the MRFF has been disseminated by news organizations that have run with the Fox News coverage. MRFF President Michael Weinstein has demanded a correction from Fox News.

The locked boxed Bible at the Manchester VAMC's "Missing Man" table Weinstein has complained to Fox News Channel Producer Alexandria that she had ambushed him by sending an email asking for a statement for an upcoming Fox & Friends story at 1:49 am, which was too late for him to respond to. Describing the MRFF as a secular civil rights advocacy organization, he's asked that Fox News correct its assertion that the MRFF is an atheist group.

[...]

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**WASHINGTON TIMES
COVERS MRFF**

**Law suit to remove Bible from New Hampshire VA
hospital sparks outrage**

By: Christopher Vondracek, Wednesday, May 8, 2019

(Excerpts from Washington Times/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A group of veterans in New Hampshire has filed a lawsuit to remove a Bible on display in the lobby of a VA hospital in the state's largest city, Manchester.

The Bible, which is bolted inside a Plexiglas case, decorates a POW/MIA memorial table at the Manchester VA Medical Center. It belonged to a POW from World War II, and honors the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, the Bible's supporters say.

But the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a group of religiously diverse veterans, objects to the placement of the sacred text in a public building, arguing that it amounts an establishment of religion by the government in violation of the First Amendment.

“The Christian Bible clearly doesn't represent all of the myriad religious faiths and non-faith traditions of the U.S. armed forces veterans using the Medical Center and to presume that it does is quite blatantly unconstitutional, unethical and illicit,” said Michael L. Weinstein, whose group filed a lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court of New Hampshire against the hospital.

[...]

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CONCORD MONITOR COVERS MRFF

Dispute over Bible at Manchester VA hospital divides veterans

By: Nico Stoico, Friday, May 10, 2019

(Excerpts from Concord Monitor)

Religion played an important role in John Newman's Irish-Catholic family when he was a young boy growing up in Newfoundland, Canada, but he says it wasn't until he faced combat in Vietnam that he fully realized his belief in God.

“Your most heavily involved combat veterans, they find a piece of faith in there somewhere, and they cry out to God one way or another, I know I did, when you think you're going to get killed and the bullets are flying,” he said.

Newman recalled several close brushes with death during his service, including a harrowing rescue mission where he and his men went into enemy territory to find a U.S. aircraft that had wrecked. The pilot died when the plane went down, he said, but Newman and his men made it out alive. He later received a Bronze Star for that mission.

[...]

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GOPUSA COVERS MRFF

Military Religious Freedom Foundation sues to remove Bible from VA hospital

Washington Times Reprint, Friday, May 10, 2019

(Excerpts from Washington Times/GOPUSA/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A group of veterans in New Hampshire has filed a lawsuit to remove a Bible on display in the lobby of a VA hospital in the state's largest city, Manchester.

The Bible, which is bolted inside a Plexiglas case, decorates a POW/MIA memorial table at the Manchester VA Medical Center. It belonged to a POW from World War II, and honors the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, the Bible's supporters say.

But the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a group of religiously diverse veterans, objects to the placement of the sacred text in a public building, arguing that it amounts an establishment of religion by the government in violation of the First Amendment.

[...]

In January, 14 veterans who also receive care at the Manchester VA submitted complaints about the Bible display to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a civil rights advocacy organization for active military members and veterans, according to the suit.

[...]

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AMERICAN MILITARY NEWS COVERS MRFF

Vet sues VA over Bible displayed on POW/MIA memorial table

By: Cheryl Hinneburg, Friday, May 10, 2019

(Excerpts from American Military News/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

On Tuesday, an Air Force veteran filed a federal lawsuit against the director of the Manchester VA Medical Center to remove a Bible on public display.

[...]

The lawsuit, which targets VA director Alfred Montoya, alleges “that the government may not establish any religion. Nor can the government give favoritism to one religious belief at the expense of others.”

[...]

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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

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



**Gracious Appreciation Expressed to MRFF
by Marine Corps Veteran**

"Manchester VA"

From: (name and email withheld)
Subject: Manchester VA
Date: May 13, 2019 at 12:51:58 PM MDT
To: mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

To the reader,

I'm a Marine Corps veteran. I served in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the civilian world I am currently a licensed minister with a mainline denomination. I called Mikey over the weekend after reading an article regarding the lawsuit against the Manchester VA and left him a voicemail. I let him know I disagreed with the lawsuit and saw no issue with a Bible on display that was an item which belonged to a POW. He called me back to discuss his client's side of the story. The article I read did not make it clear that the Bible is on the POW/MIA table and not just in a display case. Mikey very politely walked me through all his main points. I then agreed with him that the Bible should not be part of a display meant to represent veterans from all faiths. However, I think the Bible can be part of a stand alone display. Mikey let me know his family has received threats against their lives. This information disgusted me and I pray for the safety of Mikey and his family. Even when we disagree it is no excuse for violence. It is un-American and un-Christian.

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"Removal of Bible"

On May 13, 2019, at 7:07 PM, (name withheld) wrote:

Sir,

I know nothing about you but understand you have a problem with religion. As citizens of America we can find ways remove the Bible from any institute, but this book is not like your ordinary book because it's the Kingdom of God. It's unfortunate the same people that reject, remove, or try to replace the name of God, are the same people that will call on him in time of trouble. If you can prove that Jesus Christ does not exist and his words will pass away, I'll remove my Bible. Until then the offense you feel when you see the Bible, is proof that his word is alive and active, and cuts like a double-edged sword. The God that said, "I've gone to away to prepare a place for you," will return and has not changed his mind. "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" Mercy to you and yours,

God bless you, respectfully.

US Army Veteran

*To see responses from
MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein,
MRFF Advisory Board Member John Compere,
and follow-up from original sender.*

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INCOMING HATE
MRFF'S INBOX

"And who are you?"

On May 12, 2019, at 2:19 PM, (name withheld) wrote:

My suggestion to you is to back the fuck off, cupcake. We, the veterans of the United States Military, don't need or want you interfering in our business. If you continue down this path, you're going to irritate the wrong people, son. People who have the resources to find out what you had for breakfast this morning, what the temperature of your ass was when you took your last shit and how much that shit weighed.

Don't fuck with us. It won't end well for you.

[Click to Read Response from MRFF's legal counsel:](#)

*To see responses from
MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein:*

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"Culture"

From: (name withheld)
Subject: Culture
Date: May 13, 2019 at 4:10:08 PM MDT
To: mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

Hillary missed the mark so badly. It's YOU, "Mikey", who are one of the true "deplorables". Sadly, America produces citizens like you it CANNOT ever be proud of. If a man carries a Bible in combat, and that Bible goes on

display somewhere, it's a simple, humble, statement of something important to him, and many like him, not a call, and certainly (and to most with a brain cell to spare, obviously) not a demand, for everyone else to join him in his particular faith. Its display is intended as an inspiration, not an indoctrination. Your self-obsessed refusal to understand and accept the difference between personal expression and state-imposed duress is as loathsome & repugnant as it is ignorant. You and others like you who abuse the Constitution with your peevish yammering are wholly unworthy of your heritage and utterly pathetic Americans. You are so fortunate to have been blessed with, and yet so undeserving of, your hard-won freedoms.

(name withheld)

*To see response from
MRFF Advisory Board Members Marty France and John Compere:*

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"Mr. Weinstein"

From: (name withheld)
Subject: Mr. Weinstein
Date: May 10, 2019 at 11:03:19 PM MDT
To: info@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

Who is this angry little atheist kid named Mikey, I wondered? Then I discovered you are actually an elderly person who goes by a child's name. It made much more sense to me. You apparently are a narcissist that needs attention on a constant basis or maybe you are just bored? Do you find pleasure in being such a disgraceful miscreant to those that you offend. I think you do. You are likely a very insecure little man who was picked on by your peers and scorned by those you admired. Never to be accepted and now this is your revenge. How charming Mikey. The road you leave behind will be forgotten ten seconds after you pass. You are no trailblazer, you chose the wrong team, again, little old Mikey.

Watch out for that bus!
(name withheld)

*To see responses from
MRFF Advisory Board Member John Compere
and MRFF Supporter Marshalldoc:*

[Click to Read in Inbox](#)

"Bible display at the VA hospital"

From: (name withheld)
Date: May 10, 2019 at 7:21:20 PM MDT
To: "mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org"
<mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org>
Subject: Bible display at the VA hospital
Reply-To: (name withheld) Mikey,

You and your "foundation" are not protecting me or millions of veterans and active military from anything. If you are an atheist, why would you concern yourself with ANYTHING having to do with God? You can spend your time more productively helping homeless veterans or raising funds for the education of children whose parents have died defending our country. Talk with Gary Sinise if you need help figuring out worthwhile projects. If you continue with a lawsuit against the VA, I have to say, on behalf of all God-fearing veterans and active military people, you can go pound sand!

(name withheld)
USAF Veteran

*To see responses from MRFF Advisory Board Members
Mike Farrell:*

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"Freedom"

From: (name withheld)
Date: May 10, 2019 at 4:22:00 PM MDT
To: <info@militaryreligiousfreedom.org>
Subject: Freedom
We don't need you telling us we can't have a bible anywhere Vets are welcome.

Freedom of religion is for Everyone including Christians.

(name withheld)

Give a rest and do some good with your organization not just stir up trouble.

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

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"Sick Asshole"

From: (name withheld)
Date: May 10, 2019 at 8:13:42 AM MDT
To: <mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org>
Subject: Sick Asshole

Headline: Military Religious Freedom Foundation sues to remove Bible from VA hospital

You sick and disgusting ASSHOLE, is this all you have to do? A Bible on display is not forcing religion on anyone. Coming from someone whose forefathers had Jesus crucified, I am not surprised. Apparently, you are full of hate and venom.

*To see responses from
MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein
and MRFF Advisory Board Member John Compere:*

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"Veterans"

From: (name withheld)
Subject: Veterans
Date: May 10, 2019 at 4:52:25 AM MDT
To: mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

As a veteran and a Christian, let me just say, you are a disgrace.

You really need to go back and study the "separation of church and state", so that you can see that the purpose of it was to protect our religious freedoms from the state, not to protect the state from us. The point was to allow our FREE and OPEN expression of religion.

I'm going to pray for you, and for veterans everywhere. I'm also going to find ten ways to openly display my faith on post and around other veterans this month. From veterans and Christians everywhere, you're welcome for your freedom to be an idiot.

(name withheld)

*To see responses from MRFF Advisory Board Members
Marty France and John Compere:*

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"Manchester memorial"

From: (name withheld)
Subject: Manchester memorial
Date: May 10, 2019 at 4:07:40 AM MDT
To: mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

Hi Mikey,

I am reaching out to you based upon what I have heard about from news organizations and your own website about the controversy surrounding the Bible on display at the WWII memorial in Manchester. Although I am an Atheist, I find your organization's attempt to remove this artifact outrageous. Of course I agree with MRFF's goal statement in that pressuring the spread of any religion is not moral, but what your organization is doing, through the extent of litigation, is a very unsettling example of suppression, representing a lot of what is wrong with the world as it is today. Ironically, this sort of suppression parallels with that inspired by religion throughout history to control the masses. My goal in this email is not to create further tension, but rather compel you to keep an open mind to other points of view. I understand that this is a mere email from a stranger who disagrees with you, but I hope that you will take this into consideration and, if you get around to reading this and feel the inclination to further dialogue, respond with your thoughts. I do appreciate the surface intentions of MRFF, I just fear seeing the world, and the United States especially, fall victim to further suppression and censorship.

Thank you for your time and thoughts
(name withheld)

To see responses from MRFF Advisory Board Members John Compere, Marty France, and Mike Farrell:

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MRFF Information/Contact:
(505) 250-7727

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our Fight in the Courts and in the Media**

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