

March 6, 2016

Gov. Nikki Haley,

My name is Hoyte R. Smith. I am a life-long resident of West Columbia, S.C. I am retired, former military (U.S. Air Force 1964-1968 with 1 year served in Vietnam 1966-1967).

I'm writing to inform you of a matter that deeply concerns me as a Christian, Veteran and fellow American.

Recently, I was at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia and picked up an issue of 'The Fort Jackson Leader', the Army base newspaper. This is the only way I became aware of the matter which I am writing to you about. I don't know if you are even aware of it. I'm finding out that the average person is not aware of this. (I'm enclosing the related page I'm referring to from the newspaper for your attention).

While reading through the base newspaper, I noticed a page with the worship schedule for all of the on-base chapels. It appeared to list most, if not all, of the religious services and meetings on base.

The thing that caught my attention was the Muslim schedule with the Islamic studies (Islam is an enemy to God) and especially the Pagan worship schedule. (I researched this and learned that Pagan worship is defined as Satanic activity. These people have no religious

emotions, show a lack of religion, show hostility to religion, irreligious persons, not Christian, Jew or Muslim). So who do they worship? Why? How?

I don't understand. This is dangerous. If this is allowed and promoted the the next thing to take place is to roll out the red carpet and put out the "welcome mat" for ISIS. These are the people who have avowed to kill Americans and destroy our way of life because they hate us. Don't forget the terrible incident with the Army Major at Fort Hood, Texas, and the people he shot and killed. It obviously meant nothing to him when he entered the military and raised his right hand, took the oath, and he had years of service in his career. Raising the right hand to take the oath means nothing to an avowed terrorist.

I know the Bible tells us to love our neighbors and enemies but I'm sure this is not the way the Bible intends for us to interpret that. The base chapels are provided and funded by Christians and taxpayers, without choice, on government property and I would venture to say that the average person is not even aware of this taking place. I would not have known

it if I had not had access and taken time to read the base newspaper. I'm a Christian and a taxpayer and I strongly oppose this.

I had the honor and privilege of presenting this question recently to a high ranking officer who is in authority at Fort Jackson. Also, I don't understand why the other base chaplains don't become whistleblowers and object to this Islam and Pagan "worship." I believe, just like this other officer I mentioned, that they are afraid to jeopardize their careers and years of service by taking a stand to oppose this. I am former military myself and I would assume these men and/or women are just following orders from higher up the chain of command and this is a directive from higher up in authority and comes from some Godless government officials and/or politicians that don't allow them any choice but to follow orders from higher up. When I questioned the officer I was told that he would only answer my question from a military standpoint which was only a straddle the fence kind of answer so he wouldn't take a stand and jeopardize his rank and position. I couldn't get a right or wrong kind of answer from the officer on my question. Then I got a refusal to allow me to ask any further related questions on that topic.

I work with a local after school Bible club in one of the elementary schools and I am told that our government won't permit Bible clubs or Bible studies and reading, even spare time reading, to be conducted on school premises because this is government property, supported by government taxpayer funds and the government has to control the way the Bible is presented and taught to the school children because it influences their minds and thinking. Bible study would be a good influence on the minds of our children.

If you research the words "double standard" for meaning, you will find that, any set of principles containing different provisions for one group of people than for another, it is defined as a double standard. Whether it is a military base, a prison, or a school, they are all government property funded at taxpayer expense, but different provisions and set of principles are being applied here. Now that is a "double standard" if there ever was one. As a Christian and a taxpayer, I vehemently oppose this practice.

It is sad to see our state, our nation, and our military in such sad decay. It has

been very difficult for me to write a letter such as this. I never thought that in my lifetime, in my great country, America, that it would become necessary.

As you can tell by my concern, this is very important to me, and I'm sure many others. I'm going to make as many people aware of this as I possibly can. I'm thanking you in advance for your reply to me in writing. I need to know if you are even aware of this issue and your position on this important matter. God help us and may God forgive us.

Howte R. Smith
1164 W. Fairhill Dr.
West Columbia, SC 29170
Phone 803 794-2349 (D+E)