



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

Religious Freedom Rights Attacked: an Eagle Scout and a Police Officer

"Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you: Jesus Christ and the American Soldier; One died for your soul; the other died for your freedom." (1)

An Eagle Scout Project honoring America's veterans is under fire for mentioning Jesus Christ on a memorial in Monument, Colorado. Sixteen year old Michael Carlson created the memorial as a tribute to his grandfather and father and it sits in the town's cemetery, where the family purchased the burial plots on which it sits. "Michael saw veterans were underrepresented here. He didn't go to the government and say 'Fix this.' He decided to fix it himself," said Monument Mayor Wilson.⁽²⁾

The anti-religion group, Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) objected to the memorial plaque and demanded that it be altered or removed from the public cemetery. The town retained First Liberty Institute to defend the memorial. "Your attack on a minor who simply intended to honor our veterans is profoundly disrespectful to all involved," wrote First Liberty council in a recent letter to MRFF. ⁽³⁾

It's not yet clear whether private ownership of the cemetery plots where the memorial stands will be enough to ward off a lawsuit from MRFF.

A Kentucky police officer was suspended for 4 months with pay but without any much needed overtime hours in February when, while off-duty and before dawn, he prayed the Rosary alone with his father for less than an hour in front of an abortion center. When he started his patrol duty later that morning, he was ordered to report in and placed on leave pending an investigation.

"We are happy for the officer that the Louisville Police Department finally did the right thing and put a good policeman back on the streets. But it is astounding to those of us defending him - shocking actually - that the police department would treat a hardworking, loyal officer this way. They left him twisting in the wind for four months because of off-duty prayer," said Thomas More Society attorney.⁽⁴⁾ "The facts have been undisputed from the start - the whole event was captured on the abortion clinic's security video," said the attorney. "It showed two men, nondescriptly dressed, walking quietly back & forth as they said the Rosary. The abortion clinic was closed and the street in front of it was practically deserted."⁽⁵⁾

(themix.net, 6/10/21(1); 1.cbn.com, 4/1/21(2); wnd.com, 6/5/21(3); faithpot.com, 7/8/21; wnd.com, 6/27/21(4)(5)

***"Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly, according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth."
- Pope Francis***

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Let us Pray: Almighty God, we ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Amen

Shortened Version Follows Below:

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Catholics For Freedom of Religion

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The anti-religion group, Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) objected to the memorial plaque and demanded that it be altered or removed from the public cemetery.

The town retained First Liberty Institute to defend the memorial. "Your attack on a minor who simply intended to honor our veterans is profoundly disrespectful to all involved," wrote a First Liberty attorney to MRFF. (2) It is not yet clear whether private ownership of the cemetery plots will be enough to ward off a lawsuit from MRFF.

A Kentucky police officer was suspended for 4 months after praying the Rosary alone with his father for less than an hour before dawn and off-duty, in civilian clothes, in front of an abortion clinic. After he was reinstated, his Thomas More Society attorney said, "It is astounding to us - shocking actually - that the police department would treat a hardworking loyal officer this way." (3)

(themix.net, 6/10/21(1); 1.cbn.com, 4/1/21(2); end.com, 6/27/21(3))