

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2012

Honorable Michael B. Donley
SAF/OS
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

General Norton A. Schwartz
HQ USAF/CC
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Donley and General Schwartz:

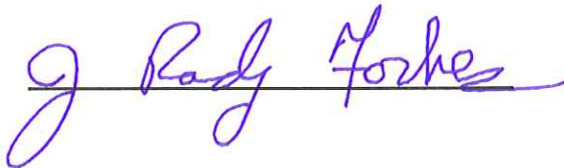
It has come to our attention that the U.S. Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office (RCO) has modified the logo on its official patch to remove its reference to "God," following a complaint from the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers. Because such alteration certainly was not required by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, we call on you to reverse this troubling decision.

As Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, a bipartisan group of 103 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives dedicated to protecting religious freedom in America and ensuring that our nation is not stripped of references to its spiritual heritage, we are deeply concerned that the RCO capitulated to pressure from an outside group that consistently strives to remove references to God and faith from our nation's military.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the establishment of religion; however, the mere mention of God certainly does not rise to this level. The action taken by the RCO suggests that all references to God, regardless of their context, must be removed from the military. As we are confident that your legal advisors would not suggest that censorship is required for compliance with the First Amendment, we ask that you reverse this perplexing decision.

As you know, courts consistently have upheld the constitutionality of our national motto, "In God We Trust," despite its obvious mention of God. In fact, that motto appears on our nation's currency and is inscribed above the Speaker's rostrum in the U.S. House of Representatives. In light of these and numerous other instances of prominent references to God and consistent affirmations of their constitutionality, we ask that you reverse the decision to alter the logo. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Sincerely,





D. Bunch WA-8 Mark Miller OH-3

Robertson VA-01 Ing. P. H. PA-16

Joze Wilson, SC-02 Allen B. West FL-22

Dan Burton Inds. J. H. Mill FL-01

Chas. M. FL-08 Ed. H. TX-1

K. J. L. TX-11

Paul J. Falck OK-5

Vicky Harzler MO-4

Don GT. Thompson PA-05

Ramseyneuer Donald A. Manzullo

St. J. D. FL-02

Virginia Fox NC-05

~~Alvin~~ TV-2

Jim Walberg MI-07

Sam Le Oke-4

My Pompeo

Bill Hinz

Rent/Tranks

Cliff Sping

James Baker

Mike Kelly

Doug Hamilton

Bill Johnson

Alan Amodeo

John Kline

Walter B. Jones

T. McElth (MI-11)

Stuart Pear

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