

Religious Liberty Firm Urges VA to Adopt Nationwide Policy Permitting Bibles in POW/MIA Remembrance Displays

First Liberty Institute represents POW/MIA Organization that Maintains Remembrance Table at Manchester, NH VA Medical Center under fire from anti-religion group

Washington, DC—First Liberty Institute sent a [letter](#) to Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie urging him to issue a policy applicable to all VA facilities that permits the inclusion of a Bible in POW/MIA remembrance displays. Current VA policy delegates the decision of whether to permit such displays to individual facility directors.

You can read the letter, [here](#).

“With the stroke of a pen, Secretary Wilkie can help put an end to senseless and wasteful lawsuits like the one in New Hampshire that the current policy allows,” said Mike Berry, Director of Military Affairs for First Liberty Institute. “Our veterans and the organizations that serve them deserve a uniform policy that allows Americans to honor and remember their service and sacrifice at all VA facilities. We appreciate the VA’s strong stand in defense of the remembrance display at the Manchester VA Medical Center, but now is the perfect opportunity for a nationwide policy protecting the Bible’s inclusion in POW/MIA displays at all VA facilities.”

In its letter, First Liberty states, “Although the inclusion of a Bible in a POW/MIA remembrance display is perfectly permissible under the U.S. Constitution, current VA policy guidance delegates the discretion to authorize such displays to individual VA facility directors. As a result, it is conceivable that some VA facilities will authorize POW/MIA remembrance displays that include Bibles, some will authorize POW/MIA remembrance displays that do not include Bibles, while others still might not authorize any displays at all.”

First Liberty Institute’s client, the Northeast POW/MIA Network, is the organization responsible for creating and maintaining a POW/MIA remembrance display at the Manchester VA Medical Center that includes a Bible donated by World War II Prisoner of War, Herman “Herk” Streitberger. That Bible is now the subject of a lawsuit by the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF).

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About First Liberty Institute

[First Liberty Institute](#) 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 McNeil at media@firstliberty.org or by calling 972-941-4453.