

# Action Alert! Monday, 26 February 2006

## MILITARY CHAPLAINS STILL TOLD NOT TO PRAY “IN JESUS’ NAME”

**‘Jesus’ Barred From Air Force Invocations** (Stewart Ain – Jewish Week – 2/10/06)

Revised religion rules at Colorado Springs academy beat back GOP pressure.

Despite strong protests by leading Republican members of Congress, the U.S. Air Force was expected to issue revised religious guidelines this week that continue to bar Christian chaplains from praying in Jesus’ name during official government ceremonies and place restraints on Evangelical chaplains, The Jewish Week has learned.

Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff, special assistant for values and vision to the secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff of the Air Force, helped draft the guidelines following complaints by Jews and others of proselytizing by Christian faculty members, officers and cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“The bottom line has not changed — clergy may not invoke the name of Jesus Christ while offering prayers at official government ceremonies,” Rabbi Resnicoff said.

Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee who led a drive by 71 House members and three senators in opposition to that provision, upon being told that it was not removed, said: “To me, this is a sad day for First Amendment rights.”

-Asked if the Air Force rules should be adopted by the other services, Congressman Jones said, “I would hope not. I think more progress can be made in assuring that Christian military chaplains can pray in the name of Jesus Christ, and all military chaplains can pray according to their faith.”

-The “new” rules say it may be appropriate to offer *non-denominational* prayer, or a moment of silence. “But non-denominational is a code word for no Jesus,” said Lieutenant Gordon James Klingenschmitt, a Navy Chaplain who staged an 18-day hunger strike at the White House last year, after being punished by the Navy for praying “in Jesus name” and for quoting the Bible in the chapel. “We’ll have to pray a Muslim-Buddhist-Christian-Jewish prayer at the same time. We need Congressional hearings.”

-Despite petitions by 200,000 Americans, 75 Congressmen, and 33 pro-family groups representing 50 million evangelicals, the President hasn’t yet issued an executive order protecting chaplains’ rights.

-Over 60 chaplains are suing the Navy, most no longer in uniform, denied promotion because of their Christian faith. With Army/Air Force, over 130 chaplains have complained to Congressman Jones.

**THESE CHAPLAINS NEED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. PLEASE CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND BOTH SENATORS AT 202-225-3121 OR 202-224-3121, AND ASK FOR HEARINGS (IN BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES) FOR ALL 130 CHAPLAINS PUNISHED FOR THEIR FAITH, and to support Congressman Walter B. Jones.**

**THEN FAX A PERSONAL LETTER OF CONCERN TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND BOTH SENATORS. All their fax numbers (**and 7 ways to get involved**) are at [www.persuade.tv](http://www.persuade.tv)**

Register for the “War On Christians” conference 27-28 Mar 06 in DC, at [www.visionamerica.us](http://www.visionamerica.us)  
Come hear guest speaker Chaplain Klingenschmitt....God Bless you...(in Jesus name!)