

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2010

The Honorable Robert C. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Admiral Michael G. Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon
Washington, DC 20318-9999

Dear Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen,

We write you today concerned about the recent decision to rescind the invitation to Tony Perkins to attend the National Prayer Luncheon at Andrews Air Force Base. This action sends a dangerous message and could have an unfortunate effect on military chaplains.

We are concerned that this type of censorship suggests further pressure within the military to stifle religious services, forcing chaplains to adhere to "approved politically correct messages" and not preach the gospel as presented in the Bible. Limiting religious discussion on military installations has the basic effect of telling chaplains which parts of the Bible are acceptable and which parts are not.

We ask that your office ensure the right of religious freedom for members of the Air Force. We request your office provide us with the details of how religious views will be protected, especially during the coming months as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is being debated, as well as any other issue in which the Air Force feels that the Bible and national policy clash. Finally, as a show of good faith, we request that the Air Force invite Mr. Perkins to another event which would show other chaplains that you have reexamined your position.

Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Michael B. Donley
General Norton A. Schwartz

Jim Kelly NV-2

Bob Wilson, SC-02

Paul Davis Ca.

Paul G. Perry CA-3
Tom Mc TX-2

Al King TX-26
Bob Kistner KS-4

Bob Dyer SC

My Moody AZ

Wendell Ford CA-52

Butt Roth KY-2

Robert Anderson AL-4

Edna Brown CA-24

Jim J. Ford TX-3

Nicholas Bachmann

John B. Anderson TX-5

Gene Schmidt CA-2

Andr Olson FL-4

Devin Nunes Ca.

Bill Ross TX-32

Luigi E. Napolitano NC

John Jordan OH

Steve King IA-5
Tim Brown TX-9

Al Green AL

K. Kelly TX-11

Steve Scalise LA-1

Conaway TX-19

Virginia Foxx NC-5

Robert Wittman MD-09

Nathan Aspinwall -NC
Canton Va.

U. H.

Alm Manzanillo (all 16)

Sharon Angle

Bob Latta 50th

W. Boustany LA-7

James Gary FL-6

Jeff Flacco FL-6

Janet Taylor

Mark Griffiths #15

Rodney Alexander La. 5 Va.

Frank Rosten

Richard Hanna

John Gohmert OK-1

Marjorie Taylor Greene OK-5

Ken Cuccinelli TX-28th

Jim Cooper TX

Bill Shuster, Pa

Bob Latta

Paul Brown GA-10

Ralph M. Hall TX-4

David Perdue

Pete Olson

John McClain CA-4

Ing R. H. PA-16

El Barker

Bob Goodlatte

Bob Bly UT

Phil Pingray

Clay Smith

Wally Hergen

Tom Lambert

Craig Harper

95 Mead TX-24

Bob

William Lewis

John Henry LA-04

Todd E Jatta

Bonnie Thompson

Bill Casey FL 15

John Rozman

Harold Rep

John Culberson

John Campbell

Lamar Smith

John IL 19

John Rogers

Robert J. Witt

Long Lambert CO-5

Lynne White

Bob Bonner

Frank Tranks AZ-1

Thomas Fico

Mark Souder

Barrett MDG

John Haelosta

De Young

Smey Davis FL 06

James D. Simmons WY

Bill Cundy LA-6

K. J. W. J.

John W. J.

Ann Emerson

Jenny Reber

Dan Burton

Amey AL-1

W. C. Coffman CO-6

M. K. Coffman CO-6

Moscow K-6

Amey (MI-11)

Paul Jordan Ca 7

Ray E R

Estienne Ohio-14

Sp Bl M-6

John Klein MV-2

John Sull OR-7

Paul Tipton Ohio-12

Frank Smith (IL-5)

Mac J TX-13

Harley Tenn

Vernon J. Ehlers MI

Ed Whitfield Ky

Arthur (ID 02)

T. J. (IL-15)