

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

May 26, 2011

USDA Forest Service, FOIA Service Center  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Mail Stop: 1143  
Washington, DC 20250-1143

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

I am writing on behalf of a concerned area resident and taxpayer, and other Montana members of the Freedom From Religion Foundation ("FFRF"), who object to the erection and maintenance of a statue of Jesus Christ on government property. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin, with nearly 16,500 members across the country including members in Montana. Our purpose is to protect the fundamental constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

It is our understanding that a statue of Jesus Christ is located on Big Mountain in the Flathead National Forest. Our complainant informs us that the Knights of Columbus Council #1328 received a special use permit for the erection of the statue in October 1953 and that the statue was installed in 1955. It is also our understanding that the special use permit has been renewed and granted every 10 years, and is once again up for renewal.

## **Religious Display on Government Property**

It is a fundamental principle of Establishment Clause jurisprudence that the government cannot in any way promote, advance, or otherwise endorse religion. The Supreme Court has said time and again, that the "First Amendment mandates government neutrality between religion and religion, and between religion and nonreligion." *McCreary County, Ky. v. American Civil Liberties Union of Ky.*, 545 U.S. 844, 860 (2005); *Wallace v. Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38, 53 (1985); *Epperson v. Arkansas*, 393 U.S. 97, 104 (1968); *Everson v. Board of Ed. of Ewing*, 330 U.S. 1, 15-16 (1947). Therefore, it is very inappropriate to have religious symbols placed on Federal property. The statue of Jesus Christ is undoubtedly recognized as a symbol of Christianity. By permitting a display of this nature the Federal Forest Service appears to endorse religion over non-religion, and specifically prefers Christianity over all other faiths. This is a direct violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The statue of Jesus Christ cannot legally remain in Flathead National Forest. Several courts have ruled that government property may not contain religious images. See

*Freedom From Religion Foundation v. City of Marshfield*, 203 F.3d 487 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000) (Jesus statue surrounded by City park created perception of city endorsement of religion in violation of Establishment Clause); *Hewitt v. Joyner*, 940 F.2d 1561 (9th Cir. 1991) (immovable religious statuary depicting scenes from the New Testament in a public park were a violation of Establishment Clause).

**Open Records Request**

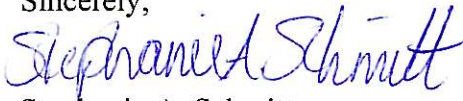
Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §552), I am requesting the following:

1. A copy of any Forest Service policy, rule, procedure or any other written guidelines outlining the process for obtaining permission to erect private displays on public property such as Big Mountain in Flathead National Forest.
2. A copy of the application, contract, agreement or permit between the Flathead National Forest, Tally Lake District and the Knights of Columbus, or any other document permitting use of this land for the statue of Jesus Christ.

In order to determine our status under FOIA for the purpose of assessing fees, please be advised that the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) is a registered 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. We are willing to pay fees associated with the costs of the search and duplication of records, but request that we first be alerted to the total estimated amount. If you deny any part of this request, please cite each specific reason that you think justifies your refusal to release the information.

If you have any questions processing this request, you may contact me at the following telephone number (608) 256-8900.

Sincerely,



Stephanie A. Schmitt  
Staff Attorney

cc: Lisa Timchak, Tally Lake Ranger District



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

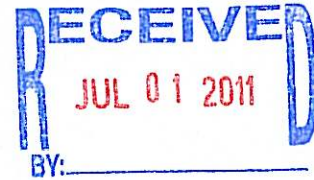
Flathead  
National  
Forest

650 Wolfpack Way  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 758-5200  
Fax (406) 758-5367

File Code: 6270

Date: June 28, 2011

Stephanie Schmitt  
Staff Attorney  
Freedom From Religion foundation  
PO Box 750  
Madison, WI 53701



Dear Stephanie,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request letter dated May, 26, 2011. In your letter, you requested the following records:

1. A copy of any Forest Service policy, rule, procedure or any other written guidelines outlining the process for obtaining permission to erect private displays on public property such as Big Mountain in Flathead National Forest.
2. A copy of the application, contract, agreement or permit between the Flathead National Forest, Tally Lake District and the Knights of Columbus, or any other document permitting use of this land for the statue of Jesus Christ.

The Forest Service policy, rules, procedure and guidelines for special uses of National Forest System lands are embodied in 36 CFR 251.50, Forest Service Manual 2700-Special Uses Management, as well as Special Uses Handbook 2709.11. These records are readily available for your review at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/>. A copy of the application as well as the recently expired special use permit is being provided to you. The Forest has not reissued the permit at this point and discussions are underway to resolve the issue of the statue residing on national forest system land.

Sincerely,

CHIP WEBER  
Forest Supervisor






# TAL11  
New with ED=TAL 229

SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST

I Gyrl W Appel  
(Name) Financial Secretary  
Whitefish Council ~~4570~~ 7630  
of Knights of Columbus  
PO Box 4535 Whitefish MT 59937  
(Address - city, state, zip)

\_\_\_\_\_, do hereby request to apply for a special use permit for road access  
improvements currently located on National Forest lands as described on the front of this  
letter. I hereby agree to pay the required cost recovery fees in the amount of \$111.00 which are  
due prior to the Forest Service beginning the amendment process.

 7/19/10  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Please return this request to:

Tally Lake Ranger District  
Attn: Becky Smith-Powell  
650 Wolfpack Way  
Kalispell, MT 59901



Authorization ID TAL-11  
Contact ID Knights  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2010

FEB - 1 2010  
FS-2700-4 (8/99)  
OMB 0596-0082

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Forest Service**  
**SPECIAL USE PERMIT**  
**AUTHORITY:**  
**Organic Administration Act of June 4, 1897**

Knights of Columbus of P.O. Box 4535, Whitefish, MT 59937 (hereinafter called the Holder) is hereby authorized to use or occupy National Forest System lands, to use subject to the conditions set out below, on the Flathead National Forest.

This permit covers .1 acres, and/or N/A miles and is described as that piece of land 25 ft. by 25 ft. approximately 250 feet south of Chair Two of the Big Mountain Summer and Ski Resort- NW1/4, SE1/4, SEC35, T32N, R22W, PMM as shown on the location map attached to and made a part of this permit, and is issued for the purpose of:

Continuing to provide a site for a religious shrine.

The above described or defined area shall be referred to herein as the "permit area".

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**I. AUTHORITY AND GENERAL TERMS OF THE PERMIT**

A. Authority. This permit is issued pursuant to the authorities enumerated at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 251 Subpart B, as amended. This permit, and the activities or use authorized, shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Secretary's regulations and any subsequent amendment to them.

B. Authorized Officer. The authorized officer is the Forest Supervisor or a delegated subordinate officer.

C. License. This permit is a license for the use of federally owned land and does not grant any permanent, possessory interest in real property, nor shall this permit constitute a contract for purposes of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 611). Loss of the privileges granted by this permit by revocation, termination, or suspension is not compensable to the holder.

D. Amendment. This permit may be amended in whole or in part by the Forest Service when, at the discretion of the authorized officer, such action is deemed necessary or desirable to incorporate new terms, conditions, and stipulations as may be required by law, regulation, land management plans, or other management decisions.

E. Existing Rights. This permit is subject to all valid rights and claims of third parties. The United States is not liable to the holder for the exercise of any such right or claim.

F. Nonexclusive Use and Public Access. Unless expressly provided for in additional terms, use of the permit area is not exclusive. The Forest Service reserves the right to use or allow others to use any part of the permit area, including roads, for any purpose, provided, such use does not materially interfere with the holder's authorized use. A final determination of conflicting uses is reserved to the Forest Service.

G. Forest Service Right of Entry and Inspection. The Forest Service has the right of unrestricted access of the permitted area or facility to ensure compliance with laws, regulations, and ordinances and the terms and conditions of this permit.

H. Assignability. This permit is not assignable or transferable. If the holder through death, voluntary sale or transfer, enforcement of contract, foreclosure, or other valid legal proceeding ceases to be the owner of the improvements, this permit shall terminate.

I. Permit Limitations. Nothing in this permit allows or implies permission to build or maintain any structure or facility, or to conduct any activity unless specifically provided for in this permit. Any use not specifically identified in this permit must be approved by the authorized officer in the form of a new permit or permit amendment.

## II. TENURE AND ISSUANCE OF A NEW PERMIT

A. Expiration at the End of the Authorized Period. This permit will expire at midnight on 12/31/2010. Expiration shall occur by operation of law and shall not require notice, any decision document, or any environmental analysis or other documentation.

B. Minimum Use or Occupancy of the Permit Area. Use or occupancy of the permit area shall be exercised at least N/A days each year, unless otherwise authorized in writing under additional terms of this permit.

C. Notification to Authorized Officer. If the holder desires issuance of a new permit after expiration, the holder shall notify the authorized officer in writing not less than six (6) months prior to the expiration date of this permit.

D. Conditions for Issuance of a New Permit. At the expiration or termination of an existing permit, a new permit may be issued to the holder of the previous permit or to a new holder subject to the following conditions:

1. The authorized use is compatible with the land use allocation in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.
2. The permit area is being used for the purposes previously authorized.
3. The permit area is being operated and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the permit.
4. The holder has shown previous good faith compliance with the terms and conditions of all prior or other existing permits, and has not engaged in any activity or transaction contrary to Federal contracts, permits, laws, or regulation.

E. Discretion of Forest Service. Notwithstanding any provisions of any prior or other permit, the authorized officer may prescribe new terms, conditions, and stipulations when a new permit is issued. The decision whether to issue a new permit to a holder or successor in interest is at the absolute discretion of the Forest Service.

F. Construction. Any construction authorized by this permit may commence by N/A and shall be completed by N/A. If construction is not completed within the prescribed time, this permit may be revoked or suspended.

## III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOLDER

A. Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and other Legal Requirements. The holder shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and standards, including but not limited to, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq., the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Control, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and other relevant environmental laws, as well as public health and safety laws and other laws relating to the siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of any facility, improvement, or equipment on the property.

B. Plans. Plans for development, layout, construction, reconstruction, or alteration of improvements on the permit area, as well as revisions of such plans, must be prepared by a qualified individual acceptable to the authorized officer and shall be approved in writing prior to commencement of work. The holder may be required to furnish as-built plans, maps, or surveys, or other similar information, upon completion of construction.

C. Maintenance. The holder shall maintain the improvements and permit area to standards of repair, orderliness, neatness, sanitation, and safety acceptable to the authorized officer and consistent with other provisions of this authorization. If requested, the holder shall comply with inspection requirements deemed appropriate by the authorized officer.

D. Hazard Analysis. The holder has a continuing responsibility to identify all hazardous conditions on the permit area which would affect the improvements, resources, or pose a risk of injury to individuals. Any non-emergency actions to abate such hazards shall be performed after consultation with the authorized officer. In emergency situations, the holder shall notify the authorized officer of its actions as soon as possible, but not more than 48 hours, after such actions have been taken.

E. Change of Address. The holder shall immediately notify the authorized officer of a change in address.

F. Change in Ownership. This permit is not assignable and terminates upon change of ownership of the improvements or control of the business entity. The holder shall immediately notify the authorized officer when a change in ownership or control of business entity is pending. Notification by the present holder and potential owner shall be executed using Form FS-2700-3, Special Use Application and Report, or Form FS-2700-3a, Request for Termination of and Application for Special-Use Permit. Upon receipt of the proper documentation, the authorized officer may issue a permit to the party who acquires ownership of, or a controlling interest in, the improvements or business entity.

#### IV. LIABILITY

For purposes of this section, "holder" includes the holder's heirs, assigns, agents, employees, and contractors.

A. The holder assumes all risk of loss to the authorized improvements.

B. The holder shall indemnify, defend, and hold the United States harmless for any violations incurred under any such laws and regulations or for judgments, claims, or demands assessed against the United States in connection with the holder's use or occupancy of the property. The holder's indemnification of the United States shall include any loss by personal injury, loss of life or damage to property in connection with the occupancy or use of the property during the term of this permit. Indemnification shall include, but is not limited to, the value of resources damaged or destroyed; the costs of restoration, cleanup, or other mitigation; fire suppression or other types of abatement costs; third party claims and judgments; and all administrative, interest, and other legal costs. This paragraph shall survive the termination or revocation of this authorization, regardless of cause.

C. The holder has an affirmative duty to protect from damage the land, property, and interests of the United States.

D. In the event of any breach of the conditions of this authorization by the holder, the authorized officer may, on reasonable notice, cure the breach for the account at the expense of the holder. If the Forest Service at any time pays any sum of money or does any act which will require payment of money, or incurs any expense, including reasonable attorney's fees, in instituting, prosecuting, and/or defending any action or proceeding to enforce the United States rights hereunder, the sum or sums so paid by the United States, with all interests, costs and damages shall, at the election of the Forest Service, be deemed to be additional fees hereunder and shall be due from the holder to the Forest Service on the first day of the month following such election.

E. With respect to roads, the holder shall be proportionally liable for damages to all roads and trails of the United States open to public use caused by the holder's use to the same extent as provided above, except that liability shall not include reasonable and ordinary wear and tear.

F. The Forest Service has no duty to inspect the permit area or to warn of hazards and, if the Forest Service does inspect the permit area, it shall incur no additional duty nor liability for identified or non-identified hazards. This covenant may be enforced by the United States in a court of competent jurisdiction.

#### V. TERMINATION, REVOCATION, AND SUSPENSION

A. General. For purposes of this permit, "termination", "revocation", and "suspension" refer to the cessation of uses and privileges under the permit.

"Termination" refers to the cessation of the permit under its own terms without the necessity for any decision or action by the authorized officer. Termination occurs automatically when, by the terms of the permit, a fixed or agreed upon condition, event, or time occurs. For example, the permit terminates at expiration. Terminations are not appealable.

"Revocation" refers to an action by the authorized officer to end the permit because of noncompliance with any of the prescribed terms, or for reasons in the public interest. Revocations are appealable.

"Suspension" refers to a revocation which is temporary and the privileges may be restored upon the occurrence of prescribed actions or conditions. Suspensions are appealable.



B. Revocation or Suspension. The Forest Service may suspend or revoke this permit in whole or part for:

1. Noncompliance with Federal, State, or local laws and regulations.
2. Noncompliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.
3. Reasons in the public interest.
4. Abandonment or other failure of the holder to otherwise exercise the privileges granted.

C. Opportunity to Take Corrective Action. Prior to revocation or suspension for cause pursuant to Section V (B), the authorized officer shall give the holder written notice of the grounds for each action and a reasonable time, not to exceed 90 days, to complete the corrective action prescribed by the authorized officer.

D. Removal of Improvements. Prior to abandonment of the improvements or within a reasonable time following revocation or termination of this authorization, the holder shall prepare, for approval by the authorized officer, an abandonment plan for the permit area. The abandonment plan shall address removal of improvements and restoration of the permit area and prescribed time frames for these actions. If the holder fails to remove the improvements or restore the site within the prescribed time period, they become the property of the United States and may be sold, destroyed or otherwise disposed of without any liability to the United States. However, the holder shall remain liable for all cost associated with their removal, including costs of sale and impoundment, cleanup, and restoration of the site.

## VI. FEES

A. Fees for this use have been exempted or waived in full pursuant to 36 CFR 251.57, or revisions thereto, and direction in FSH 2709.11, chapter 30.

## VII. OTHER PROVISIONS

A. Members of Congress. No Member of or Delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall benefit from this permit either directly or indirectly, except when the authorized use provides a general benefit to a corporation.

B. Appeals and Remedies. Any discretionary decisions or determinations by the authorized officer are subject to the appeal regulations at 36 CFR 251, Subpart C, or revisions thereto.

C. Superior Clauses. In the event of any conflict between any of the preceding printed clauses or any provision thereof and any of the following clauses or any provision thereof, the preceding printed clauses shall control.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0082.

This information is needed by the Forest Service to evaluate requests to use National Forest System lands and manage those lands to protect natural resources, administer the use, and ensure public health and safety. This information is required to obtain or retain a benefit. The authority for that requirement is provided by the Organic Act of 1897 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations for authorizing and managing National Forest System lands. These statutes, along with the Term Permit Act, National Forest Ski Area Permit Act, Granger-Thye Act, Mineral Leasing Act, Alaska Term Permit Act, Act of September 3, 1954, Wilderness Act, National Forest Roads and Trails Act, Act of November 16, 1973, Archeological Resources Protection Act, and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue authorizations for the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands. The Secretary of Agriculture's regulations at 36 CFR Part 251, Subpart B, establish procedures for issuing those authorizations.

The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) govern the confidentiality to be provided for information received by the Forest Service Public reporting burden for collection of information, if requested, is estimated to average 1 hour per response for annual financial information; average 1 hour per response to prepare or update operation and/or maintenance plan; average 1 hour per response for inspection reports; and an average of 1 hour for each request that may include such things as reports, logs, facility and user information, sublease information, and other similar miscellaneous information requests. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

This permit is accepted subject to the conditions set out above.

HOLDER NAME: Knights of Columbus

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Forest Service

By: X Frank L. Caporaso  
(Holder Signature)

By: X Jane Kollmeyer  
JANE KOLLMEYER :

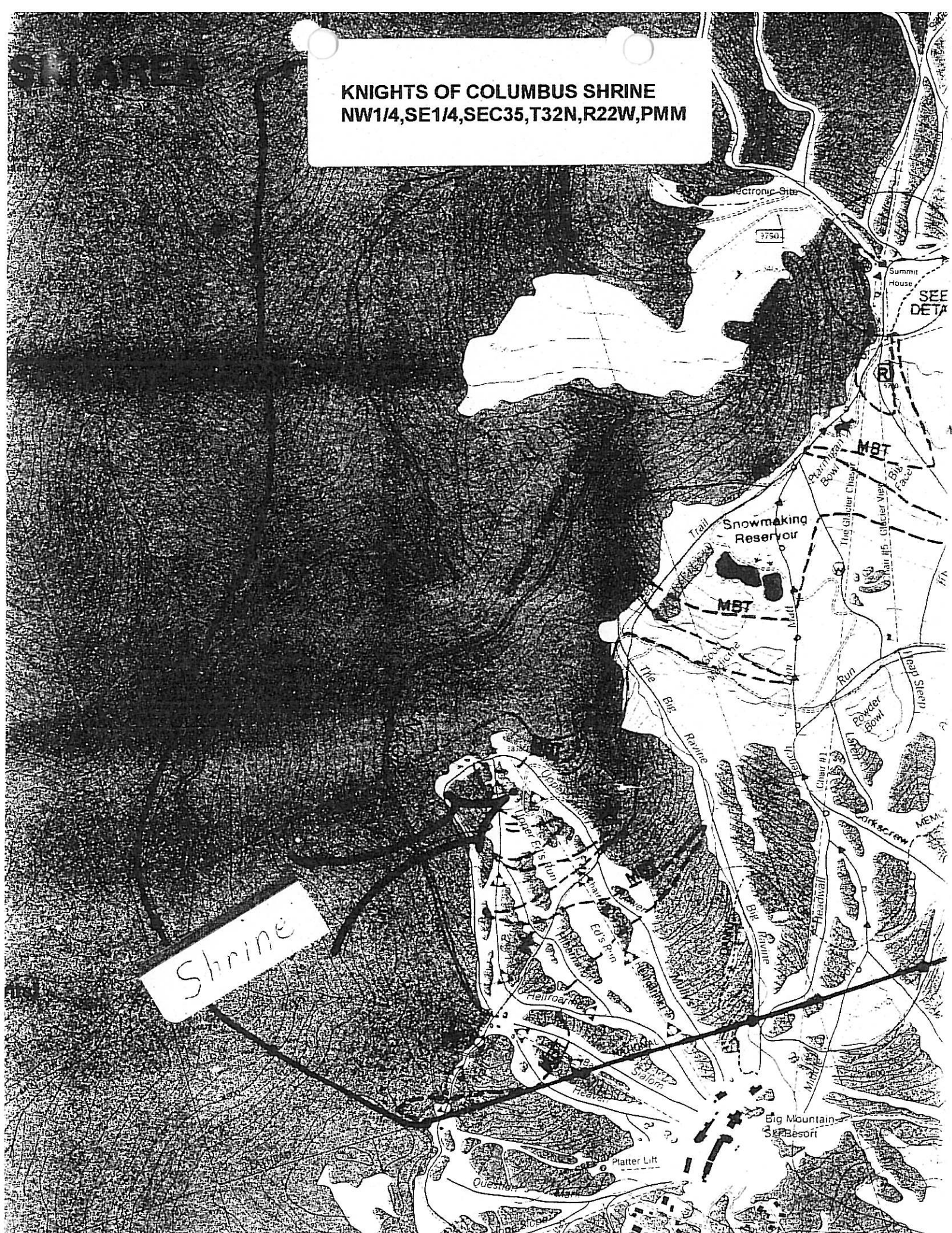
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Holder Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Ranger (Title)

Date: X Feb 1, 2000

Date: 2/3/2000

Shrine





# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

October 26, 2011

**SENT VIA FAX, E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL**

202/205-1765, [ttidwell@fs.fed.us](mailto:ttidwell@fs.fed.us)

COPY

Tom Tidwell  
Office of the Chief  
US Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Re: Remove Religious Shrine from Flathead National Forest

Dear Chief Tidwell:

We are writing to urge you to immediately overrule a misguided decision by Forest Supervisor Chip Weber, who announced he will take public comments over whether the federal government may host a prominent Jesus shrine. It is important for the USDA Forest Service to take action now to reinstate its constitutionally sound decision to deny renewal of an illegitimate permit for the Knights of Columbus Jesus shrine. We are writing you on behalf of our national educational association representing more than 17,000 nonreligious members across the country, including more than 100 members in Montana. Our purpose is to protect the fundamental constitutional principle of separation between state and church.

## **Longstanding First Amendment violation**

We previously contacted the USDA Forest Service, through the FOIA Service Center, on May 26, 2011, regarding the First Amendment violation at Flathead National Forest in Montana. (A copy of our letter is enclosed.) We lodged our complaint about the inappropriateness of a Roman Catholic shrine on federal land, on behalf of a concerned area resident and taxpayer who is a member of FFRF, as well as on behalf of other Montana FFRF members. They understandably object to the erection and maintenance of a Jesus shrine on federal property. We received copies of the Special Use Permit and associated documentation (see enclosed).

We understand that the Knights of Columbus Council #1328 inappropriately received a special use permit in October 1953 for the "leasing" of a 25x25-foot "bite" of federal land for the express purpose of the erection of the Jesus statue on Big Mountain in the Flathead National Forest. Apparently the cement statue was installed in 1955. It is also our understanding that the special use permit has been renewed and granted every 10 years, and is once again up for renewal. It is our further understanding that the "lease" has involved no payment to the federal government by the Knights of Columbus, with the possible exception of incidental application fees.

While we would object as strenuously to a paid “lease” for a religious purpose, the fact that no payment is involved reveals a troubling direct taxpayer subsidy of religion. Federal property has been misappropriated for 56 years or more for the direct benefit of an exclusionary Roman Catholic men’s club and its sectarian and exclusionary religious message.

### **Federal documents reveal impermissible purpose to erect a ‘shrine’**

Significantly, the Special Use Permit itself acknowledges the unconstitutional purpose of the permit: “to provide a site for a religious shrine” (page 1 of “lease”). Notably, there is no reference to a “memorial.” The map displaying the location of the statue is titled, “Knights of Columbus Shrine” and points to the statue’s location via a tab, also clearly marked “Shrine.” Dictionaries uniformly define “shrine” as “a place or object that is holy,” “a place consecrated or devoted to some saint, holy person, or deity, as an altar, chapel, church or temple,” “a place in which devotion is paid to a saint or deity: sanctuary.”

The reaction of the shrine defenders is evidence that they regard the statue as a sacred relic. Their concern that the statue might not hold up to a move is the reaction of worshippers who view the statue itself as a “holy relic.” In fact, it is not a Michelangelo; it is made of cement from a mold and is entirely replicable. This cement shrine has no artistic value, is in no way unique, and could easily be mistaken for the untold number of nearly identical devotional shrines to Jesus that Knights of Columbus erects in front of their own religious buildings and meeting halls, where such shrines belong. The only feature unique to this shrine is the fact that it is on federal land. The alleged condition of this relic is the concern of the Knights of Columbus, not of the federal government.

According to an October 21 Flathead National Forest Media Release, Forest Supervisor Chip Weber somehow has overridden the Forest Service’s decision to let the Special Use Permit for the shrine expire. The news release announces his intent to “seek public comments.” This appears to be politically motivated, as the announcement immediately followed the intervention of U.S. Cong. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont. We request that you uphold Constitutional principles and stand by the initial decision to deny the permit renewal.

### **Forest Service acknowledges preferential treatment, constitutional concerns**

According to numerous media reports of this decision, the Forest Service has already acknowledged that the decision to grant preferential treatment to the Knights of Columbus to install a Catholic shrine was, at the very least, highly likely unconstitutional and unsupported by case law. For example,

“The Office of General Counsel advised the Forest Service that allowing the statute on park property could be considered a violation of the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.christianpost.com/news/congressman-wants-forest-service-to-let-jesus-statue-stay-58718/>

“USFS officials told us Wednesday that while the group did complain about the statue, that complaint paid no role in the decision as existing law that [sic] says that religious figures and/or statues can not be on federal lands.”<sup>2</sup>

“ ‘Recent established case law is not in favor of renewing a permit of this type,’ said Phil Sammon, the Forest Service media coordinator for the northern region. ‘As a federal agency, we are bound by certain regulations and stipulations that call for us to make the decision that was made... The agency certainly understands and appreciates the local significance and the historical aspect of the statue, but the regulatory guidelines we have — put us in sideboards that we don’t have a lot of room to operate out of.’ ”<sup>3</sup>

“ ‘The permit recently came up for renewal and was denied after concerns were raised within the agency about the nonsecular statue violation the Establishments Clause of the U.S. Constitution... We understand the local and the historical significance of this monument and we are not doing anything out of malice,’ said Phil Sammon, media coordinator for the Forest Service’s Northern Region. ‘This is strictly under the advisement of our Office of General Counsel, which says we could be on tenuous ground here.’ Forest Service policy directs forest managers to deny permits for activities that could otherwise occur on private lands, and Sammon said the added potential for litigation was cause for anxiety. ‘Because we do have the issues of the constitutional Establishment Clause and other case law, it required us to be a little bit more cautious when reviewing this permit,’ he said.”<sup>4</sup>

Nevertheless, it appears that an underling at the Forest Service has ill-advisedly reversed the very proper decision to deny the permit in favor of opening the matter to a public comment period.

### **Public comment on constitutional issue irrelevant, inappropriate, divisive**

It is wholly inappropriate to subject a matter of clear constitutional law to “public comment.” This appears to be a machination to solicit support for the shrine, as if majority rules in matters of personal conscience. As the Supreme Court has said, “fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections.” *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 304-305 (2000) (quoting *West Virginia Bd. of Ed. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624, 638 (1943)). “The very purpose of a Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities and officials and to establish them as legal principles to be applied by the courts.” *Barnette*, 319 U.S. at 638.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kpax.com/news/big-mountain-wwii-memorial-to-possibly-be-removed/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://wearechangetv.us/2011/10/forest-service-evicts-wwii-memorial/#axzz1boFohH8l>

<sup>4</sup> [http://missoulain.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_26669a92-f9fb-11e0-b5b1-001cc4c03286.html](http://missoulain.com/news/state-and-regional/article_26669a92-f9fb-11e0-b5b1-001cc4c03286.html)



While courts have uniformly ruled against erections of the Latin cross on government property, the religious significance of a statue of Jesus is even more unambiguous and indisputable. The inherent religious significance of iconography of Jesus is undeniable and is not disguisable. The overall message of a statue of Jesus stands for Christianity and that the Jesus shrine promotes Christianity in general, and Roman Catholicism in particular. The display of this patently religious symbol on government land confers government endorsement of Christianity, a blatant violation of the Establishment Clause. The Establishment Clause is not subject to vote. Constitutional issues are not decided based on popularity contests, or lobbying campaigns.

### **“War memorial” rationale is a sham**

The tactic of referring to religious icons as “memorials” is not a novel defense to Establishment Clause violations, and it is worth noting that courts are unwilling to accept this misleading designation. The Ninth Circuit ruled on a case with very similar facts concerning a religious symbol on federal lands earlier this year:

We are not faced with a decision about what to do with a historical, longstanding veterans memorial that happens to include a cross. Nor does this case implicate military cemeteries in the United States that include headstones with crosses and other religious symbols particular to the deceased. Instead we consider a site with a free-standing cross originally erected in 1913 that was replaced with an even larger cross in 1954, a site that did not have any physical indication that it was a memorial nor take on the patina of a veterans memorial until the 1990s, in response to the litigation. We do not discount that the Cross is a prominent landmark in San Diego. But a few scattered memorial services before the 1990s do not establish a historical war memorial landmark such as those found in Arlington Cemetery, Gettysburg, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Resurrection of this Cross as a war memorial does not transform it into a secular monument. *Trunk v. City of San Diego*, 629 F.3d 1099 (2011).

The Knights of Columbus is a religious organization — a Roman Catholic men’s club — not a veterans organization. The Knights of Columbus erect identical Jesus statues across the country for religious purposes.

The memorial claim traces to the very recent imposition of a fence and plaque beside the Jesus shrine. Whitefish Mountain Resort CEO Dan Graves, who claims responsibility for the construction of the fence and plaque, describes his quest to discover the origins of the statute upon encountering the Jesus statue accidentally.<sup>5</sup> The newly erected plaque now makes vague references to the role of some Knights of Columbus members who served in World War II and went on to establish the area as a ski community, and it “[thanks] those brave troops that [sic]

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<sup>5</sup> [http://m.missoulain.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_1ce3496e-3e41-11e0-bfa5-001cc4c03286.html?mode=story](http://m.missoulain.com/news/state-and-regional/article_1ce3496e-3e41-11e0-bfa5-001cc4c03286.html?mode=story)

brought this special *shrine of Christ* to the Big Mountain” (emphasis added).<sup>6</sup> Graves “attributes the statue’s installation to the efforts of the Knights of Columbus at St. Matthew’s Parish in Kalispell, some of whose early members served in World War II.” In other words, a local Knights of Columbus branch may have imagined that their shrine to Jesus would memorialize a very few male congregants from St. Matthew’s Parish who had served in the war.

The plaque itself does not even claim the shrine as a war memorial.

Even though the “war memorial” rationale is a sham, it would be impermissible for the federal government to host a war memorial with a sectarian message and devotional purpose. Claiming that a religious icon is a war memorial to veterans would be an affront to non-Christian veterans, including the many “atheists in foxholes” who have served our country with distinction and valor.

### **Fence and plaque violate the Special Use Permit**

The construction of the fence (reportedly undertaken in order to reduce the frequent incidence of vandalism by skiers) as well as the plaque also violates the terms of the Special Use Permit, which specifies the following:

- I. Permit Limitations. Nothing in this permit allows or implies permission to build or maintain any structure or facility, or to conduct any activity unless specifically provided for in this permit. Any use not specifically identified in this permit must be approved by the authorized officer in the form of a new permit or permit amendment.

### **Forest Service must uphold Constitution**

Sammon’s statements to the media show that he is appropriately concerned about the potential for costly litigation in this matter. The Forest Service must consider the substantial cost to taxpayers involved in litigating an issue that, by its own admission, is settled by the courts. The best resolution of the dispute over the Jesus statue on federal land is the denial of the permit and removal of the statue, as the Forest Service initially announced, which eliminates the need for costly and protracted litigation. Removing the Jesus statue respects the freedom of conscience of *all* Montana residents and federal taxpayers — whether they are Christian or part of the at least twenty-four-percent of the nation that is non-Christian.<sup>7</sup>

It is egregious and unlawful for the Forest Service to display a patently religious symbol such as a shrine to Jesus on public property. A public comment period will not change the constitutional impermissibility of the Knights of Columbus shrine, but will only serve to inflame passions, create heat (not light) and stall the appropriate remedy — the removal of a shrine from federal

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> American Religious Identification Survey (2008) - <http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/>

land. The presence of a shrine on federal land unabashedly creates the perception of government endorsement of Christianity and the Roman Catholic sect:

“[G]overnment cannot endorse the religious practices and beliefs of some citizens without sending a clear message to nonadherents that they are outsiders or less than full members of the political community.” *Allegheny v. ACLU*, 492 U.S. at 627 (O’Connor, J., concurring); see also *Santa Fe v. Doe*, 530 U.S. at 309-10 (“[S]ponsorship of a religious message is impermissible because it sends the ancillary message to members of the audience who are nonadherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community.”) (internal quotations omitted).

Many Roman Catholics and other Christian believers consequently believe, because the federal government has taken sides — their side — on a matter that must be left to individual conscience, that they are the “insiders.” The injury when the Establishment Clause is violated becomes very real to minorities whose beliefs, or lack of belief, are disfavored by the government.

In conclusion, because the Forest Department claims to be interested in “public comment,” I am attaching a representative sampling of the hateful or intolerant e-mails which our office has received already, whose common refrain (besides spite and obscenity) is that only Christian believers have the right to live in the United States or visit Montana. The government has done nonChristians and nonbelievers no favors by disrespecting the constitutional principle of separation between religion and government.

We ask for your earliest action to remove the shrine and stop the unconstitutional leasing arrangement, thereby ending this unnecessary and acrimonious debate. We would appreciate your swiftest attention and reply to this request.

Very truly



Annie Laurie Gaylor  
Co-President

cc: Chip Weber, Forest Supervisor  
Flathead National Forest  
650 Wolfpack Way  
KalisPELL, MT 59901

Enclosures (May 26 letter, FOIA response and lease/map, crank mail to FFRF re: shrine)



From: Stephanie Schmitt <stephanie@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: Freezing Jesus**  
Date: October 25, 2011 3:52:21 PM CDT  
To: crankmail@ffrf.org

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "fuck you" <fuckyou@yousuck.com>  
**Subject:** Freezing Jesus  
**Date:** October 22, 2011 9:46:10 AM CDT  
**To:** stephanie@ffrf.org  
**Reply-To:** "fuckyou@yousuck.com" <fuckyou@yousuck.com>

A church/state violation has been reported.

Type of violation:  
Other

Description:  
fuck you rotten bastards

don't come to montana!

----

Name: fuck you

Email: [fuckyou@yousuck.com](mailto:fuckyou@yousuck.com)

Address:

Home Phone:  
Work Phone:

Is it ok to contact you at work? Yes  
How would you prefer to be contacted? Email  
Are you a member of FFRF? No - send information

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-10-22 08:46 AM  
Sent from the FFRF Report a State/Church Violation form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Mountain Jesus Statue in Montana !!**  
Date: October 25, 2011 2:33:10 PM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gary Hendricks" <merwin1910@yahoo.com>  
Date: October 25, 2011 1:45:03 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Mountain Jesus Statue in Montana !!  
Reply-To: "merwin1910@yahoo.com" <merwin1910@yahoo.com>

Gary Hendricks

Fort Atkinson  
WI 53538

merwin1910@yahoo.com

Source: other

Are you people OUT of your "F-in" Mind ?? Are you that Stupid ?? Jesus is the ONLY Religion in this Country of the United States of America !! Knoel it OFF Morons !!

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-10-25 12:45 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: Stephanie Schmitt <stephanie@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: Report a violation**  
Date: October 25, 2011 2:31:00 PM CDT  
To: crankmail@ffrf.org

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "d d" <wwbd4u@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Report a violation  
**Date:** October 25, 2011 8:06:44 AM CDT  
**To:** stephanie@ffrf.org  
**Reply-To:** "wwbd4u@hotmail.com" <wwbd4u@hotmail.com>

A church/state violation has been reported.

Type of violation:  
Other

Description:

I want to report the Freedom from Religion foundation for being in violation. You folks preach freedom from religion, but you market your organization as a "religion" and you guys are forcing your opinions on others. That is wrong. Place of infraction: Jesus statue on U.S. Forest Service land target of eviction. Stay the fuck away.

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Name: d d

Email: [wwbd4u@hotmail.com](mailto:wwbd4u@hotmail.com)

Address:

anytown  
GA

Home Phone:  
Work Phone:

Is it ok to contact you at work? No  
How would you prefer to be contacted? Mail  
Are you a member of FFRF? No

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-10-25 07:06 AM  
Sent from the FFRF Report a State/Church Violation form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Jesus Statue on Big Mountain**  
Date: October 25, 2011 1:14:10 PM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "jim kirk" <parsecdude@bresnan.net>  
Date: October 25, 2011 12:32:50 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Jesus Statue on Big Mountain  
Reply-To: "parsecdude@bresnan.net" <parsecdude@bresnan.net>

jim kirk

parsecdude@bresnan.net

Source: newspaper

You guys are FUCKED! There is NOTHING wrong with that statue, it's been there for almost 60 years, and YOU are the first ones to bitch about it! It IS NOT a violation of church and state, it is a memorial to WWII vets who fought and died for YOUR FREEDOM! Just so you know, I am NOT religious by any means and it doesn't offend ME or anyone else in Montana! So, I have a suggestion KEEP YOUR MEDDLING, IDEALISTIC, LEFT WING FUCKING NOSES OUT OF MONTANA - WE DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE OUR WONDERFUL STATE TRYING TO PUSH THEIR CRAP ON US. GO THE FUCK AWAY!!

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 11:32 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: hi**  
Date: October 25, 2011 1:13:35 PM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "J. O" <jonorthbama@yahoo.com>  
Date: October 25, 2011 1:11:59 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: hi  
Reply-To: "jonorthbama@yahoo.com" <jonorthbama@yahoo.com>

J. O

jonorthbama@yahoo.com

Source:

your idiots!!!!!!!!!!!! when the flames of hell are on you I hope you remember what got you there.

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 12:11 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Jesus statue in Montana**  
Date: October 25, 2011 11:57:20 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cathy Wright" <cwright5@gt.rr.com>  
Date: October 25, 2011 11:56:43 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Jesus statue in Montana  
Reply-To: "cwright5@gt.rr.com" <cwright5@gt.rr.com>

Cathy Wright

cwright5@gt.rr.com

Source:

You people and people like you make me sick. Although whether I believe or don't believe is irrelevant. It's like you just go around looking for things to bitch about. Why are you so afraid of this statue, what harm has it done to you that you require it to be removed? Do you think that by demanding that all religious symbols be removed that that will some how make you right and the rest of the world see things your way? YOU ARE THE MINORITY, SO SHUT THE HELL UP DON'T PRAY LIVE YOUR LIFE AND LEAVE THE REST OF US AND OUR RELIGIONS ALONE. SURELY THERE IS ANOTHER COUNTRY YOU CAN MOVE TO IN WHICH YOU WILL NOT FEEL SO OFFENDED. I'LL HELP YOU PACK!  
P.S. If I get even one junk email from you I'll SUE! You people are PATHETIC!!!

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Entry Date: 2011-10-25 10:56 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: jesus statue**  
Date: October 25, 2011 10:51:37 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "john Basilone" <exmarine@yahoo.com>  
Date: October 25, 2011 10:35:49 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: jesus statue  
Reply-To: "exmarine@yahoo.com" <exmarine@yahoo.com>

john Basilone

exmarine@yahoo.com

Source:

One day you will go to far and the majority if Americans will cook your Butt

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 09:35 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Your Honorary Board**  
Date: October 25, 2011 10:09:58 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jack Mehoff" <4Skin-in-yo-mouth@gamil.net>  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:19:12 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Your Honorary Board  
Reply-To: "4Skin-in-yo-mouth@gamil.net" <4Skin-in-yo-mouth@gamil.net>

Jack Mehoff

4Skin-in-yo-mouth@gamil.net

Source:

Your Honorary Board are all a bunch of illiterate cum-suckingFuckingASSHOLES !!

More people should exoress their disgust with your organization. We CAN make you go away, forever!!!

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 08:19 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: You idiots**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:58:48 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Christian Person" <Me@christis1.com>  
Date: October 24, 2011 5:31:46 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: You idiots  
Reply-To: "Me@christis1.com" <Me@christis1.com>

Christian Person

Me@christis1.com

Source:

Why do you think that a statue on a mountain in Montana has anything to do with establishing a religion. Have you even read the constitution? You people need to learn how to read, It is sad that you want to trample on my religious freedom as well as my right of free speech just because you are haters. You are the vile underbelly of the earth.

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-24 04:31 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: War Memorial of Jesus**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:54:41 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lyle Pemble" <jolyle@charter.net>  
Date: October 25, 2011 8:00:17 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: War Memorial of Jesus  
Reply-To: "jolyle@charter.net" <jolyle@charter.net>

Lyle Pemble

jolyle@charter.net

Source:

Removing this statue of Jesus is a temporal thing. Revelation 19:11-16 say HE ( JESUS ) is going to come back. Lets see if you can change that.....

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 07:00 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: vets**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:54:32 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Tim Barrs" <timmybarrs@yahoo.com>  
Date: October 25, 2011 8:12:31 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: vets  
Reply-To: "timmybarrs@yahoo.com" <timmybarrs@yahoo.com>

Tim Barrs

timmybarrs@yahoo.com

Source:

I know I won't change your agenda, but for educational purposes, here goes. You folks are blinded by western civilizations' "Christian" behavior, as well as others. If most were living like they should, you would never complain. Don't blame the religion. Complain about the people if you must.  
I'll try to pray for you and ask that The Lord will free you from satans' hands. Yes, he's REAL TOO!

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 07:12 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: The Great Jesus statue in Montana.**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:53:53 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "MT Patriot" <flesher@centurytel.net>  
Date: October 24, 2011 8:19:18 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: The Great Jesus statue in Montana.  
Reply-To: "flesher@centurytel.net" <flesher@centurytel.net>

MT Patriot  
Gods country Montana USA

Kalispell  
Mt 59901  
1406 2575467  
flesher@centurytel.net

Source: link from another site

Stay out of Montana!

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-10-24 07:19 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Stay the Fuck out of Montana**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:50:19 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Leave Us Alone Christian" <LeaveUsAlone@Montana.com>  
Date: October 24, 2011 5:25:52 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Stay the Fuck out of Montana  
Reply-To: "LeaveUsAlone@Montana.com" <LeaveUsAlone@Montana.com>

Leave Us Alone Christian

LeaveUsAlone@Montana.com

Source:

Leave Montana and everything with it alone you assholes. And yes this isn't very Christian of me. Don't care, don't stick you nose where it doesn't belong.

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-24 04:25 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Statue**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:50:05 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "John Kirby" <Hammering@optonline.net>  
Date: October 25, 2011 8:00:35 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Statue  
Reply-To: "Hammering@optonline.net" <Hammering@optonline.net>

John Kirby  
76high st.

Hempstead  
Ny 11342

Hammering@optonline.net

Source:

There are no atheists in foxholes idiot.

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 07:00 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: My boot up your ass**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:42:22 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "moose airborne" <mooseairborne@outdrs.net>  
Date: October 25, 2011 8:32:08 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: My boot up your ass  
Reply-To: "mooseairborne@outdrs.net" <mooseairborne@outdrs.net>

moose airborne

mooseairborne@outdrs.net

Source:

Maybe you will think even clearer if I put my boot up your backside.

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 07:32 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: JESUS STAUTE**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:41:44 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Edna Perkins" <ednaperkins60@yahoo.com>  
Date: October 25, 2011 8:09:02 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: JESUS STAUTE  
Reply-To: "ednaperkins60@yahoo.com" <ednaperkins60@yahoo.com>

Edna Perkins

ednaperkins60@yahoo.com

Source:

Listen, what business is it of yours to be in trying to remove a sign of Jesus in Montana?

The 'separation of church' was initially meant that we do not have the same oppression that the Pilgrims had with the government telling them HOW they should worship. Duh! Man, what high school did you go to? Oh, excuse me, you probably had a liberal teacher that taught you crap and poisoned your mind.

Idiots! Don't send me your propaganda — I'll just spam you where you belong, in the garbage. Open your Bibles and see the truth. One Nation Under GOD!

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 07:09 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Helena Mont. JESUS ststue**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:39:51 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lesia Grayson" <harleywild2@yahoo.com>  
Date: October 24, 2011 3:44:27 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Helena Mont. JESUS ststue  
Reply-To: "harleywild2@yahoo.com" <harleywild2@yahoo.com>

Lesia Grayson  
I BELIEVE IN GOD

NYOB  
IN 47662  
yeah right like never  
harleywild2@yahoo.com

Source: newspaper

I'm writing to you about the JESUS Statue in Montana How dare you!!! Our country was founded by Religion and GOD. Who do you think you are to take that away from the BELIEVERS. That statue has been there many years before your Foundation why can't you just leave it alone? Its ok for you to put your billboards up about not believing and expect for us believers to look at, but we can't have God ??? I just think your two faced devil worshipers and you make me sick! I PRAY that God will help the government and the mess this good ole USA is in. I have to ask you why do you think the USA is in such a mess ? Well I will tell you because of people like you and your Foundation . I pretty sure I still have to right to FREEDOM OF SPEECH (unless you have taken that away too) The United States is going down because YOU are taking my GOD away and GAY MARRIAGES My LORD is not happy with this, and neither am I. When your time comes, then you will know how terribly wrong you were, and right before you get cast out into the FIERY SEA of HELL it will be to late. Your in my PRAYERS GOD BE WITH YOU  
In the same newspaper I read your article, I see where they want to refurbish the Statue of Liberty what a joke spend all that money, and she is nothing now. They should melt her down and pay another countries debt.  
BECAUSE WITHOUT GOD IN OUR LIVES WE ARE NOTHING!!!!

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-10-24 02:44 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: FUCK YOU !**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:29:35 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Barry Obama" <Nigger@whitehouse.gov>  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:14:27 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: FUCK YOU !  
Reply-To: "Nigger@whitehouse.gov" <Nigger@whitehouse.gov>

Barry Obama

Nigger@whitehouse.gov

Source: other

FUCK YOU ASSHOLES

If you don't like the customs and history of this nation - GET THE FUCK OUT of my Country.

There are a lot of CRAZY people out there who are strongly offended by your big fucking mouths!

Caution would be Wise!

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Entry Date: 2011-10-25 08:14 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: DUMBSHITS**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:25:21 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Michele Obama" <1stNigger@whitehouse.com>  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:21:17 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: DUMBSHITS  
Reply-To: "1stNigger@whitehouse.com" <1stNigger@whitehouse.com>

Michele Obama

1stNigger@whitehouse.com

Source:

Eat my big blackPussy youFuckingAssholes !

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 08:21 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Changing of Times**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:22:41 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Justin McGee" <worldtravella@yahoo.com>  
Date: October 25, 2011 7:59:14 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Changing of Times  
Reply-To: "worldtravella@yahoo.com" <worldtravella@yahoo.com>

Justin McGee

worldtravella@yahoo.com

Source:

Get a fucking life you losers.

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 06:59 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: ASSHOLES**  
Date: October 25, 2011 9:22:16 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Barry Soetoro" <ibdaprez@verizon.net>  
Date: October 25, 2011 8:22:41 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: ASSHOLES  
Reply-To: "ibdaprez@verizon.net" <ibdaprez@verizon.net>

Barry Soetoro

ibdaprez@verizon.net

Source: other

Send someone to my house so I can kick his fucking ass out of this country - you dumbcocksucking muthafuckingassholes !

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-25 07:22 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Article \"Christ in Crisis in Montana\"**  
Date: October 24, 2011 3:18:29 PM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "GG Grose" <dgrose@telus.net>  
Date: October 24, 2011 1:42:30 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Article \"Christ in Crisis in Montana\"  
Reply-To: "dgrose@telus.net" <dgrose@telus.net>

GG Grose

dgrose@telus.net

Source:

This morning I read your desire to be rid of the statue of Christ at Whitefish Mt. Resort. According to the article, the statue was placed there in honor of veterans from WWI. I find it disturbing that you would consider even requesting such a thing that would dishonor those who sacrificed for you so that you could have the freedom to express your opinions!! Have you ever thought that one day you will be standing before the flesh and blood Jesus and what will your answer to be the question, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" Will you have a legitimate answer or will you be so ashamed of yourself that you cannot even look into His eyes. It is your choice!

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-24 12:42 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Montana Jesus statue**  
Date: October 24, 2011 3:17:05 PM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Laurie Reich" <contrygrndma@hotmail.com>  
Date: October 24, 2011 3:16:18 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Montana Jesus statue  
Reply-To: "contrygrndma@hotmail.com" <contrygrndma@hotmail.com>

Laurie Reich  
3292 Trerise

East Helena  
Mt 59601  
4064422906  
contrygrndma@hotmail.com

Source: newspaper

You are sticking your nose where it does not belong. If you want to skii here in Montana than pick a hill that does not have a statue. This statue is more than a religious statement leave it alone and stay in Madison

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-24 02:16 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Jesus Rules**  
Date: October 24, 2011 12:27:57 PM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bobbie Thompson" <bobbie.thompson6@yahoo.com>  
Date: October 21, 2011 12:14:00 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Jesus Rules  
Reply-To: "bobbie.thompson6@yahoo.com" <bobbie.thompson6@yahoo.com>

Bobbie Thompson

bobbie.thompson6@yahoo.com

Source:

You fucking assholes. Stay the hell out of montana. One of your members ever shows up here, they will never leave. They will be planted with the statue.

---

Entry Date: 2011-10-21 11:14 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Your guys are fucking retards!**  
Date: October 24, 2011 11:24:16 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Freedom From" <uguysneedalife@shaw.ca>  
Date: October 23, 2011 8:31:08 PM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Your guys are fucking retards!  
Reply-To: "uguysneedalife@shaw.ca" <uguysneedalife@shaw.ca>

Freedom From

uguysneedalife@shaw.ca

Source:

Your guys are fucking retards!

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-10-23 07:31 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Wow How does it feel**  
Date: October 24, 2011 11:23:46 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "John Haglund" <jwhaglund@aol.com>  
Date: October 23, 2011 8:17:41 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Wow How does it feel  
Reply-To: "jwhaglund@aol.com" <jwhaglund@aol.com>

John Haglund

jwhaglund@aol.com

Source:

Wow, how does it feel to be a traitor? That's what I consider FFR and ACLU and Other organizations like you that should not be allowed to exist. You are right on one point though, Freedom From Religion. There should be freedom from religion, Religion will take you to hell faster than anything else will. I would really like to see you come to my place of business if I owned one and tell me what I can or can't do. You will be kicked out of there so fast you won't know what happened. It's time this Country starts standing up to you anti-American organizations and put you in your place, You folks need to sit down and shut up, If you don't realize this, 86% of Americans believe in God, only 14% don't, you have no ground to stand on, only some empty rulling you manipulate the courts to rule for, doesn't hold any water in my book. If you want freedom from religion, stay out of church and away from 86% of us, and shut up, we don't want to hear you whining like Al Gore. If you don't like Christianity, that's you, we do, and you nor anyone else is going to tell us we can't pray, display Merry Christmas or the Manger. You folks got to realize there are a lot more of us than you, and not everyone is afraid of you like you think. We will stand up for what we believe in, peacefully and legally of course, but we will stand up for our rights and for Christianity.

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-10-23 07:17 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Cry Babies**  
Date: October 24, 2011 11:04:15 AM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "David Mancuso" <dmancuso@auduboninstitute.org>  
Date: October 24, 2011 10:55:09 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Cry Babies  
Reply-To: "dmancuso@auduboninstitute.org" <dmancuso@auduboninstitute.org>

David Mancuso  
1 God's Way Ave

Pureheaven  
La 70130  
504.628.3799  
dmancuso@auduboninstitute.org

Source: other

Cry babies usually get what they want just to mollify them. The Jesus in Montana should stay. Annie's tombstone will read "here lies an atheist, all dressed up & no where to go. God help you."

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-10-24 09:55 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

**From:** The Freedom From Religion Foundation <Info@ffrf.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FFRF Contact: NEVER  
**Date:** November 30, 2012 8:27:36 AM CST  
**To:** Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** FFRF <info@ffrf.org>  
**Date:** November 29, 2012 10:21:05 PM CST  
**To:** Info@ffrf.org  
**Subject:** FFRF Contact: NEVER  
**Reply-To:** Mm@yahoo.com

Contact Form has been submitted with the following information.

Subject: NEVER

: Mary

: Magdalena

Email: Mm@yahoo.com

:  
:  
:  
:  
:

Phone Number:

Message: Dear God please protect us and our beloved country from FFRF. The foundation of this great nation was founded on God. Since people like you have taken god out of our country, our country has been slowly crumbling. What about my freedom to view the statue of Jesus in Montana??? I am subjected to your billboards which by the way are posted by our government highways without a choice but you want to remove the statue. You couldn't be more hypocritical and self righteous. What about my freedom to express the love of my god? They say you have a right to openly practice and advertise your ORGANIZED religion of atheism but you want to take my right to worship my god openly. Radical hypocrites.....

If you are not already a member, how did you learn about FFRF?:



From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <Info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF Contact: Stop ruining this country**  
Date: November 29, 2012 1:41:35 PM CST  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** FFRF <[info@ffrf.org](mailto:info@ffrf.org)>  
**Date:** November 29, 2012 12:25:19 PM CST  
**To:** [Info@ffrf.org](mailto:Info@ffrf.org)  
**Subject:** FFRF Contact: Stop ruining this country  
**Reply-To:** [codyjrobinson@aol.com](mailto:codyjrobinson@aol.com)

Contact Form has been submitted with the following information.

Subject: Stop ruining this country

: Cody

: Robinson

Email: [codyjrobinson@aol.com](mailto:codyjrobinson@aol.com)

:

:

:

: South Carolina

:

Phone Number:

Message: It is getting old. You people are disgusting. I am SICK of you trying to take away the RIGHTS of Religious people. I am sick and tired of your foundation and what it "stands" for. If you want to be Godless, that's fine and your choice, but if people want a statue of Jesus on a mountain, and 99% are good with it... stop being THE 1 %. Your group is nothing but a bunch of ill advised lunatics. You disgust me.

If you are not already a member, how did you learn about FFRF?: Nation

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <Info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF Contact: Offensive,offended,and mentally disturbed because of your offensive acts**  
Date: November 29, 2012 1:40:44 PM CST  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** FFRF <info@ffrf.org>  
**Date:** November 29, 2012 11:06:27 AM CST  
**To:** [Info@ffrf.org](mailto:Info@ffrf.org)  
**Subject:** FFRF Contact: Offensive,offended,and mentally disturbed because of your offensive acts  
**Reply-To:** [Boleware1@yahoo.com](mailto:Boleware1@yahoo.com)

Contact Form has been submitted with the following information.

Subject: Offensive,offended,and mentally disturbed because of your offensive acts

: M.k.

: Boleware

Email: [Boleware1@yahoo.com](mailto:Boleware1@yahoo.com)

: My town

:

: Texarkana

: Arkansas

: 71854

Phone Number: 903-000-0001

Message: I am offended by your group wanting to have a statue of the Christian idol Jesus Christ removed from the hills of the whitefish ski slopes ! Remember the money that's in your American hands in your pocket has the motto " IN GOD WE TRUST " our ancestors that founded this country and fought and died to have this country started this country on the sole fact that a king said they could not practice there on religious beliefs! Your actions and your group is and has been offending me and I seek council to file a law suit on your group ! And in my opinion your the furthestest from being AMERICANS !!! I see you all as anti-AMERICAN if u don't like what this country stands for then pack your fucking bags and LEAVE THE COUNTRY !!! It's that simple !!!!! God Bless America !!! And forgive those who trespass against us !!!!! Yours truly , M.K.boleware an American citizen !  
P.s. and I don't even attend a church nor do I claim any religion ! Oh and the MUSLIM RELIGION AND ALL THERE Muslim buildings and there icons I see that OFFENDS ME EVEN MORE!

If you are not already a member, how did you learn about FFRF?: other

**From:** The Freedom From Religion Foundation <Info@ffrf.org>  
**Subject:** **Fwd: FFRF Contact: Montana statue case**  
**Date:** November 29, 2012 1:39:30 PM CST  
**To:** Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** FFRF <info@ffrf.org>  
**Date:** November 29, 2012 1:34:59 PM CST  
**To:** [Info@ffrf.org](mailto:Info@ffrf.org)  
**Subject:** FFRF Contact: Montana statue case  
**Reply-To:** [gbnunn@peopletelecom.net](mailto:gbnunn@peopletelecom.net)

Contact Form has been submitted with the following information.

Subject: Montana statue case

: George

: Nunnemacher

Email: [gbnunn@peopletelecom.net](mailto:gbnunn@peopletelecom.net)

:

:

:

: Kansas

: 66040

Phone Number:

Message: So FFRF lawyered up and got a judge to rule on the Montana Jesus statue case. Are you athiests proud of yourselves? Proud of your all out war on religion?

There is no earthly need for your organization. You already have "freedom from religion" if that's what you want. So your claim is that a person skiing past a statue is "offensive" is laughable. This is worthy of a lawsuit? Sorry, but nowhere in the Constitution are you guaranteed "not to be offended", even though you may be as thin-skinned as an onion. You people need to grow up and worry about what's important in life. I am not a religious man, but as a combat veteran who fought for this country, it truly disgusts me that groups like your can harass and harange folks whose religion is important to them. Groups like FFRF worship at the altar of secularism and won't be satisfied until every last vestige of religion and tradition in this country is eradicated. Shame on you and shame on the pointy-headed judge who made this ruling. Why don't you people get a life?

If you are not already a member, how did you learn about FFRF?: link from another site

From: "Robert Gough" <rgough@gmail.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus Statue in Montana**  
Date: July 17, 2012 8:13:28 PM CDT  
To: freethoughthall@gmail.com  
Reply-To: "rgough@gmail.com" <rgough@gmail.com>

---

Robert Gough

MT

rgough@gmail.com

Source: newspaper

Keep your nose out of my state and away from the statue. It is not any of your concern since you do not live in my state. Worry about your own state and stay clear of mine.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-07-17 07:13 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Whitefish Jesus Statue**  
Date: July 17, 2012 12:09:28 PM CDT  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Travis Haworth" <travis\_haworth@yahoo.com>  
Date: July 16, 2012 1:12:57 AM CDT  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Whitefish Jesus Statue  
Reply-To: "travis\_haworth@yahoo.com" <travis\_haworth@yahoo.com>

Travis Haworth

Dupuyer  
MT 59432

travis\_haworth@yahoo.com

Source: word of mouth

I am writing to ask your membership to leave Montana alone. I would like to know the reason for your lawsuit? I would also like to know how many of your membership are veterans? How many have served their country?

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-07-16 12:12 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: The Jesus Statue in Montana**  
Date: February 9, 2012 2:54:04 PM CST  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kitty Thomas" <kitty.thomas40@gmail.com>  
Date: February 9, 2012 2:48:00 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: The Jesus Statue in Montana  
Reply-To: "kitty.thomas40@gmail.com" <kitty.thomas40@gmail.com>

Kitty Thomas

kitty.thomas40@gmail.com

Source: AP newspaper

I recently read an article in the Tri-Cities Herald which is based out of Tir-Cities Washington regarding your foundation and the lawsuit you have filed against the Forest Service regarding the Statue.

Whatever happen to freedom of speech, and beliefs. So you don't believe in God, that is your business and us that do believe in him is our business. If you don't like the statue or what it represents than don't look at as you are skinning down the hill.

Our governmental agencies are short enough on cash. You filing this bogus lawsuit in regards to a statue is just another way to waste american tax money. Yes, the Forest Service has to pay their legal fees because some bogus foundation wants to dictate to them what can and can not be placed on Federal Land.

This so sad.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-09 02:48 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



**From:** The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
**Subject:** **Fwd: FFRF contact: Jesus Statue , Montana**  
**Date:** February 9, 2012 9:03:28 AM CST  
**To:** Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Roberta Reese" <kalgalMT75@yahoo.com>  
Date: February 9, 2012 8:18:39 AM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Jesus Statue , Montana  
Reply-To: "kalgalMT75@yahoo.com" <kalgalMT75@yahoo.com>

Roberta Reese

kalgalMT75@yahoo.com

Source:

Why do you believe your freedoms more important than others? Be as free as you want to be from religion but others have a right to theirs. Why do you care if there's a little statue on a little piece of land in MT? I understand the principle behind your suit but the reason we are LOSING a lot of our freedoms is due to noisy little groups like yours. Please don't respond to this email. I've tried not to let this get to me but every time I see something in the paper it pisses me off.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-09 08:18 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

**From:** "Arleen Cobler" <bfemtnchick@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** **FFRF contact: Jesus Statue**  
**Date:** February 8, 2012 7:53:32 PM CST  
**To:** info@ffrf.org  
**Reply-To:** "bfemtnchick@gmail.com" <bfemtnchick@gmail.com>

---

Arleen Cobler  
po box 412

Clinton  
MT 59825  
406-544-1385  
bfemtnchick@gmail.com

Source: internet search

WTF is your problem. You don't beleive in religion but you think you have the right to tell me what to beleive? Do you really have any idea what that statue represents? I personally think you should re think your ideas. Who are you to dictate to me how I should believe? I suggest you take that statue and the tiny 25x25 foot piece of land and shove them up your collective asses. You unAmerican bunch of fucking morons. why dont you take a flying fuck at a rolling donut.

---

Entry Date: 2012-02-08 07:53 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

**From:** "Melanie Cooper" <melslostinalabama@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** **FFRF contact: JESUS Statue**  
**Date:** February 8, 2012 7:22:08 PM CST  
**To:** info@ffrf.org  
**Reply-To:** "melslostinalabama@yahoo.com" <melslostinalabama@yahoo.com>

---

Melanie Cooper  
104 Fire Fly Lane

Owens cross roads  
Al 35763  
256-690-2690  
melslostinalabama@yahoo.com

Source:

If you actually do succeed in taking down the statue of JESUS it will not mean that you have destroyed HIM. This world will pass away we will pass away but JESUS will always be!! You will never be able to take HIM from the hearts of HIS believers!! Take prayer out of the schools and our statue..doesn't matter you will never take JESUS out of us!!!!!! One day you will see HIM too..I pity you..

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-08 07:22 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Tim Adams" <adams@door.net>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus Statue**  
Date: February 7, 2012 12:19:43 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "adams@door.net" <adams@door.net>

---

Tim Adams

adams@door.net

Source: facebook ad

Go to Hell! Oh wait, you don't believe in Hell.

What a pathetic gaggle of losers you are.

---

Entry Date: 2012-02-07 12:19 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Rick Backus" <yankee57@wescomm.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: statue of jesus**  
Date: February 5, 2012 11:59:46 AM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "yankee57@wescomm.com" <yankee57@wescomm.com>

---

Rick Backus

yankee57@wescomm.com

Source: other

It seems that you have the ability to take stupid to a new level. If a statue of jesus that has been in place since 1953 bothers you, don't go see it..dumbass!! Nobody knows what he looked like anyway. Say it was black, would that bother you? How about you take a good dose of common sense

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-05 11:59 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Marc Jeter" <mjeter65@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Stance on Jesus Statue in Montana State Park**  
Date: February 2, 2012 4:31:17 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "mjeter65@yahoo.com" <mjeter65@yahoo.com>

---

Marc Jeter

mjeter65@yahoo.com

Source: alternet

I would like to have a copy of the constitution you are quoting from. Your idea of separation of church and state seems to be warped by your emotions. In fact your public stance seeks to deny Americans their constitutional right to practice religion free of persecution. You see its a complicated world and your myopic view doesn't trump that fact. So please save the bullshit rhetoric and hiding behind activist judges and show us where our constitution says no religion!

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-02 04:31 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: "Steve Brooks" <s\_brooks@bellsouth.net>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Freedom**  
Date: February 2, 2012 11:15:27 AM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "s\_brooks@bellsouth.net" <s\_brooks@bellsouth.net>

---

Steve Brooks

s\_brooks@bellsouth.net

Source: internet search

Freedom is exactly what it says..freedom. If you want to be an atheist fine, we Christians will let you enjoy that freedom. So why won't you let us enjoy the same freedoms. If you don't like prayer, then don't listen. If you don't like a statue of Jesus, then don't look at it. By fighting against these things you actually admit that Jesus does exist and is very real to the hearts and lives of Christians. Please stop trying to take away our freedom of religion. We have a right to erect statues, pray in public because those are the things that Jesus wants us to do. If you don't agree then look the other way and stop imposing on the freedoms of Christians.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-02 11:15 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "David XXXXXXXX" <dave.rrt@comcast.net>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Statue in Montana**  
Date: February 2, 2012 10:53:27 AM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "dave.rrt@comcast.net" <dave.rrt@comcast.net>

---

David XXXXXXXX

dave.rrt@comcast.net

Source:

Fuck you and your organization. If you have a problem with Jesus, God or any other aspect of Christianity then get out of this country. Go live in Iran, Iraq or some other third world nation. You are parasites that make a profit under the disguise of non-profit and you do it by causing problems and unrest amongst the people in this nation. The problem is that 95% of them are too dumb to see it. Grab your rug, incense or whatever other form of worship you choose and leave. Once again fuck you and your organization.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-02 10:53 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Shawn Gallagher" <gallaghers2298@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Montana Statue**  
Date: February 2, 2012 8:18:51 AM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "gallaghers2298@yahoo.com" <gallaghers2298@yahoo.com>

---

Shawn Gallagher

gallaghers2298@yahoo.com

Source: AP newspaper

I'm so glad the Jesus statue gets to stay in Montana. Great news. Even trash like you needs to be humiliated sometimes.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-02 08:18 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Trevor Howell" <howell32433@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Montana Jesus statue**  
Date: February 1, 2012 8:41:18 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "howell32433@yahoo.com" <howell32433@yahoo.com>

---

Trevor Howell  
23 lolley lane

Defuniak Spings  
fl 32433

howell32433@yahoo.com

Source: other

I am not sure who is teaching you that "seperation of church and state", means that religion/God cannot be involved in, or influence the law of the land. The seperation of church and state simply means, the government cannot tell you what religion you have to follow, that is all it means. This country was founded on the Christian belief. The laws are based on the christian belief, that is why we have a society that is for the most part sane. Who really cares if there is a statue of Jesus on a hill on federal land..That statue is not hurting you, or anyone else that does not believe in god. With the state of the economy in this country and around the world, the money you are spending, and costing the tax payers to argue about this could be better spent. Although I do not agree with your beliefs I dont hold it against you or your subscribers. I respect you, so why is it so hard for you to respect the believers and put the money to a cause that will actually people, the enviroment or animals.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 08:41 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Montana**  
Date: February 2, 2012 9:14:55 AM CST  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dawn Pelton" <dawn.pelton.61@gmail.com>  
Date: February 1, 2012 6:20:40 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Montana  
Reply-To: "dawn.pelton.61@gmail.com" <dawn.pelton.61@gmail.com>

Dawn Pelton

Billings  
MT 59101  
406-425-1473  
dawn.pelton.61@gmail.com

Source:

I have heard you all are involved in suing to have a statue of Jesus Christ taken down here in Montana. First of all, what business is it if yours? None that I can see. If you are offended, stay in you own state! Leave us alone!

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 06:20 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: The Freedom From Religion Foundation <info@ffrf.org>  
Subject: **Fwd: FFRF contact: Jesus Statue on Big Mountain, Montana**  
Date: February 2, 2012 9:10:59 AM CST  
To: Crank <crankmail@ffrf.org>

---

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mary Haines" <flatheadsportsproductions@yahoo.com>  
Date: February 2, 2012 12:14:14 AM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Subject: FFRF contact: Jesus Statue on Big Mountain, Montana  
Reply-To: "flatheadsportsproductions@yahoo.com" <flatheadsportsproductions@yahoo.com>

Mary Haines

flatheadsportsproductions@yahoo.com

Source:

You people are a bunch of quacks! The U.S. constitution says we have "freedom OF religion" - not "freedom FROM religion".

We in Montana are free thinkers and you people need to mind your own business!!!

Just look at the response you've gotten. You are not welcome to our world.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-02 12:14 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Dwight Weatherford" <dwrightweatherford@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus Statue in Montana**  
Date: February 2, 2012 7:45:21 AM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "dwrightweatherford@yahoo.com" <dwrightweatherford@yahoo.com>

---

Dwight Weatherford

dwrightweatherford@yahoo.com

Source: other

Hey I love how you pathetic people got it stuck to you in the case of this Jesus statue. I am glad that people like you will have to look at the statue of Jesus looking down at you for 10 more years. I love it!!! You people are the scum!

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-02 07:45 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Brad Argo" <bimpargo@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus Statue**  
Date: February 1, 2012 4:41:32 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "bimpargo@yahoo.com" <bimpargo@yahoo.com>

---

Brad Argo

bimpargo@yahoo.com

Source:

1st you mess with the service at the Western Mt Fair and now the statue in Whitefish. Do a little research and see what this country was founded upon. Free speech freedom of religion(NOT FREEDOM FROM RELIGION)! IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE CHANNEL TURN OFF THE tv. In your face. Stay out of Mt.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 04:41 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: "David Webb" <dwebb@gmail.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: a SHAM**  
Date: February 1, 2012 7:18:19 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "dwebb@gmail.com" <dwebb@gmail.com>

---

David Webb

dwebb@gmail.com

Source: internet search

A sham!!! You called the Jesus statue in Montana a sham! You people are the reason, along with all the liberals, why this country is going downhill. If you don't like it....move to France. I'm sure they will take you.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 07:18 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "MARY ANNE ZULISKY" <mzulisky@gmail.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: jJESUS STATUE**  
Date: February 1, 2012 4:04:36 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "mzulisky@gmail.com" <mzulisky@gmail.com>

---

MARY ANNE ZULISKY

mzulisky@gmail.com

Source:

Why don't you people sit down and shut up! You are th minority in this country that was founded on religious freedoms and the belief in God and Country. You have the right to believe in nothing if that's your wish, just leave the rest of us who love the Lord alone, and leave our statues and monuments that have been part of this country for years alone! I don't know where you all were raise, but I feel sorry for the whole hopeless bunch of you!

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 04:04 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Linda Wright" <linda.wright62@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Montana Statue of Jesus**  
Date: February 1, 2012 3:55:25 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "linda.wright62@yahoo.com" <linda.wright62@yahoo.com>

---

Linda Wright

linda.wright62@yahoo.com

Source: newspaper

Get a life people - we have rights too. What are you, a fanatic that doesn't believe in God - shame on you. Do not ask me to be a member or even write me, last I heard I still have the right to my own opinion.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 03:55 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "John Tremper" <nuggy59937@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus Statue**  
Date: February 1, 2012 3:33:20 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "nuggy59937@yahoo.com" <nuggy59937@yahoo.com>

---

John Tremper

nuggy59937@yahoo.com

Source:

In response to the legal threat to the Jesus Vetreran Memorial on our ski area, I have changed my voting preference.. I was a strong democrat, but every action has an equal and opposite reaction - esp socially. Now that I see what liberals are capable of I will vote republican across the board in this next election

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 03:33 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "robert elrod" <rachel7238@msn.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: JESUS statue**  
Date: February 1, 2012 2:07:24 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "rachel7238@msn.com" <rachel7238@msn.com>

---

robert elrod

rachel7238@msn.com

Source:

After reading the article about the Jesus statue, and your rabid attempts to crush it, it seems clear to me that you people are nuts.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 02:07 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Greer Baird" <greerg@bresnan.net>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus statue**  
Date: February 1, 2012 2:05:35 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "greerg@bresnan.net" <greerg@bresnan.net>

---

Greer Baird  
321 Montclair

Billings  
MT 59102  
406-652-1664  
greerg@bresnan.net

Source: internet search

People in Wisconsin ought to mind their own business about subjects in Montana. The Jesus statue is part of Montana and should remain there. This country was founded by those who believed in God and we dismiss Him at our peril.

---

Entry Date: 2012-02-01 02:05 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "TSgt B" <babeatty173@msn.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus statue in national park**  
Date: February 1, 2012 12:04:32 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "babeatty173@msn.com" <babeatty173@msn.com>

---

TSgt B

babeatty173@msn.com

Source:

Glad to see you lost the argument. Don't you folks have anything better to do than try to tell we, the great majority, that you, the smaller than small minority, what we may or may not do because it offends you? Have you even realized that your actions are VERY OFFENSIVE to God, and His followers? I pray that He will enter your heart and change your ways.

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-02-01 12:04 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Janice Turk" <jturk5525@bellsouth.net>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Statue of Jesus**  
Date: January 31, 2012 5:53:36 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "jturk5525@bellsouth.net" <jturk5525@bellsouth.net>

---

Janice Turk

jturk5525@bellsouth.net

Source: newspaper

I read in the newspaper how you want to take down the statue of Jesus. I could not believe that such an organization exists that is so disturbed by a statue honoring my Lord. Jesus is not an idol or statue and HE exists what ever we tear down.

He gives us freedom and a choice. I pray that you will come to know Him this side of Heaven.

Love and Prayers for you, Janice

---

Entry Date: 2012-01-31 05:53 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: "Jeremy Allison" <Godblesstheusa@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Your beliefs**  
Date: January 31, 2012 10:59:36 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "Godblesstheusa@yahoo.com" <Godblesstheusa@yahoo.com>

---

Jeremy Allison

Toronto  
Oh 43964  
740 632 6952  
Godblesstheusa@yahoo.com

Source:

I have one question, why do you feel its right to take "god", whom which our country was founded on, out of our country, to promote your religion, which is no religion, to our students, god was here lomg before you, and is the reason you are here to protest him, leave this country as it was before you contaminated it with your pitiful doings of removing school prayer, if you dont like it then leave it, I say the pledge of allegiance to myself with my children, and it will be back again, you cannot continue to remove our heritage from our country, leave the statue of jesus alone, and bragging about removing a nativity scene, ha ha, you are nuts, keep it to yourself and like I said, quit contaminating this country many like myself fought for, leave it, you wont be missed, GOD BLESS AMERICA, in god we trust

-----  
Entry Date: 2012-01-31 10:59 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Scott McKenzie" <scottlm72@hotmail.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Montana**  
Date: January 31, 2012 11:29:59 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "scottlm72@hotmail.com" <scottlm72@hotmail.com>

---

Scott McKenzie

scottlm72@hotmail.com

Source:

I respect that religion should not be forced on anyone. However, our country was founded on religious freedom. All I see from your organization and those like you is suppression of religion. Don't like the statue of Jesus, don't go there. I think you look for a reason to fight and doubt you even have a religious view. Sue me too. Get over yourselves. You only win what you do because we find you so ridiculous we don't show up. Our mistake for sure. In the mean time you ever think you are more hurtful to the majority? We accept you, but you never accept others...Good luck with that!

---

Entry Date: 2012-01-31 11:29 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "shari golir" <sharigolie@gmail.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus**  
Date: January 31, 2012 7:02:45 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "sharigolie@gmail.com" <sharigolie@gmail.com>

---

shari golir  
po box 952

hamilton  
mt 59840  
406-363-6104  
sharigolie@gmail.com

Source:

Why are you coming to Montana to cause trouble over a wondrous statue of Jesus. Stay in Wisconsin and take care of your own backyard. People like you are always trying to control everybody else. Live your life the way you want and leave everybody else alone.

-

---

Entry Date: 2012-01-31 07:02 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Big MT Montana" <killyboy.trb60@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus Statue, Wt-Fish,Mt**  
Date: December 5, 2011 2:15:27 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "killyboy.trb60@yahoo.com" <killyboy.trb60@yahoo.com>

---

Big MT Montana

killyboy.trb60@yahoo.com

Source: ad in local paper

The Statue Is Awesome in Montana and its going to stay whether you like it or not. You people need to get a life. Its really Sad you people are the way you are, You must have 666 tattoed on you somewhere. Its just a matter of time when the States are going to take over. Thanks for your help on that.

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-12-05 02:15 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Kathi Caudle" <kacaudle@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Jesus statue, Big Mountain Montana**  
Date: December 3, 2011 8:31:24 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "kacaudle@yahoo.com" <kacaudle@yahoo.com>

---

Kathi Caudle

kacaudle@yahoo.com

Source:

I would like to join in with the other Montanans who have said to you "Mind you own damn business"!

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-12-03 08:31 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Ed tomicek" <etomicek@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: statue**  
Date: November 26, 2011 12:36:27 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "etomicek@yahoo.com" <etomicek@yahoo.com>

---

Ed tomicek  
5320  
ross lane  
florence  
mt 59833  
406-243-6091  
etomicek@yahoo.com

Source: ad in local paper

Why dont You axxholes mind Your own business, and leave Our Statue of Jesus alone.

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-11-26 12:36 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "L Berdan" <larry\_berdan@hotmail.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: whitefish Jesus**  
Date: November 27, 2011 1:18:12 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "larry\_berdan@hotmail.com" <larry\_berdan@hotmail.com>

---

L Berdan

larry\_berdan@hotmail.com

Source: newspaper

You are entitled to your beliefs but suggest that you respect the views of others.

Let the statue stand and spend the time and efforts devoting time to your beliefs that Jesus does not exist.

I think this will result in people in the main stream having less respect for your group.

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-11-27 01:18 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Graeme Bell" <graamebell@iinet.net.au>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: You must not be too bright**  
Date: November 26, 2011 7:06:24 AM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "graamebell@iinet.net.au" <graamebell@iinet.net.au>

---

Graeme Bell  
80 Macarthur Street

Griffith  
2680  
0411568980  
graamebell@iinet.net.au

Source: other

Obviously you are not smart. The Bible is FULL of scientific facts. But dogs like you choose to ignore that. Or when shown you shut your mind to it. You then argue it is not real. You are dogs but look at the earth crying out the truth. Nuclear war soon will take care of many of you dogs. You hate us so much you try to stop everything to do with the One True God. Look at the signs and ignore them. He is real and soon He will kill billions of you and then we will all be better off. Dogs and their offspring gone. Who cares if they have a statue of Jesus on a ski run? But you dogs must stop it. Well the One True God will mock as you all burn. Do not believe what people say about the Bible. READ IT and you will see that He will destroy you and not care which is soon. But mock at that dogs and ignore the earthquakes and dead fish and wars. Tell your kids that you were so sure you were right. Dogs!

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-11-26 07:06 AM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form



From: "Tom Simpson" <etssr1948@yahoo.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Montana Jesus statue**  
Date: November 24, 2011 5:38:45 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "etssr1948@yahoo.com" <etssr1948@yahoo.com>

---

Tom Simpson

etssr1948@yahoo.com

Source: link from another site

EAT SHIT AND DIE WORTHLESS COCKSUCKERS. IF YOU WIN THE MONTANA SUIT,BE READY TO CONVERT.

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-11-24 05:38 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

From: "Courtney Cox" <mrcourtneycox@msn.com>  
Subject: **FFRF contact: Stop waisting my tax \$\$\$**  
Date: November 22, 2011 6:03:15 PM CST  
To: info@ffrf.org  
Reply-To: "mrcourtneycox@msn.com" <mrcourtneycox@msn.com>

---

Courtney Cox

Lewistown  
MT

mrcourtneycox@msn.com

Source: link from another site

Dear Sirs or Mams, which ever you feel is correct,

I wish organizations like yours would stop and think about the waste of our tax dollars you create. Your personal attack on a statue in one of my National Forests here in Montana is costing each and everyone of my states tax paying citizens money and waisting our Representatives and Goverment employees time on a bunch of hogwash. If you do not like Jesus Christ then pretend it's your Zig Zag buddy. Please leave our Beautiful State and don't come back.

Sincerely,  
Courtney Cox

-----  
Entry Date: 2011-11-22 06:03 PM  
Sent from the FFRF contact form

## In State Capitol

# O'Hair Wants Nativity Scene Out

AUSTIN, Texas (UPI) — Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair Tuesday demanded Gov. Dolph Briscoe prohibit display of a nativity scene in the State Capitol during the Christmas holidays.

"I feel that it's unconstitutional and inappropriate," she told aides to the governor. "It's offensive to Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, atheists and agnostics."

Two Briscoe aides met with Mrs. O'Hair but said the nativity scene will be on display.

"The governor wants it there," Jay Floyd, an assistant to Briscoe, told Mrs. O'Hair.

"This has been a tradition and it'll be there this year," Dickie Travis, Briscoe's director of budget and planning, said. "I'm speaking for the governor."

Mrs. O'Hair asked the officials to request an attorney general's opinion on the constitutionality of displaying a creche scene in a public building and having a monument inscribed with the Ten Commandments on Capitol grounds, but the governor's aides refused.

"There will be trouble over this at Christmas," Mrs. O'Hair said. "We will be back."

Mrs. O'Hair said she will ask her attorneys to determine what legal action can be taken to block display of the nativity scene

and other Christian activities associated with Christmas.

She said she has no objection to the huge

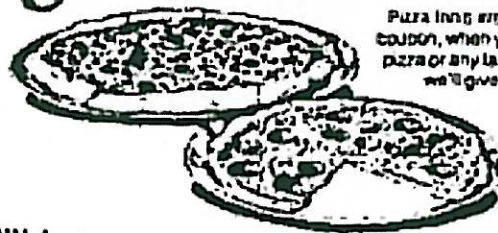
Christmas tree placed in the 89-year-old Capitol building during the holiday season because, "The Christmas tree is a pagan

thing which has nothing to do with religion."

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United Press

## Atheist leader disapproves

Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair gives thumbs down to a tablet on the State Capitol grounds at Austin that she wants removed. Mrs. O'Hair

said the tablet, containing the Ten Commandments, violates the principle of separation of church and state.

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison, WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900

Sept. 4, 2001

Gov. Rick Perry  
State Capitol  
PO Box 12428  
Austin TX 78711

Dear Gov. Perry:

On behalf of our Texas membership, as well as specific taxpaying complainants in Austin, we are writing to ask that you order the immediate removal of the Ten Commandments monument that was inappropriately and illegally placed on the Capitol lawn.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in ruling that the Ten Commandments may not be posted in public classrooms, noted:

"The Ten Commandments is undeniably a sacred text in the Jewish and Christian faiths, and no legislative recitation of a supposed secular purpose can blind us to that fact. The Commandments do not confine themselves to arguably secular matters, such as honoring one's parents, killing or murder, adultery, stealing, false witness, and covetousness. Rather, the first part of the Commandments concerns the religious duties of believers: worshipping the Lord God alone, avoiding idolatry, not using the Lord's name in vain, and observing the sabbath day." Stone v Graham, 449 U.S. 39 at 42 (1980)

Significantly, the U.S. Supreme Court just let stand the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit decision, City of Elkhart v. William A. Books (May 29, 2001, No. 00-1407), in which the court ordered the removal of a Commandments monument--nearly identical to that housed on your Capitol grounds--because its placement on public property amounts to an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. In an unusual statement respecting the denial of the petition for writ of certiorari, Justice Stevens noted: "THE TEN COMMANDMENTS--I AM the LORD thy God. ... is rather hard to square with the proposition that the monument expresses no particular religious preference."

The State of Texas has no business dictating to its constituents which gods they may have, how many gods they should have, or that they need to have any gods at all! Religion is entirely outside the purview of government, under the U.S. Constitution, and the Texas State Constitution, which guarantees: "No man shall be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his consent. No human authority ought, in any case whatever, to control or interfere with the rights of conscience in matters of religion, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious society or mode of worship." (Art. I, Sect. 6)

The State of Texas is full of tax-exempt houses of worship that currently lack monuments to the Ten Commandments. Why not let them bid on purchasing and removing this unconstitutional monument of bible edicts, correcting a constitutional violation and raising some funds to be put toward a secular purpose?

It is also instructive to note that the history of these Ten Commandments monuments points to a combination of religious motives and commercial gain. The Fraternal Order of Eagles launched its Ten Commandments campaign in cahoots with the release of Cecil B. DeMille's motion picture, "The Ten Commandments." Texas taxpayers, particularly those who do not subscribe to the Christian religion, should no longer have to put up with a hokey monument to Hollywood commercialism and zealotry.

We would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience about this matter of constitutional concern.

Sincerely

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

*Annie Laurie Gaylor*  
ANNIE LAURIE GAYLOR



**Subject: Re: ten commandments**

**Date:** Mon, 20 Aug 2001 11:53:37 -0700 (PDT)

**From:** David Clark <abngrunt71@yahoo.com>

**To:** [fttoday@mailbag.com](mailto:fttoday@mailbag.com)

Ms. Gaylor,

Sorry it took me so long to reply but I was waiting to hear from the ACLU. It seems that before a case can be accepted by the ACLU it must go through multiple legal reviews. Last week I was told that my request for legal help with the monument had progressed to the final review board. I think that is a good sign but things take a while with the process so I may not hear anything back for some time.

I wrote Governor Perry (no reply), Congressman Lamar Smith, and Senators Wentworth and Ogden. All replies I did receive expressed support for the monument claiming tradition, America being based on godly principles etc. etc.

I would appreciate it if you would send letters from the FFRF also. Once I hear from the ACLU I will certainly let you know. If they pass on taking my case then I will start making the issue much more publicly known by picketing the monument on the capitol lawn myself.

Thanks for your help.

David Clark  
909 Greenbriar Loop  
Round Rock, TX 78664  
512-733-1539

--- Freethought Today <[fttoday@mailbag.com](mailto:fttoday@mailbag.com)> wrote:

> Hi,

>

> I'm clearing out old email & realized I had never  
> done anything about

> your ten commandments complaint.

>

> FFRF has complained about this in the past. We took  
> a challenge of the

> commandments at the capitol in Denver but ultimately  
> lost/ our intent

> was to go after all of them at statehouses.

>

> Did you get anywhere with the ACLU?

>

> We're glad to write again--wouldn't expect much from  
> that governor,

> however. Who did you contact specifically?

>

> thanks for the update,  
>  
> Annie Laurie Gayloor  
> Freethought Today  
> PO Box 750  
> Madison WI 53701  
> (608) 256-5800 - fttoday@mailbag.com  
>

---

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