



William J. Murray

The Chairman's Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

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STOP FUNDING THE ACLU

The ACLU is running full page ads in newspapers saying that President George W. Bush broke the law by tapping the phones of people who had known connections to terrorists who want to kill Americans. Meanwhile the ACLU says it is a civil rights organization that collects no fees for the many lawsuits it files to remove any reference to God from the public arena. Where does the money come from for these newspaper ads? Where does the money come from to pay for the lavish ACLU headquarters in New York City and the six figure executive pay of its management? Much of it comes from your pocket. Back in 1976, Congress passed legislation requiring the plaintiff's legal fees to be paid in "civil rights" cases, if the plaintiff wins in court. Conversely, if the plaintiff loses, he or she is not liable for the defendant's expenses. The original intent was to enable poor blacks who were being denied voting rights or other equal rights to have legal representation.

The ACLU succeeded in having "establishment clause violations" interpreted as being civil rights cases. Thus, they began to file the barrage of lawsuits with which we are all familiar, against any public mention of God's name or display of any Christian religious symbol. Their favorite tactic is to file a lawsuit against a school district that is not wealthy, such as in Pontotoc, Mississippi. In most cases, the school will back down and settle out of court because they know if they fight and lose, the judge may make the school pay the ACLU hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees, as the judge did in the Pontotoc case.

ACLU lawyers typically present a bill for hundreds of hours of work at up to \$500 per hour, plus bills for airfare and lodging in luxury hotels. Even if the school wins, they still have to pay their own legal fees, (unless a conservative organization like Liberty Counsel or the American Center for Law and Justice takes the case on for free). Even then, the cost in lost time and manpower will never be recouped. For the school, it's a lose-lose situation, financially. For the ACLU it's a win-win situation. If they lose in court, they will still receive thousands in donations from their fanatical supporters.



William J. Murray and
Congressman Hostettler
discuss legislation

The Public Expression of Religion Act (RH 2679) authored by our friend Congressman John Hostettler (R-IN) would put an end to tax payer funding for the ACLU. They would have to turn to Norman Lear and George Soros for their funding. The Public Expression of Religion Act (Referred to on the Hill as PERA) would eliminate the federal rule that allows the ACLU to collect attorneys' fees when filing these kinds of lawsuits. In the past Congressman Hostettler has not found enough support in the House to bring his bill to the floor; however, with the ACLU now filing lawsuits to remove "religious" reference from memorials to the veterans who have lost their lives fighting for our freedoms, there may be new momentum for the bill.

PERA would stop grievous activities of the ACLU such as their lawsuit to remove a cross from a memorial to our fallen veterans. This California case could lead to the removal of the crosses of our fallen in Arlington Cemetery. What is next, the murals in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building which contain Christian images? Let's look at the Mojave Desert Cross case.

The Mojave Desert Cross was erected in 1934 by a group of veterans of WWI to honor the fallen soldiers of that war. In the 1990's, the land became part of the National Park system and the ACLU found a retired park service employee living in Oregon who was "harmed" by the cross. (In all other kinds of lawsuits, the plaintiff has to prove "standing" by showing that he or she has been significantly harmed physically or monetarily in some way. Establishment clause cases are different; the "harm" comes from just being offended by seeing certain symbols or hearing certain words.) It seems the plaintiff in the Mojave Cross case was "offended" by seeing the cross when he drove back to visit California.

On that grounds the case was filed and a judge agreed the cross had to come down. Congress and the Park Service tried several tactics to avoid the judge's order. They forbade any federal money from being used to remove the cross; they put a tarp over it; then, they ceded a small parcel of land around it to the local VFW, making it private property. The un-elected judge rejected all compromises, even acts of Congress. One way to attack the root of the problem is to stop the ACLU tax-funded money train with Congressman Hostettler's legislation. Please call your congressman about the Public Expression of Religion Act.

At Congressman Hostettler's Internet site he has a "pod cast" of an interview with a former ACLU attorney, Rees Lloyd, that exposes the excesses of the ACLU. Rees Lloyd was a civil rights attorney who has worked for the rights of minorities. He departed the ACLU as they took the route beginning in the 1980's to use civil rights legislation to enrich their organization and themselves by attacking every public reference to God.

During 2006 the Religious Freedom Coalition will be working closely with Congressman Hostettler to explain to the American people how legislation intended to assist those whose rights have been denied is being exploited by ACLU executives to enrich themselves. What is going on inside the ACLU is not much different than the corporate scandals we read about in the business pages of our newspapers, but the ACLU has become one of those "untouchable" organizations such as the Rainbow Coalition that can flout the laws of our nation.

UNDER GOD IN THE PLEDGE

I believe that Congressman Todd Akin's bill to protect "under God" in the Pledge is perhaps one of the most important bills we must pass during the 2006 session of Congress.

Hard core, Christ hating atheist Michael Newdow is not going to give up. He is an intelligent although misguided individual whose hatred for God is unparalleled since that of perhaps Joseph Stalin. He filed one lawsuit to have "under God" removed from the Pledge of Allegiance in 2003 that worked its way all the way to the Supreme Court. Newdow is so dishonest that he said in documents he filed with the Court that the words "under God" offended his daughter who was a student in a California public school. It turned out that he did not even have custody of his daughter and that the daughter was in fact a born-again believer in Jesus Christ.

Even though he had no standing to file the lawsuit, the wacky 9th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with him and banned the words "under God" from the Pledge. When the case reached the Supreme Court of the United States there was no real decision on the issue. Instead, the High Court overturned the 9th Circuit with the obvious conclusion that Newdow did not have custody of the girl and had no compelling interest in the case.

Because the Supreme Court did not rule on the actual issue of “under God” in the Pledge being constitutional, the Christ hating Newdow was able to re-file his case, this time using the names of other children whose parents are also atheists. There is no shortage of hostile atheists in California to file lawsuits against all things religious.

Newdow was able to find a Federal District Court judge to rule in his favor in 2005 banning the words “under God” from the Pledge in several school districts in northern California, but the case is now on appeal to the 9th Circuit Court, the same loony court that agreed with Newdow two years ago.

When the 9th Circuit Court rules in favor of the atheists sometime early this year, the words “under God” will be barred from the Pledge of Allegiance in several states including California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. There will be an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court.

THESE EXPENSIVE LAWSUITS MUST BE STOPPED

Think about the cost involved in all the lawsuits that have been brought and will be brought by radical atheists. Even if the Supreme Court upholds the Pledge in public schools with the words “under God” in it, Newdow will file yet another lawsuit from another angle. This will not end unless a law is passed to stop it.

The Pledge Protection Act of 2005 presented and authored by Congressman John Hostettler is the only answer. The bill uses the authority of Congress to restrict the federal courts. The bill states that no federal court has the authority to decide on the issue of “under God” being in the Pledge.

Congress was given the explicit authority by the Constitution to regulate federal courts. The Congress has from its very first session under the Constitution in 1789 defined the size and authority of the Courts. This year, for example, the Congress may break up the 9th Circuit Court into two separate courts. That is the power reserved to the Congress.

I believe we must pass the Pledge Protection Act before Michael Newdow’s newest case reaches the Supreme Court. Should “moderate” judges on the Court buy the arguments presented by the Christ haters it will become even more difficult to pass the proper legislation. We must act now.

WE ARE WORKING HARD TO PASS PLEDGE PROTECTION

The Religious Freedom Coalition has been working with members of Congress including Congressman Todd Akin to pass this much needed legislation. Not a week goes by that I do not ask a congressman to support the Pledge Protection Act.

To persuade congressmen and congressional leadership that the Pledge Protection Act has the support of the American people, the Religious Freedom Coalition has collected tens of thousands of petitions. Last year we distributed more than 100,000 petitions - not included those that were printed from our Internet site. Every single day we receive bundles of petitions that have been signed by Americans who have downloaded their copies from our Internet site.

In 2006 we plan to produce and ship out at least 1,000,000 more printed petitions! We are praying that every one of them will be signed on returned to us. Other organizations are helping by allowing us to send copies of the petition to their supporters.

Because we have the help of other organizations, you may receive one or two copies of the petition from us even if you have already signed it. This is because another organization you belong to has allowed us to mail it to you! Please don't throw it out! Instead just cross out your name and ask your neighbor to sign it and send it back in.



The more signed petitions we present to congressmen the more likely they are to support the Pledge Protection Act! But public awareness is important as well and that is why we have also begun a "One Nation Under God" bumper sticker campaign. Our goal is to have cars in every county in the United States with a "One Nation Under God" Bumper sticker. We are sending these to anyone who sends any amount of money to help with the campaign, even if it is only 50 cents. As long as we get enough money to pay for the postage to mail it we will send an "Under God" bumper sticker to anyone who asks for one, even if their request is made on the Internet.

The bumper sticker features our flag in red, white and blue, the American eagle, and the words "One Nation Under God" in bold red print. To hold down the costs of the Chairman's Report the bumper sticker is printed on this page in just one color, but the actual bumper sticker is full color and very readable and a full seven inches long.

No matter the size of the gift you send to the Religious Freedom Coalition in January you will be sent one of these bumper stickers to remind those in your community that America is indeed One Nation Under God!

THE SUPREME COURT AND JUDGE ALITO

Because the Religious Freedom Coalition is a non-profit organization we cannot work directly on the confirmation hearings for Judge Samuel Alito other than to report on the issues. Our sister organization, the Religious Freedom Action Coalition, however, can work directly to confirm Judge Alito who is one of the most qualified men ever to be nominated. When you watch the news about the confirmation hearings watch for the red T-shirts worn by pro-Alito volunteers. Those T-shirts were furnished by the Religious Freedom Action Coalition as were all the buttons, badges and stickers supporting Judge Alito.

Almost every Republican and most Democrats support the confirmation of this well qualified jurist. So who is against him? Radical feminists, homosexual activists, extreme environmentalist and animal rights groups. These groups are being funded by Hollywood perverts who want activist judges on the High Court who will alter the Constitution to suit their demands. For information on how the Religious Freedom Action Coalition is helping to bring reason to the Supreme Court, check out the Internet site at www.rfcation.org.

Our office is just seven blocks from the Capitol Dome. On page one of this Chairman's Report there is a photo of me discussing legislation with Congressman Hostettler. I could not have these kinds of close relationships working from Mississippi or Texas. Please pray that we will continue to have this continued impact on Capitol Hill.

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William J. Murray, Chairman

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