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Clarence-Born Chaplain Fired For Praying

Wednesday, January 31, 2007 07:42 AM - WBEN Newsroom/AP



Buffalo, NY (WBEN) - The U.S. Navy is discharging the chaplain who staged public fasts and prayers for the right to pray in Jesus' name in uniform wherever and whenever he wished.

Gordon James Klingenschmitt, who was born and raised in Clarence before joining the Navy, is facing eviction from military housing, and lost his job after sucessfully fighting to overturn the prayer ban, part of the military's speration of church and state policies. **To hear more from Klingenschmitt, click on the audio link above**

The ban, overturned after his 2006 court martial, forbid public prayer in uniform, outside the confines of a chapel or service.

Klingenschmitt is launching a lawsuit against the Navy, and actively promoting a letter writing campaign to Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

He lost his church's chaplain certification after a reprimand for disobeying an order by appearing in uniform at a news conference outside the White House.

He obtained certification from another denomination, but a Navy spokesman says it wasn't accepted because of Klingenschmitt's record and performance as a naval officer, in light of the court martial.

The discharge is effective Wednesday. He'd served in the Navy for 15 years.

Klingenschmitt calls the dismissal a retaliation for his insistence that chaplains be allowed to pray in Jesus' name. He says he doesn't regret his actions and will continue to appeal the discharge.

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- 12:00 PM: Rush Limbaugh Show
- 3:00 PM: Sandy Beach Show
- 6:00 PM: Buffalo's Evening News
- 7:00 PM: Ron Dobson Show

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