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John Rivera

A Message From Your President

More Senseless Deaths

More brothers and sisters have fallen to the evilness of yet another piece of human excrement. For example, **Broward Sheriff Deputy Paul Rein** was laid to rest on Tuesday, November 13th. As you may recall, Deputy Rein was transporting a two time lifer scumbag, who was facing a third life sentence, as a one man unit, when something went very wrong causing him to lose his life. Compounding this tragedy, on November 28 **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputies Donta J. Manuel** and **Jonathan Wallace** were killed as the result of their chasing a stolen vehicle in a remote part of Palm Beach County. And even now as I sit here writing this article (Jan. 8), word comes across from the news media that **Miami Police Detective Walker** was shot dead inside his unmarked patrol vehicle, apparently in a hail of bullets from an AK-47. These tragedies, like all other law enforcement killings, were so senseless and yet wreak such havoc on the immediate family, the law enforcement community and society itself.

We offer our sincerest condolences to the families of these officers and their coworkers within the respective law enforcement agencies.

Police related shootings

Recently we have experienced an increase in police related shootings throughout the entire state and I don't care what is being said by whomever, the fact remains that our officers are being assaulted and harmed as they protect the very community that sometimes criticizes them.

I want to publicly thank each and every one of you for risking your lives and being this community's guardian angels. You do this thankless job day in and day out with little or no fanfare, many risks and equal, if not more, criticism. I know personally that you don't do it for the money or the glory or pat on the back. You do it because, even in a small way, each of you make a huge difference and allow the rest of the folks to live in some semblance of peace.

I cannot help but laugh, with bitter sweetness, when I hear all of the Monday morning quarterbacking that goes on after one of these shootings. Some of the questions are hideous but we address each one of them in hopes of reaching some.

Recently, I was asked by a well intended reporter why the officer didn't use a taser gun instead of his firearm as he was being attacked by three criminals. I answered truthfully but in a politically correct fashion and not what was running through my mind.

Anyone who has ever been in a harrowing situation, or fight, knows all too well that when someone is trying to kill you, that you cannot elevate yourself from within your physical body and begin thinking of the multiple options possibly available to you. Hell, it even sounds freaking crazy as I write this down. Let's be very clear on one issue, each of the officers who have discharged their weapons were reacting to the unlawful acts of another.

You fight back and you do so with the intent of surviving and, just like every single red blooded American, police officers have the right to defend themselves and use whatever means necessary to protect themselves and others—period. Those who don't like those rules of American society, move elsewhere.

Dade County PBA Executive Director Blanca Greenwood said it best during several media interviews when she said, "Cops must first be able to defend themselves before they can ever be able to defend the public." Well said!

Tax woes

Again and again we hear the sad tales of woe when we try and negotiate collective bargaining agreements but the fact remains that the single most important service government provides its citizenry is "domestic tranquility"; in other words, the safety of its people. The sooner politicians get that through their skulls, the better we'll all be. Generally speaking politicians seldom seem to have any concerns about tight budgets and other related issues when it comes to pushing their pet projects and oftentimes convenient issues but none should be more self-serving than providing the safety that they have sworn to uphold for its populace. No other project is as important; not roads, libraries or baseball stadiums.

Tourism cannot flourish if not for the safety of its visitors which we provide. Industry and malls cannot grow economically if not for the security of its workers and patrons which we provide. Government cannot function if not for the protection we provide our leaders and more importantly, the constitution.

Here's my message to our leaders: rework your priorities and do so quickly. Any politician who does not take the well-being of its public seriously, and in particular us, the providers of the very safety and security voters have entrusted them to provide, simply should not be a politician for long.

May 2008 be a healthy, happy, prosperous, and safe year for all of you. God bless each and everyone. 🍀

Judgment Day For A Policeman

*The policeman stood and faced his God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.*

*"Step forward now, Policeman.
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To my Church have you been true?"*

*The policeman squared his shoulders
and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't,
Because those of us who carry badges
Can't always be a Saint.*

*I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my work was rough,*

*and sometimes I've been violent,
Because the streets are awfully tough.*

*But I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep,
I worked a lot of overtime
When the bills just got too steep.*

*And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.*

*I know I don't deserve a place
among the people here.
They never wanted me around
Except to calm their fear.*

*If you've a place for me here, Lord
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand."*

*There was silence all around the Throne
Where the Saints had often trod.
As the policeman waited quietly,
For the judgement of his God.*

*"Step forward now, policeman,
You've borne your burdens well.
Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."*

