



SPOTLIGHT

House Speaker Mike Johnson Sets the Record Straight

By Dale M. Glading

Have you ever mentioned God in a secular setting or closed a public prayer with the words "In Jesus' name"? You may have gotten away with the former, but I can almost guarantee that someone in the audience complained about the latter.

"You can't say that" they whine before arrogantly - and quite incorrectly - insisting that the separation of church of state prohibits such a thing.

Enter House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), a former lawyer and professor, who is ready, willing, and able to set the record straight.

Addressing the 2026 National Catholic Prayer Breakfast recently, Johnson reflected on the role that the Christian faith has played in U.S. history ahead of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

"It is from the very birth of our nation that America has always been sustained by prayer and been reliant upon our foundation of religion and morality and it's in the DNA of our nation and who we are," Speaker Johnson said.

"I'm often criticized for invoking my faith," Johnson added.

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Spiritual Storm Clouds Are Gathering Overhead

By Dale M. Glading

Having lived in Florida for the past 15 years, I am quite accustomed to afternoon thunderstorms, especially during the summer months when the heat and humidity build throughout the day until they reach the breaking point.

BOOM!!!

As the saying goes amongst Floridians, if you don't like the weather, just wait 10 minutes, because these fast-moving storms build quickly and then leave just as rapidly.

Well, my friends, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but there are some spiritual storm clouds gathering on the horizon and I doubt they will dissipate anytime soon. On the contrary, I think they are about to down-pour on the American landscape for generations to come, creating floodwaters that threaten to undermine and eventually sweep away the Judeo-Christian principles upon which our country was founded - unless patriots act swiftly and decisively to prevent that from happening.

For instance, just across our northern border in the Commonwealth of Canada, the political weather is getting a bit threatening for evangelical Christians. The House of Commons recently voted to advance Bill C-9, otherwise known as the federal Combatting Hate Act. Sounds like a good idea on the surface, doesn't it? After all, everyone should be opposed to hate, right?

Some of the bill's provisions are actually well-intended, such as prohibiting

intimidation near places of worship and curbing the public display of certain hate symbols like swastikas. However, dig a little deeper and you find that Bill C-9 would not just outlaw traditional hate speech such as racism and antisemitism, but also certain biblical teachings.

Romans 1:24-32 is a perfect example. That passage, written by the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, clearly teaches that homosexuality is a sin. In fact, Paul uses words such as "uncleanness", "lust", "dishonor", "vile passions", "shameful", "unrighteousness", "sexual immorality", and "wickedness" to describe the practice of "women exchanging the natural use for what is against nature" and "men leaving the natural use of women and burning in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful".

You certainly can't accuse Paul of pulling any punches!

However, if Bill C-9 becomes law, anyone - a pastor, priest, professor or layman - caught teaching this text verbatim could be criminally charged and found guilty of hate speech. If convicted, the sentencing guidelines range from two years to life imprisonment.

Pretty blood-chilling, isn't it?

Lest we only pick on Les Canadiens, the city of Chicago sits just 300 miles south of Windsor, Ontario and is the hometown of the Chicago Bulls basketball team. Recently, the Bulls made headlines - not for their stellar play, because with an abysmal 31-51 record they finished in 12th place in the Eastern Conference - but be-

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cause they released shooting guard Jaden Ivey for comments he made on social media.

Now, Jaden Ivey isn't just a run-of-the-mill player. He was a consensus second team All-American during his two years at Purdue University and was drafted fifth overall in the first round by the Detroit Pistons in 2022. Ivey followed that up by being named to the NBA's All-Rookie Second Team in 2023.

Since then, Ivey has suffered a series of leg and knee injuries that have limited his playing time, both for the Pistons and the Bulls, to whom he was traded earlier this year. However, at age 24, he is still

young and has his whole career ahead of him.

Or so Ivey thought until he posted some comments and livestreamed a video on Instagram on Monday. Specifically, Ivey took issue with the NBA's full-throated endorsement of Pride Month in June and its promotion of LGBTQ+ events throughout the season, saying the league was celebrating "unrighteousness". He also referred to Catholicism as a "false religion".

My guess is that, despite Chicago being the home to an estimated 2 million Catholics and the birthplace of Pope Leo XIV, Ivey could have gotten away with a slap on the wrist for dissing Roman Catholicism. However, the LGBTQ+ community is the sacred cow of the NBA - as well as Hollywood and some other major sports leagues - and saying something that politically incorrect (but biblically accurate) was appar-

ently too much for the Bulls to swallow.

And so, the axe fell hard on Jared Ivey... the First Amendment be damned.

Folks, if you think Jared Ivey's situation is an isolated event or Bill C-9 will never work its way south of the St. Lawrence River, you had better get your head out of the sand and start looking around. Better yet, start standing up and speaking out before you live in a totalitarian regime where free speech isn't free at all; but rather closely monitored and censored by a centralized and autocratic government.

That is exactly what James Madison and the rest of our Founding Fathers feared... and why they insisted on including the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution. May we not fail them - or future generations - now.

The War Powers Act Is Full of Holes

By Dale M. Glading

The War Powers Resolution of 1973, more commonly referred to as The War Powers Act, is a federal law designed to check the President's power to commit armed forces to hostile action without congressional approval. The law contains three major provisions.

First, the President must consult with Congress "in every possible instance" before engaging in such hostilities. That provision usually entails the President meeting with congressional leaders to notify them of impending military actions.

Second, the President must report to Congress within 48 hours of deploying troops on foreign soil, waters, or airspace.

Third, troops must be withdrawn

within 60 days (with a potential 30-day extension) unless Congress declares war, passes a specific authorization, or is physically unable to meet. The War Powers Act also includes an "emergency exit" clause empowering Congress to direct the removal of troops at any time by passing a concurrent resolution, which is not subject to a presidential veto.

O.K., now that we all have a cursory understanding of the War Powers Act, its provisions and restrictions, allow me to weigh in on the legislation itself.

I don't like it.

You see, the War Powers Act was passed during the Vietnam War in response to President Nixon's secret bombing of Cambodia, something that his opponents thought was not only unwise, but also unconstitutional. Nixon vetoed the

measure, but Congress overrode his veto and the act became law.

The bone of contention between Nixon and Congress - and between every President and every Congress since our nation's founding - is this: who really calls the shots when it comes to military action that falls short of all-out war? Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution clearly grants Congress the power to raise and support armies, maintain a navy, declare war, and call forth the militia. However, under Article II, Section 2, as Commander in Chief, the President holds supreme command over the Army, Navy, and state militias when they are called into federal service.

Hmmm... there is certainly room for more than one interpretation and a whole lot of confusion.

Add one super-sized ego in the

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“That’s not some innovative thing. There are some very angry voices out there trying to convince us breathlessly that there must be a rigid separation between church and state. It’s a phrase that’s often repeated, as we know, but very rarely understood.”

Johnson then proceeded to educate his audience about the phrase’s origins.

“The term ‘separation of church and state’ first appeared in a personal letter that Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association rather than in the United States Constitution [or any of our other founding documents],” Johnson told his audience. “And in that letter, he explained that because ‘religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God,’ the First Amendment is a vital safeguard for our rights of conscience.”

“Jefferson wrote that he revered that act of the American people,

which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between church and state,” the Speaker added.

Johnson insisted that “Jefferson clearly did not mean that wall to keep religion from influencing our government and public life.”

(As an aside, when Jefferson was president, the largest church in the United States met in the U.S. Capitol building and Jefferson was a regular attendee. So much for not wanting organized religion to impact or influence matters of state.)

“To the contrary, the Founders wanted to protect the church and the religious practice of citizens from an encroaching state, not the other way around,” Johnson maintained, telling the audience that “our Founders understood that a free society and a healthy republic depend upon religious and moral virtue [to] help prevent the abuse of power [and] make it possible to preserve our essential freedom.”

“The Founders wanted a flourishing

of faith in the public square,” Johnson asserted, “because they knew that religion and moral virtues strengthen our nation by encouraging and inspiring things like individual responsibility, self-sacrifice, civility, family and community, the dignity of hard work, the rule of law and the sanctity of every human life. Without those virtues indispen- sably supported by religion and morality, no nation can endure.”

Johnson concluded his remarks by stressing the need to “rededicate ourselves to the cause of our Founders” and “turn toward prayer again, just as they did.” He described prayer as the force that “strengthens and fortifies this grand experiment in self-governance and liberty [and] repairs the foundations that ... undergird the republic.”

Way to tell it like it was - and still is - Mr. Speaker!

Editor’s Note: Large portions of this article were excerpted from *Speaker Mike Johnson: Separation of church and state is ‘misunderstood’* by Ryan Foley of The Christian Post, March 19, 2026.

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White House and 525 similar sized egos on Capitol Hill and you have the makings of a power struggle on steroids.

In this day and age, when some military and national defense decisions must be made in the blink of an eye, there is no doubt that the President must retain the authority

to act decisively and dare-I-say unilaterally, albeit with lots of advice and counsel. However - and here is where I have serious problems with the War Powers Act - the 60 to 90-day window in which he can exercise that power is way too long and ripe for abuse.

President Trump is fond of saying that a country without borders is not a country... and he’s 100% right. Well, a military action that drags on for more than a week or two - let alone two to three months

- isn’t a military action at all. It is a war; and only Congress can declare it.

I say that as a constitutional conservative first and a party loyalist second. Frankly, it’s time that people on both sides of the aisle started playing by the rules our Founding Fathers established 238 years ago.

Gerrymandering Is for Creeps and Cowards

By Dale M. Glading

In 2025, there were 14,700 reported injuries from fireworks in the United States, a 52% increase over 2023. Tragically, firework-related deaths were up 38% over the same period.

The moral of the story is simple: if you play with fire, you are bound to get burned.

And so, President Trump and the GOP must feel a bit burned after voters in Virginia narrowly approved a redistricting plan that almost guarantees four new Democrat seats in the U.S. House of Representatives after this year's midterm elections. The worst part is that they have no one to blame but themselves, because it was the Republicans - coerced by President Trump - who fired the first salvo in the Great Redistricting War of 2025.

The GOP won that early skirmish, picking up a potential five House seats in Texas, but the Democrats soon countered in California by adding five of their own. Now that the smoke has cleared in Utah (+1D), Ohio (+2R), Missouri (+1R), North Carolina (+1R), and Virginia (+4D), it appears that the Democrats will pick up a net one seat.

As William Shakespeare titled one of his comedies, it seems it was all Much Ado About Nothing.

Of course, the Free State of Florida is still considering holding a special legislative session to tackle redistricting. Gov. Ron DeSantis supports the concept, but House Speaker Daniel Perez opposes it.

Meanwhile, two states - one red

(Indiana) and one blue (Maryland) - shot down the idea.

Good for them.

You see, I think that mid-decade re-districting is really a fancy word for gerrymandering... and gerrymandering is not only an enemy of democracy, but a haven for cowards and corruption.

For the record, the word "gerrymandering" was named after Gov. Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, who also served as Vice President of the United States under James Madison. As Governor, Gerry signed a bill that carved out a partisan legislative district in Boston, the shape of which resembled a salamander. Today, the term gerrymandering is defined as "the political manipulation of electoral district boundaries to advantage a party, group, or socioeconomic class within the constituency".

There are two methods to gerrymandering. The first is called "cracking", which is the diluting of the voting power of the opposing party's supporters by spreading them over many different districts. The second is called "packing", which is concentrating the opposing party's voting power in one district to reduce its influence in other districts.

In other words, it's a legal version of cheating. Highly unethical, totally repulsive, and yet, practiced by cowards and corrupt career politicians in both parties.

Creating safe legislative districts does a severe disservice to "We, the people" for multiple reasons. First, it disenfranchises the minority party in that district by making their votes of little to no consequence. Second, it creates a safe haven for ca-

reer politicians and a breeding ground for corruption. Why work hard if your re-election is virtually guaranteed every two years? And why not help yourself to the public treasury if no one is going to hold you accountable?

Third, gerrymandering fosters extremism. In a safe Republican district, candidates will try to out-MAGA each other whereas in a safe Democratic district, the tendency is to keep running progressively to the left to fend off an even more liberal challenger. The result is an increasingly polarized Congress, where battle lines are drawn in blood and virtually nothing of consequence gets accomplished.

Simply put, gerrymandering is a tool for lazy, power-hungry, and short-sighted politicians... and I, for one, can't stand it.

Editor's Note: A circuit court judge in Tazewell County, Virginia has blocked certification of the redistricting referendum results, calling the measure and the underlying amendment process unconstitutional. Stay tuned...

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