



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article July, 2020

July. The month we celebrate our independence from Great Britain. The time of year every American's heart is filled with pride. Hot dogs and beer by the lake, and fireworks by night is the American dream. This is what being an American is all about. Or, at least it was. Who really knows anymore? 2020 has been beyond confusing and frustrating for many Americans on every side of various political and social arguments. It seems as though many are determined to divide us, and yet far more are determined to bring us together. Who do we choose to listen to? Who do we allow to influence our daily thoughts? How important is all of this daily drama to our jobs and safety at work? No officer can avoid the constant bombardment of news, and any who chooses to believe they have no chance of being the next national headline is policing irresponsibly. We are under the finest microscope in our profession's history right now. Every decision you make, right down to resting with your hand on your gun, will be highly scrutinized, taken from context, and used against you. I don't say this to paralyze you. I say this to make you conscious about your actions and your words. Just like bullets from the end of your gun, anything you send out to the lens or microphone of a nearby smart phone cannot be taken back and is an immediate liability that you must be able to defend.

The absolute greatest concern with this kind of microscope, knee jerk police reform legislation, and prosecution of police officers seemingly defending themselves, is a hesitation to act when you are faced with your next life and death decision. The facts are still not highly public in the Oklahoma shooting several days ago, but what we do know is two officers were shot in the head by one assailant being arrested, without so much as returning a single round. I fear this is a direct result of hesitation based on the climate we are in today, and I am concerned there will be more.

This article is short because it carries the most important message we all need to hear today. Do not hesitate to act in matters of grave importance to you or to the life and safety of the public. At the end of the day, if you did the right thing for the right reasons, it is always better to be judged by 12 than carried by six.