

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

The Way Cops are Targeted

Four police officers were gunned down and killed over Thanksgiving weekend. Meeting at a coffee shop, four cops catching up on their paperwork and getting some java at the beginning of their shift. A dirtbag walks in on an apparent planned ambush and executes them all. One officer was able to put up a fight and he caused some damage to the offender before the officer died. More may be known by the time this piece is posted on our website, but the story tells us more at this point than we want to know.

It tells us that people still hate us no matter what we do to help the community; obviously not everybody, but enough to make this still a very dangerous way to make a living. The last thing anybody ever thinks is that they will be murdered having a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning as they start work. Coffee in the a.m. as your shift begins to get you started. Is there anything more normal, more mainstream, than that? Lordy. We have a target on our back, fellas, for those who do hate us. I was once told by an FBI guy that statistics show that about 2 percent of our population is truly evil, capable of the worst that humanity can do. He said you (or the public) must pray that you never run into them—and he is right. Getting murdered on your coffee break illustrates that this, or these, suspects are part of that 2 percent deal. But we all know that with cops, that 2 percent level actually rises quite higher. I won't even guess as to what percent it may be that equates with criminals or citizens wanting to kill cops. We are sometimes such easy prey as these politically correct times may cause us to drop our guard.

Always remember that we are not only here to protect the public, but have to do the same for ourselves and each other. We have to fight off the unfortunate reality that besides having to work for an unappreciative local government, press, and public; some of them also want to beat down our pay, our benefits, and our contracts, and are trying to make us look like the bad guys if we don't concede our hard earned pay or pension. Then we have to go out there and try to survive our shift from those who hate us.

Is the 60 or 70k that most grunts make worth the crap you take from the inside and this abject hatred that some in society feel for us? Yes, our administration will tell you to take a clinical approach. Go beyond the feelings of the public, the press, and their own disdain for you. You took an oath to serve and protect. Be above it all. Good advice because it's true. But it's also true that besides the tears they may shed for me and my family if I were killed in the line of duty, I want you to actually care for me and my brothers and sisters in law enforcement while I'm still walking and talking.

We all realize and accept this death possibility. We all know it can happen and we are okay with it, because this is the job we choose to do. Some of us have been close to it, too. I for one have almost bought the farm three times in my lovely career. Twice in patrol and once as an undercover narc. I know of others who came close and of course, some who are no longer with us due to the evil that some people do.

But you, me, and all of us in this noble profession need to be able to ride our ponies into the Magic Forest of Retirement and give ourselves and our families the reality of being with them long after we pull the pin.

I want not adoration, but respect. Appreciation. And when we are not dying for you in a variety of ways, we would like you, our employer, management, and citizens to support us. The photo of the Lakeland, Seattle Police Department surrounded by bouquets of flowers and other paraphernalia was very gratifying. It is touching to see that people are willing to honor these fallen officers. All I would like to see is that this honor always extends to our officers while they are alive and doing their jobs.

Appreciation for all the things that we do. We don't make the laws, we enforce them—for you, for your safety, and so politicians can get re-elected. I'm being funny there in an unfunny situation maybe, but the reality is that I want to see town governments stop beating cops up. Stop the threats of the layoffs. Stop forced furloughs. Stop asking for measly concessions when in reality we need more brave souls out there on the front lines. It's time to stop the bs spewing out of government officials about how strapped they are and expecting cops to take it on the chin to bail them out. What happened to these police officers is a tragedy beyond proportions. They are out there for all the right reasons and giving their lives so people won't ever have to meet those 2-percenters. So as we say goodbye to these heroes and they are laid to rest, stop for a minute and ask yourself in government if you are doing the best you can do for those who stand on the right side of chaos?

Keep in mind that no matter what you as government leaders decide, there will be four more officers and men and women everywhere who are willing to stand in the shoes of those who have fallen before them, because that is what we do.

That's real bravery. That's caring for our fellow mankind. Appreciate them.

Postscript: The scumbag is dead. Killed by a lone officer who probably knew it was a kill or be killed situation. Congratulations to that officer; he has grit and courage. The cops found, I'm sure, some solace in this and I hope our leaders and the public do too. I trust the half-dozen or so pieces of puke who assisted this evil person get arrested, tried, and go away for a long time where this guy should have been. My mom always told me that you should only say good things about the dead. So I will. The bad guy is dead. Good!

Stay safe.