

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 343

To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that every military chaplain has the prerogative to close a prayer outside of a religious service according to the dictates of the chaplain's own conscience.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2013

Mr. JONES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that every military chaplain has the prerogative to close a prayer outside of a religious service according to the dictates of the chaplain's own conscience.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROTECTION OF THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF**
2 **MILITARY CHAPLAINS TO CLOSE A PRAYER**
3 **OUTSIDE OF A RELIGIOUS SERVICE ACCORD-**
4 **ING TO THE DICTATES OF THE CHAPLAIN'S**
5 **CONSCIENCE.**

6 (a) UNITED STATES ARMY.—Section 3547 of title
7 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
8 the following new subsection:

9 “(c) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
10 gious service, a chaplain shall have the prerogative to close
11 the prayer according to the dictates of the chaplain’s own
12 conscience.”.

13 (b) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—Section
14 4337 of such title is amended—

15 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “There”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 section:

18 “(b) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
19 gious service, the Chaplain shall have the prerogative to
20 close the prayer according to the dictates of the Chaplain’s
21 conscience.”.

22 (c) UNITED STATES NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.—
23 Section 6031 of such title is amended by adding at the
24 end the following new subsection:

25 “(d) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
26 gious service, a chaplain shall have the prerogative to close

1 the prayer according to the dictates of the chaplain's own
2 conscience.”.

3 (d) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.—Section 8547 of
4 such title is amended by adding at the end the following
5 new subsection:

6 “(c) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
7 gious service, a chaplain shall have the prerogative to close
8 the prayer according to the dictates of the chaplain's own
9 conscience.”.

10 (e) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—Section
11 9337 of such title is amended—

12 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “There”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 section:

15 “(b) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
16 gious service, the Chaplain shall have the prerogative to
17 close the prayer according to the dictates of the Chaplain's
18 conscience.”.

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