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PERSPECTIVES

"Our civilization is the first in history to show even the slightest concern for average, undistinguished, none-too-commendable people like us."

- P. J. O'Rourke

FINANCIAL DATA

Quotes delayed at least 20 minutes

NAVY CHAPLAIN PROTESTS PRAYER BAN

Friday, December 23, 2005 - FreeMarketNews.com

by staff reports

The holiday season has brought an unusual number of conflicts with it this year. Most of them center around efforts to either augment or eliminate the relationship between its religious significance and its commercial one, and the effect of this has even extended to the military. Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt, disgusted with the attempts to remove all signs of Christianity from Christmas, wanted to pray "in the name of Jesus" before his troops, but was not only denied this, but was stripped of his uniform and told he could only do so outside of his role as chaplain, and when dressed in civilian clothes.

As a result, according to a story at persuade.tv, Klingenschmitt has begun a hunger strike to protest the decision. He is asking President Bush to issue an Executive Order to allow military chaplains to pray according to their individual faith traditions. He has now been joined in the fasting by Rev. Patrick J. Mahoney, Director of the Christian Defense Coalition.

Chaplain Klingenschmitt was quoted as declaring, "Today I'm beginning a hunger strike, and this communion bread will be my last meal, as I call upon the President to protect religious freedom and issue an executive order allowing chaplains to pray according to their faith traditions. All this week I will praying in front of the White House at 6:00 p.m. for President Bush to have the courage to sign this order." Mahoney echoed his sentiments: "I join with Chaplain Klingenschmitt in this hunger strike as we stand for religious freedom and challenge President Bush to issue an executive order allowing chaplains to pray according to their faith traditions. By forbidding Rev. Klingenschmitt to pray in the Name of Jesus, the government is crushing the First Amendment and trampling on religious liberty..." - ST

1. 12/23/2005 - 11:33:59AM

BY: Ray Rund

The chaplain in question is leading prayer for US Navy personnel, some of whom are not christian. It is highly inappropriate for him to force that prayer into a form that may offend those non-christian servicemen and women. When he is leads a service for his own denomination only, he should be allowed to include whatever prayers are considered appropriate.

2. 12/23/2005 - 11:56:25AM

BY: Tom Bird

There is a concerted effort around the world to eradicate Christianity, Judiasm and even Buddhism from the minds of man. It is my belief this is happening because religions that encourage people to use their greatest of all gifts, their minds, to think independently and without the "direction" of Big Brother are anathema to the Globalist drive many of the multinational corporastions are striving for.

We need more people of faith, no matter what their individual theologies, to take a stand for what they believe. I am an agnostic who leans somewhat toward the universal diety espoused by Tom Paine. One of my closest friends is a Mormon. How dare these smarmy individuals try to limit our personal freedoms in order to install a one-size-fits-all non theology because it suits their own nefarious purposes? Thomas Jefferson, where are you now that we need you?

3. 12/23/2005 - 13:31:31PM

BY: Thomas Holiday

Jesus said that people who pray in public are hypocrites. They all want others to believe that they are either holy or inspired. Jesus said that their reward was the attention they got, but God wasn't listening to them anyway. Jesus said when we pray we should do so in private, and God hearing us in secret would reward us openly. Unfortunately Christians, especially those who repeat the "Apostles Creed" every week, acknowledge only that Jesus was born. The creed (conveniently) skips all His teachings and jumps right to "Suffered under Pontius Pilot, Crucified dead and buried..." This concentration on His resurrection and subsequent "inspired" writings by the literate elite of the first century have totally obscured any meaning Jesus' life might have had. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus it would be wise to remember that thousands of people are reported to have heard the adult Jesus teach us how to behave.

4. 12/23/2005 - 14:23:40PM

BY: Steve Galpin

Actually, this issue has been going on in the Navy and other services' Chaplain Corps for the last year or so. There is a faction of evangelicals like Klingenschmidt who want to pray according to their particular denomination, rather than a more generic/ecumenical prayer that would be acceptable to larger groups of people.

A military Chaplain has to minister to people of all faiths, not just those of his or her particular religion/denomination. Chaplain Klingenschmidt has been violating this principle.

Steve Galpin LCDR, USNR

(not a Chaplain, but a friend of Tom Knapps and Steve Trinward)

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