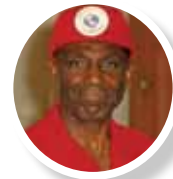




BARBERSHOP TALK

LIFE

Savers



by
Robert L. Woodard
The Wynnefield Barber

There is no greater thing a human being can do than to put his or her life on the line for their neighbor. At *Woodard's Barbershop*, located at 5031 West Diamond Street in the Wynnefield section of Philadelphia, I have an awesome privilege to meet, greet and welcome many neighbors from communities all around the world. One of the most important lessons I have learned from people who have walked through the doors of my shop is that you never know whom you could be talking to. Hence, as one human being to another, I never judge a book by its cover. Each person's life has a story connected to it.

I am aware of the power of being human. That power starts when we understand how to love our neighbors as ourselves. On February 12, 2014, *Mr. Darnell Taylor*, a "Good Neighbor" of New Jersey, was taking his wife out to dinner when he saw a van of passengers drive into the river. A distraught young mother was trying to commit suicide and take her three children with her. Mr. Taylor dove into the river and swam each of them from the sinking van back to shore. Darnell Taylor is black and the mother who tried to commit suicide is white. Mr. Taylor told me he did not see color. He saw human beings who needed help. The only thing that mattered was saving lives. When the Florence police, fire and paramedics arrived, they brought the same attitude with them. They were there to save lives. The love for life lives in all of us. It's called "self-preservation." It starts with you and you share it with others. I



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asked him why he risked his own life. He said he felt he had no other choice other than to be a life saver. Doctors, police officers and paramedics have this same kind of love for human life or they could not do their jobs.

I thank God for "Life Savers" every day. Mr. Dante Johnson sprang into action on November 8, 2014 at 28TH and Tasker Streets in South Philadelphia when a police officer's patrol car crashed into a pole and caught fire. The officer was trapped and could not move his legs. Mr. Johnson saw the car on fire and jumped into action, risking his own life to save another. Johnson is black and Officer Mark Kimsey is white. The paramedics, police and fire personnel from the 24TH District in South Philadelphia assisted at the scene.

Miss Darlisa Norris, Miss Tricia Tilson and Miss Karima Whitmore saved the lives of two young children who were trapped in a house that was on fire. It took the power of three women - young mothers themselves - to kick down the door of the burning house and get the children to safety.

Sanford Harling III, 12, also known as "Man Man," is our youngest "Life Saver." He lost his life after running back into his family's burning home to save his father. The Norristown police, fire and paramedics assisted his father after he jumped out of the second story window. "Man Man" was honored on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Brendan Boyle.

Hats off to all "Life Savers," like our Philadelphia Fire Department and Firefighter Paul Grugan, Ladder 28 - named Firefighter of the Year after rescuing a citizen from a fire. We also thank Police Officers, who are saving lives every day by administering the drug Narcan, an antidote to heroin overdose. These kinds of stories go untold in neighborhoods around this country. Barbershops in communities around the globe hear so many

stories of neighborhood heroes who are "Life Savers."

Self-Preservation is built into our DNA by nature. It gives us a great love for human life and creates "Life Savers." Human life is our most valuable natural resource and the very reason that Barbershop Talk Human Family Day was born. Each year in memory of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968, Barbershop Talk Human Family Day Foundation receives a Proclamation from the House of Representatives, a Resolution from the State of Pennsylvania and Citations from the City of Philadelphia acknowledging Dr. King's sacrifice and his love for all human beings. He truly was a "Life Saver." A Press Conference is held at City Hall in the Mayor's Reception Room and our yearly celebration is held at the Union Baptist Church, the historic church of Marion Anderson. Please help us spread this good news about our human family and the "Life Savers" in every neighborhood. Be a "Life Saver" in your own neighborhood. Control your behavior. Be a good neighbor. You never know which neighbor could be the person that saves your life.

I feel very privileged to help spread this "Good News" and I thank Philadelphia RowHome Magazine for their wonderful support in making the world a better place.

Barbershop Talk Human Family Day Foundation needs your help to promote "Life Savers" everywhere. Please contact us at BarbershopTalk.org@gmail.com. Let's promote the saving of human life not the taking of it. Because there is only one race. It's called the "Human Race" - with many cultures. And there's only "One Color." It's called Melanin. And it comes in many shades.

Please take the "RACE Test" today at www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org and join the "Good News" network. PHH

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