

First Liberty Institute Comes to Defense of POW/MIA Remembrance Table at New Hampshire VA Hospital

Religious liberty law firm seeks to intervene in lawsuit to remove Remembrance Table at Manchester, New Hampshire VA Medical Center

Manchester, NH—First Liberty Institute announced that it is seeking to intervene on behalf of the Northeast POW/MIA Network (the Network) in defense of its POW/MIA Remembrance Table at the Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MVAMC). A local veteran, supported by the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), filed a lawsuit against the MVAMC earlier this year because it allowed the Network to assemble a Remembrance Table that includes a Bible. The action will be coordinated in New Hampshire by Jeremy Eggleton of Orr & Reno, P.A., as local counsel.

“The MRFF picked a fight with the wrong veterans,” said Michael Berry, Director of Military Affairs for First Liberty Institute. “Removing the Bible that a World War II POW donated for display at a VA hospital would be a cruel insult and dishonor our veterans. The Germans confiscated religious books from POWs during World War II. We’re not about to let the MRFF do the same thing to our clients.”

In July, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it updated and clarified its policies “permitting religious literature, symbols and displays at VA facilities to protect religious liberty for Veterans and families while ensuring inclusivity and nondiscrimination” after First Liberty sent a letter urging the VA to issue such a clarification.

The Bible included in the display at the MVAMC was donated by former U.S. Army Air Corps Technical Sergeant (TSgt) Herman “Herk” Streitburger, of Bedford, NH, who was held captive in a German Prisoner of War camp during World War II. The POW/MIA Remembrance Table at the MVAMC was assembled by First Liberty’s client, the Northeast POW/MIA Network.

Our nation has long maintained the sacred tradition of honoring POW/MIAs. Over the course of decades, the Remembrance Table tradition has become ubiquitous at Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs facilities. The table is decorated with several items, each carrying symbolic meaning used to help remember those who were captured or declared missing. Historically, the Bible is included in the display to symbolize the strength gained by faith that helps those captured or lost.

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About First Liberty Institute

[First Liberty Institute](http://www.firstliberty.org) is a non-profit public interest law firm and the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious freedom for all Americans.

To arrange an interview, contact Lacey McNiel at media@firstliberty.org or by calling 972-941-4453.