

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

March 5, 2012

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

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

Dear Secretary Donley and General Schwartz:

The recent decision made by the U.S. Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office (RCO) to replace the reference to God with the word "miracles" is a pronounced disregard for religious freedom and does not require abridging such phrase at the behest of an organization that is constantly aiming to remove references to God from our nation's military. As Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, in the U.S. House of Representatives, we are appalled by this unwarranted decision and urge you to reverse this decision.

The patch originally stated "Opus Dei Cum Pecunia Alienum Efficemus," which translates to "Doing God's Work with Other People's Money" and is an inside joke among RCO members of the unit according to the RCO website. The new logo instead reads "Miraculi Cum Pecunia Alienum Efficemus," meaning "Doing Miracles with Other People's Money." That change occurred following a legal review of a complaint from the President of the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers (MAAF).

We have been in contact with the U.S. Air Force liaison office to inquire about the legal review. We are awaiting a detailed explanation from the Air Force's legal advisors on how the review was conducted. The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the government from establishing an official religion; the mere mentioning of God does not encroach on that right.

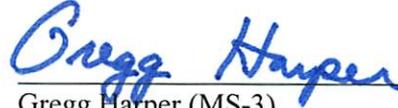
The constitutionality of our national motto, "In God We Trust," has consistently been upheld in courts. As you know, this motto is on our nation's currency, as well as, above the Speaker's rostrum in the U.S. House of Representatives. The RCO's decision suggests that all references to God, regardless of the context, must be removed from the military. The First Amendment does not require censorship of all references to God in order to ensure compliance. Therefore, we ask that you reverse the decision to remove "God" from the RCO motto.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from you regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



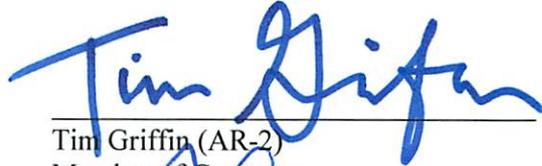
Diane Black (TN-6)  
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper (MS-3)  
Member of Congress



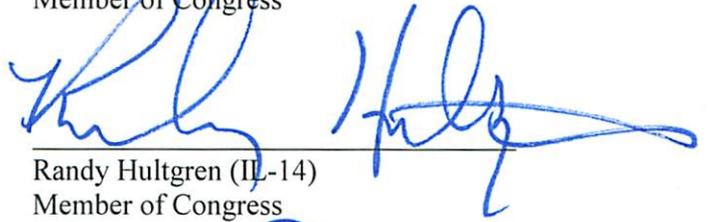
Dennis Ross (FL-12)  
Member of Congress



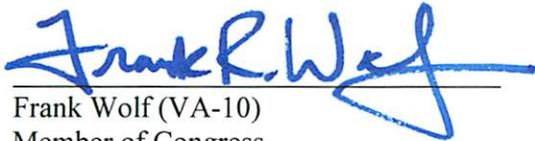
Tim Griffin (AR-2)  
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn (TN-7)  
Member of Congress



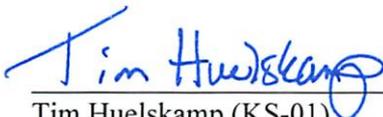
Randy Hultgren (IL-14)  
Member of Congress



Frank Wolf (VA-10)  
Member of Congress



Tim Scott (SC-1)  
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp (KS-01)  
Member of Congress