

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 10, 2012

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Room 3E880  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000


Dear Mr. Secretary:


We write today to express our concern over recent actions to remove military insignias from Bibles. As you are aware, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) is claiming responsibility for the revocation of permission for B&H Publishing group to use official emblems on its military-themed Bibles. While we are aware that each branch has replied individually to the MRFF, they did so on the same day with similar responses, and we are alarmed by the appearance of the Department of Defense bowing to a third-party.

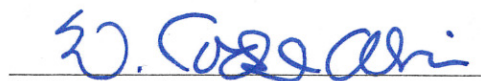
Religious freedom is one the founding principles of our nation. Enshrined in the First Amendment is the right for Americans to worship our creator without the obstruction of the government. The brave men and women who have committed their lives to protect and defend the Constitution should surely be granted this fundamental opportunity. We are frustrated by outside groups aiming to limit these protections, but we are troubled by the fact that the Department of Defense has not clearly renounced these attempts and stated its intentions to preserve religious freedom in the military.

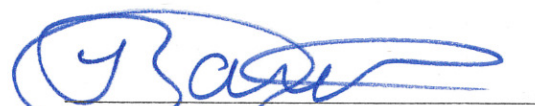
Clarity on this issue is needed, and we look forward to your response on how the decision to revoke this trademark permission was made and what the Department of Defense is doing to ensure that the religious freedom of the members of our military is preserved and protected. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Alan Nunnelee (MS-01)

  
Sandy Adams (FL-24)

  
Todd Akin (MO-02)

  
Rosee Bartlett (MD-06)

Paul C Broun

Paul Broun, M.D. (GA-10)

Ann Marie Buerkle

Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-25)

Renee S. Ellmers

Renee Ellmers (NC-02)

J. Randy Forbes

J. Randy Forbes (VA-04)

Gregg Harper

Gregg Harper (MS-03)

Andy Harris

Andy Harris, M.D. (MD-01)

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)

Tim Huelskamp

Tim Huelskamp (KS-01)

Randy Hultgren

Randy Hultgren (IL-14)

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson (OH-06)

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones (NC-03)

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly (PA-03)

John Kline

John Kline (MN-02)

Doug Lamborn

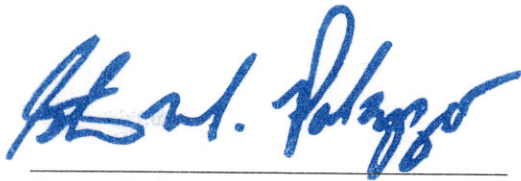
Doug Lamborn (CO-05)

James Lankford

James Lankford (OK-05)

Jeff Miller

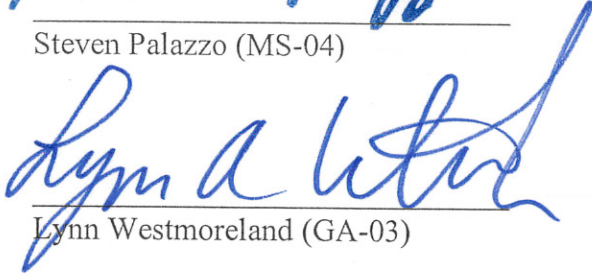
Jeff Miller (FL-01)



Steven Palazzo (MS-04)



Dennis Ross (FL-12)



Lynn Westmoreland (GA-03)