

**In Jesus' Name
Project**



**2400 Earls Gate Court
Reston, VA 20191**

**Ambassador Alan Keyes
Founder and Chairman**

29 Jan 07

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

Together we have collected over 70,000 petition signatures requesting you or the President immediately intervene to stop the Navy from punishing Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt for praying publicly in uniform. Unless you reply, he will be involuntarily discharged on 31 Jan, fired for violating a restrictive Navy prayer policy against praying "in Jesus name" outside of Sunday chapel (a policy so unconstitutional it was rescinded by Congress).

Secretary Rumsfeld made an official promise to "not enforce" the unfortunate Navy prayer policy that censored chaplain prayers, but this promise has not fully been kept. Attached as evidence is a letter from 22 Sep 06 by Chaplain Klingenschmitt, which included another letter by Pastor Dr. D. James Kennedy with 50,000 petition signatures from Coral Ridge Ministries and the Center for Reclaiming America, already delivered to the White House in August.

Secretary Gates, the matter of Chaplain Klingenschmitt's discharge from the Navy is one of grave concern to millions of Americans and the men and women in our Military who cherish their God given and Constitutionally guaranteed right to freely worship their Creator. During a time of war men and women who are called upon to risk their very lives in defense of their Country are particularly sensitive to anything that diminishes or restricts their right to pursue God with liberty.

We respect and appreciate the enormity of your task as our Nation's Secretary of Defense, and we pledge to you our prayers and support as you prosecute the War on Terror, but we also implore you to intervene on Chaplain Klingenschmitt's behalf and carry through with the pledge of Secretary Rumsfeld, to not remove Chaplain Klingenschmitt. He and his wife, Mary, took a principled and righteous stand that resulted in the preservation of a basic tenet of the First Amendment. They should not be punished for doing what was clearly right. Even the military, which demands that soldiers follow orders, makes allowances for those who will not obey an immoral order.

Please receive now our most recent petition, with the names of our thousands of constituents who support Chaplain Klingenschmitt. This latest petition reads:

“To Secretary of Defense Robert Gates:

U.S. Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt is being unjustly punished for praying in Jesus’ name, for quoting Scripture passages in a military chapel, for voicing evangelical messages about Christ while in uniform.

Chaplain Klingenschmitt courageously stood for what is right, and his stand was completely vindicated by Congress.

I am calling on you to immediately exonerate him and allow him to continue his outstanding service as a Navy chaplain. Mr. Secretary, you must act! And fast! Otherwise Chaplain Klingenschmitt will be kicked out of the service by Jan. 31, ending an award-winning 15.5-year career. He will lose his pension, health care benefits and be evicted from military housing -- and our sailors will lose this faithful vicar of Christ.

Yes, he was found guilty at a misdemeanor court-martial of disobeying a direct order, based on an unjust Navy policy -- Instruction 1730.7C -- that since has been repudiated and replaced.

Yet though the new policy is the direct result of his righteous stand, Chaplain Klingenschmitt’s case isn’t being “grandfathered” under this corrected policy. He is shown no mercy or forgiveness -- indeed he is being persecuted and retaliated against for his role in ending the unconstitutional policy he publicly exposed.

That is wrong! He should be honored and rewarded for doing what’s right -- not dishonored, punished and impoverished. Certainly there must be a way for you and your office to absolve this faithful servant of such arbitrary and disproportionate retribution which is being selectively meted out because of his principled resistance to an unlawful, and now rejected, policy. Find it and take action!

Thanks to Chaplain Klingenschmitt, all Navy and Air Force chaplains are free again to fulfill their mission, and pray publicly in Jesus’ name! But must the freedom he purchased for others cost him everything? Exonerate Chaplain Klingenschmitt now! Respect for our Constitution, simple justice and faithful obedience to religious conscience demands no less!

(Signed by over 70,000 concerned Americans)

Exonerate Chaplain Klingenschmitt!”

Mr. Secretary, we agree with our constituents, and we request you immediately intervene to stop the involuntary discharge on 31 Jan 07 of Chaplain Klingenschmitt. With one stroke of the pen, you can restore honor to your office, by keeping the promise of your predecessor, easing the pain of thousands of outraged Americans, restoring religious liberty to its rightful place, and correcting the injustice done to one chaplain still being punished for his prayers, despite his victory on Capitol Hill to overturn the policy, for which he is still being fired after 15.5 years of honorable service, evicted from military housing, losing a million dollar pension, because he read a prayer outside of chapel. Also attached is a 12 Jan 07 news article from Worldnet Daily, further articulating our grave concerns. Please take action today. God Bless you, in Jesus name.

Dr. Alan Keyes
Declaration Foundation

Dr. Gary Cass
Center for
Reclaiming America

Dr. Rick Scarborough
Vision America

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Folger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Janet Folger
President
Faith2Action

Atch: 22 Sep 06 letter from Chaplain Klingenschmitt
7 Sep 06 letter from Dr. D. James Kennedy
12 Jan 07 Worldnet Daily article