

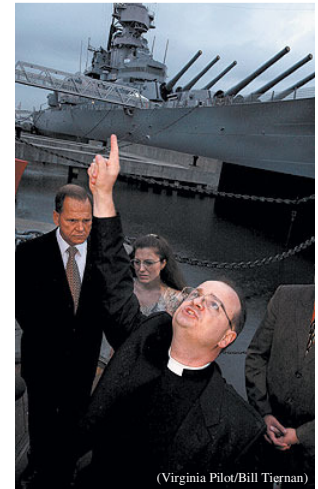
# CHAPLAIN GORDON JAMES KLINGENSCHMITT

“Public servant of Jesus Christ and the United States of America”

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Gordon James Klingenschmitt is a former U.S. Navy Chaplain who made national headlines by standing up for the rights of military chaplains to pray publicly “in Jesus name.” By sacrificing his 16 year career and a million dollar pension, he helped overturn national policy and secured the rights of chaplains of all faiths to pray according to their conscience.

Serving in wartime combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom aboard USS ANZIO, his Chaplain programs won six awards for community service (including “best in Navy”). Then suddenly his career was threatened when his commanding officer punished him in writing three times, for quoting “exclusive” Bible verses that claim Jesus is the way to heaven (like John 3:36) during one optionally-attended “Christian memorial service” inside a Navy base chapel. Investigators confirmed the skipper downgraded his evaluations for praying “in Jesus name” on the ship’s microphone, but ruled commanders have authority to punish sermons and prayers.



“Chaps” was court-martialed for wearing his Navy uniform while publicly praying “in Jesus name”

When religious discrimination threatened to end his career, Chaplain Klingenschmitt staged an 18-day hunger strike in front of the White House. His story was reported on the front pages of the Washington Times, Washington Post, and New York Times, and the Navy backpedaled to renew his contract. But the Chief of Navy Chaplains told him to stop praying publicly “in Jesus name” because that “denigrates other faiths.” Then another commander stripped him of his regulatory right to wear his uniform during “public worship.” Finally the Secretary of the Navy signed an illegal policy directly requiring all chaplains to pray “non-sectarian” prayers outside of Sunday chapel.

Chaplain Klingenschmitt joined 10-commandments Judge Roy Moore, to challenge the Navy’s prayer policy, by wearing his uniform again to pray publicly “in Jesus name” outside of the White House, and was court-martialed for disobeying orders. The military judge enforced the new Navy prayer policy, ruling that “public worship” was only safe inside Sunday chapel, but “worshipping in public” could be punished as a misdemeanor crime, if a chaplain disobeyed a commander’s order to stop praying in uniform. His “guilty” verdict ran in 520 newspapers.

Angered by anti-Jesus persecution of chaplains, 300,000 Americans petitioned the President, and 75 Congressmen stood with 29 pro-family groups who cited Klingenschmitt’s case, asking the President to let chaplains pray “in Jesus name.” Congress finally rebuked the Secretary of the Navy by ordering him to rescind his prayer policy, giving chaplains liberty to pray according to their faith in all settings. But the Navy refused to “grandfather” that legislative victory back to Klingenschmitt’s case, and they still defend that rescinded prayer policy in federal court, as their reason for terminating his career, finally firing him, because he quoted the Bible in the chapel, and wore his uniform to pray “in Jesus name” outside of Sunday chapel. The chaplain replied, “even if I sacrificed a million dollar pension, it was worth it, since Congress agreed with me, and gave other chaplains the freedom I was denied. I never watered-down my prayers or sermons. Jesus is worth more to me than everything I’ve lost for His name.”

The Rutherford Institute represents Klingenschmitt (and 68 other chaplains) now suing the Navy in federal court. A 1991 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy with MBA and Master of Divinity degrees from Regent University, he’s now pursuing his PhD in Renewal Theology. In 2002 he volunteered for a demotion from Air Force Major to Navy Lieutenant just to become a chaplain. Ordained by the Chaplaincy of Full Gospel Churches, “Chaps” has been married to Mary Klingenschmitt since 1991. He now travels the country, accepting speaking invitations. Would you please give this short biography to your Pastor, or any conference or event organizer who comes to your mind?

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**To sign a petition asking SECDEF Robert Gates to reinstate Chaplain Klingenschmitt, and keep the promise to let Chaplains pray “in Jesus name,” please give this info to Chaps, or mail to: PTWM, PO Box 9226, Norfolk VA 23505.  
(PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS.)**

Your name:

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