



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article June, 2019

Last month America celebrated its law enforcement professionals. Whether we made the trip to Washington, DC, or we stayed at home and continued protecting the streets, every street cop, corrections officer, federal agent and brand inspector, made conscious in their minds, if only for a few moments, the thankless work we all do everyday, and selfless sacrifice some of us have had to make. Every bit of it makes America who she is today. You likely won't find your name in your grandkids history books, but your work and the sacrifice of law enforcement officers everywhere defines what our country is today. I hesitate to point this out, because I am afraid many of my readers are not pleased with what the country is today, but the truth is, when you peel back the thin surface layers of party bickering, we have something pretty special here.

We are an extremely young country. At 243 years old, we seem to have established ourselves around the globe as a leader and a force to be reckoned with. Other countries strive to replicate our success through their governments and happily reap the fruits of our ingenuity and free market. We are a country that leads the conversation while the rest of the globe listens. As such, we are subject to micro-criticisms, and intense Monday morning quarterbacking. We have had to learn that while our system is great for us, we cannot please everyone, even within our own borders. If we give aid to another country half the world says we overstepped. If we don't, the other half says we had the means and cold heartedly stood-by and did nothing. As a country, we have had to learn to be okay with that. We follow our morals and principals set forth in documents scribed nearly 250 years ago and we do our best to stand by them. That has become our only fully defensible position.

As cops in the United States, we have that same microscope that is focused so closely on what our country does, focused 10 times more on us. We have spent a great deal of time in the last twenty years concerned about what the fringe on either side thinks of us, and just as much time trying to please both while the rest of the nation suffers through diminished police services. 95% of the country regardless of race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation, is in our corner. They love and respect the police and believe we do a fine job with a nearly impossible task.

After spending the week in Washington, DC celebrating our profession, and embracing families that have suffered losses, I was reminded that we are doing a fine job. I met police of every aforementioned category, as well as grateful citizens. No one felt judged or out of place. During the entire week of being surrounded by police, race, gender equality, or any other political agenda was not mentioned once. Not once. It's been a long time since I can say I went a week without some discussion on those matters.

There is no need to listen to another debate, or learn anymore how to be tolerant of others not like yourself. If you needed a class for that, you should never have had a badge pinned to your chest. I am going to tell you exactly how we should be policing before this paragraph ends, and I am going to use the best role model I can think of to demonstrate it. The United States of America. Treat everyone with fairness and respect based on Judaeo Christian principles. Notice I did not say, "Be a Christian." or

"Make everyone in your jurisdiction submit to Christianity." I said, "Treat everyone with fairness and respect based on Judaeo Christian principles." No one can argue that the bible does not teach humans how to be nice to each other, and it is in fact, what our founding documents were based in. After treating everyone in that manner, follow the instructions of the documents that created your positions and authority beginning with the most recent policy and procedures, and moving through state constitutions and statutes, all the way to the bill of rights. This is your only fully defensible position.

You need to do both all the time. If we get better at the first part, we will begin to have an impact on the 5%, and if we continue to maintain the second part, we will never let down the 95%. Our country needs us. They gave us some time to reflect on our losses and pat each other on the back. An opportunity to re-energize ourselves. Now we need to step up our game for the next year by being vigilant about our safety practices to ensure we go home, conscious about how we are treating others who are either involved with us or just watching from across the street, and intelligent about what our responsibility is to our citizenry based on the documents laid out before us. Throw out the mindset that you are only impacting the life of the criminal you are arresting, and realize that you are saving police lives in years to come by slowly changing public opinion and turning this ship around. It all comes back to saving police lives. When the waters are tumultuous, lives will senselessly be lost. When we calm the waves, even just a little bit, we make a big difference.