



Focus on Religious Freedom

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... we honor the bravery of those who forged this Nation to ensure self-evident truths about the endowment by the Creator of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Should those who swear to protect and defend the Constitution be obliged to surrender their First Amendment Rights?

Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA

Concern About Religious Freedom Protections in the Military

Americans paused again on the last Monday in May to celebrate Memorial Day as they honor those who died in the nation's wars. We love and are grateful for all those who are prepared to confront threats to our nation and even die to keep us free.

Recently, both members of Congress and retired military leaders have voiced concern about protecting the rights and freedoms, including Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech, for our current service members. This concern was in part, prompted by Department of Defense Sec. Austin who said, "Extremism presents a complex and unique challenge to DoD. We must meet this head-on, working to stamp out extremism among the ranks, permanently."⁽¹⁾

"The U.S. Army produced training materials that labeled Christians and Catholics as religious extremists alongside Hamas and al Qaeda, never mind the fact that evangelicals and Catholics continue to comprise the majority of those serving in uniform today. Labeling religious and political beliefs that are held by tens of millions of Americans as extremist is to declare them unwelcome and unfit to serve...", said First Liberty Institute in testimony before Congress. ⁽²⁾
"At a time of turmoil and instability, during which our nation faces many external threats, (this) message is inappropriate and offensive to our service members and those they defend."⁽³⁾

"We are in a fight for our survival as a Constitutional Republic like no other time since our founding in 1776. The conflict is between supporters of Socialism and Marxism (that opposes religious belief and practice) vs. supporters of Constitutional freedom and liberty," wrote over 120 retired generals & admirals in an open letter.⁽⁴⁾

Catholics can be thankful that, per the Archbishop for Military Services, Timothy P. Broglio, "the military is the largest single source of vocations to the priesthood" in the United States.⁽⁵⁾

(media.defense.gov, 3/4/21(1); washingtonexaminer.com, 3/24/21(2); theepochtimes.com, 3/24/21(3); jpmedia.com, 5/12/21(4); washingtonpost.com, 5/5/21; newsweek.com, 3/24/21; militarytimes.com, 9/18/20): ewtn, news in depth,5/31/21(5)

Those who take an oath to defend our Constitution, knowing that defense may cost them their very life, merit our ardent defense of their Constitutional liberties.

- B. Samuells, Catholics for Freedom of Religion

Shortened version follows below:



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