

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

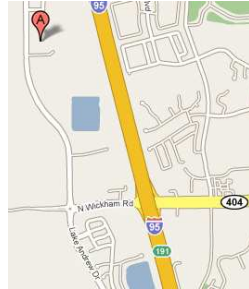
August 2009

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 2

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave.
Melbourne, large conference room by entrance
Time: 1:30-3:30



Sunday, August 16

Meetup Eat-Up

Location: Chili's, Viera (I95-Viera exit, W on Wickham, N on Lake Andrew)
Time: 1:30pm

Sunday, September 6

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave.
Melbourne, large conference room by entrance
Time: 1:30-3:30



October 2 - 4

Atheist Alliance Int'l. Convention
Location: Los Angeles, CA
Speakers: Bill Maher, Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett
atheistconvention.org

Saturday, October 17

Freethought Day at Disney

Location: Magic Kingdom
Time: all day, we'll have planned meeting times to gather - wear lime green
freethoughtdayatdisney.org



November 6 - 8

Freedom From Religion National Convention
Location: Seattle, WA

Speakers: Ron Reagan, Ursula K. LeGuin, William Lobdell, Jennifer Hecht, Barry Kosmin, & sociologist Phil Zuckerman
ffrf.org

Space Coast Freethought Association

(SCFA) is a nonprofit community of reason-based individuals organized to facilitate social interaction, promote the non-theistic, rationalist viewpoint as a valid contribution to public discourse, reinforce the First Amendment guarantee of separation between government and religion through education and activism, and work in coalition with like-minded organizations where joint action is needed to achieve these goals.

SCFA Board of Directors

Doug Cramer, president
Bob Long, vice-president
Cameo Johnson-Cramer, secretary
Steven Brown
Bill Hunter
Mike Sweeney

Bumper Stickers from
Freedom from Religion Foundation
ffrf.org - \$2.00 each



Want to keep informed of SCFA events & discussions? Join atheists.meetup.com/569/



Church-State Update

A Report on Church-State Legal Issues Affecting Brevard County Citizens

National

Evangelical Christian Nominated to head Director of the National Institutes of Health (7/8)

'President Obama on Wednesday nominated Dr. Francis S. Collins, a pioneering geneticist who led the government's successful effort to sequence the human genome, as head of the National Institutes of Health.' – New York Times 'Collins considers scientific discoveries an "opportunity to worship." ... During a debate with Richard Dawkins, Collins stated that God is the explanation of those features of the universe that science finds difficult to explain (such as the values of certain physical constants favoring life), and that God himself does not need an explanation since he is beyond the universe.' - Wikipedia

White House Faith Council Maps Out Faith-Based Plans (7/9)

'Melissa Rogers, an expert on religion and public affairs at Wake Forest University School of Divinity, said the task force charged with reforming the office will examine everything from executive orders to PowerPoint presentations to ensure church-state restrictions are clear when religious organizations partner with the government.' – Religion News Service

Secretary of the Army Nominee has troubling church-state record (7/29)

'Americans United says McHugh has a troubling record when it comes to separation of church and state. ... [I]n 2005, McHugh voted against a measure designed to ensure religious tolerance in the military by opposing coercive forms of proselytization by chaplains. ... As a member of the House, he cosponsored a bill to allow government-sponsored prayer in public schools and voted to allow government buildings and public schools to display the Ten Commandments. In addition, McHugh has voted to allow tax-exempt houses of worship to endorse political candidates and to support the practice of government-funded religious discrimination in social service programs.' – Americans United

National Con't

IRS halts inquiry into politicizing preacher (7/30)

'The Internal Revenue Service has halted its investigation into a Minnesota pastor who preached his politics from the pulpit in violation of his church's tax-exempt status ... Booth was one of six pastors throughout the U.S. who were subjects of complaints filed last September by Americans United. Americans United learned from news-media reports that the six were part of a national protest organized by the Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative legal group that opposes the rule. In its letter to Warroad Community Church, the IRS said it was dropping its investigation "because of a pending issue regarding the procedure used to initiate the inquiry." It held out the possibility that it could reopen the case "after it resolves that procedural issue.'" - firstamendmentcenter.org

House add "In God We Trust" to new Capital Visitor's Center; FFRF sues (7/18)

'Congress will spend nearly \$100,000 to engrave the words "In God We Trust" and the Pledge of Allegiance in prominent spots at the Capitol Visitor Center. [Rep. Dan] Lungren's proposal drew only a whimper of opposition last week when the House of Representatives voted 410-8 to approve it. The Wisconsin -based Freedom From Religion Foundation Inc. sued this week to stop the engraving, accusing Lungren of trying to force his religious beliefs on as many as 15 percent of all U.S. adults. "It really is a Judeo-Christian endorsement by our government, and so Lungren is wrong," said Dan Barker of Madison, Wis. , a co-president of the foundation. "Lungren and others are pro-religious, and they want to actually use the machinery of government to promote their particular private religious views. That is unconstitutional, and that's what we're asking the court to decide." The Senate has approved a similar plan introduced by Rep. Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina . The congressional directive orders the Capitol architect to make the changes in the design of the \$621 million center, which opened last December.' - McClatchy Newspapers

Sotomayor has mixed record on church-state issues

Americans United has taken a neutral stance (see printout).