



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
f o u n d a t i o n

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Dr. Bonita Jacobs
Room 302, Price Memorial
82 College Circle
Dahlonega, GA 30597

COL (ret'd) James T. Palmer
Room 102A, Pennington Military Leadership Center
Georgia Circle
Dahlonega, GA 30533

CH James Forrester
82 College Circle
Dahlonega, GA 30597

Dear Dr. Jacobs, COL Palmer, and CH Forrester,

It has been brought to the attention of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) that the University of North Georgia (UNG) has chosen to disregard the First Amendment of the Constitution, the Supreme Court prohibition of state sponsored prayer at public schools, and your own internal directive "that prayers shall not be included in University sponsored events." As a public school that receives both state and federal funding, UNG has no exemption from the laws of our country which require religious neutrality.

The evidence of the UNG's brazen contempt of our Constitution is undeniable. The continued practice of state sponsored Christian Supremacy at UNG has been recorded in videos that can be seen at the following addresses:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxbq1GwsN2k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DNld5uO3Jc>

It is anathema to the American spirit to interfere with religion from the pulpit of

government authority. While Christian Supremacists are often upset by having their privilege reduced to a place of equality, it is not an affront to their rights to demand government neutrality on the subject. This case has been tried, fought, and won in so many instances that citation is hardly necessary, however in order to be absolutely clear I will quote Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark from the 1963 ruling of *Abington Township School District v. Schempp*:

"The place of religion in our society is an exalted one, achieved through a long tradition of reliance on the home, the church, and the inviolable citadel of the individual heart and mind. We have come to recognize through bitter experience that it is not within the power of government to invade that citadel, whether its purpose or effect be to aid or oppose, to advance or retard. ***In the relationship between man and religion, the State is firmly committed to a position of neutrality.***"

In addition to UNG-sponsored Christian prayers, it has been brought to our attention that you have developed an exclusively Christian Chaplain Corps. The idea of an exclusively Christian Chaplain Corps being in part the design of a Retired Colonel (in this case COL Palmer) brings the capacity of the Colonel to serve as Commandant of Cadets into question. Any active or retired military officer, or enlisted member for that matter, who does not recognize that the Army's Chaplaincy is designed to support the spiritual needs of ALL service members regardless of faith is guilty of willful ignorance. Any member of the military that encourages the march towards theocracy is guilty of sedition and treason.

The Supreme Court in *Parker v. Levy*, 417 U.S. 733 (1974), concluded that Capt. Levy's First Amendment right of free speech did not allow him to encourage soldiers to refuse to deploy to Vietnam because he and they believed the War in Vietnam was immoral. In a 6-2 decision written by noted ultra-conservative Chief Justice Rehnquist, the Supreme Court said,

"This Court has long recognized that the military is, by necessity, a specialized society separate from civilian society. We have also recognized that the military has, again by necessity, developed laws and traditions of its own during its long history. The differences between the military and civilian communities result from the fact that "it is the primary business of armies and navies to fight or be ready to fight wars should the occasion arise. ... An army is not a deliberative body. It is the executive arm. Its law is that of obedience. No question can be left open as to the right to command in the officer or the duty of obedience in the soldier. ... While the members of the military are not excluded from the protection granted by the First Amendment, the different character of the military community and of the military mission requires a different application of those protections. ***The fundamental necessity for obedience, and the consequent necessity for imposition of discipline, may render permissible within the military that which would be constitutionally impermissible outside it.*** ... In the armed forces, some restrictions exist for reasons that have no counterpart in the civilian community. Disrespectful and contemptuous speech, even advocacy of violent change, is tolerable in the civilian community, for it does not directly affect the capacity of the Government to discharge its responsibilities unless it both is directed to inciting imminent lawless action and is likely to produce such action. ... ***In military life, however, other considerations must be weighed.*** The armed forces depend on a command structure that, at times must commit men to combat, not only hazarding their lives but also ultimately involving the security of the Nation itself. ***Speech that is protected in the civil population may nonetheless undermine the effectiveness of response to command. If it does, it is constitutionally unprotected.***"

A UNG publication (found here: <http://ung.edu/military-college/uploads/files/chaplain-corps-article.pdf>) hails the "Chaplain Corps" as "perfect for anyone who wants to enlist as a chaplain or who wants to serve their faith and support those around them." If that statement were true, it would mean that this organization supports all faiths, but this is not the case. That same publication goes on to describe the activities of the organization as surrounding Christian Bible study, sharing the faith of the members (i.e. proselytizing), and preparing cadets to commission as chaplains in the Army. If any doubt remains that this state sponsored organization is a Christian Supremacist group, that doubt can be summarily defeated by visiting the group's page

(<http://ung.edu/military-college/organizations/cadet-chaplain-association.php>) which opens with the proclamation from the Christian Bible that “Your God reigns!”

If developing future chaplains to proselytize for Christianity while excluding all other faiths is in keeping with active policy at UNG, your leadership has thoroughly renounced your loyalty to the United States of America and rejected the premise of a pluralistic society on which our government was founded.

As of yet, the Supreme Court of the United States has not made the decision to overturn the First Amendment and officially declare our country to be under a Christian theocratic regime. Until the day comes that the United States chooses to follow the shining examples of Saudi Arabia, the Taliban, and the Holy Roman Empire, your organization does not have the right to require your diverse student body to bow to the god of your choosing or celebrate your chosen religion above all others.

We currently represent numerous students and cadets at UNG, and it is their request that prior to taking this case to the courts of law and public opinion, we schedule a face to face meeting with as many of you as possible in order to resolve this issue as courteously as possible. We are prepared to send a representative to your campus at the soonest possible date. Please respond by e-mail to confirm receipt and let us know what date is most convenient to you all for this meeting.

Sincerely,



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