

Constitutional Corner –The De-moralization of the U.S. Military

“Air Force Sergeant Reassigned for not Supporting Homosexual 'Marriage'” read the headline from Godfather Politics. It seems a Staff Sergeant at Randolph AFB, a trainer in the Air Force’s version of “basic training,” shared with his trainees his opinion that homosexual “marriage” was wrong. Bad move. His openly lesbian commander learned of this and decided to punish the man for voicing his opinion. The unit’s senior enlisted advisor, a Senior Master Sergeant, suggested instead that the incident might be used as “a learning experience about tolerance and diversity.” That was apparently too much for the commander, who asked the Master Sergeant to agree with her that being morally opposed to homosexual marriage was discrimination. The Master Sergeant replied that he could not answer the question because of his convictions. For this he was reassigned, months earlier than the scheduled end of his term assignment.

At a base in Colorado an airman was told his six-year term was being reduced to one year and that he should prepare for retirement when it was up after he questioned the use of the Air Force Academy chapel for a same-sex marriage.

The First Amendment reads: *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....”* Some in this country have spent the better part of fifty years contorting the first phrase of the Amendment to imply that the Founders intended some sort of “wall” to be erected between government and religion. Their rabid crusade has led to a confusing mix of Supreme Court decisions that have not clarified the amendment much. The dissenters have not paid similar attention to the second clause of the amendment.

So now we apparently have “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in reverse. Christians who feel homosexuality to be contrary to their understanding of the Bible, had better keep their opinions to themselves or risk reassignment, demotion, or worse. One more skirmish in the de-Christianization of the U.S. military relentlessly pursued by the Obama Administration.

Historian David Barton of Wallbuilders has gone so far as to call Obama “America’s Most Biblically-Hostile U. S. President,” and Barton backs up his charge with an amazingly long list of evidences (87 of them at current count, but growing). Although unanticipated in its ferocity, this “war on Christianity” was not unexpected by those who paused to study this President’s relationship with religion, from the frequent references to his Islamic upbringing (to Obama, the Muslim call to prayer is apparently *“the most beautiful sound in the world”*), to his years of pew-sitting under the tutelage of black liberation-theologian Rev. Jeremiah Wright. There has been endless speculation whether Obama is indeed a closet Muslim. But back to our story. Here are some other recent “skirmishes.”

Soldiers attending a pre-deployment briefing at Fort Hood last week were told that “evangelical Christians and members of the Tea Party” were a “threat to the nation.” They were warned that any soldier caught donating to those groups would be subjected to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Really! You can’t make this stuff up.

The Obama administration defunded a Young Marines chapter in Louisiana because their oath mentioned God, and another youth program because it permitted a voluntary student-led prayer.

A DOD training manual teaches soldiers that people who talk about "individual liberties, states' rights, and how to make the world a better place are extremists." It also listed the Founding Fathers -- those "colonists who sought to free themselves from British rule" -- as examples of those involved in "extremist ideologies and movements."

When the Founding fathers spoke or wrote of religion -- and they did so often and extensively -- they saw no conflict "mixing" religion with politics; in fact they saw the two in a symbiotic relationship. The Father of the Country warned us *"reason and experience both forbid us to expect that the national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles."* Ben Franklin observed that *"wise Governments have always thought Religion necessary for the well ordering and well-being of Society."* Declaration signer Charles Carroll thought: *"Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments."* Washington again: *"Do not let anyone claim to be a true American if they ever attempt to remove religion from politics. Anyone who does this cannot be called American."* Declaration signer John Witherspoon: *"[H]e is the best friend to American liberty, who is most sincere and active in promoting true and undefiled religion... Whoever is an avowed enemy of God, I [do not hesitate] to call him an enemy of his country."* Noah Webster: *"No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people."*

The Founders wrote the 1st Amendment to prevent Congress from establishing a national religion, knowing full well they were permitting state governments to maintain their official religions. They did not enact the amendment to separate any and all acknowledgement of religion from government. With our country facing near insurmountable financial problems, this administration apparently feels it has time and energy to devote to this offensive campaign against Christians in the military. Shame on them.

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