



FIRST LIBERTY

The

PHILIP B. ONDERDONK JR.
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AWARD

★ **2018** ★



About the Onderdonk Award

First Liberty Institute presents the Philip B. Onderdonk Jr. Religious Liberty Award each year to a hero of religious liberty at the National Convention of The American Legion.

The award is named after Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., a member of The American Legion Post 183 in Parkville, MD who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, earning a Bronze Star.

A 1965 graduate of Johns Hopkins University, Onderdonk received his law degree, with honors, from the University of Maryland Law School in 1969. He is a member of the Maryland Bar Association, the Indiana Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar (Washington, D.C.) and the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Those who receive the Philip B. Onderdonk Jr. Religious Liberty Award demonstrate the same dedication to duty in the service of religious freedom as the man for which it is named.

Cases In Which First Liberty And The American Legion Have Joined Forces

The American Legion has partnered with First Liberty Institute on numerous occasions to protect religious liberty and America's religious heritage. In great part due to Philip Onderdonk's tireless efforts on behalf of American veterans, The American Legion and First Liberty:

- Petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to save the Bladensburg WWI Veterans Memorial, a gravestone to 49 fallen heroes of Prince George's County, Maryland.
- Defended the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial Cross against a severe legal assault that went to the U.S. Supreme Court, thus creating an important precedent for defending other war memorials from being torn down.
- Stopped the removal of the historic Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, which honors over 3,500 veterans who served and sacrificed for freedom in various periods of American history.
- Successfully fought to preserve the phrase "under God" in New Jersey's Pledge of Allegiance.
- Won in federal court to stop atheists from removing the phrase "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency and public displays.



THE AMERICAN LEGION