
ON WATCH IN WASHINGTON

Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

April 27, 2011

SUPREME COURT

UTAH HIGHWAY PATROL ASSOCIATION v. AMERICAN ATHEISTS

A case involving 14 memorial highway crosses in Utah is [headed for the U.S. Supreme Court](#). The [Alliance Defense Fund](#) (ADF) has filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court that asks the court to uphold as constitutional roadside memorial crosses honoring fallen Utah state troopers. A federal district court upheld the constitutionality of the crosses, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit struck them down despite recent comments from the Supreme Court itself indicating that the crosses likely pass constitutional muster.

If a recent appeals court decision is not overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, a conservative advocacy group warns that the Christian cross [could soon become an unconstitutional symbol](#) — even in places like Arlington Cemetery, a conservative advocacy group warns.

[“This is yet another example of how the Establishment Clause has been turned on its head and is now being used by the courts to prohibit the guaranteed ‘free exercise’ of religion.”](#) Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said of the federal appeals court ruling.

“One atheist group’s agenda shouldn’t diminish the sacrifice made by Utah highway patrol officers and their families. We are asking the Supreme Court to allow the families of the fallen to honor their loved ones through these constitutionally permissible memorials,” said ADF Senior Counsel Byron Babione. “The Supreme Court recently signaled that individualized memorial crosses honoring fallen troopers simply do not amount to a government establishment of religion. That guidance applies directly to this case.”

Four of the 10th Circuit’s nine justices strongly dissented when that court barely agreed to uphold a three-judge panel’s decision to strike down the memorial crosses in American [Atheists v. Davenport](#), now titled Utah Highway Patrol Association v. American Atheists. ADF attorneys appealed the panel’s decision to the full 10th Circuit in September of last year and Friday asked the Supreme Court to hear the case. The memorials will remain in place until all appeals are exhausted in the suit.

In April 2010, the Supreme Court specifically addressed the subject of roadside crosses honoring fallen state troopers as part of its [Salazar v. Buono](#) decision, which concluded that a cross-shaped veterans’ memorial in California’s Mojave Desert did not have to be removed.

“The goal of avoiding governmental endorsement does not require eradication of all religious symbols in the public realm,” the high court wrote. “A cross by the side of a public highway marking, for instance, the place where a state trooper perished need not be taken as a statement of governmental support for sectarian beliefs. The Constitution does not oblige government to avoid any public acknowledgment of religion’s role in society.”

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If the Utah crosses are ultimately struck down, it could jeopardize similar memorials honoring other fallen heroes across the nation, including 14 crosses on Colorado's Storm King Mountain where firefighters lost their lives in a 1994 wildfire.

American Atheists sued officials of the Utah Highway Patrol and the Utah Transportation Department in 2005. The group claimed that the roadside memorials are a state establishment of religion, even though the memorials are fully funded and maintained by a private organization, the Utah Highway Patrol Association. The UHPA, which supports highway patrol officers and their families, was allowed to intervene in the lawsuit to defend the memorial crosses in 2006. ADF attorneys--along with Frank D. Mylar, one of nearly 1,900 attorneys in the ADF alliance, and the [National Legal Foundation](#)--represent the UHPA in this case. (Contributors: [ADF](#), [CBN](#), [IRN Radio News](#), [Family Research Council](#))

Pray that the Lord will give wisdom to those that are tasked with putting the petition before the U.S. Supreme Court. Ask that God will be glorified in all plans and deliberations. Ask the Lord to move upon the hearts of the Supreme Court Justices in honoring those who have faithfully served the public and lost their lives in protecting its citizens.

“Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” Romans 13:7

STATE ABORTION BATTLES

EFFORTS TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD MOVE TO STATE LEVEL

Days after Republican Congressmen in Washington abandoned the effort to strip Planned Parenthood of its federal funds, the battle continues in state legislatures across the country.

In North Carolina, Republicans added a provision to the state budget last week that would prohibit the state from providing grants or entering into contracts with Planned Parenthood, a measure which would deprive the organization of the \$473,000 it currently receives through state family planning programs.

Representative Nelson Dollar, chairman of the House appropriation subcommittee for Health and Human Services, told the Raleigh News and Observer newspaper that the provision is unrelated to the issue of abortion. “There are a whole host of programs being reduced. Planned Parenthood is not unique,” he said, adding that the proposed budget still allocated \$3.6 million towards other teen pregnancy prevention programs.

A similar measure prohibiting state grants and contracts with [Planned Parenthood was added to a pro-life bill in Indiana](#) yesterday. According to an Associated Press report, Planned Parenthood is currently receiving \$3 million in Indiana state funds.

The larger bill of which the funding provision is now a part, [HB 1210](#), would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks gestation. The current legal cut-off in Indiana is 24 weeks. The bill has yet to be voted on by the state Senate.

Minnesota Republicans introduced SF 1224, a bill that does not mention Planned Parenthood by name, but which prohibits state grant funds from being given to any organization that provides abortions or refers patients for abortion. If passed, the bill would remove state funds from all of the 24 clinics that Planned Parenthood operates in Minnesota. This legislation mirrors other recent efforts in Wisconsin and New Hampshire to keep Planned Parenthood from receiving funds from state coffers.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker unveiled a budget proposal in early March which eliminates the Title V

Maternal and Child Health Program. Title V is the source of roughly \$1 million in funding for Planned Parenthood's 27 Wisconsin clinics, according to the Huffington Post.

The proposed budget is currently stalled by tense debate over its radical overhaul of state finances, including cuts in education, and health-care and pension plans for public employees.

Legislative efforts in New Hampshire have also come to a standstill, after a bill specifically targeting Planned Parenthood was introduced in early February. HB 228 would, like the North Carolina and Indiana legislation, prohibit the state from entering into a contract with Planned Parenthood; it is currently retained in committee in the House.

Planned Parenthood stands to lose approximately \$800,000 if the New Hampshire legislation is passed.

The national abortion giant is firing back against the threats to its state funding across the country with claims that it does not use government money to subsidize abortion, but rather to provide seemingly non-controversial health services.

According to the [Daily Tar Heel](#), Paige Johnson, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood Central North Carolina, said that the loss of funding in the state would inhibit access of low-income women to mammograms and birth control. Johnson's statement is similar to one made by Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards during the Congressional debate over federal funding for the organization.

In an appearance on The Joy Behar Show, Richards listed mammograms among the "basic family planning services" that Planned Parenthood provides. However, a series of undercover phone calls by the pro-life group [Live Action to 30 Planned Parenthood clinics](#) in 27 different states found that the organization does not, in fact, offer mammograms.

According to Jim Sedlak, Executive Director of Stop Planned Parenthood (STOPP), even Planned Parenthood non-abortion-related programs, such as birth control services and sex education, are still not uncontroversial. "[Planned Parenthood comes between parents and their children](#) and indoctrinates children into a sexual lifestyle that is against the religion of most parents, and so, for that reason, many, many parents who actually would not join us on the abortion battle join us in the battle against Planned Parenthood," Sedlak told LifeSiteNews.

Sedlak also said that most of the contraceptives that Planned Parenthood provides are actually abortifacients, because they prevent the implantation in the womb of a fertilized egg, resulting in the death of a newly created human being.

"People around the country have for years been fighting against taxpayer money for Planned Parenthood at the local level of cities and counties, and they have had a large number of successes, and now that battle has moved up to the state level and federal level, which is where it needs to be. We see this as an exciting development in the fight against Planned Parenthood, and it will eventually be successful," he added.

If Planned Parenthood was expecting a basketful of tax dollars on Easter, one state is sure to disappoint them. With a pro-life leader at the helm, Kansas is boldly going where no state has gone before. Under a new budget proposal, [local legislators are trying to redirect the \\$300,000 in federal funds for Planned Parenthood](#) and farm it out to local health clinics that haven't been implicated in criminal cover-ups. The head of the local Planned Parenthood chapter bemoaned the fact that Kansas has "the prospect of being the first state in the nation to enact that kind of law." And that distinction is just fine with Kansas voters. If Congress won't pull the multi-million dollar rug out from under the abortion giant, Governors like Sam Brownback (R-Kans.) will.

[Since the start of this year, 916 measures seeking to regulate reproductive health have been introduced in 49 states.](#) According to the Guttmacher Institute, by the end of March, 15 laws had been enacted in seven states. These laws include an expansion of the waiting period in South Dakota from 24 to 72 hours and a requirement that counseling from "crisis pregnancy centers" include scientifically flawed data on risk factors. There are new regulations in Utah and Virginia governing abortion clinics. Legislation has been introduced in 13 states requiring that women have an ultrasound procedure before having an abortion—and in seven of those states, the woman must view the fetus and listen to a detailed verbal description as well. Measures have been introduced in 17 states copying a Nebraska law banning abortion at 20 weeks, on the theory—again based on questionable medical data—that this is when a fetus can feel pain.

After Justice Anthony Kennedy's vote in 2007 to uphold the federal ban on so-called "partial birth" abortion—even though it was virtually identical to a state ban struck down just before for failure to include an exception to protect the woman's health—Kennedy moved the goalposts for future abortion regulations. In a majority 5-4 opinion fretting about the mental health risks for women who "come to regret their choice to abort," Kennedy opened the door to a whole raft of state regulations that—under the guise of helping women make smarter choices—in many instances make it all but impossible for them to make choices at all. Since the court hasn't heard an abortion case in the intervening four years, Kennedy's wobbliness in [Gonzales v. Carhart](#) has emboldened abortion foes to push their cause even further. (Contributors: [IBJ News](#), [Life Site News](#), [Slate.com](#), [Wikipedia.org](#), [Daily Tar Heel](#), [Live Action](#), [Indiana General Assembly House Bill](#), [Family Research Council](#))

Pray that the Lord will give all the states of the United States a collective wisdom on how best to bind the enemy in his attempts to continue to destroy God's creation. Pray that the Lord will give wisdom and strategies to those leading the battles in each state in the union. Thank the Lord for His victories and His hope of rescue to those that are still in threat of losing their lives to abortion.

For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
Ephesians 6:12

MILITARY HONORS

JEWISH CHAPLAINS HONORED AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

[A resolution sponsored by Rep. Anthony Weiner and Sen. Charles Schumer](#), both New York Democrats, calls for a new plaque, similar in size and style to the existing three that would honor the late Jewish chaplains.

The 13 died between 1943 and 1974, though not all were killed in overseas combat.

They include Rabbi Alexander Goode, one of four chaplains who died aboard the USAT Dorchester, a troop ship torpedoed by a German U-boat as it carried hundreds of American soldiers across the frigid waters of the North Atlantic in 1943. The chaplains, as the story goes, gave up their life preservers and gloves to the shivering soldiers and offered comforting hymns even as the ship went down. More than 600 died. The names of the three other chaplains are all memorialized at Arlington.

Then there's Irving Tepper, who died in action in France in 1944 after seeing combat in Tunisia, Morocco and Sicily; Louis Werfel, known as the "Flying Rabbi," who died in a plane crash in North Africa; and Herman Rosen and his son, Solomon, who died in a drowning accident and air disaster, respectively, five years apart. Ken Kraetzer, a bank marketing consultant and son of a World War II Army officer, noticed the lack of a monument for Jewish chaplains while researching the stories of late chaplains from his alma mater, Providence College. Though not Jewish himself, Kraetzer said he was startled by the apparent

oversight. He alerted the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and the [Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council](#), which has helped lead the effort.

Currently, Chaplains Hill in Arlington appropriately memorializes the names of 242 Christian military chaplains who perished while on active duty. Astonishingly, none of the 13 Jewish chaplains who have died while serving are so honored.

"I don't consider it a Jewish cause, per se. I consider it an honor the veterans cause. This is a chance to honor chaplains, past and present," Kraetzer said. "This group just happens to be Jewish."

Cemetery officials told the organizers they could move forward with a monument provided they raised the money themselves and could produce a complete and accurate list of the dead Jewish chaplains. They did that by cross-checking research from the Jewish Historical Society with records from the chaplain corps of each branch of service.

Sol Moglen, who conceived the idea for a Sept. 11 memorial in Brooklyn and helped develop plans for the Arlington monument, helped lead fundraising. [JWB and its partners have already raised the private funds needed for this memorial](#) (over \$50,000).

The monument would stand about 7 feet tall, with a bronze plaque mounted on a granite slab listing the 13 names as well as a Jewish proverb - "*I ask not for a lighter burden, but for broader shoulders*" - and an inscription with the Star of David. There would be space at the bottom for future chaplains if needed.

The plans hit a hurdle after a leadership change at Arlington, when organizers said they learned for the first time that a new monument at the cemetery would require a resolution from Congress.

The resolution has widespread bipartisan support, officials say, but getting it through Congress has been arduous. Still, Weiner hopes to get the resolution on the floor sometime next month. "I would anticipate that this would have no opposition. We're not costing the taxpayers any money," he said.

Rabbi Harold Robinson, the director of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council and one of the leaders of the effort, said America's corps of chaplains is unique among nations because of its diversity - a distinction, the retired Navy official said, that has not been properly recognized at the country's resting place for the military.

"This is a miracle of American democracy and that's not a miracle that one learns about by going to Arlington National Cemetery," Robinson said. JWB Jewish Chaplains Council urges all Americans to express their support for a memorial in Arlington to their elected representatives. (Contributors: [Associated Press](#), [Jewish Chaplains Council](#))

Ask the Lord to sensitize the hearts of our legislators by allowing them to see that when we, as a nation, honor our fallen leaders in the service of God and nation, we honor Him who gave us this freedom.

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves." 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

MIDDLE EAST

THIRD PALESTINIAN INTIFADA?

In a tactical shift that probably could have been anticipated, supporters of a *Facebook*-based effort urging Palestinians to start an armed uprising against Israel have taken the fight directly to their opponents—the *Facebook* pages of pro-Israel groups.

On Thursday, April 14, [StandWithUs](#), a pro-Israel education and advocacy group, found its Wall filled with postings calling for the destruction of Israel and the mass murder of Jews.

StandWithUs filed a complaint on Thursday with the FBI and quickly [removed the messages](#). A representative from the group said that they came from 35 unique users, most of whom were based in Egypt. The Arabic-language page had attracted over [330,000 fans](#) since it went online and issued a call for a mass march into Israel from neighboring countries.

The decision to remove the page was welcomed by Israel's Diaspora and Public Diplomacy Minister Yuli Edelstein, who had sent a letter to *Facebook* founder **Mark Zuckerberg** on the matter last week. **The Anti-Defamation League's** national director, **Abraham Foxman**, also praised the move.

By Friday afternoon, four additional identical messages had cropped up. Each one read, "*new hetlar is comming from egypt to slave israel.*" (Original spelling preserved.)

Accompanying this message was a photomontage that included what appeared to be Jewish prisoners standing in a concentration camp, a tangle of dead bodies lying in a mass grave and Adolf Hitler waving a Palestinian flag. Arcing across the image in red and green letters were the words, "Another Holocaust of Jews by Arabs."

At the time of writing, that posting, like the others, had been removed.

Foxman added that he hoped *Facebook* "continues to vigilantly monitor their pages for other groups that call for violence or terrorism against Jews and Israel."

A representative from *StandWithUs* said that some of the pro-Israel groups "Liked" by the group had also received similar messages on their openly accessible walls.

One posting found Friday afternoon on the wall of the "Israel Fans" page was written in Hebrew, English and Arabic. "We're going to Jerusalem millions martyrs," the poster wrote. "Waiting for us, the destruction of Israel begins 15 / 5."

The *Facebook* group was launched less than a month ago with the number of members growing dramatically, with [nearly 250,000](#) people expressing support for launching a third Intifada on May 15, marked by Arabs as Nakba Day – a day where Palestinians mark the "catastrophe of Israel's establishment."

This development comes just over two weeks after Facebook administrators removed a page calling for a "Third Palestinian Intifada" at the urging of groups including the Anti-Defamation League and at least one Israeli government minister. Dozens of similar pages immediately sprang up in its wake, but none have attracted nearly as many supporters as the first one, which had more than 340,000 supporters when it was taken down.

In an emailed statement, *StandWithUs* CEO Roz Rothstein called the postings an abuse of the internet's freedom. "It is a shame that a medium for international communication that has so much promise is exploited by people who want to spread hate. It's an effort to bully or intimidate Israel's supporters, but it obviously will fail," Rothstein said.

As Israel's neighbors are calling for her destruction, we are calling for Christians everywhere to take a stand to pray and fast for Israel in the days ahead. In order to facilitate this cause, we have created a group called [One New Man United](#), which will exist as OneNewManUnited.org and under a Facebook page in order to raise awareness.

The *One New Man United* cause is looking for Christians around the globe who will unite in prayer and fasting on May 12, 13, 14 to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, all of Israel, and her neighbors.

On Friday, May 13th at 7:30 p.m. CT, *One New Man United* will be hosting a live prayer service, which will be streamed live from OneNewManUnited.org, allowing supporters of *One New Man United* to come together in prayer—2 days before the scheduled "march on Israel." ([Video](#))

Graphic note: Although the original "Third Palestinian Intifada" *Facebook* page was taken down weeks ago, its logo can still be found all over the social networking site, including on the walls of pro-Israel groups.

(Contributors: [Ynet News](#), [JewishJournal.com](#), [StandWithUs.com](#), [Jerusalem Post](#))

Pray that the Lord opens the eyes of those who plan in darkness and scheme to destroy what God calls "good" and blesses. Ask the Lord to shield and protect the innocent lives that cry out for His deliverance and mercies. Ask the Lord to let His people see the mighty delivering hand of the Lord in their day of testing.

"My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me."
Psalms 31:15

IRAN'S SECOND CYBER ATTACK "STARS"

Iran claims that it has been targeted by a second computer virus in a "cyber war" waged by its enemies, its commander of civil defense said on April 25. "... our young experts have been able to discover this virus and the "Stars" virus is now in the laboratory for more investigations," Jalali was quoted as saying. He did not specify the target of Stars or its intended impact. [A separate unit](#) has also been set up by Iran's Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications to decode incoming computer viruses and neutralize them, Jalali reported.

"The particular characteristics of the Stars virus have been discovered," Jalali said. "The virus is congruous and harmonious with the [computer] system and in the initial phase it does minor damage and might be mistaken for some executive files of government organizations."

Jalali warned that the Stuxnet worm, discovered in computers at Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor last year, still posed a potential risk. Some experts described it as the world's first "guided cyber missile," aimed at Iran's atomic program. Bushehr is still not operational, having missed several start-up deadlines. This has prompted speculation that Stuxnet damaged the plant, something Iran denies.

The U.S. and its allies suspect Iran's nuclear program [aims to develop atomic weapons](#). Iran denies the charges, and says the program is only for peaceful purposes.

It would not come as a surprise to learn that Iran invented the “Stars” worm as a [propaganda hoax](#). Sources from *Symantec* and *McAfee* say that having no sample available, and no evidence currently to confirm or deny the claims of the Iranian government means that we will just have wait and see if what Jalali claims is true. (Contributors: [Reuters](#), [The Canadian Press](#), [PC World](#))

Ask the Lord for our leaders to have His wisdom in how best to prevail and thwart the plans of those who plot in secret against Israel and His Kingdom purposes.

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." 1 Corinthians 1:25