

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

September 1, 2005

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor, Vernon Fix. FBA on the Web at <http://hrcc.exis.net>

PRAYER RESTRICTED IN USAF

Base and unit commanders in the U.S. Air Force have new guidelines to follow when it comes to religion: no public prayers, period, except in "extraordinary circumstances."

The guidelines came into being in the wake of a report compiled earlier this year in connection with an investigation into charges of religious intolerance at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

Mat Staver, president of the Liberty Counsel, an Orlando, Fla.-based religious liberties law firm, said the regulations are outrageous.

"To say that you can only have prayer in extraordinary circumstances, I think is hypocritical and certainly not consistent with our founding fathers and George Washington -- our first general and first president," Staver said.

"We cannot expect to develop officers with the values and moral strength that we treasure in our military leaders," said House Armed Services Subcommittee Chairwoman **Rep. Thelma Drake, R-Va.**, "unless they openly engage views on faith with their peers and increase their awareness and respect for diverse cultures and beliefs."

The U.S. Naval Academy, meanwhile, has indicated it has no plans to stop saying grace before its midshipmen's lunch, regardless of the Air Force policy.

Naval chaplains have been praying at lunch at the Annapolis, Md., service academy since its founding in 1845, and Naval Academy spokesman Cmdr. Rod Gibbons said there are no plans to change the tradition. Prayers, he said, are nondenominational and are led by Roman Catholic, Jewish or Protestant chaplains.

From *CITIZEN LINK*.

Comment: We have just lost another round with the other side. AF personnel now cannot pray except in extreme cases. What does that mean? It means that you

cannot pray. Who sets the guidelines, you guessed it. Note that Cong. Thelma Drake spoke out against this terrible policy. Write to Cong. Drake and thank her and encourage her to keep up the good work. Ed.

'Death Should Not Be a Taxable Event'

by Aaron Atwood, assistant editor

A struggle over estate taxes is under way in Congress -- and votes are coming soon.

Congress resumes next week, and the Senate is scheduling a vote on the so-called "death tax" early in the session -- possibly as early as Tuesday night.

Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said the focus of his party's efforts will be to permanently repeal the tax, which in some quarters has been described as "taxation without respiration."

What exactly is the estate tax? It's the amount taxed on any estate -- valued over a predetermined amount, currently \$1.5 million -- bequeathed to next of kin. Many tax-advocacy groups claim it will only affect the wealthiest Americans, and that eradicating it will take much-needed revenue from the public coffers. The Internal Revenue Service holds a similar position, stating that only 2 percent of U.S. taxpayers will ever have to think about this tax law.

Dick Patten, executive director of the American Family Business Institute, said that's hardly an accurate picture.

"Those affected are not the super rich or the super poor," he told CitizenLink. "It is the successful entrepreneur, the small business owner and farmers. Incidentally, these are the people who provide 50 percent of all jobs in America."

William Beach, an economist with The Heritage Foundation, agreed, estimating that as many as 250,000 jobs are lost because of costs associated with the tax.

Susan Buschmann is working hard to make sure her family doesn't join those

ranks. Her grandfather was deserted as a child, and his mother died just two years later. In the midst of the Depression he started a small office supply store in Herman, Mo.-- Mid Missouri Office Machines. Four generations later, Buschmann's daughters watch as their mother juggles phones, orders and keeping a family business in the family.

"If something happened to me, they (her daughters) would have to pay about 55 percent estate tax," Buschmann explained. "In small businesses and farms, you have to sell business to pay the tax man. We don't have that kind of cash. It's tied up in equipment and assets."

"Selling the business would be the death of everything my grandparents taught me," she said. "They taught me how to succeed. I'm hoping I'm teaching my children how to succeed. It's our families that are involved."

"Death should not be a taxable event."

That's a sentiment Frist hopes to make reality during the Senate's fall term. If a bill permanently eliminating the estate tax is passed, it would replace legislation currently on the books which gradually reduces the tax until 2010, when it would be essentially terminated for that fiscal year. Then, in 2011, the tax would then re-activate and be at a pre-reform high of 55 percent.

Twice previously, the House and Senate have voted to repeal the tax, and in each instance the legislation was vetoed by then President Clinton. The House voted again this April for repeal, 272-162.

TAKE ACTION: Contact your two U.S. senators and urge them to support efforts to repeal the death tax. For contact information, visit the CitizenLink Action Center. From *CITIZEN LINK*. <http://www3.capwiz.com/fof/dbq/officials>

ARMED CITIZEN

A North Bellport, N.Y., man was alerted by his girlfriend that she heard a noise at the front door about 1:30 a.m. When

Sen. Warner, 441-3079 and Senator Allen at 518-1674. Congresswoman Drake – 497-6859.
Cong. Randy Forbes 382-0080. Cong. Robert "Bobby" Scott - 380-1000

Cheyenne Ray went to investigate, he saw a hand holding a pistol as it struck the glass storm door. Ray went into the kitchen, retrieved a shotgun and defended his home by firing a shot at the door. The burglar dropped his handgun and ran off, but was later spotted in the area and arrested. The perpetrator, who had a prior record for first-degree burglary, had suffered a gunshot wound to his shoulder. (*Newsday*, New York, NY, 03/06/05)

Comment: It is my firm belief we should be like the Swiss. Every family has guns and every person knows how to use them. In WWII it was reported that the German General met the Swiss leader at the border and asked for his surrender who refused. The General said I have 250,000 men to invade your country and we outnumber your citizens two to one. The Swiss said OK, then we'll each have to kill two Germans. Switzerland remained free during the war. Ed.

FAMILY

"[M]any parents have forgotten that the benefit of reading for our children very much depends on what they're reading. And, I'm afraid that many children spend hours reading what often turns out to be pure rot. With school starting all over the country between last week and just after Labor Day, it's time for a reading warning: Parents beware. In many cases the very liberal American Library Association exerts great influence over what reading materials teachers assign their students. But that material may be highly inappropriate for your child... Moms and Dads, don't just naively drive your kids to the library—you must be careful to help them choose books that reflect your values... [P]art of our responsibility and privilege as parents is to be the ones who determine what is and is not appropriate for our own children." —*Rebecca Hagelin in the Federalist*.

Comment: Parents you must be aggressive when it comes to what your children are doing and learning. Things like don't allow them to have a computer in their room, keep it public, and at least peruse every book assigned before they read it. Porno once seen cannot be taken back. Same with bad books. Keep in touch with your school staff, teachers and

others that influence your kids. Voice your concerns. Ed.

LIBERTY

"The best thing Ambassador John Bolton can do during his brief tenure representing the United States would be to announce our withdrawal from the UN so that it can continue its present implosion. The U.S. needs to renounce the mandates of the many UN treaties that do nothing but attack our national sovereignty... John Bolton will speak for George W. Bush. I suggest you listen very closely. If he says, 'We're outta here,' break out the champagne." —*Alan Caruba in the Federalist*.

Comment: As all of you that have been reading this newsletter for the last 3-4 years, know that I am highly in favor of getting out of the United Nations. We do not need them. They are communists bent on dominating the world. Why are we financing our own destruction? Ed.

FREEDOM

How can we help to ensure our continuing freedom here in America. Become well informed and then keep the heat on your elected officials. One area of deep concern is the so called "Free Trade" treaties we have entered into and are pending. They are NOT about free trade but about power. The one world government types will get more power and we lose our sovereignty. Come and here a very knowledgeable national speaker on the subject of the FTAA.

When: Fri. Sept. 9, 2005 at 7:00 PM

Where: The Crown Plaza Hotel, 4453 Bonney Road, Virginia Beach, VA.

Who: All citizens concerned about loss of jobs, businesses and security.

Cost: Free, a donation of \$7 requested

Info: Call Vernon 495-1541.

Remember, we should be concerned about local issues, Oceana, etc. but if we lose to the UN and the One World Government idiots, we lose everything. Editor.

Battle for next Supreme Court Justice kicks off Tuesday

The political equivalent to the opening game of the World Series gets under

way Tuesday afternoon in the U.S. Capitol: the Senate confirmation hearings of Judge John Roberts to the U.S. Supreme Court. Given the noise liberals have made of late about opposing him—because he appears to believe a judge's job is to interpret law, not make it—what can you expect from the hearing and the Senate Judiciary Committee? A lot!

Comment: Tune in and see the action. I pray that the Republicans find some backbone. The way to build backbone in your electeds is to write and call them often. Ten or fifteen phone calls do make a difference. Ed.

FDA Official Steps Down Over Plan B

by Aaron Atwood, assistant editor

Women's Health Office head unhappy that the agency has not yet made the "morning-after" pill available for over-the-counter sale.

The top official at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Women's Health Office resigned Wednesday, citing the agency's delay in approving over-the-counter sales of "morning-after" emergency contraception.

The decision, she added, runs "contrary to my core commitment to improving and advancing women's health."

The e-mail was quickly disseminated by the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, a pro-abortion group that is now coordinating interview requests for Wood.

That fact alone has caused many to question Wood's suitability for her former post. "The fact that a pro-abortion group is doing her (public relations) probably means it is a good thing she resigned,"

Comment: Call today and tell them NOT to approve the Plan B. Ed.

Studies indicate that firearms are used over 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property.

Get U.S. Out of the United Nations