



The Washington Flyer
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Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

Ronald Reagan

AACS HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF EFFORT: Update on AACS Schools Hit by Superstorm

The AACS relief effort for AACS schools that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy is now underway. It appears that our schools outside of New Jersey have escaped any direct damage, but several schools in New Jersey have been significantly affected. At least three Garden State Association of Christian Schools member schools suffered direct damage to either school buildings or homes of teachers and school families. According to one of the affected schools, five families lost their homes and almost all of their possessions in the wake of severe flooding. Churches and schools have been working hard to assist these families as they seek to rebuild their lives over the coming months. These families will need basic necessities such as clothing, food, and shelter as they repair and rebuild their homes. If your school would like to help by sending funds to help these Christian schools and their teachers and families, you may do so through the AACS office. An immediate response is needed if we are to offer any timely help. Thank you for your prayers for these people and your help with this relief effort.

Please note: All donations will be used entirely for Hurricane Sandy Relief, and disbursements will be made with approval of the AACS Executive Committee and coordinated through the Garden State Association of Christian Schools office. Donations should be sent to AACS, 602 Belvoir Avenue, East Ridge, TN 37412. Donations can also be made on the AACS website using the "Donate Online" option. Select "Missions" from the drop down list.

Supreme Court Upholds Religion Classes

Although an atheist group alleged that a South Carolina public school program was unconstitutional because it allowed students to attend private school religion classes for elective credits, the Supreme Court has [declined](#) to review favorable lower court rulings. In 2009, the Freedom From Religion Foundation along with several parents (whose children did not attend the classes) filed suit against the program which was started in 2007. Lower court judges found that the Spartanburg-based (District 7) program "properly accommodated religion without establishing it and acted within the First Amendment." The school district will be able to continue to offer the elective class to all students who wish to participate.

Washington State Allows Charter Schools

After being placed on the ballot four times since 1996, Washington State became the 42nd state to [allow](#) charter schools last Tuesday. The top state education official has indicated that he may bring a legal challenge to the establishment of charter schools. Initiative 1240 allows about 40 charter schools to be established over a 5 year period. Opponents cited a 10-to-1 funding disparity as the main factor in their defeat. A charter school initiative was adopted by Georgia citizens as well.

IRS Officials Refuse to Prosecute Churches

A spokesman for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) admitted that the agency has no power to revoke the tax exempt status of churches whose pastors engage in political speech from the pulpit. The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) coordinates the annual Pulpit Freedom Sunday [event](#) aimed at challenging IRS regulations concerning political speech from pulpits. Approximately 1,000 pastors participated in this year's event. Russell Renwicks, an IRS spokesman, admitted that while the agency has been "inundated with complaints" against churches, they have no plans to pursue legal action against them. ADF lawyer Erik Stanley asserts that the IRS lacks the authority to regulate churches' speech and questions the validity of many of the aforementioned complaints. Liberty Counsel president, Matthew Staver [opined](#), "I am beginning to see more and more pastors waking up and realizing that Biblical and moral issues are under attack and they have no choice but to speak, ... This isn't politics; it is Biblical and moral issues that have been politicized."

Montana Becomes 38th State to Pass Parental Notification Law

After Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer literally set a parental notification bill on fire, citizens overwhelmingly [overrode](#) his veto by a decisive 70% margin. The bill requires abortion providers to notify the parents of a minor girl (16 and under) of her intent to procure an abortion 48 hours prior to the procedure with several exceptions—including cases of incest, medical emergencies, or if consent is waived by a juvenile court, by a judge, or if it is waived by the parent or guardian. Physicians who perform abortions on minors will face criminal prosecution and civil liability. For a comprehensive overview of Montana's abortion laws, [click here](#).

Veterans Cross Restored in California

On Monday, a crowd of veterans gathered in the Mojave National Preserve to [return](#) a World War I memorial cross erected in the 1930s to its former location after a decade of litigation. The Mojave Desert Cross, previously located on federal land, was removed after the American Civil Liberties Union successfully convinced lower court judges that the cross implied "an unconstitutional endorsement of religion" by the government. After eleven years of litigation that ultimately was decided at the Supreme Court, Members of Congress offered a land transfer proposal which allowed a private group, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to purchase the land. Hiram Sasser, an attorney with the Texas-based Liberty Institute, stated, "Judges and lawyers may have played their roles, but it was the veterans who earned this memorial, and it is for them it rises once more." Currently, atheist groups are also challenging the constitutionality of two other California war memorial crosses.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[French Government to Cover Cost of All Abortions After Proposal Passes](#)

[Planned Parenthood's False Billing Under Fire](#)

[Another College Derecognizes Christian Student Group](#)

[Union Forgetting Its Purpose](#)