



Washington Weekly Review

Saturday, January 7, 2006

President Roberta Combs

Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt -- a U.S. Air Force Academy Graduate, Who is in the 18th Day of a Water-only Fast Continues to Fight a Politically-Correct Navy Establishment Which Has Ordered Him and All Other Chaplains to Not Pray in the Name of Jesus and to not use Certain Verses from the Gospel of John -- Urges President Bush to issue Executive Order/Christian Coalition Activists Need to Urge President Bush to Issue Executive Order

The politically-correct Navy establishment has demanded that a 1991 Air Force Academy graduate and Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt and other Navy chaplains to stop praying in the name of Jesus and to stop using certain Bible verses from the Gospel of John. Chaplain Klingenschmitt volunteered for demotion (from USAF Major O-4 to Navy Lieutenant O-3) to become a Navy chaplain. He made an appearance on the Hannity and Colmes show on the Fox News network last night speaking about his fast entering in his 18th day of fasting today. Chaplain Klingenschmitt said he will keep fasting and praying until President Bush issues an Executive Order ensuring military chaplains may pray as they always have according to the precepts of their faith.

In Thursday's White House press briefing, presidential press secretary Scott McClellan defended the right of military chaplains to "be able to freely express themselves" but declined to comment directly on the case of Chaplain Klingenschmitt. In answer to the question at the press conference, "Does the president believe that the Navy should engage in this suppression of the First Amendment's guarantee of the free exercise of religion?" Scott McClellan said: "Well, the president believes strongly in the free exercise of religion. And he believes that it's important that our military personnel be able to freely express themselves. ... And we value the contributions of our military chaplains to our men and women in uniform, and we're committed to safeguarding the ability of people to freely express their religious views." The United States Navy, and other military services, should interpret those White House comments as freedom for military chaplains to pray in the name of Jesus if they so desire as General George Washington did quite often himself in his prayers.

Chaplain Klingenschmitt has 14 years of great fitness reports, earned a Defense Meritorious Service Medal for changing national intelligence policy 3 times, has experience as a full-time management consultant to flag officers, and was one of only 14 USAF officers selected as a Baldrige Examiner for the Presidential Quality Award. He has both an M.B.A. and Master of Divinity, now working on his PhD in Theology. He has met with numerous United States Senators and Members of the House of Representatives this month to seek a legislative remedy or assistance in getting President George W. Bush to issue an Executive Order protecting religious freedom rights of chaplains and other military personnel.

Chaplain Klingenschmitt said, "There is suppression of religious liberty in the military, and I'm concerned about this." At a press conference this month in Washington D.C., Congressman Trent Franks, (R-AZ), said, "I truly believe that the President of the United States, if he fully understood the realities that are present in this circumstance, would respond in an effective and decisive manner." Nearly 75 Members of Congress including Senators have sent a letter to President Bush urging him to issue an executive order that would allow all military chaplains to pray according to their faith, as they see fit. Congressman Walter Jones, (R-NC), who initiated the letter, said, "He (President Bush) oversees the military as commander-in-chief, and he can say to the Department of Defense, I want the chaplains in this military to have the right to pray as they see fit, based on their religion."

Although the White House press secretary's comments Thursday were encouraging, the American people need to hear from the president himself. Call the White House at 202-456-1414 or email at president@whitehouse.gov and urge the president to



issue an Executive Order protecting the constitutional right of military chaplains and other members of the military to pray according to their faith.

Washington Weekly Review

Saturday, December 17, 2005

President Roberta Combs

Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt -- a U.S. Air Force Academy Graduate, Who is Fighting to Remain in the Navy Against a Politically-Correct Navy Establishment Which Has Ordered Him and All Other Chaplains to Not Pray in the Name of Jesus and not to use Certain Verses from the Gospel of John -- to be on the Bill O'Reilly Show on Monday

Just as General George Washington often did, Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt, a 1991 United States Air Force Academy graduate, prays in the name of Jesus. The politically-correct Navy establishment has demanded that he and other Navy chaplains stop praying in the name of Jesus and to stop using certain Bible verses from the Gospel of John and are threatening to kick him out of the Navy within the next few weeks. Chaplain Klingenschmitt volunteered for demotion (from USAF Major O-4 to Navy Lieutenant O-3) to become a Navy chaplain. **He will make an appearance on the Bill O'Reilly show on the Fox News network on Monday at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. (both Eastern time) to talk about his fight to remain in the Navy.**

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Chaplain Klingenschmitt said, "There is suppression of religious liberty in the military, and I'm concerned about this." At a press conference this week in Washington D.C., **Congressman Trent Franks, (R-AZ), said, "I truly believe that the President of the United States, if he fully understood the realities that are present in this circumstance, would respond in an effective and decisive manner."** Over 70 Members of Congress including Senators have sent a letter to President Bush urging him to issue an executive order that would allow all military chaplains to pray according to their faith, as they see fit. **Congressman Walter Jones, (R-NC), who initiated the letter, said, "He (President Bush) oversees the military as commander-in-chief, and he can say to the Department of Defense, I want the chaplains in this military to have the right to pray as they see fit, based on their religion."**

Call the White House at 202-456-1414 or email at president@whitehouse.gov and urge the president to issue an Executive Order protecting the constitutional right of military chaplains and other members of the military to pray according to their faith.



Washington Weekly Review

Friday, December 9, 2005

President Roberta Combs

Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt, an U.S. Air Force Academy Graduate, Continues His Battle Against Politically-Correct Navy Establishment Which Orders Him to Not Pray in the Name of Jesus; Not to Use Certain Bible Verses in His Sermons/Navy Continues to Discriminate Against Evangelical Christians

The Navy is threatening the career this month of an outstanding Navy Chaplain, because among other things, he prays in the name of Jesus just as General George Washington did often. Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt is a 1991 United States Air Force Academy graduate who volunteered for demotion (from USAF Major O-4 to Navy Lieutenant O-3) to become a Navy chaplain. He has 14 years of great fitness reports, earned a Defense Meritorious Service Medal for changing national intelligence policy 3 times, has experience as a full-time management consultant to flag officers, and was one of only 14 USAF officers selected as a Baldrige Examiner for the Presidential Quality Award. He has both an M.B.A. and Master of Divinity, now working on his PhD in Theology.

However, Navy Chaplain Klingenschmitt's career now faces sudden termination, without retirement, punished (in writing, 3 times) by his commanding officer (upon the advice of 4 senior chaplains, and now even the Chief of Navy Chaplains) because: (1) Chaplain Klingenschmitt quoted "non-inclusive" scriptures such as John 3:36 during an optionally-attended memorial service in the chapel; (2) **Chaplain Klingenschmitt prays publicly in "Jesus name" against official Navy doctrine that forbids "sectarian" prayers;** (3) Chaplain Klingenschmitt "caused a stir" by requesting Kosher meals for a hungry Jewish Sailor who lost 17 pounds for lack of food; (4) **Chaplain Klingenschmitt refused to support "government-mandated church quotas" when senior chaplains convinced an Admiral to force scores of young Sailors to attend a mandatory pro-homosexual church.**

Call the White House at 202-456-1414 or email at president@whitehouse.gov and urge the president to issue an Executive Order protecting the constitutional right of military chaplains and other members of the military to pray according to their faith.



Washington Weekly Review

Friday, December 3, 2005

President Roberta Combs

Discrimination Against Christian Chaplains and Other Christian Personnel In United States Military Increases/Navy Increases Pressure on Navy Chaplain Who Prays In the Name of Jesus

The discrimination against Christians in the United States military is continuing to accelerate. The Navy has increased pressure against Navy Chaplain Gordon James Klingenschmitt because he refuses to cease praying in the name of Jesus. Lieutenant (Chaplain) Klingenschmitt was relieved of duty and is facing termination of his 14-year active duty career partly for refusing to cease praying in the name of Jesus; for requesting Kosher MREs (meals ready to eat) for an Orthodox Jewish sailor, and for similar actions.

Lt (Chaplain) Klingenschmitt was removed early from the USS Anzio and faced a Navy review board which could end his 14-year career. Navy Chaplain Klingenschmitt concludes his prayers at public services and ceremonial events with the phrase, "...we pray to you, Almighty God, and I pray in Jesus' name. Amen" as a way to include diverse faiths, yet remain true to his Christian beliefs.

Last month, two Air Force officers, F-16 pilot, Captain Karl Palmberg, and Major James Glass, an Air Force chaplain filed a motion to intervene against a lawsuit, Weinstein v. United States Air Force, which is attempting to stop any member of the Air Force from sharing his religious views with fellow members while on duty.

Also last month, the United States Senate unanimously passed an Amendment -- authored by Senator James Inhofe, (R-OK), by a margin of 99-0 -- to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, S. 1042, which will ensure that prayer is allowed at any activity at the military academies.

Congressman Walter Jones and Democrat Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo have introduced the same language in their bill, H.R. 3430. The Jones/Bordallo/Inhofe language says: "To ensure by law the ability of the military service academies to include the offering of a voluntary, nondenominational prayer as an element of their activities." The latter phrase ("their activities") was obviously a warning to the United States Air Force which has publicized their "Interim Guidelines Concerning Free Exercise of Religion in the Air Force" alarming many Christians in and out of the military services.

Call the White House at 202-456-1414 or email at president@whitehouse.gov and urge the president to issue an Executive Order protecting the constitutional right of military chaplains and other members of the military to pray according to their faith.

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL

Defending Family, Faith, and Freedom

[Chaplains Battling Navy for Freedom of Religion](#)

by: [Mr. Peter Sprigg](#)

The halls of Congress and America's courtrooms are not the only places where conservative Christians are becoming victims of active discrimination. Surprisingly, such discrimination is occurring even in one of society's most conservative institutions, the military, and in one of the most unlikely settings--namely, the corps of chaplains charged specifically with caring for the spiritual needs of our service members.

Some chaplains in the U.S. Navy, however, have begun fighting back. Dozens are involved in a series of lawsuits against the Navy, and another, Lt. Gordon James Klingenschmitt, has gone public with his charges in media interviews and on a new website.

Historically, Christian military chaplains have been divided into three main categories: Roman Catholics, "liturgical" Protestants (denominations with more formal rituals such as the Lutherans and Episcopalians), and "non-liturgical" Protestants (those with less formal worship, such as Baptists and Pentecostals). One of the charges levied against the Navy is that liturgical Protestants are overrepresented in the chaplaincy and receive favored treatment, while the non-liturgical groups are underrepresented (in comparison with the religious affiliation of naval personnel) and receive poorer treatment in assignments and promotions.

However, even more troubling than such discrimination is the limitations that the Navy is reportedly placing on the chaplains' free exercise of religion--based not on their worship style, but on their evangelical theology. For example, Klingenschmitt, who contacted FRC regarding his situation, reports that he was reprimanded while serving on the U.S.S. Anzio for reading John 3:3 ("... no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again") and John 3:36 ("Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life...") at a memorial service for a Christian sailor who had died in an accident. Meanwhile, Arthur Schulcz, an attorney who represents chaplains in several lawsuits, told Culture Facts in a phone interview that one of his clients was told he was being removed from his pulpit for "failing to preach pluralism."

Military chaplains do face a unique challenge because of the diversity of the personnel they must serve. Klingenschmitt explained to Culture Facts that a chaplain's job is to "provide for our own" (by leading worship in his own tradition); "facilitate for others" (for example, by helping them to organize their own worship using lay leaders); and "care for all." Ironically, one of the episodes that he says got him in trouble was when Klingenschmitt, an evangelical Episcopal priest, advocated for a Jewish sailor who had requested kosher meals when his ship was at sea.

Federal law states explicitly: "An officer in the Chaplain Corps may conduct public worship according to the manner and forms of the church of which he is a member." Perhaps more to the point, the U.S. Constitution guarantees to all "the free exercise" of religion. How ironic that those who defend that Constitution--sometimes at the cost of their lives--are being denied the very rights that it guarantees.