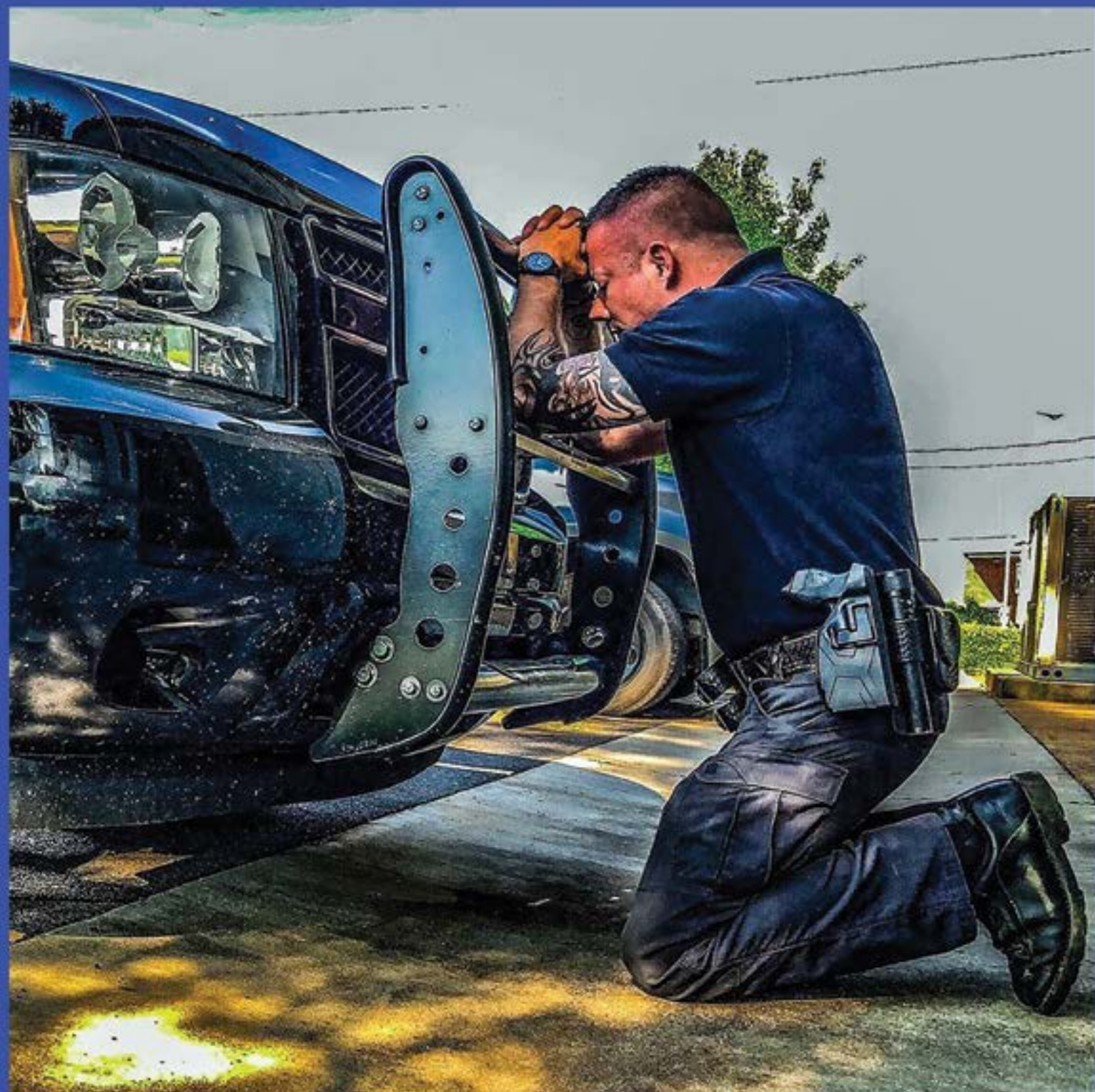


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THE POLICE MAGAZINE
BLUES

JUNE 2020 • VOL. 36 NO. 6



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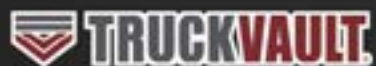
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The BLUES Police Magazine is published monthly by Kress-Barr, LLC, PO Box 2733, League City Texas 77574. The opinions expressed in some articles, op-eds, and editorials are those of the author and do not reflect the opinion of The BLUES or its parent company. Rebuttals or submission of news articles and editorials may be submitted to: The BLUES Police Magazine @ thebluespdmag@gmail.com. The entire contents of The BLUES™ are copyrighted© and may not be reprinted without the express permission of the publisher.

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CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT



THE POLICE MAGAZINE BLUES

JUNE 2020 • VOL. 36 NO. 6



On the Cover / Feature Story

Jason Hepler, Police Chief of Hollywood Alabama, caught in an iconic photo that describes the feelings of every LEO in the World. God Bless the Peacemakers.

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Let's Just Fast Forward to 2021

What a crappy year this has turned out to be. First COVID. Now the attacks on everyone wearing a badge. I'm afraid to think about what's next. Locusts? But on a serious note, before we get started on this month's issue, I'd like to thank everyone who has reached out to our staff over the past two months while the world was on lock-down. Creating an on-line publication from the confines of our homes wasn't the easiest thing to do, but it certainly wasn't the worst either. Unfortunately, our brothers and sisters in Blue working the front lines weren't so lucky. Our prayers continue to go out for each and every one of you, especially those who have lost family, both Blue and personal. We also ask that if you have the financial means during these trying times, please try and support all of our advertisers who have faced unsurmountable losses these past few weeks. The only way we all survive these trying times is our faith in God and each other. If there is anything The BLUES family can do for you or your family, please don't hesitate to write us. Finally, please come out June 28th to Big Texas in Spring to support HPD Pilot Chase Cormier and the Knox family. Chase has a long road of recovery ahead and needs the support of his Blue family. Please stay safe out there and may God Bless each and every one of you.

...

It's so ironic that every month around the 15th, Rex and I have discussions about the coming month's

issue. We hope and pray we don't have to cover another officer's death and unfortunately one did occur in Ft. Bend County. On Friday May 29th, Fort Bend County Deputy Constable Caleb Rule was killed in the line of duty as a result of a friendly fire incident while clearing a house in Sienna Plantation. Tragic for both, the families of the fallen officer as well as the officer involved in the shooting. Even more heartbreaking was the graduation ceremony at Needville High School later that night where Rule's daughter, Annie, graduated. Annie glanced to the heavens as she walked across the stage, while those in attendance along with her family gave her a standing ovation. Officers from both, the Ft. Bend County Sheriff's Office and the Ft. Bend County Constable Office, as well as officers from surrounding departments, lined the field to fill in for her dad.

Even more tragic that this occurred while the country is once again in turmoil over the death of a suspect in police custody. The Minneapolis Police stopped and detained George Floyd on reports that he was involved in passing counterfeit money. According to news reports, the officers told Floyd to step away from the vehicle and he physically resisted and was placed in handcuffs.

Video taken from various sources show Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin holding Floyd down with his knee, despite pleas from the subject that he could not breathe. The video is shocking. The acts of this officer are shocking. The non-action of the other officers on the scene are shocking. And the

resulting rioting, looting, and acts of arson are even more shocking.

If you are of the mindset that all cops are brothers in blue and we all stick together NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS and that we defend each other despite the fact that a suspect died as a result of the other's reckless actions, then you might want to skip this month's issue and just move along, because in no one's world would we condone or support the actions of Chauvin that resulted in Floyd losing his life.

Had there not been video of the incident, the majority of us would have said, "We weren't there. We don't have all the facts. We don't know what the suspect was doing the entire time. We don't know if he fought with the officers, tried to bite them, tried to escape, spit on them, coughed on them, or resisted arrest."

However, there is video and the video shows none of the above occurred. What is quite evident is that the suspect was laying on the ground, the officer(s) were not in eminent danger and the suspect informed the officer numerous times that he was having difficulty breathing. It is also clear that once the suspect passed out, or at least appeared to pass out, Officer Chauvin continued to hold the suspect to the ground with his knee and performed NO LIFE SAVING MEASURES on Mr. Floyd.

Now please don't construe what I'm about to say with "had there been no cameras present it's a different story." First of all, we are all taught that once the suspect has been detained and is no longer

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his thoughts !



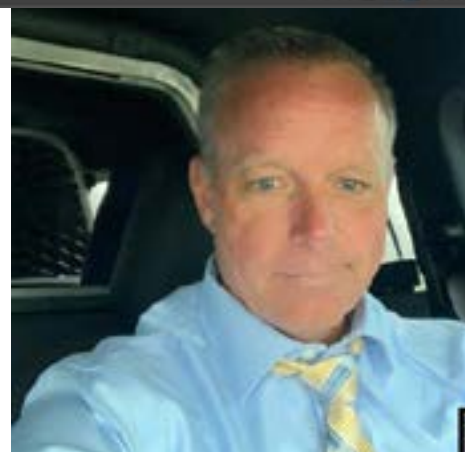
I'll preface this post with, if you don't like what I've said, please just simply "unfriend" me. I am writing only from my point of view, based on many years of experience from Night Shift Patrol, all the way up to the Chief's Office. I have been in multiple use of force incidents, up to deadly force incidents. I am not simply just talking about a subject which I have no knowledge of. That being said...

With regards to the now released videos of Mr. George Floyd's arrest in Minneapolis; I have seen the cell phone videos and security cameras (unedited) from multiple points of view. That being said, in fairness, I was not there. However, in every frame of film I have seen and reviewed, I cannot find where in any State Statute or Department Policy, the form of restraint seen is what's taught as an authorized means of restraint or force which I am familiar with. Couple that with this, when a suspect is actively resisting and or using force to resist arrest, an Officer is legally authorized to use whatever means of force necessary to bring said suspect into custody, and that's it. In other words, once the cuffs are on, the time for force has, under most circumstances, come to an end. (Barring of course, spitting, biting, kicking, etc.-to which only the force required to stop the resistance is authorized) Look, I've been a cop a long time. I've worked some of the hardest, toughest, and most challenging

communities southeast Texas has to offer, any Law Enforcement Officer. I worked my way up, one step at a time, all the way to the Chief's Office, where I spent just shy of ten years as a Chief of Police.

And in that time, yes, I was placed in situations whereby I had no other choice but to use force against another. Each time I did so, I only used the force authorized by Federal, State, and Local Law and Departmental Policy. At no time did I ever use force to effect an arrest upon anyone who was not actively and or violently resisting said arrest. Furthermore, every time the suspect stopped resisting, I stopped employing physical force.

I have been seriously injured several times in my career. I have been beat, cut, hit with a fleeing vehicle, and shot. In each of those circumstances, whatever force I used was in order to stop the aggression or resistance and effect whatever arrest I was attempting to make. OR...in the case of Deadly Force, that force was only used in the defense of my life or the lives of others who were in imminent danger. Every badge ever made started out with a blank slate. Much like the one you see here, affixed with this post. Whether it's a "Shield" or a "Star" it is a symbol of "Authority", true enough. But no matter whatever engraving may come later, it should be remembered and revered that, higher than its "authority" component, said badge may give a



person to enforce the law is the immeasurable component of "Trust".

The trust given to the man or woman wearing said badge cannot and must not ever be trivialized, ignored, undersold, or somehow whimsically dismissed. For the trust which is afforded with that badge, rises up to the level of Life and Death. That kind of trust must be defended and protected above all things. You see, the badge does not belong to whomever is wearing it. The badge itself and all it stands for belongs to the people whom grant the authority for that badge and the person wearing said badge.

Remember, no "Governing Authority" or "Law Enforcement Agency" exists without those whom such entities are there to serve in the first place. The badge I wear may have a number on it and it is issued to me, true enough. However, at no time does that badge belong to me as if I own it. For no one "owns" that badge or any other

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What's your take on George Floyd's death and the Protests

I wasn't going to comment, but I fear that my silence will cause more harm than good. I am a black police officer and for that I am disliked by many of my own race, but I will continue to serve and protect every race. I DO NOT, nor will I ever condone an officer misconduct in my presence or under any circumstances. I WILL SPEAK UP!

The public needs to hear from its Police, to speak out when injustice rears its ugly head. I've seen the cell phone video. I've seen the security footage leading up as well. This is the complete opposite of what we are taught to do. Cuff, roll them to the side, sit them up etc. If need be, place a knee between the shoulders to gain compliance. When someone says they can't breathe just because they are speaking does not mean they are breathing correctly. The body informs us of this. Later the heart fails. We can also drown hours after swimming from inhaling water the wrong way. People need to know their anatomy before speaking against someone saying they can't breathe.

I've been trained better, as not only a cop, but as a human, than to treat someone the way that George Floyd was treated, regardless of race or if someone is on drugs etc.

My fellow cops; the public needs to hear us say it. We won't hold our legitimacy if we don't speak up for what is right, even

if the price of saying it is high. We can't expect our community members to trust us when things are good, if we don't do the right thing when things are bad.

I refuse to be associated with someone capable of doing to someone what was done on that video.

Be kind to each other; mourning George Floyd and Supporting Good Law Enforcement do not have to be mutually exclusive. There doesn't need to be "sides" to this. We can fight injustice together. It is hate like this that makes it hard for us good ones, and unfortunately good ones get killed for the hate others give behind the badge. #AllLivesMatter This hatred isn't new.

Bobby Walker

Past few days I've been stunned trying make sense of George Floyd's death. The video. The plea for breath. The callous response. The racism. The killing. This is our ongoing disease.

I've had cops in my family. Good men. And there's a cop code, granting you the authority to use force if your life is in danger.

But when a man is handcuffed, on the ground, no longer a threat, with your brothers in arms standing around watching and he says "please I can't breathe" when your knee is on his neck.. not his back, but his

neck - cutting off his air.

Cop code must become moral code. Ethics code. HUMANITY code. Knowing that if you don't ease up, then that man is going to die. So when you decide to not ease up, your intention is to kill. And that's what this was.

George Floyd, said "officer I can't breathe" as he struggled for air. He said these words a total of 15 times. Not once. Not twice. 15 times. These officers will be charged, I'm positive of that. Held accountable. But then where's the greater accountability?

The leadership to healing. More importantly, the leadership to EQUALITY. We ultimately win when we can normalize equality. I'm so sorry to the Floyd family. My heart breaks for you. Let the process begin now.

Dwayne The Rock Johnson

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, I, Joseph Shriver, do solemnly swear, that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of the Harris County Sheriff's Office and of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State, so help me God. I do not know one Police Officer that condones what tragically happened to George Floyd. May God rest his soul and be with his Family and Friends. May Justice be served to the Police Officers involved. I will

proudly continue to put the Harris County Sheriff's Office uniform on and come to work. I will continue to proudly serve the Citizens of Harris County Texas. I ask and pray Citizens all over the World to come together in peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and Savior. Pray that these violent protests and destruction of property will stop. Only God and Godly people can stop this, so let's pray and come together in peace. God is ALWAYS Great, and the Truth and Justice will prevail

Joseph Shriver

Did you guys see the rest of the video where he was let up 8 times because he "couldn't breathe" and started fighting again? No? Neither did I, and neither did you.

Did you see the autopsy report where he died from a heart attack induced by drug use, and there was NO damage to his neck PROVING that the officer just had him pinned and was NOT applying pressure, and proving that he died because of HIS lifestyle and choices and nothing more? Neither did I, and neither did you.

Have you seen the bio of this officer and discovered that he volunteered ALL of his free time at the underprivileged youth ministry and was the leader in better community policing respected by all for his softer approach to arrest procedures? Neither did I, and neither did you.

If you wear a badge and have judged this man based on what the media has posted and what the media has deleted knowing what the media has done to us as a profession already, you do

NOT deserve the title you represent.

Some may have facts I do not possess, outside of what the media has posted and what the media has withheld. I'm not talking to you.

I'm talking to the blue falcons who have judged and posted about this man based solely on the media reports knowing full damn well that they lie, and have lied, and have edited to make stories from non-stories.

You will one day succumb to the media and the court of public opinion and NOT facts. It is now your destiny. And you deserve it.

James Drury

I am a police officer. I take the upmost pride in my job. If I can teach you vs taking you to jail, I will. If I can help you pay for something vs you stealing it, I will. I will not tolerate the destruction of a reputation that us good cops spent years to build. This incident that occurred in Minneapolis does not define the brave men and women that do this job with dignity. Whether you want to believe it or not, the majority of Police Officers believe in justice. We are not disagreeing with you. We are only disagreeing with being lumped into a situation that we disagree with just as much as you do. I'd be damned if we didn't walk this course with you, in unison.

Love, compassion and a firm belief in unity is what is required to push us all forward.

Deantwan Charles Gray

Message from Chief of Police League City - Gary Ratliff

The death of George Floyd while in the custody of officers with the Minneapolis Police Department is a tragic event that has shaken every community in the U.S., including League City. These officers had an obligation to the city of Minneapolis, along with an obligation to maintain the safety of George Floyd. These officers failed George Floyd and his family and must be held accountable. When I viewed the video, I experienced a full range of emotions that began with anger and ended with sadness. The sadness and sympathy I have for the Floyd family is coupled with my sadness for where we are as a country. When an event like this happens involving law enforcement officers, it causes every police agency to be questioned. This is a valid response, as every community should have confidence in the officers that serve them.

Within the last several days, several citizens of League City have sent emails with concerns inquiring as to how we address these issues within our department. I want to assure our citizens—the League City Police Department is stringent and selective in the hiring processes of our officer applicants. Once they are hired, our department spends a great deal of time and resources training our officers in the proper and appropriate use of force. Our officers attend a mandatory forty-hour training course every two years covering the use of force, conflict resolution, scene management techniques, as well as other varied topics. We collect metrics on all

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your thoughts !!!



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“use of force” incidents involving our officers, and a review board meets quarterly to examine and scrutinize these incidents. Our officers are well trained in the causes of positional asphyxiation and the methods used to mitigate it.

The League City Police Department is recognized by the Texas Police Chiefs Association for adopting policies derived from the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Recognition program. This program is a voluntary process allowing Texas police agencies the opportunity to show compliance with “168 Best Practices”. Fulfilling these requirements reduces risk and liability, assists agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of services, and protects the rights of individuals.

The League City Police Department is dedicated to protecting life, property, and individual liberties while enhancing the quality of life. To achieve these ends, we are committed to forming and promoting practical partnerships with each other and those we serve.

We have seen communities looted and destroyed over the past week, along with assaults occurring against citizens and law enforcement officers. I stand with Terrence Floyd and the Floyd family when they courageously called for these activities to stop. These willful acts of assault and destruction of property do not honor George Floyd or the

Floyd family. The League City Police Department will always stand in support of those who peaceably assemble; however, lawless behavior will never be tolerated.

Over 35 years ago, I took an oath as a police officer, and I have proudly upheld my vow. What the few have done to dishonor the badge and our service to the communities we serve is a tragedy. The rest of us wearing the badge will always be here to serve and protect our fellow citizens. Please pray for all directly impacted by this tragedy and for us to unite as one. League City is a great community, and we will continue to proudly serve each one of you.

Chief Gary Ratliff

You hate me because I wear a badge. Let me tell you about the badge and the thousands of men and women it represents.

This badge ran towards certain death as the Towers collapsed on 9-11.

This badge ran into the line of fire to save the people in the Pulse Night Club.

This badge sheltered thousands as bullets rained down from the Mandalay Hotel in Las Vegas.

This badge protected a BLM rally that left five officers dead in Dallas.

This badge ran into the Sandy Hook School to stop a school shooter.

This badge killed the Oregon District mass shooter in seconds.

This badge has done CPR on your drowned child.

This badge has fist fought the wife beater who left his spouse in a coma.

This badge has run into burning buildings to save the occupants.

This badge has been shot for simply existing.

This badge has waded through flood waters to rescue the elderly trapped on the roof.

This badge has intentionally crashed into the wrong way driver to protect innocent motorists.

This badge has helped find the lost child so his mother would stop crying hysterically.

This badge has helped the injured dog off the road and rushed it to the vet.

This badge has escorted the elderly woman across the street because she couldn't see well and was afraid to cross.

This badge has bought food for hungry kids because they had been abandoned.

This badge has been soaked in blood and tears.

This badge has been covered by a mourning band to honor those who have sacrificed everything in service.

You may hate me because I wear it. But, I wear it with pride. Despite your hate and your anger, I will await the next call for help. And, I will come running without hesitation. Just like the thousands of men and women across this great nation.

NO Name Given

REX EVANS, EDITOR n CHIEF

his thoughts !



Continued from Page 10

badge. It is a symbol of ultimate trust. A bond which, if you will, demands said trust is never to be broken or violated between its wearer and those whom we serve.

When that trust is broken, just as it initially appears to have been in this case, many people suffer the consequences: the person directly afflicted obviously and his or her family, the Department, the Community, the State, and our entire Nation, in fact. We all pay dearly for any violation of trust, no matter whom we may be or our station in life.

To further infuse more insult and injury to Mr. Floyd's life and its loss, was his dealings with law enforcement here in Houston. His case(s) being a part of those which were filed by a now former officer, whose cases are under a comprehensive review and multiple dismissals due to fictitious and erroneous information

being applied to said cases by said former officer. Such indignation is reportedly what pushed Mr. Floyd to move to Minneapolis in the first place.

I'm going to wrap it up with this, every Law Enforcement Officer in this Country starts out by Graduating from an Academy with a “Blank Slate”. From Day 1, their career, life, and reputation are all reflective of how they (in their conduct and behavior) fill in those blanks, much like the blank badge, prior to its engraving process, bringing to life the Agency Name, Community, State and maybe a specific badge number. At no time does any officer's actions reflect solely upon himself or herself. For just like the badge they are wearing, they are a reflection of the entire department and community whom they are sworn to serve. This my friends, transcends into an immeasurable trust which we must all recognize. We have a solemn duty to protect and defend.

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MICHAEL BARRON, PUBLISHER

my thoughts !!

Michael Barron

Continued from Page 8

a threat and no longer attempting to resist or escape, you suspend all means of subduing the suspect. But the fact the officer clearly saw someone filming him (he appeared to look straight at the camera) and yet continued to keep Floyd pinned to the ground, shows that he obviously didn't give a damn.

Having been in dozens of fights myself, sometimes all alone, the mindset is subduing the other guy by any means necessary or risk serious injury or death to yourself. Me, I'm going home to my family after shift and nothing, I repeat nothing is going to change that mentality.

But in MY opinion, Chauvin had no reason to keep Floyd pinned to the ground and could have simply put him the patrol car that was parked less than a foot away. Within days, Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder, but not before the entire country erupted in protests that in some cases turned violent and into full scale riots.

Make no mistake, everyone has the right to free speech and to have their concerns heard. If you want to protest, do it peacefully and the cops will walk along with you. But when you start throwing bottles at the cops, burn their cars, vandalize businesses and loot Target stores, you are THUGS and you are disrespecting the memory of George Floyd.

What I think is BULLSHIT, is the people that come out of the woodwork every time someone dies at the hands of police. I'm not talking about the concerned citizens holding peaceful protests. The public has a right to protest and show their anger, but they don't have the right to burn down everything

in sight. If you're involved in the violence, you are a thug, and you are no better than the guy you are protesting against. Do you think by burning down your neighbor's business that somehow the DA or a Grand Jury is going to indict these officers any quicker? NO!

Over and over again, before the facts are even known, rioting breaks out, stores are looted and burnt, and truly innocent people are hurt. Once the truth is learned, no one cares who rebuilds the cleaners, the liquor store, the corner market or the appliance store owned by 3 generations of hard-working people? NO ONE. It's all BULLSHIT. I can't say that enough.

And don't make this out to a race thing. I don't give a crap what color you are. You are a criminal if you terrorize a community, steal TVs from a Target store and then burn down a police station.

And here's the real kicker. After this is over and the community is back to its "normal self" and Jo Blow's girlfriend calls the PO-LICE because he just beat the crap out of her for bedding down with his bro. The same PO-LICE they were protesting about. The same PO-LICE from the same PO-LICE station they burnt down. Now they want the PO-LICE's help. You just want to say F-YOU. Solve your own damn problems.

But we're the POLICE and we always show up, because it's only a small fraction of the population that act like fools every time something like this happens. In fact, I'd be willing to bet that 80% of the looters aren't even from the cities they are destroying. I say find every damn one of them and lock them up with Officer's Chauvin, Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and J Alexander Kueng.

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‘An absolute tragedy’ | Fort Bend Precinct 4 deputy mistakenly shot by FBCSO deputy during burglary call

Deputy Caleb Rule was shot after he and other deputies were attempting to clear a house after responding to a call.

FORT BEND COUNTY, Texas — The Fort Bend County community is mourning a well-liked deputy constable who was mistakenly shot by a sheriff’s deputy in the Sienna Plantation subdivision overnight.

Precinct 4 Deputy, Caleb Rule, 37, is being remembered as a mentor, a great boss, and a family man.

“He was extremely dedicated to the job,” said Precinct 4 Constable Trevor Nehls. “He was a devoted husband, a devoted father, and he spoke often of his family and his love for his family.”

Deputy Rule leaves a wife and four children, ages 13 to 18. His oldest daughter graduated from high school Friday night -- not even 24 hours after her father died.

“We are heartbroken over this,” FBCSO Sheriff Troy Nehls said. “This is an absolute tragedy.”

Rule and three deputies from

the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office responded to a suspicious person call around 1:45 a.m.

A resident called saying she saw someone running down the street who looked suspicious.

The FBCSO deputies entered the home in the 3900 block of Chestnut Bend

through an open back door, the sheriff said. The sheriff’s deputy mistook the deputy constable for a prowler and opened fire, hitting Rule in the chest. His bulletproof vest wasn’t enough to protect him. Deputy Rule was flown by Life Flight to Memorial Hermann Hospital, but he didn’t survive.

Constable Nehls said the two agencies share a radio system and it’s not uncommon to answer calls together. It’s not clear what went wrong.

Nehls said Rule, who was



assigned to the River Stone subdivision, had an outgoing personality and loved engaging with the community.

“He had a love for the community he served,” Nehls said.

Rule was a veteran law enforcement officer in Fort Bend County. He had been with the Fort Bend County Precinct 4 Constable’s Office for nine months and served previously for 14 years with the Missouri City Police Department.

Both agencies came to be by Rule’s daughter’s side, standing for her and her slain father.

E.O.W. 05/29/2020





NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Cops worry if virus kills them, families won't get death benefits

Members of the state's largest police union are asking Gov. Greg Abbot to ensure officers who die of coronavirus complications will be eligible for line of duty death benefits

Tony Plohetski
Austin-American Statesman
AUSTIN, Texas — Bexar County

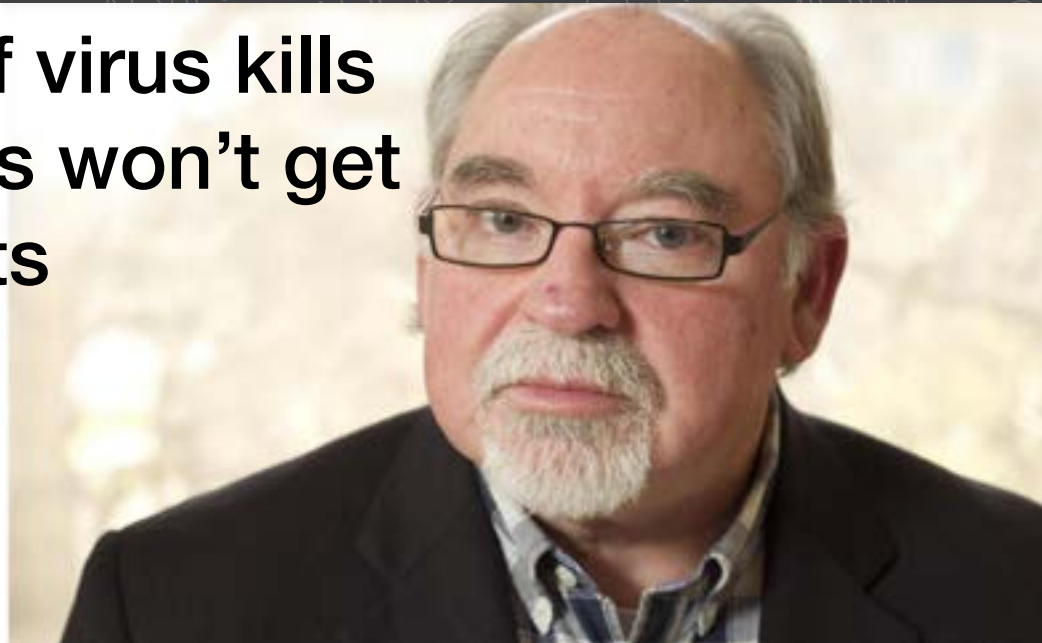
Sheriff Javier Salazar will always remember the cheerful deputy who went out of his way to greet him.

Timothy De La Fuente had been a sheriff's employee for 27 years, working most recently at the county jail, the site of a COVID-19 outbreak in April.

"If I would walk through, he would stop what he would be doing and run over to me and shake my hand," Salazar said. "Just a great guy."

On April 30, De La Fuente became what is thought to be one of the first law enforcement officers to die of the virus in Texas. Given his long hours and the dozens of inmates diagnosed with the virus, Salazar and other supervisors are certain De La Fuente contracted COVID-19 on the job.

Now they have joined the state's largest police union and others in a concern that Gov. Greg Abbott hasn't done enough to ensure that De La Fuente's family will receive
20 The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE



Charly Wilkison, executive director of CLEAT, said his group has received dozens of letters asking lawmakers to write or sign letters pressing the governor to do more to ensure officers who die from COVID-19 get line of duty death benefits

\$500,000 in line-of-duty death benefits for fallen officers.

"All first responders — they can't stay home," said Charley Wilkison, executive director of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas. "They can't shelter in place. They have to go out."

Wilkison said based on information he has received, nine Texas law enforcement officers have died in the pandemic. De La Fuente was the only CLEAT member.

John Wittman, an Abbott spokesman, said, "A police officer who contracts COVID-19 on the job would be eligible for \$500,000 in death benefits."

But CLEAT and other law enforcement officials say they have been asking since the outbreak for Abbott to sign an order that would make clearer that if an officer becomes ill with the virus, it is "presumed" he or she got it at work unless other information exists, such as international travel.

The organization has gotten dozens of lawmakers to write or sign letters pressing the governor to do so.

"I pray that no first responder will die in Texas due to COVID-19, but if they do, they should receive full honors and benefits, as any other line of duty death," Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., D-Brownsville, wrote to Abbott on April 23.

"An executive order will bring swift clarification and provide our first responders with much-needed protection in the event they are diagnosed with COVID-19," Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, also wrote April 23. "It is critical that we ensure our first responders are covered in regard to line of duty deaths."

Wilkison said CLEAT will take the issue to lawmakers in the spring legislative session if necessary.

Last year, the organization persuaded lawmakers to pass a law that extends line of duty benefits to officers who suffer heart attacks.

In the past, if an officer died on

duty while performing a law enforcement function such as a foot pursuit, many departments deemed it a work-related death. Under the new law, however, it is presumed that the heart attack was connected to an officer's job, allowing the family to qualify for line of duty death benefits.

When the pandemic reached Texas in March, Abbott's office issued a statement saying that he had "waived certain statutory provisions to ensure public safety employees who contract COVID-19 during the course of their employment will be reimbursed for reasonable medical expenses related to their treatment of COVID-19."

"These brave men and women are on the front lines and risking potential exposure to keep our communities safe," Abbott said.

Since then, CLEAT and others have stressed to Abbott that they believe his order fell short.

"We aren't quite sure the governor has gone far enough, but we will certainly fight this fight when and if it comes," said Kevin Lawrence, executive director of the Texas



Timothy De La Fuente passed away April 30, 2020 and was possible the first law enforcement officer in the U.S. to die from COVID-19

Municipal Police Association, which represents 29,000 first responders.

Wilkison said he doesn't know why Abbott has appeared resistant but wonders if he is concerned about increasing financial liability to the state.

The issue is of particular concern because early in the pandemic,

many law enforcement officers did not have access to adequate personal protective equipment, Wilkison said. Others were told by supervisors not to wear it because "it would scare people."

"If you are not going to be prepared for the pandemic — and you weren't — and if you are not going to have proper equipment to protect your first responders — and you didn't — then let's at least be presumptive," Wilkison said.

He said his organization would not be so insistent had it not wrestled with the state over death benefit payments in years past.

"Words and guarantees and promises are one thing, but the marriage license matters. And so, in this case, we want it on a piece of paper, Governor," Wilkison said.

Salazar said he considers De La Fuente's death a loss in the line of duty and hopes the state will quickly process benefits to his family without resistance.

"I'm going to assume, and I'm going to continue to assume, that he contracted this virus at work," he said.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Troopers sue DPS over quotas, retaliation

By JOSH EDWARDS
josh.edwards@dailysentinel.com

Four state troopers from Nacogdoches are suing the Texas Department of Public Safety, saying they are being retaliated against for reporting an illegal quota system for traffic stops and arrests implemented by a sergeant.



The suit was filed Tuesday in federal court in Lufkin by attorneys Tanner Franklin and Sean Hightower on behalf of troopers Rodney Mahan, John H. Henley III, Joel Barton Jr. and John Riggins.

In the federal complaint, the four troopers say DPS Sgt. Robert Shugart "offered monetary and other prizes to the troopers that had the most arrests and traffic stops in a period." Those who failed to meet the quotas were "subjected to ridicule and harassment," the suit says.

State law prohibits law enforcement officers from using a quota system in writing traffic citations or making arrests. The four troopers who filed the suit say they refused to participate

in the quota program and were retaliated against after reporting it to higher-ups.

"Among other acts of retaliation, the troopers were transferred to other duty stations away from their families, denied promotion opportunities, violently berated in front of others, denied vacation and forced to work dangerously long hours, all in violation of the policy," according to the suit.

A civil complaint only tells one side of a legal argument. DPS officials have 21 days to file a formal response. Shugart could not be reached for comment.

Shugart is accused of imple-

menting the quota system in 2017 when he arrived in Nacogdoches and running a similar program while stationed in Center. In April 2019, Shelby County District Attorney Stephen Shires asked the Texas Attorney General to investigate Shugart. An internal investigation was completed May 6 by DPS officials and found that Shugart "displayed a pattern of hostile, discourteous and unprofessional behavior" and violated department rules and regulations.

Shugart was suspended without pay for three days and permitted to remain in the local DPS office.

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AFTERMATH

WORDS BY KRISTI SCOTT

My husband was the greatest man I have ever known

Ten years ago, today, events would happen that would set our lives into uncharted territory changing the trajectory of our journey forever. Little did we know the ending would be so entirely tragic. I'm not a therapist, but I've lived a lot of life in my 42 years and I've learned the hard way that depression is PTSD's ugly stepsister. While the events on May 22, 2010 did not directly kill my husband the events that occurred that day spawned something irreversible in him.

He fought it hard, with diligence and persistence for nearly 9 years. We all thought he was winning the battle over his demons. I know there have been many assumptions as to why he chose to end his life. These assumptions have been largely false and perhaps this "anniversary" day is the opportune time to share my feelings regarding the permanent solution he chose. I wholeheartedly believe that if he could take it back, he would, at least the hope of that thought helps me make it through.

His battle with depression began in the weeks after he was shot in

2010 and escalated vastly in the fall of 2018. While the support that flowed from his fellow blue community and civilian community was immensely incredible, Scottie would always say that being shot was the easy part, the hard part was going back to work and the hurdles he was forced to jump to do so. He was a man of deep-rooted integrity; the likes of which are rarely matched. After being shot his surgeon said it would take 18 months for Scottie to be able to go back to work. That did not sit well with him and he fought through several surgeries and intense physical therapy.



He was back at work in 3 months and 1 week.

Going back was hard on all of us. Our girls, then 10 and 4, barricaded the door his first day back, they didn't want him to leave. The call to duty was just too strong for him and through the tears

and pleads he eventually left to return to his calling. He had received the green light to return to duty, or so he thought. He quickly realized that he was not going to receive the welcome back that he so entirely deserved. To say he was put through the wringer by the administration is an understatement. For those who don't know, there were no officer involved shooting procedures in place at the time. Everyone was just winging it. He was asked to ride with a FTO for a week which he actually enjoyed because he got to ride with his best friend, even though a part of him felt like his integrity and capabilities as a Police Officer were being scrutinized. There were two Captains at the time, one newly promoted in the interim between when he was shot and when he returned. He received conflicting information from the two which caused a great amount of discord. He was required to see a psychologist to "make sure he didn't go on a shooting spree." This man who literally worked his ass off to come back to work 15 months early and was Top



to put 50 rounds down range with his off hand, the same hand that was injured. He was not allowed to use his right hand for support, and was required to rack, and reload using only his injured, non-dominant hand. The icing on the cake was when he was finally released to go back to duty. He was given the keys to the vehicle that he was shot in. When he got inside the odor hit him. There were still glass fragments gleaming in the floorboard and blood smeared on the steering wheel and console. He popped the trunk to

put his equipment in the back and the smell of blood hit him like a sucker punch to the face. There was a large box inside the trunk that had apparently spent the Texas summer baking. Inside the box was a treasure trove of blood stained equipment, clipboards, and ticket books. These are just the major

things that began his depression.

The way Scottie was treated by his superiors afterwards tainted his view of police administrators permanently. A chunk of faith he had invested in those called to lead the charge is such a daunting career would forever be lost. He hung on as long as he could to

the faith he did have left in his supervisors. However it seemed the damage had already been done, and he moved to a different department.

The new department seemed to be an incredible blessing for our family and for Scottie's faith in administration. He had better working hours, every other weekend off and he seemed to really be

appreciated for the outstanding Police Officer that he was. The first sign of bad news out of anyone was from his direct Sergeant. She repeatedly made sexual advances toward him and as a man of the utmost moral fortitude, he was very uncomfortable with this. He did his best to ignore them and avoid this for as long as he could. He quickly promoted to rank of Sergeant and was highly revered at his agency and in the community. Scottie was the director of the Citizens Police Academy,

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

AFTERMATH

Continued from Previous Page

he helped implement and run the Rookie Responders program, he volunteered for pretty much any event they were having. He was a firearms instructor, ALERRT instructor, and fitness instructor. As far as an employee, he was the cream of the crop. He took his job seriously because he knew how serious the job is.

He continued to be sexually harassed and he continued to ignore it, however when comments were to me in front of our children, the harassment could no longer be tolerated. It was brought to the attention of the superiors and after they denied our request to take a formal complaint he was told specifically to "change his opinion" of the matter. This event happened right after the hurricane. He felt let down by his superiors once again and started to seriously evaluate the character of those he worked for and with. Scottie continued to work and be the best leader he could be to those under his direct supervision. He was asked to investigate the Captain by the Chief at one point. Which seemingly caused animosity on the behalf of the Captain. Sadly, since he knew the majority of the administrators had a less than reputable background, he felt as though he was in a position of comply and tolerate their behavior, or else. Boy was he right.

In July of 2018, Scottie got into a disagreement with his Captain. This disagreement was over physical fitness of the department's officers. Several of the officers expressed that they were "grand-

fathered" in and the physical standards did not apply to them. The physical standard at the time was a 2000-meter row. Scottie, a certified rowing instructor, felt as though the row should be completed in the garage gym at the PD with a fan, so that officers are testing and training in the environment conducive to their working conditions. His superiors disagreed and felt as though the proper environment for such testing would be inside the PD in the air conditioning. Although his rebuttal in regard to the absurdity of this were sarcastic, they are accurate. Citizens expect officers to be able to do their job of serving and protecting regardless of weather conditions, and rightfully so. He was put on administrative leave for 10 days with no word as to what was in store. At the end of ten days, he was asked to resign in lieu of termination for insubordination. He was called into their office at 7:30 pm because they were banking on his attorney not being able to make it at such a late hour. To add insult to injury, they gave him a general release instead of honorable. For anyone who knew Scottie he was the most honorable man that most of us will ever have the privilege of knowing. His career was stellar; Purple Heart, Silver Star, Medal of Valor, and Officer of the year award are just some of his commendations. He chose to do the right thing, every time there was a choice. Now, because of the injured egos of a few Administrators, he was left unemployed, unable to provide for his family, and unable to get a job

for 4 months. The depression that followed was too much for him to bear. Even though he eventually found a job in Law Enforcement, he was required to essentially start his career all over again. He went from being the first thought the door on most days to dreading the very thought of strapping on that uniform. I wish I would have known just how wholly devastated he truly was.

My husband was the greatest man I have ever known. I surmise that most anyone who knew him would agree with that sentiment. I hope our tragedy serves a purpose. My prayer is that administrators begin to treat their subordinates with dignity and honor. Sadly, my view on the integrity of those in positions of power in the LE world is terribly and irreversibly tainted. To the men and women in blue, always keep in mind that you have to watch your own 6, and not just from the criminals but from others in your profession as well. My family and our friends' lives will never be whole again. His tragic ending was a direct reflection of the events above. When you crush an honorable man's integrity and demolish his character, what does he have left? You know who you are, I do not have to post your names. Also know, that I forgive you because that is what Scottie would do. May God bless all of those who were involved on May 22, 2010. Thank you for your service and for saving his life so could be fortunate enough to spend 9 more years with him.



Alan Helfman

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WAR STORIES

FACTS LEFT OUT OF THE REPORT

WORDS BY MICHAEL BARRON

I was only a block away when the call dropped. "Fight in progress, man fighting with young female at the Bridgestone Apartments, Apartment 203, possible weapon involved." As soon as I turned into the complex, I saw a crowd of people gathered in the parking lot in a circle. Well I guess the fight had moved downstairs. See this wasn't my first time at Apt 203. In fact, I knew both tenants very well. Angelia and Marcus Smith. Common-law man and wife, boyfriend/girlfriend, fightee and fighter. As I called out, I thought here we go again. Same ole bullshit.

As I walked up, the crowd backed up and there on the ground in a pool of blood was Angelia. Her head flattened against the concrete sidewalk, her leg twisted and obviously broken. I felt for a pulse and nothing. All the times I'd been there, all the drama, all for nothing.

I called for a supervisor, detectives, ambulance, Crime Scene Unit and notify the ME. It's going to a long night.

I first met this lovely couple about two years ago. They had moved to Spring from Gulf Port, Mississippi. I really don't remember why, but they were both Meth

heads and nothing they ever said really made any sense. Marcus worked construction and Angelia did a little bit of everything. When they needed a fix between pay-days, Marcus would send Angelia out to do tricks so they could score some crystal. Then he would beat the crap out of her when he got wasted for whoring around. Dude, you sent her out to get money to score your dope. Now you're beating her for doing exactly what you asked her to do. WTF.

Now mind you all this took place in the early 80's and Domestic Violence laws weren't a thing yet. The wife/girlfriend had to appear as the complainant not the State. And every single time I took ole Marcus to jail and filed on him, Angelia would drop the charges.

"But I really love him, and he loves me. He says he's sorry and that he didn't mean to hit me." Over and over again I'd show up, file a report and file charges. She'd either drop the charges or refuse to go to court. And the ADA would yell and scream at me every time. Once, she even asked if she could ride to the jail with us so she could bail him out.

"Sure Angelia, get in the back seat with him. I have to handcuff you, it's policy" Now I'm gonna book your stupid ass for PI and

whatever the else I can think of, to put your ass in jail with him.

Didn't matter, they were both out the next day and within hours fighting again. They moved to a dozen different apartment complexes over the past twenty-four months, as apartment managers grew tired of the police kicking in doors to stop the fights.

On two different occasions, I actually helped her move out. I rented her a van, helped her move what little stuff she had while Marcus was at work. I enrolled her in a drug rehab and signed her up to get help from the women's shelter. The first time she stayed away a couple of months. Then "she missed her man" and low and behold one Friday night I'm back at yet another apartment complex and he's beaten the crap out of her...again. He goes to jail, she cries, yada yada.

The second moveout was different, or so I thought. I checked her into a new Drug Treatment Center that had opened in downtown, and it was locked down tight. Check-in and you don't get out until you're clean and ready to move on with your life. Angelia stayed inside for six months and according to her counselor, she was really doing well. She had met a really nice guy inside and

was ready to start a new life. BUT. She got released and he didn't. I heard she kept visiting him while staying at a nearby women's shelter.

Eight months had passed, and I was actually pretty proud that I had taken a meth head and got her rehabilitated and stopped a string of violence between her and Marcus that would have had a tragic ending, at least in my mind anyway. Then early one Wednesday night, I got a disturbance call at the Bridgestone Apartments, Apt. 203. Imagine the look on my face when I walked in an open door and saw Angelia sitting on a couch with a bloody nose. Are you serious?

What the hell are you even doing up here Angelia? I broke up with Steven (the rehab boyfriend) and I missed Marcus. Holy shit, are you kidding me with this crap. And are you high? NO, I just took a bump with Marcus! I'm not HIGH!

And where the hell is Marcus? "He's at his brothers around the corner. He didn't want to get popped, he's on probation you know." She says in a slurred, barely audible drunken voice.

Naw, I didn't know. Are you going to file on him this time and actually GO TO COURT.

"Yes, yes I will. I'm tired of his shit"

So, I drive around the corner and there in the courtyard of, yet another dirtball complex was Marcus and his dirtball brother. One thing I will say about Marcus was he was never any trouble. He may have been a f'up but I never had to fight him. I cuffed him, went back to Bridgestone, wrote the report and transported the boy to jail.

Angelia, I hope this is the last time I have to come out here.

"I promise it's the last time. I've learned my lesson. I promise. I'd sooner die than come back here."

Uh huh. We'll see.

As soon as the detectives arrived on the scene, I told the lead detective that I'd be right back. He looked at me like I was nuts. "You're leaving? Do we have any suspects? Do we have a description? Where the hell are you going?"

To arrest a guy for murder, where else! He looked at me like I was crazy.

"Hey, bring me back some Whataburger, I know that's where you're going. Arrest a suspect, my ass."

I drove around the corner, and yep I was right. There were Marcus and his dumbass brother smoking a pipe in the parking lot. As soon as I walked up, Marcus looked me right in the eye and

said "I know, I know, I'm sorry I didn't mean to fight with her, and I didn't mean to push her. But she'll be OK, and she won't file on me. She loves me. I'm her entire world. I'll go with her to the hospital and I'll take care of her. I promise officer."

As I handcuffed him for the last time, I said, "no Marcus you aren't going to the hospital, you're going to prison... for life. See this time, I'm filing the charges and I don't need Angelia. And she won't ever have to worry about you beating her again. She's at peace finally." As I finished reading him his rights, he says,

"Naw, she always comes back to me. She'll be back, you'll see. It was just a little push, she'll be OK."

No Marcus, she won't. As we pulled back into the Bridgestone Apartments for the last time, the ME was loading Angelia into the body car. Marcus didn't fully understand what was going on until we got out of the car and the detectives walked up.

Detective Martin, this is Marcus Smith. I mirandized him and he has just confessed to pushing his common law wife Angelia Smith off the second-floor balcony and killing her.

Oh, and I'm sorry, I wasn't able to pick up Whataburger.

Former MPD Officer Derek Chauvin In Custody, Charged With Murder In George Floyd's Death

Complaint Says Chauvin Was On Floyd's Neck For 8 Minutes And 46 Seconds

MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) — Fired Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was arrested four days after George Floyd's fatal arrest that sparked protests, rioting and outcry across the city and nation, and Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman announced he has been charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

On Friday May 29, John Harrington, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, announced that Chauvin, 44, of Oakdale, was taken into custody by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, who said that Chauvin was arrested in Minneapolis. There was some speculation that he had gone to a home in Florida.

"We have now been able to put together the evidence that we need. Even as late as yesterday afternoon, we did not have all that we needed," Freeman said, before saying that he was unable to speak to specific pieces of evidence and which one specifically was needed to file charges.

"This is by far the fastest that we've ever charged a police officer," Freeman said.

WHAT THE COMPLAINT SAYS

A criminal complaint released Friday afternoon details the events that unfolded on May 25:

Officers were dispatched to Cup Foods on the report of a man buying merchandise with a counterfeit \$20 bill. Shortly after

8 p.m., Officers Thomas Lane and J Alexander Kueng arrived with their body cameras activate and recording.

The officers learned from store workers that the man, later identified as Floyd, was parked in a car around the corner.

Body camera footage shows the officers approaching the car with Lane on the driver's side and Kueng on the passenger side. Three people were in the car: Floyd, another man and another woman.

As Lane began speaking with Floyd, he pulled out his gun, pointed it at Floyd and ordered him to show his hands. Floyd then put his hands on the steering wheel and Lane holstered his firearm.

Lane then ordered Floyd out of the car and handcuffed him, but Floyd "actively resisted being handcuffed," the complaint states. Once handcuffed, however, police said Floyd did not resist and walked with Lane to the sidewalk. Floyd then sat on the ground at Lane's direction.

The complaint says Lane spoke with Floyd for under two minutes, asking Floyd for his identification and name. He also asked Floyd if he was "on anything" and told Floyd he was going to be arrested for passing counterfeit currency.

Then, Lane and Kueng stood Floyd up and attempted to take him to their squad car. Floyd then



"stiffened up, fell to the ground and told the officers he was claustrophobic," the complaint states.

That's when Officers Chauvin and Tou Thao arrived on the scene in a separate squad car.

After making several attempts to get Floyd in the backseat from the driver's side, the complaint says Floyd wouldn't get in and would struggle with the officers by intentionally falling down.

The complaint says that Floyd began saying and repeating he could not breathe while standing outside the car. Chauvin then went to the passenger side and tried to

get Floyd in from that side, with Lane and Keung assisting.

Chauvin then pulled Floyd out of the passenger side of the car at 8:19 p.m. and Floyd went to the ground face down while still handcuffed.

While Keung and Lane held Floyd's back and legs, Chauvin "placed his left knee in the area of Mr. Floyd's head and neck." Floyd could be heard repeatedly saying "I can't breathe", as well as "mama" and "please." The officers, however, stayed in their positions.

The officers told Floyd, "You are talking fine", as he continued to struggle. At one point, Lane asked "should we roll him on his side?" To which Chauvin responded, "No, staying put where we got him," the complaint states.

Lane then said he was "worried about excited delirium or whatever" to which Chauvin responded, "That's why we have him on his stomach." They continued holding their positions.

At 8:24 p.m., Floyd stopped moving. Kueng then checked Floyd's right wrist for a pulse and said "I couldn't find one." The officers continued to hold their positions.

At 8:27 p.m., Chauvin removed his knee from Floyd's neck as medics arrived. Floyd was taken away in the ambulance. He was pronounced dead at Hen-



nepin Healthcare.

An autopsy report stated that the cause of death is "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression." Cardiopulmonary arrest means Floyd's heart failed.

The medical examiner made no mention of asphyxiation. is pending, but the Hennepin County Medical Examiner did release these findings: There were no physical findings that support a diagnosis of traumatic asphyxia or strangulation, and that Floyd had underlying health problems, including coronary artery disease and hypertensive heart disease.

According to the medical examiner, "the combined effects of Mr. Floyd being restrained by the police, his underlying health conditions and any potential intoxicants in his system likely contributed to

his death," the complaint states.

An independent autopsy said Floyd died of "asphyxiation from sustained pressure" when his neck and back were compressed by Minneapolis police officers during his arrest. The pressure cut off blood flow to his brain, that autopsy determined.

The complaint determined that Chauvin had his knee on Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds total. Two minutes and 53 seconds of that time was after Floyd became unresponsive.

"Police are trained that this type of restraint with a subject in prone position is inherently dangerous," the complaint said.

If convicted, Chauvin could face up to 25 years in prison on the murder charge and up to 10 years in prison on the manslaughter charge. No court appearance has been set.

Cities Around the U.S. Erupt in Protests Over George Floyd's Death

Dozens of cities—imposed curfews, but many people ignored them, leading to stand-offs and clashes all over the country.

Officers faced off with protesters in Austin, Houston, Dallas, Ft. Worth as well as major cities across the U.S. including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, LA and Minneapolis where it all started. Armed with non-lethal pepper bullets and tear gas, officers did their best to try to disperse crowds. But that didn't stop them from torching police vehicles, looting stores and setting buildings on fire in all the major cities.

The country is experiencing the most widespread racial turbulence and civil unrest since the backlash to the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968.

The outpouring of anger began Tuesday May 26, 2020 after a video showed Floyd being arrested in Minneapolis and a white officer continuing to kneel on his neck even after he pleaded, he could not breathe and fell unconscious.

More than 75 cities have seen protests, with streets only days ago deserted because of coronavirus full of demonstrators marching shoulder to shoulder. Some US officials have warned of protest-connected virus out-

breaks.

The Floyd case has reignited deep-seated anger over police killings of black Americans and racism. It follows the high-profile cases of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Eric Garner in New York and others that have driven the Black Lives Matter movement.

For many, the outrage also reflects years of frustration over socio-economic inequality and discrimination.

What the Mainstream media fails to report, is that the majority of the violent protesters are being paid by unknown groups to infiltrate the peaceful protesters and create as much violence and destruction as possible. Copies of flyers and media posts recruiting these groups have been sent to the FBI who are have supposedly launched investigations into the source of these posts. Officers across the country have reported that pallets of bricks have been delivered and placed in strategic places in where the protestors are being bussed in.

President Trump in a call to all the governors, advised he was deploying over 16,000 troops from the National Guard to deal with the unrest across 24 states and Washington, DC, where crowds once again gath-

ered near the White House on a nightly basis. Trump told the governors in a videoconference that they looked "weak if they didn't act to stop the violence. "You have to dominate, if you don't dominate, you're wasting your time," the president reportedly said.

Demonstrators lit fire to buildings in D.C, including St. John's, a historic church known as the church of the presidents, and threw stones at secret service agents injuring over 50 agents. D.C. police used tear gas to move the protestors away from the White House and St. John's.

In Louisville, Kentucky, a man was shot dead in a confrontation between protesters, local police and the National Guard. Shots were fired at police officers and guard troops as they moved to disperse a crowd in a parking lot and they "returned fire", leaving one man dead, according to Louisville Metro Police.

As the Blues went to press, over 12,400 people have been arrested in multiple cities since protests began, according to the Associated Press, for crimes including blocking highways, looting, assaults on police and curfew violations.

And the protests have reached around the globe as well.



The Picture says it all...

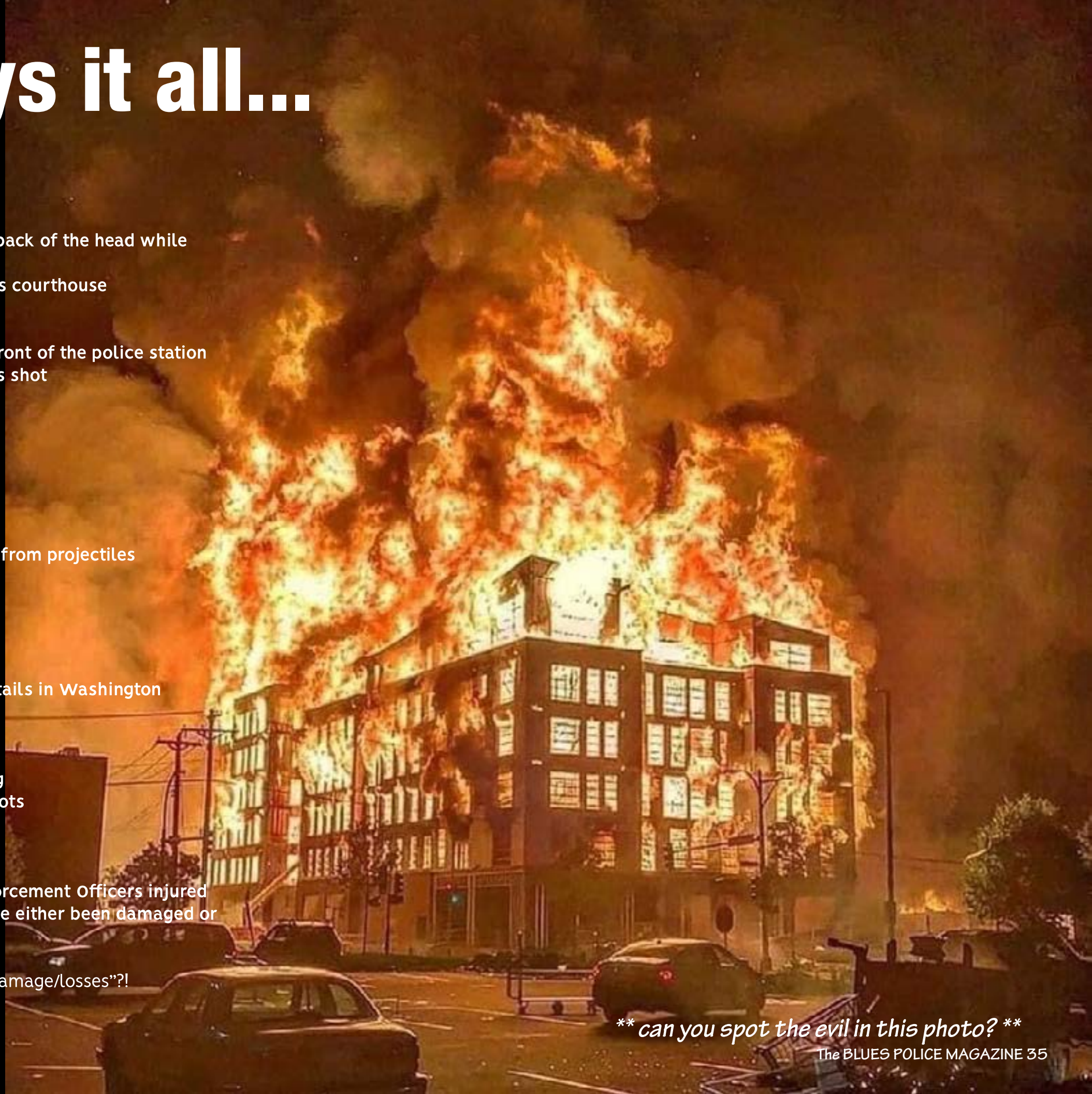
JUNE 2, 2020

In the last four days...

- A Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officer was fatally shot in the back of the head while struggling with a rioter
- An active shooter opened fire on law enforcement at a Las Vegas courthouse
- 4 St. Louis Police Officers were shot by an active shooter
- A New York Police Officer was struck by a vehicle
- 3 Buffalo law enforcement officers were struck by a vehicle in front of the police station
- 3 Davenport law enforcement officers were ambushed and 1 was shot
- 132 officers were injured in Chicago during riots
- 9 Pittsburg officers were injured by objects during a riot
- Several officers in Rhode Island were injured during riots
- An active shooter opened fire at the Oakland Police Department
- 2 officers were struck in the head with projectiles in Santa Ana
- 2 Richland officers were shot in Virginia
- 1 officer was struck in the head by a brick in Albany
- 4 Prince William County Police Officers sustained head injuries from projectiles
- 7 officers were injured in Sacramento
- Several officers were shot at and injured in Lynchburg
- Several Champaign Police Officers were injured
- 3 Oak Law Police Officers were injured
- 21 officers were injured in Salt Lake City
- At least 50 Secret Service Agents were injured by Molotov cocktails in Washington
- 3 Denver Police Officers were ran over by a vehicle
- 33 New York Police Officers were injured during riots
- 6 Athens Police Officers injured during a protest
- 2 Capitol Police Officers were injured during a riot in Harrisburg
- 12 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officers were injured during riots
- 21 Minneapolis law enforcement officers injured in riots
- 1 Federal Protective Services Officer was shot and killed.

-Oh yeah, and for those of us in Houston...we're up to 16 Law Enforcement Officers injured and numerous law enforcement vehicles (Houston/Harris Co) have either been damaged or destroyed.

And somehow, all of this is supposed to be "acceptable collateral damage/losses"?!



*** can you spot the evil in this photo? ***

Abbot says Texas doesn't need the US Military to deal with protest violence

Gov. Greg Abbott said Tuesday that Texas doesn't need and won't be seeking U.S. military assistance to deal with protest violence.

"We will not be asking the United States military to come into the state of Texas because we know the Texans can take care of Texas," Abbott said at a news conference at Dallas City Hall at which he was joined by the mayors of Dallas and Fort Worth.

The news conference comes a day after President Donald Trump, in brief remarks in Rose Garden Monday evening, said he had told every governor in a phone call earlier in the day to deploy the National Guard to "dominate the streets," and that he was advising both governors and mayors to "establish an overwhelming law enforcement presence, until the violence has been quelled."

"If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them," the president said.

According to audio of the president's call with governors earlier in the day, Trump scolded the governors as "weak."

"If you don't dominate, you're wasting your time," Trump said. "They're going to run over you. You're going to look like a bunch of jerks. You have to dominate."

But Abbott had already over the

weekend declared a statewide state of disaster in Texas because of the violence, activated the Texas National Guard, and deployed thousands of state troopers to assist law enforcement in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin in maintain-



ing order.

Massive protests, mostly peaceful but some devolving into nighttime looting and violent clashes with police, have swept the nation since the Memorial Day death of 46-year-old George Floyd after a Minneapolis police officer, since charged with murder, pressed his knee for eight minutes against the back of Floyd's neck as he lay handcuffed on the street, struggling for breath and begging for his life.

"Let's be clear, what happened to George Floyd was a horrific act of police brutality. This should never have happened, and we must ensure that it never happens here in Texas," Abbott said. "I join the millions of Americans who seek swift justice in this case."

"George Floyd's death has touched every corner of our country," Abbott said. "People are rightfully angry, but the beautiful thing about America is every person has the right to make their voices heard to protest against this justice."

"However, violence and vandalism is never the answer," Abbott said. "And they have no place in Dallas, Fort Worth, or anywhere in the state of Texas. You know, ironically those acts of violence and vandalism, they are overshadowing the death of George Floyd. Rather than shining a light on the injustice that occurred, they drown out the voices of those who are seeking to protest peacefully."

"The majority of people who are protesting are doing it for legal reasons," said Col. Steve McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"There is not a police officer in Texas who is not sickened by the murder of George Floyd," McCraw said "I can guarantee that."

McCraw said state police were investigating individuals and groups who might be criminally involved in violence associated with some protests, and they had identified some presence by Antifa, the far-left group that President Donald Trump has said he plans to designate as a terrorist organization, though it is not clear he can do that.

"We do have special agents embedded trying to identify criminals that are leveraging this, using this as an opportunity. exploiting these

demonstrations, and identifying them, and we've already identified some of them, and we will be arresting some of them, but not at this particular moment."

McCraw said it is also possible that white supremacist groups are also involved in similar activities, but they didn't have hard evidence of that at this point.

While the president has drawn some state guard units to Washington, D.C., to deal with the situation

there, Abbott said, "There has been no request to send Texas National Guard troops to Washington."

"Texas National Guard are here for Texans and that's what they'll be used for," he said.

On Monday, Abbott joined with all four United States attorneys in Texas to announce that "anyone who comes to Texas from out of state to engage in looting, violence or other destructive acts in violation of federal law will be subject to federal

prosecution."

"I have spoken to all the large-city mayors as well as police chiefs and law enforcement across the state," Abbott said in an interview Monday on KEYE-TV. "Everybody's talking about the same thing. They need more resources because of the large number of people who are involved in these protests."

Asked about Trump's telling the governors on the phone call about

Continued on Next Page



Continued from Previous Page

the need for them to “dominate” the streets, Abbott said: “What he was talking about was the need to ensure that we don’t have a repeat of that horrific video of the man being beaten in Dallas, Texas, that so many people have seen, and that it’s necessary that all states use all law enforcement tools to make sure that more innocent people are not either killed or maimed or injured.”

Trump in his Monday remarks at the White House offered the Dallas video as a prime example of the necessity of cracking down on disorder in no uncertain terms.

“I am your president of law and order and an ally of all peaceful protesters. But in recent days our nation has been gripped by professional anarchists, violent mobs, arsonists, looters, criminal, rioters, Antifa and others,” Trump said. “A number of state and local governments have failed to take necessary action to safeguard their residents. Innocent people have been savagely beaten, like the young man in Dallas, Texas, who was left dying on the street, or the woman in upstate New York viciously attacked by dangerous thugs.”

The Dallas Morning News reported that, “The Dallas man he referred to, 38

however, was in stable condition, according to police,” and that fuller footage than the much-viewed video showed the man brandishing a machete “as he chased young men who seconds later pummeled him to the ground Saturday night, and it wasn’t clear who provoked whom.”



Also, even as the president was describing himself as an “ally of all peaceful protesters,” National Guard and U.S. Park Police were dispersing peaceful protesters outside the White House using, according to media reports, rubber bullets, tear gas and flash-bang shells, allowing the president to walk across the cleared space and pose for photos

holding a Bible in front of St. John’s Episcopal Church, which was briefly in jeopardy Sunday when a fire was started in its basement.

Asked by KEYE what can be done to address the concerns raised by Floyd’s killing, Abbott said, “it’s a very very important topic.”

“So this is a multi-step process. The first step is to allow peaceful protest to take place while maintaining control in our communities. Then the next step is to seize upon this cause to make sure that we instill justice for everybody in every community, and that means building upon what Texas has already done,” Abbott said.

“Remember this, Texas has been in the leadership role in the United States in criminal justice reform, and it is a model that other states have been borrowing upon,” Abbott said. “We need to build a model to make sure that everyone feels the embrace of what true justice is.”

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, a Democrat, and Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, a Republican, joined Abbott at the news conference, as did McCraw,

Major General Tracy Norris, adjutant general of the Texas National Guard, Dallas Police Chief René Hall, and Fort Worth Police Chief Ed Kraus.





BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS



Ford announces new heated sanitation software for Police Interceptor

New technology allows police to heat vehicles up to 133° to disinfect touchpoints

Phoebe Wall Howard
Detroit Free Press

NEW YORK — In response to an idea from New York police officers concerned about the coronavirus, Ford announced Wednesday it's launching a "heated sanitation software" technology available now that essentially cooks away viruses inside 2013–2019 Police Interceptor SUVs.



The company tested the new software in vehicles owned by the Michigan State Police, New York City Police and Los Angeles Police, and the agencies are now using the technology, confirmed Elizabeth Kraft, Ford spokeswoman.

Ford has started rolling out a new software system for its Police Utility vehicles that will automatically disinfect the SUVs. (Photo/Ford Motor Company)

The new technology allows police to heat vehicles "up to 133 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes — long enough to help disinfect vehicle touchpoints," Ford said.

A team at The Ohio State University helped figure out the temperature and duration of time required "to help inactivate" COVID-19. The software is available immediately for use in Police Interceptor SUVs in the U.S. and Canada.

The heat spike is not generated by the routine climate system in the vehicle, Kraft explained. Instead, the new software allows the vehicle to engage the powertrain to run a higher idle than it's able to do without the software, thus creating more heat to be transferred the cabin, she said.

The company is looking to make it available in other police vehicles, Ford said.

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"First responders are on the front lines protecting all of us. They are exposed to the virus and are in dire need of protective measures," said Hau Thai-Tang, Ford chief product development and purchasing officer. "We've turned the vehicle's powertrain and heat control systems into a virus neutralizer."

A heat level that exceeds 133 degrees Fahrenheit is comparable to the highest temperatures recorded in places like Death Valley and parts of Libya and Tunisia.

"Our studies with Ford Motor Company indicate that exposing coronaviruses to temperatures of 56 degrees Celsius, or 132.8 degrees Fahrenheit, for 15 minutes reduces the viral concentration by greater than 99 percent on interior surfaces and materials used inside Police Interceptor Utility vehicles," said Jeff Jahnes and Jesse Kwiek, laboratory supervisors at Ohio State's microbiology department.

When the heat process has begun, "hazard lights and tail lights will flash in a preset pattern, then

will change at the end to signal completion." The instrument cluster will also indicate progress. A cool-down process brings the temperature down, Ford said.

The heat sanitizing process is not done with people inside the vehicle. Ford engineers began studying the heat decontamination project in late March.

"Shortly after, a discussion with the New York City Police Department alerted Ford to its need for a more efficient disinfecting process during the pandemic," Ford said.

Stephen Tyler, Ford police brand marketing manager, said, "Law enforcement officers are being dispatched as emergency responders in some cases where ambulances may not be available. During one trip, officers may be transporting a coronavirus patient to a hospital, while another trip may involve an occupant who may be asymptomatic."

These heat cleaning efforts may help disinfect vehicles between passenger use.

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PROUD SUPPORTER OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT

light bulb award

HPD Chief Art Acevedo - One Class Act?... NOT !

This month, it's a no brainer for the LB Award winner. Hands down, it's HOUSTON POLICE CHIEF ART ACEVEDO!!! If you haven't caught his antics in the past few days [CLICK HERE](#).

"He built this country and he ain't going nowhere!!" Well sir, you need to go anywhere but Houston. You are an insult and a slap in the face of the officers and the city you serve. As the protests turn more and more violent, Officers AND citizens are being hurt. And like the left wing radical that you are, you stand with the protesters and ENCOURAGE to do harm to you own officers. What is wrong with you?

You don't just represent YOUR people; you're supposed to represent ALL people. The protesters aren't the problem, the instigators are the problem, and they are in our city. They were paid to be here. So instead of walking with protesters and stirring them up, how about you investigate who's behind the hiring of these thugs that are terrorizing our cities. How about you do your job to protect your officers. How about for once, you just shut your mouth and at least act like the professional you were hired to be.

And if you think you represent all the police chiefs in this country, you're insane. See, they support their officers and they support their President. For a police chief representing one of

the finest police departments in the country, with the hardest working men and women in law enforcement today, you sir, are a disgrace. Whether or not you support Trump is your personal choice. But he IS the President and as a leader of the largest police department in the State of Texas, you have a duty to respect the office he represents.

When the current situation is over, and the protesters have left our city, we can only hope and pray that the leadership of the Police Union will consider holding a vote of no-confidence and



ask the mayor to replace you. Send you packing to a left-wing state that deserves you.

The officers of this city deserve better. The citizens deserve better.

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A Time of Chaos & Social Media

"It's a lack of clarity that creates chaos and frustration. Those emotions are poison to any living goal." Steve Maraboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free*

I, like countless others in our nation, have witnessed chaos over the past several days as thousands have taken to the streets to protest the devastating actions of Minneapolis officers in the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020. It was unquestionably a tipping point for those who believe that systemic racism is still pervasive in American policing today. These events have coincided with the recent loss of jobs, income, and stability of over 40 million people due to the ongoing corona virus pandemic, Americans in general were already on edge and this added significant fuel to the fire. When basic human needs are compromised or threatened, the frustration rises. It was in some ways a perfect storm and it is playing out on the social media stage.

Like any social institution in America we have made positive strides toward social change, however, there is always room for growth. The danger arises when any individual uses a broad brush to paint all in a group as guilty of the same be-

haviors based on the actions of a few. Sadly, we are also seeing our nation's officers facing this type of judgement and discrimination as they are targeted by those who utilize threats and violence as their message. I have spoken with hundreds of officers regarding these current circumstances and one thing is very clear. NO ONE hates bad cops more than good cops as they often feel the brunt of the poor choices and the fallout, and media drives the narrative like a California wildfire. The result is often anxiety, fear, conflict, and despair.

Social media is both a blessing and a curse. We can communicate with others who live all over the world and can participate in important social causes. However, the nature of social media also allows for "keyboard warriors" to post hateful messages and false information. I reached out to an officer this week who was injured in a riot and he was well and recovering despite reports that he was gravely injured and on life support and we shared a relieved laugh about this. Social media as well as news outlets often share fake news to continue to encourage chaos and drama. It keeps people interested and pushes



DR. TINA JAECKLE

them to stay tuned. In fact, it is designed to create changes in our brain.

According to Carolyn Crist (2017), a freelance health and science journalist, there are several ways the brain processes social media information. Brains crave "likes" on social media. Like Pavlov's dog, we're trained to enjoy the rewards of another click, another emoji reaction, and another comment on our posts. We're more likely to boost what other people like, too. Peer endorsement and peer influence ring strong in our heads, whether digital or not. Our social media well-being seems to be inversely related to our in-person interactions. As in, social media use tends to bring us down, and offline meetups tend to pick us up.

In January, Johns Hopkins researchers published a long-term

Continued on Page 48

Moving Forward: We Must Be Each Other's Keeper...STEP UP and SPEAK

If you are one of the few people who regularly read my Badge and Gun articles, you know how much I harp on being each other's "keeper". Now more than ever, we need to live that every single day at work. The suicide numbers within law enforcement are staggering. We had 228 officers commit suicide nationwide last year and this year we have seen 60 officers take their own life across the country. With the strain of the pandemic and the stress that comes along with it, these numbers will likely grow. It is incumbent upon all of us to check on one another and make sure your friends and co-workers are doing alright.

Our community is stressed as well during this pandemic and has been a factor (along with bail and criminal justice reform) in causing violent crime to skyrocket in Houston. Murders are up 50% this year from last, and we are on track to have the deadliest year in quite some time. Compound that with aggravated assaults being up over 20% and it creates an extremely dangerous environment for all of you and the community we swore to protect. Nationwide, we have already had approximately 110 officers shot. We need to make sure that we are checking by with one another and responding to one another quickly when requesting help on a scene. If you want to ride as a two-officer unit ask your Sgt, as the Commanders have a received a directive from the Chief that anyone who wants to ride as a two-officer unit, will be allowed to do so.

The two examples of being your brother's and sister's keeper are

ones we know and they are easy to follow, but we need to talk about a third. The truth is we do an extremely difficult job, one which is judged with the highest of scrutiny and that fact is not going away. Now I don't need to sit here and lecture you about how to do your job and what is right and wrong, you know what is right! You also don't need everyone in the world to tell you what is right and wrong... YOU KNOW! You know on a scene that you are at, what you are seeing, what you are experiencing and the feeling in your gut. If a fellow officer on your scene is doing something that you believe is wrong, from what you see and feel, you have an obligation and a duty to STEP UP and SPEAK UP. It could be as simple as saying "Let me take your suspect" or "Turn him on his side" or "Get them up and get them in the back seat". The time to correct that is not a week later by filing some anonymous complaint with IAD, by then it's too late. In that moment you need to step in, you owe it to our profession, our community, the 800,000 other officers in this country, your co-workers, and if that isn't enough, you owe it to yourself and your family.

If you don't STEP UP and SPEAK UP in that moment, we will all pay the price. Every single officer who wears a uniform, who is honest and does the job the right way (the 99%) will pay dearly. We will be trashed, ridiculed, painted with a broad brush, and every other cliché you can imagine. It can do immeasurable damage to our profession and our relationship with the community. One that will take years to



recover from, and likely cost officers their lives. In addition, if in that moment you don't act, you could be looking at losing your job and going to prison. In a moment where you know something is wrong and you feel it with every fiber of your being, you MUST use all of your courage, that I know is in all of us, to step in and do what is right.

I can promise you all the next viral video of another officer is just around the corner, and I can also promise you that anyone looking to harm the reputation of police officers will always pull up videos from the past. The point of this article is how do we move forward to make sure we protect the community, ourselves, the other 800,000 officers across this country, and our profession. The only way to do that is to be each other's keeper every single day and to STEP UP and SPEAK UP when we know what's happening is wrong. We owe it to this generation of police officers and the next. We are beyond blessed to have the support we have in the Houston community, and we cannot afford to lose it.

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study about Facebook use and wellbeing. Overall, they found that with each new "like," link click or status update, self-reported mental health dropped 5 to 8 percent. In the same study, they saw that offline relationships boosted mental health by about the same amount. Imagine that when you mindlessly scroll through a news feed several times per day. In addition, according to Dr. Alex Anastasiou, a San Francisco based psychiatrist, "Social media encourages groups of people connected to

each other online to share similar values. Basic human psychology suggests that people tend to conform to their 'group' so that they can fit in and be well-liked. Over time, the values and beliefs shared by a group become more similar". This is particularly true for negative political posts and this "group think" not only quashes original thought but can even be dangerous in some cases when the desire for conformity results in exaggerated or irrational decision-making.

One of the best approaches to find a balance during these

critical times and not get caught up in a non-constructive cycle of negativity on social media is to just say no. Take a break, limit your time spent, and practice critical thinking in the material you are reading. Avoid the group think mentality. Better yet, put down the electronic devices and spend quality time with friends and family. Please know that the current vocal minority does not represent the views of the deeply grateful majority in our nation who see your constant commitment, service, and sacrifice. Stay positive and be safe always.

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BK Klev is one incredible dude. Not only is he an HPD officer, but the owner of a CLOSED Tattoo Shop. That's correct he has NO revenue coming in and yes he still has to pay rent. So what does he do? Works his regular job and then gets businesses to donate food and supplies to First Responders. Superheroes do not always wear capes....they wear masks. BK Glod Bless You Brother !





Janet Garner, Financial Advisor
MassMutal Financial Group



World Crises and the Stock Market: Learn From History

The coronavirus has wreaked havoc with financial markets across the globe, ushering in the first U.S. bear market in over 10 years. But crises and bear markets are nothing new. For investors, it helps to put current events in historical perspective.

Not that long ago, the idea of a bear market seemed almost unimaginable. The economy was firing on all cylinders. Employment was at a record high. The stock market, which was in its eleventh year of a bull run, was on the path for another strong year in 2020.

Then came COVID-19. Between February 19 and March 23, the S&P 500 tumbled 34%, putting it well into bear market territory (defined as a drop of 20% or more). The index recovered some ground towards the end of the month, but volatility has been extreme, with the major benchmark indices swinging wildly from day to day. Where markets go from here will largely depend on how successful governments are in containing the outbreak and mitigating its effects on the economy.

For investors, it's been a very trying time. Weathering a down market such as this requires patience, a long-term perspective, and the use of different strategies to help minimize the impact of falling stock prices on your portfolio. It also helps to look at history.

Putting Market Returns in Perspective

Bear markets are nothing new. Between 1950 and 2020, the S&P 500 underwent 10 bear markets. The average bear market lasted about 14 months, with an average market decline of 34%. In contrast, the Should You Sell?

Not surprisingly, the first reaction to a falling market is to bail out. But that kind of short-term thinking may not be in your best interest -- especially if you sell at a loss. Before selling, you should consider several factors. First, look at your time horizon, i.e., when you will need to use the invested funds. If you are investing for the long term -- for retirement, for instance -- then there's a good likelihood that the market will rebound before you need to use the funds. Second, consider your alternatives. If you take your money out of equities, where will you invest it? Remember that in the long term, stocks have outperformed the other asset classes -- bonds and money market securities -- by a significant margin, although past performance is no guarantee of future returns.

Maintain a Portfolio That's Right for You

If you haven't already done so, take a good look at your investments as a whole. What is your portfolio's asset allocation -- your mix of stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents? If you use your risk tolerance -- your emotional and practical ability to handle risk -- to guide the asset allocation process, you'll be better prepared to cope with market volatility.

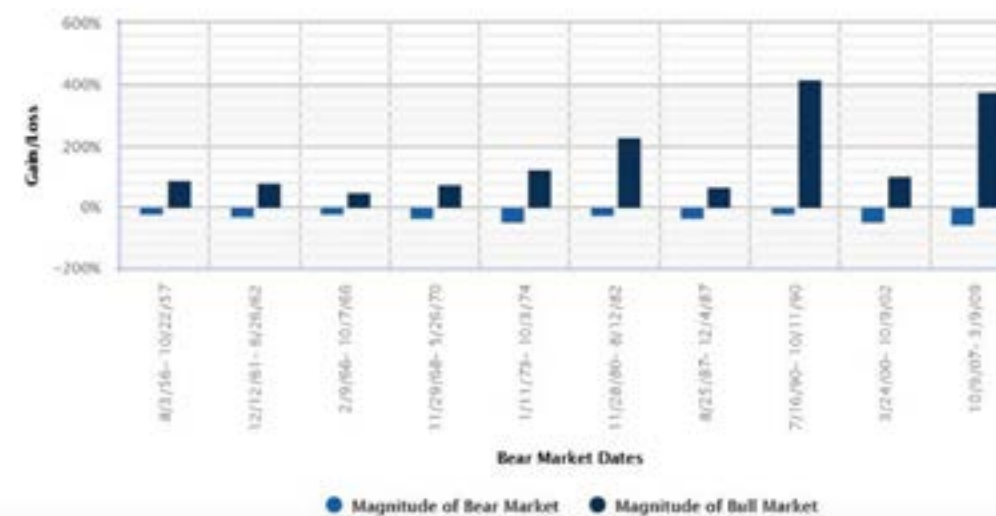
Reviewing your asset allocation can help you answer another question about your portfolio: Is it adequately diversified? In other words, have you spread your money among different investments to potentially help reduce risk? Different securities do better at different times. Therefore, holding a variety of investments creates the potential for those that perform well to compensate for those that do not over a period of time. Neither asset allocation nor diversification guarantees against investment loss.

Finally, when assembling or maintaining a portfolio, consider tapping the experience of a seasoned financial professional. He or she can make suggestions regarding your portfolio mix, explain current market trends, and help you stay focused on your long-term financial goals.

Four Tips for Surviving Bear Markets

- Implement a well-thought-out investment plan and then stick with it. You may increase your chances of being around when the bull takes its next run.
 - Do not make investment decisions based on short-term market drops or gains. Instead, evaluate how an investment fits into your overall financial strategy.
 - Look at a bear market as a buying opportunity. Some stocks may be undervalued following a broad market decline, allowing you to invest more in high-quality companies.
 - Talk with a financial professional. He or she may have been through volatile periods before.
-
- Talk with a financial professional. He or she may have been through volatile periods before.

Magnitudes of Bear and Bull Markets²



JANET L. GARNER, LUTCF, RICP • 281-204-1221 • janetgarner@financialguide.com

Janet Garner is a true Texan, and has been in business in the Houston/Clear Lake area for over 20 years. Janet has conducted retirement workshops for a number of local firms including NASA and has been a trusted advisor for AT&T for over 15 years. She specializes in retirement income planning hence the RICP designation: Retirement Income Certified Professional. If you would like Janet to prepare a complimentary analysis for you and your family, just mention you are a first responder and read Janet's article in The BLUES.

honoring our fallen heroes

Sergeant

Lionel Q. Martinez

Alamo Colleges Police Dept., Texas

End of Watch Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Age 6 Tour 21 Years Badge 0010



Sergeant Lionel Martinez suffered a fatal heart attack while responding to a shooting call on North Main Avenue at about 10:00 pm. He was responding to the initial call when he suffered the heart attack. His patrol car then struck a parked car on East Dewey Place near McCullough Avenue. Other responding officers immediately started CPR and he was transported to a local hospital where he died a short time later.

Sergeant Martinez had served with the Alamo Colleges District Police Department for 21 years.

Trooper

George Baker

Louisiana State Police, Louisiana

End of Watch Sunday, May 24, 2020

Age 33 Tour 10 years Badge # N/A

Military Veteran



Trooper George Baker succumbed to injuries sustained on May 20th, 2020, when he was struck by a Hammond patrol car while removing stop sticks from the roadway during a vehicle pursuit. As the troopers attempted to remove the stop sticks from the roadway, they were inadvertently struck by a responding Hammond patrol car. Both troopers were transported to a local hospital where Trooper Baker succumbed to his injuries on May 24th, 2020. The second trooper suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Trooper Baker was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Louisiana State Police for three years. He had previously served with the Greensburg Police Department for four years and the St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office for three years. He is survived by his wife, daughter, parents, and sisters.

Deputy Sheriff

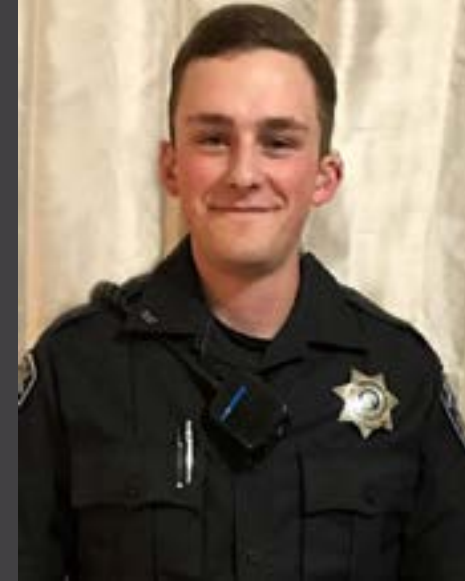
Wyatt Maser

Bonneville County Sheriff's Office, Idaho

End of Watch Monday, May 18, 2020

Age 23 Tour 1 Year 1 Mo Badge #341

Military Veteran



Deputy Sheriff Wyatt Maser was struck and killed by a patrol car at the intersection of Bone Road and 9th Road South at 5:20 am. He had initially responded to a single-vehicle rollover crash, but when he arrived, he encountered a woman in mental crisis walking away from the crash carrying a machete. Deputy Maser and another responding deputy attempted to talk to her for several minutes as she continued to disobey commands as she walked in the roadway. A third deputy who was responding to the scene came upon the group on the dark roadway and inadvertently struck Deputy Maser. Deputy Maser was transported to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries.

Deputy Maser was a U.S. Air force veteran and had served with the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office for 13 months. He is survived by his wife, daughter, mother and stepfather, father and stepmother, siblings, and

Trooper First Class

Eugene Kenneth Baron. Jr.

Connecticut State Police, Connecticut

End of Watch Monday, May 25, 2020

Age 56 Tour 18 years Badge # 1280



Trooper First Class Eugene Baron died as the result of cancer contracted while assisting with rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center site following the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001.

Trooper Baron had served with the Connecticut State Police for 18 years prior to medically retiring. He is survived by three children, parents, two sisters, his girlfriend and her two children.

honoring our fallen heroes

Police Officer

Cody Holte

Grand Forks Police Dept., North Dakota



End of Watch Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Age 29 Tour 3 years 3 mos. Badge 636

Military Veteran

Police Officer Cody Holte was shot and killed after responding to assist deputies from the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office who were fired upon as they served an eviction notice at an apartment at 2627 South 17th Street. Officer Holte was a member of the North Dakota National Guard and had served with the Grand Forks Police Department for three years, assigned to the Uniform Patrol Bureau. Officer Holte was also a member of the Grand Forks Police Department's Honor Guard and was a member of the Northeast Regional Water Rescue Team.

He is survived by his wife, 10-month-old son, and twin brother. His brother also serves as a police officer in North Dakota.

Police Officer

Caleb Rule

Fort Bend County Constable Office, Pct. 4 Texas



End of Watch Friday, May 29, 2020

Age N/A Tour 15 Years Badge # N/A

Deputy Constable Caleb Rule was inadvertently shot and killed by a Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office while responding to a suspicious person call in the 3900 block of Chestnut Bend in Sienna Plantation at 1:40 am.

A citizen had reported seeing a man running from a home in the area. Deputy Constable Rule responded to the scene along with three sheriff's deputies and located a home with an open door. Deputy Constable Rule was clearing the home with the sheriff's deputies when he was mistaken for a suspect inside of the home. Deputy Constable Rule was struck in the chest in an area not protected by his vest.

He was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.

Police Officer

Nate Lyday

Ogden Police Dept., Utah



End of Watch Thursday, May 28, 2020

Age 24 Tour 1 years 3 mos. Badge # N/A

Police Officer Nate Lyday was shot and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call at a home in the 300 block of Jackson Avenue. A woman had called 911 and reported that a male subject was threatening to kill her. When Officer Lyday and other officers arrived at the home was located on the front porch. He was uncooperative with officers before running inside the home. As officers approached the front door, he opened fire, shooting through the door and fatally wounding Officer Lyday. A Utah Adult Probation and Parole agent was also struck and suffered non-life-threatening wounds.

Officer Lyday had served with the Ogden Police Department for only 15 months. He is survived by his wife.

Sergeant

Stephen Williams

Moody Police Dept., Alabama



End of Watch Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Age 50 Tour 23 years Badge # N/A

Sergeant Stephen Williams was shot and killed while responding to a call for service at the Motel 8 at 2451 Moody Parkway.

While on scene at least one suspect opened fire on him, fatally wounding him. Two subjects were taken into custody several hours later after barricading themselves inside a hotel room.

Sergeant Williams had served with the Moody Police Department for three years and had 23 years of law enforcement service. He previously served with the Calera Police Department for 2-1/2 years, the Alabaster Police Department for 15 years, and the Bessemer Police Department for 2-1/2 years. He is survived by his wife and three children.

LE job positions



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 City of Abilene [Get Info](#)
 Lubbock Police Department [Get Info](#)

Police Officer 07/07/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/14/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/28/2020 - 12pm
 Police Sergeant 06/30/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/18/2020 - 5pm
 School Resource Officer 06/30/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/05/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/20/2020 - 5pm
 Lieutenant Investigator 07/01/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 07/10/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/26/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/10/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 07/04/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/12/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/21/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 07/10/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/26/2020 - 5pm
 Chief of Police 06/26/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 07/20/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 08/01/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/26/2020 - 5pm
 Investigator-Threat Assessment 07/01/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/29/2020 - 5pm
 Police Officer 06/29/2020 - 5pm
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CORMIER STRONG



Early in the morning of Saturday, May 2, 2020, HPD officers Chase Cormier and Jason Knox were operating an HPD helicopter and were responding to a report of bodies found in a bayou in north Houston. The helicopter they were in lost control and crashed, killing Jason and causing multiple severe injuries to Chase, including a broken back. Chase has a long and expensive road to recovery. The proceeds of this benefit will go to Chase and his family to help pay for the costs he has ahead of him.

The proceeds of the motorcycle raffle will go to both the Knox and Cormier families.



Chase is an Eagle Scout that has lived a life of service. He has served as an HPD officer for 14 years, the last 3 of which have been in the Air & Marine Division. Chase also served 2 tours of duty in the US Army Special Operations and has been a firefighter/EMT.

CORMIER STRONG

BENEFIT

June 28th

Big Texas in Spring

entertainment is TBD with Texas Country singers

All proceeds are going to the Cormier and Knox families

For sponsorships and donations contact
 Mandi at Mandi.CHHF@gmail.com



It's Boating Season

When the weather turns hot, there is no better place to be than on the water, and lately I have spent many hours social distancing on boats. I had forgotten how beautiful Texas lakes are and how most of them have plenty of public parks with boat ramps to use as a base camp for the day. If you live in Houston, it is hard to beat the convenience of Lake Conroe. However, because of this convenience, the lake gets crowded and thus can be rough on the weekends. Lake Livingston is not much further, but I found it much harder to find a place on shore to come back to and kick back with a cold beverage while grilling some lunch. Lake Livingston State Park works fine if you can get one of the limited reservations, but you must book early. Lake Somerville is a great option, with plenty of private campgrounds with boat launches. Once I get on the water I do enjoy just cruising, but as soon as the skis or wakeboards come out, I can't help myself and must prove that although I may not be as good as I once was, I am good once, as I ever was. But when it comes to fishing, I can make Toby Keith eat those words because I am still as good as I ever was.

You might be thinking, all

of this sounds great, but I don't own a boat. Actually, I don't own a boat either, but am fortunate to having friends and family members who do. I used to think that I didn't need to own my own boat, but COVID19 has now changed my opinion. Outdoor activities have become the escape for many, and this has become very evident in the low inventory levels of boats of all shapes and sizes. My son and his wife recently purchased a



new boat and they were shocked to find limited choices on what they were looking for, and with little deal making on the few boats that the dealers did have. After a search across Southeast Texas, he found the make, model, and color he wanted, and he has been living on the lake ever since. I have also noticed that even the local sporting goods stores have sold out of most of their inventory of small boats and kayaks. If buying a boat is not in your future, but you still want to enjoy the benefits of having a boat, then you should look at boat ownership clubs. These are great for those new to boating and boat ownership or those that want access to an assortment of ski boats, fishing boats and all-around pleasure boats. I am personally considering the Freedom Boat Club because of their

reasonable monthly dues, large selection of boats, and flexibility to use boats at Freedom Boat Clubs across multiple states.

So, if you are looking to get out of the house, I would say now is a great time to go rent a boat

for the day. If you like it as much as I do, you might find yourself looking to join a boat club. Or you might consider doing what I did this week. You call up those friends of yours that own a boat and tell them how much you miss them and would love to

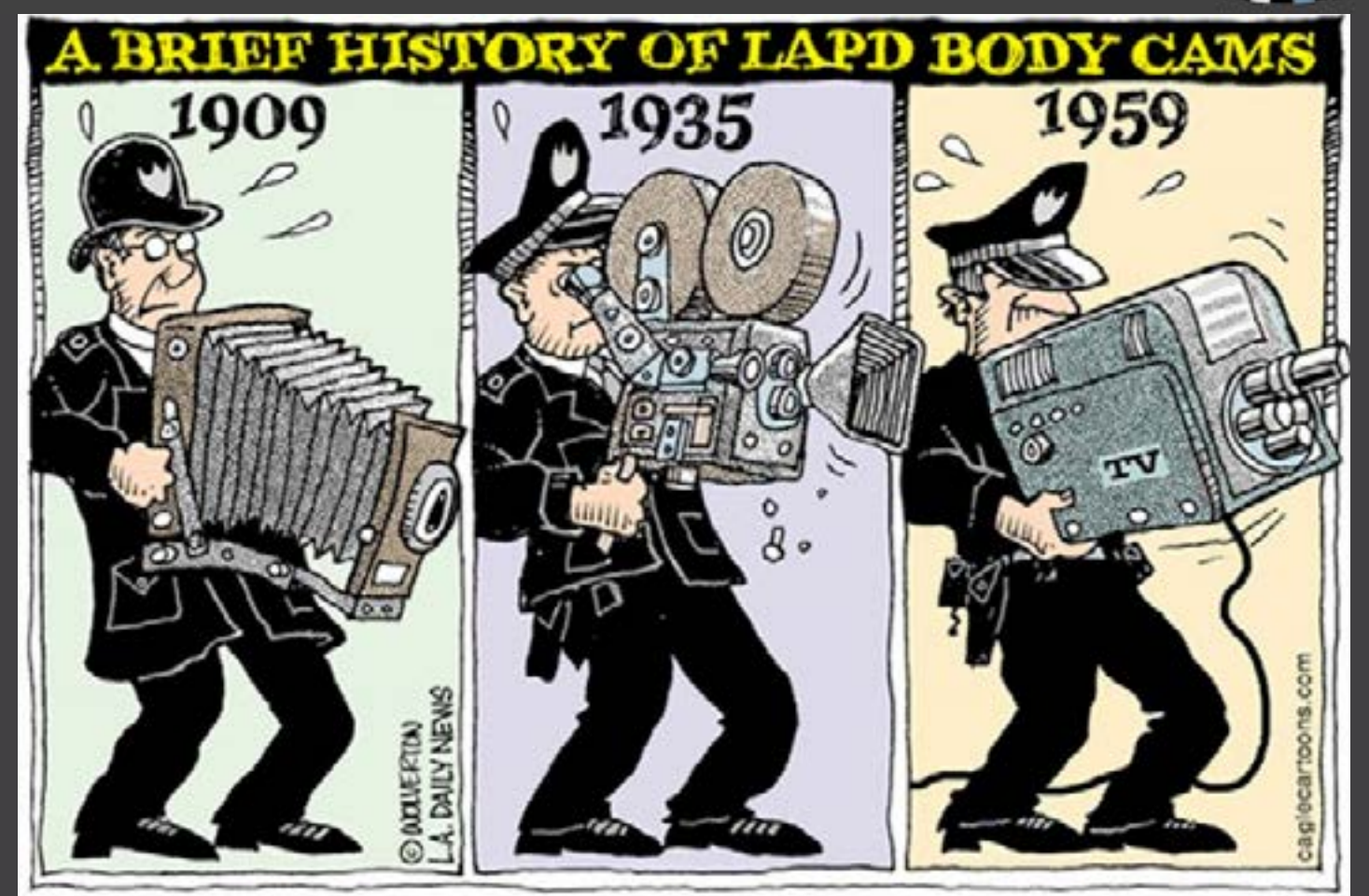
spend a day on the water catching up...I am currently on my fifth day on Lake Lanier in Georgia catching up with our good friends we haven't seen in years and have spent every day on the water.



...parting shots.



...parting shots.



...last minute additions.



All four former officers involved in George Floyd's death now face charges of murder

The former Minneapolis Police officer who pressed his knee into George Floyd's neck was charged on Wednesday with a new, more serious count of second-degree murder, and the three other officers on scene during his killing were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

"I strongly believe that these developments are in the interest of justice for Mr. Floyd, his family, our community and our state," Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said in announcing the charges.

The announcement came more than a week after Floyd was killed while in police custody in Minneapolis, sparking nationwide protests that call for the end to police violence against black citizens.

Derek Chauvin, who pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes, had previously been charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. The new second-degree murder charge says that he killed Floyd "without intent" in the course of committing assault in the third degree, according to an amended complaint.

Thomas Lane and J. Alexan-
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der Kueng, who helped restrain Floyd, and Tou Thao, who stood near the others, were not initially charged. Lane, 37, Kueng, 26, and Thao, 34, are now charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

Second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree murder are punishable by up to 40 years in prison. Manslaughter and aiding and abetting manslaughter are punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

George Floyd died while in police custody on May 25 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Two autopsies on Floyd deter-

mined that he died by homicide. Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo fired the four officers and said they were "complicit" in Floyd's death, and Floyd's family and protesters nationwide have called for them to be arrested and convicted for the killing.

According to the video and the criminal complaint, Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd's neck as Floyd pleaded that he could not breathe, as witnesses protested that he was dying, and even as Lane twice asked to turn him onto his side. Still, Chauvin kept his knee in position for almost three minutes after Floyd became unresponsive, the complaint states.

...last minute additions.



HOW STUPID IS THIS? City of Dallas Removes Ranger Monument

By Rex Evans

At approximately 08:00 on June 4, 2020, the City of Dallas removed the Texas Ranger monument from the entry way of Dallas Love Field.

The epitome of law enforcement, professionalism, and the State of Texas itself, the Texas Rangers are highly regarded as one of the finest Law Enforcement Organizations in the world, by far.

Thus, to me, both personally and professionally, I cannot even begin to comprehend this kind of "logic".

Yes, there's a mighty rough history back there in our History Books. However, I'd simply refer to this profound fact;

It was mighty rough times. And the Texas Rangers were the only rough men around, who had the intestinal fortitude, tenacity, dedication and integrity to bring those who were lawless to Justice.

Inevitably, the Texas Ranger brought about a semblance of order, peace and calm for all those who came to settle here in Texas and this very special place on Earth, Home.

I was privileged enough to spend a great deal of my youth with the Rangers of Co. A, and in particular, Texas Ranger Henry Manning.

The man helped instill a deep sense of duty, respect, patience and tenacity to always find not just "a way", but to always find the "right way."

In my career, I have met, worked, froze and burned up under the scorching hot Texas sun with some



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Texas Ranger Statue at Love Field Removed Over Concerns About Racist History

of the best men in the business. And, each of those men wore the infamous "Mexican Peso, Texas Ranger Star."

Each and every Texas Ranger I have met, in one way or another, shared a wealth of knowledge, friendship and dedication to duty with me, as we worked tirelessly together to solve some very tragic and difficult cases.

My heart truly breaks for the nearly overwhelming wave of "Anti-Law Enforcement" we are all subject to and facing. True enough, some awful decisions and acts have been made by some wearing a badge.

And yet, all of my hurt and dismay can only be tempered by the memories I have, all those years ago. With one such memory being, Mr. Manning explaining to me the

following;

"Son, no matter how wrong some folks may be, hell, everyone may be, don't you ever sell out your integrity. You just keep on doing what's right..."

I'll never forget those times, the men, the lessons and especially Mr. Manning. All of which combined, led me to be the man I am today. Far from perfect as I may be, I can attest I've done my job to the best of my ability, just like the Rangers, had taught and instilled, within me.

I don't know what else to say. Our profession, though an honorable one, is truly under the thunderstorm of a very difficult and lonely time...

"Yet, mind you. I'm not done. Because, the job ain't done..."

**Mr. Frank Hammer,
Texas Ranger**

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