



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article January, 2020

Police serve as a function of a civilized society to maintain order and protect the rights of citizens. There are many jobs that without, society would collapse. Law enforcement is certainly considered one of those. Even law abiding citizens need to believe there is a penalty for not following the rules, or the temptation to bend one here or there can be quite overwhelming. If drivers thought there was no penalty for running red lights, then no one would sit at them, at least not any longer that it takes to ensure it is clear to go, and everyone crossing an intersection with a green would live in constant paranoia. But traffic law is not where it stops (no pun intended). Everyone gets mad some time. Mad at a boss, or a co-worker, or even a spouse or their own child. Occasionally, even knowing the consequences, some people are so mad they cannot contain their behavior and they take drastic actions against the source of their rage. Now, imagine if there was to be no consequences at all. How many more people who become angry from time to time, yourself included, might take that extra step?

We need laws, but laws by themselves are completely useless without good men and women to enforce them. Of course, in the interest of keeping police from their own corruption, we need lawyers, and judges, and courts to ensure that justice is properly served and that innocent people are not the victim of police corruption. There must be oversight. As much as people complain about the American way of life, our government, and our justice system, it really is remarkably well constructed, so long as we use it how it is intended to be used.

On December 11th, 1998, Deputy John Monego of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office was responding to a 911 hangup at the Outback Steakhouse. Before he arrived, another deputy entered the restaurant and was immediately taken hostage and disarmed by three armed robbers inside. Deputy Monego, unaware of the danger waiting for him inside, had just entered the front doors when he was gunned down by Ruben Eliceo Vasquez. Normally I'd say the perpetrators name is not important, but I will have a call to action for you when you reach the end of this article.

After Vasquez shot Deputy Monego, he walked over to him lying on the ground. He stood over the top of the lawman, a man no different than any of us. A man with a

family waiting at home. A man with a passion to protect others. A man trying to earn an hourly wage for his family. A man who wanted to go home at the end of his shift. Vasquez stood over him, and assassinated Deputy Monego with five more pointblank gunshots, before fleeing with his two partners and few bucks from the till.

They were all caught, charged, tried and convicted for murdering a police officer. The system worked. A person who acted irregardless of knowledge of consequences, was caught by police and charged with murder. Lawyers, judges, and juries of peers heard all the evidence to ensure police had the right people, and they were convicted and sentenced to prison for life without the possibility of parole. Now Ruben Eliceo Vasquez has applied for his sentence to be commuted by California governor, Gavin Newsom. Governor Newsom in fact has a track record during his first year in office of commuting violent offender sentences and subsequently releasing these offenders from prison. We cannot wait to see what the governor does. We have to be proactive, and you don't have to live in California to have a voice that matters.

Contact the Governor and explain to him the importance of our laws, and the enforcement of them, the importance of having a punishment for not following them, and the importance of knowing that the system will support and protect its peacekeepers. Without this, we may find ourselves with no peacekeepers at all and society will collapse. Our safety, our culture, our politics, and our family do not start and end at state lines. His decision here will impact every one of us and he needs to know it matters.

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