

AMERICAN ATHEISTS, INC.

<http://www.atheists.org>

<http://www.americanatheist.org>

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NPR BROADCAST SLURS ATHEISTS, REMARK THEN MISSING FROM WEB SITE TRANSCRIPT -- GROUP CALLS FOR APOLOGY AND EXPLANATION

A May 25, 2006 program aired on National Public Radio referenced the old canard "There are no Atheists in foxholes" but the remark by reporter John Burnett, however, is absent from the transcript posted on the NPR web site.

An Atheist watchdog group is calling upon the network to retract the statement, and clarify why it does not appear on the internet.

The segment from "All Things Considered" was titled "The Trucker's War: On the Road in Iraq" and profiled the risks private contractors face transporting supplies to U.S. military bases in the war zone. It included narration by Mr. Burnett and brief sound-bytes by truckers working for KBR, a Halliburton subsidiary. Mr. Burnett commented, "To amend the old saying about foxholes, there are no atheists driving trucks in Iraq."

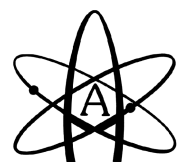
"With hundreds of truckers risking their lives to provision our troops in Iraq, how does Mr. Burnett know all of these drivers happen to be religious?" asked Ellen Johnson, President of American Atheists. "When it comes to the cliché about Atheists in foxholes -- or Atheists risking their lives in Iraq or anywhere else -- comments like that are insulting and simply have no basis in fact."

Johnson noted that on Veteran's Day, Atheists from across the nation converged on Washington, DC for a "Foxhole Atheists" event.

Dave Silverman, Communications Director for American Atheists, said that the NPR report was inappropriate, and that the network needs to apologize to Atheists who are serving or have served the country. "Imagine if someone said that there are no blacks or Jews or members of some other group in foxholes. Members of many different groups have proudly answered the call in times of crisis and served our nation's military or worked in life-threatening situations."

Silverman added that the NPR network also needs to explain why the insulting remark is absent from their web site. American Atheists is asking members and supporters to contact National Public Radio with their concerns. An Action Alert with links to the NPR web site and the audio version can be found through <http://www.atheists.org/action/alert-30-may-2006.html>

AMERICAN ATHEISTS is a nationwide movement that defends civil rights for Atheists; works for the total separation of church and state; and addresses issues of First Amendment public policy.



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