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December 13, 2005

## Navy Chaplain May Lose Job for Praying In Name of Jesus

by Bill Wilson

*One Navy chaplain refuses to bow to a military policy that bans Jesus from prayers.*

Religious intimidation in the Armed Services has caught the attention of both houses of Congress. Due to a 1998 regulation, Navy Chaplains are not allowed to pray in the name of Jesus. Navy Chaplain Gordon Klingenschmitt is facing termination of a stellar 14 year career after complaints from his commanding officer.

“He told a Navy board that Chaplain Klingenschmitt overemphasizes his own faith system, and he was talking about my sermons and prayers, and he specifically cited the Chaplain school director who told him that I was an immature Chaplain because I pray in Jesus’ name.”

Klingenschmitt says this is really a battle over First Amendment rights and religious freedom.

“You know our soldiers and sailors, they go overseas to promote religious freedom for other people, but here in America, they can’t even hear the diversity religions from their own chaplains.”

Jim Backlin of the Christian Coalition believes the situation presents a chance for President Bush to get involved

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“So I think that maybe the President will see that there is great support for these Chaplain Klingenschmitts of the Navy and in the Air Force and do something about it.”

Backlin says that the President can change the situation with the stroke of a pen.

“We do need an executive order protecting the First Amendment rights of military chaplains and other members of the military to pray according to their faith.”

Seventy-four congressmen have signed a letter asking the President to take action.

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