



THE LIBERTY TREE

A publication of Save-A-Patriot Fellowship P. O. Box 91, Westminster, Md. 21158 (410)857-4441

“Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants”

by Jim Kerr, guest editorialist

On July 4, 2013, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Sheriff's Deputies set up a roadblock to make unreasonable searches and seizures which are forbidden by not only the United States Constitution, but by the Tennessee Constitution. (See p. 2 showing Tennessee's Constitutional guarantee of this fundamental right.) July 4th, the very day that we celebrate our separation from the tyrant King George III, the monarch that suppressed the God-given liberties of the peoples of the 13 colonies, is surely *one* day in which *our* government officials should respect civil liberties. But it seems the cops of Murfreesboro, Tennessee were too ignorant to think about that. These Murfreesboro police (and there were likely many other cops through this country) harassed innocent passers-by thus violating their oaths of office. Bad idea – what with modern technology. These cops got caught! Now such criminal behavior by cops can be made public.

This July 4th check-point was beautifully video recorded and broadcast on the internet, causing an uproar.¹ God bless the cell phone! It went viral on the Internet. Yes, *We the People* also have access to modern technology. Anyone can use their cell phone or other such devices to record any incident involving the police, such as when being pulled over. Even people walking down the street, witnessing an event, can use a video recorder to great effect. Remember Rodney King? That “didn't play well in Peoria.”

There is one organization devoted to collecting such

recordings of incidents involving wrongful police behavior. They may be found on the Internet at www.copblock.org. Though it is loosely organized, it has a very interesting collection of videos of bad cops that are caught in the act of breaking the law. These videos should be shown on TV and in every civics class in today's public schools — along with having the students read the constitutions of the federal government and their state. They need to know what rights are. Indeed, inquiring minds want to know!



Murfreesboro, Tennessee Sheriff's Deputy **A. J. Ross** bullying a 21 year old man at an illegal “check point”

It has been said that “seeing is believing.” Second-hand information, even from a source deemed reliable, such as family or friends, may still not be entirely reliable. But to see something, such as an event involving wrongful acts of government employees (overseas military included) with your own eyes, is effective in removing doubt as to what transpired. Video recordings, be they

in Murphreesboro Iraq or elsewhere, provide unadulterated exposure of abuses of authority to wide audiences, making it a powerful tool to sway the sentiments of people such as ourselves. Indeed, honest ignorance can be cured, unlike stupidity, which can't. This is useful not only in making people aware of what is going on in real life, contrary to the filtered, censored, candy coated news we see on TV, but is a powerful tool to hold public officials accountable for their crimes – such as police authorities.

Many bad cops are worse than Barney Fife; indeed, ignorant and arrogant public officials shall not be on the endangered species list any time soon, for there is

1. See: <http://www.fromthetrenchesworldreport.com/4th-of-july-dui-checkpoint-drug-dogs-searched-without-consent-rights-taken-away-while-innocent/49743>



nothing new under the sun. And *We the People* can do our fair share to keep the police authorities within the bounds of their oaths of office by merely keeping our cell phones handy and using them liberally.

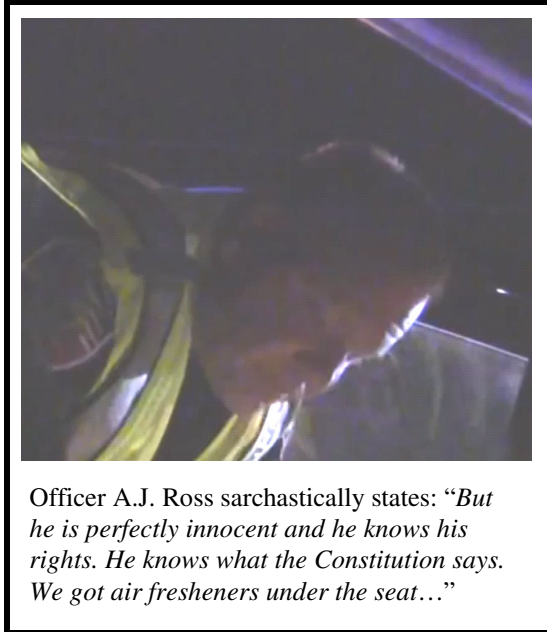
In this country, we are beholden to the principle of public accountability. Indeed, as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis said, “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants....” Instances of corruption and abuse of authority by government officials – especially cops – will be minimized if those powers are required to operate transparently.

In the past, law enforcement has not been subject to much public scrutiny. Not any more!

The wide use of camera phones and the Internet is putting an end to that. And the public doesn’t like what it is seeing! Wide publication of such videos has sparked public outrage and calls for police reform. This would be impossible without the potent impact of citizen-conducted surveillance.

Of course, the law enforcement community is not happy with all this citizen-surveillance. Check out the videos on Copblock.org. *Very* eye opening.

Many police authorities and prosecutors have engaged in aggressive efforts to stop the public from recording police activity altogether. They have made little progress. Indeed, such efforts to chill our First Amendment rights in this area don’t go unnoticed – unlike government efforts to stifle political speech within the Patriot Community. Cf. Judge Nickerson of the Federal District Court’s injunction against Save-A-Patriot’s free speech.



Officer A.J. Ross sarchastically states: “*But he is perfectly innocent and he knows his rights. He knows what the Constitution says. We got air fresheners under the seat...*”

In the past, it was rare that people could actually see first hand, police activity. The public’s perception of law enforcement institutions were filtered through the main stream media, which relied heavily upon official police sources for their information. Law enforcement authorities were therefore able to control the information made available to the public, so as to cultivate a favorable perception of them in the media. This fostered praise and support from the public.

Illegal police activity could be concealed or if absolutely necessary, downplayed to a trusting public, thus minimizing any public disapproval. Today, *We the People* can police the police.

So, do your fair share: record those public servants. Even public servants need to be held responsible for their crimes.



Tennessee constitution prohibiting illegal searches and seizures:

Sec. 7. People to be free from searches, seizures and general warrants.—That the people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions, from unreasonable searches and seizures; and that general warrants, whereby an officer may be commanded to search suspected places, without evidence of the fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, whose offenses are not particularly described and supported by evidence, are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be granted.

See fourth amendment to constitution of the United States.

1. Fire marshal, right of to enter buildings adjoining premises where fire occurred.—A fire marshal has no such right—in conflict with this section. *Rhinebart v. State*, 121 Tenn. 420, 117 S. W. 508.

Sec. 8. No free man to be disturbed but by law.—That no man shall be taken or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed or deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land.



A funny thing happened when I visited Gettysburg one day...

A guest editorial regarding a true story by Jim Kerr

Last July 21st, I took my family to a restaurant in Gettysburg Pennsylvania to celebrate my older stepson's 26th birthday. We had to bring along our miniature dachshund Katie that barks a lot which is disturbing to our neighbors upstairs. When the four of us arrived at the Carlisle Restaurant, we ordered steaks and crab cakes. I went out to the car every ten minutes or so to check on Katie. We had ice water for her to drink, I would let her out of the car as necessary, even douse her with cold water, make sure she was comfortable. We dote over the pup. The third time I went out to check on Katie, as I was walking past the rear exit of the kitchen, I saw this young man wagging his outstretched finger to the Gettysburg Policeman who just drove up to investigate the matter of the dog. Pennsylvania has very strict dog laws. The excited skulleryman obviously called the police. Realizing what happened, upon approaching the car as the cop was coming to a stop, I exclaimed, "Some people are such idiots!" The cop got out of his car next to my wife's and inquired of me and the dog. I reported the dog was fine, I was keeping an eye on her and it was most obvious the dog was active and cheerful. Thinking that would end the matter, the cop then demanded my ID. I asked him what his probable cause was. He said that I must show my ID, it is the law. I asked him which law he was referring to. I was on private property, wasn't driving a car, just checking up on Katie. This so confused the cop that he had to call for backup. And when I continued to refuse to produce ID when the second cop showed up, they said they would arrest me. "Oh, false arrest!" The tone of my voice was calm throughout. Yet I threatened to sue them if I were falsely arrested. This caused greater confusion. Then the third cop car arrived, and then a fourth cop car. The last one was apparently the supervisor. I told him I would not show any ID because I was not required to. I

asked him for his authority to even bother me like this. The supervisor said that courts said it was quite okay, to which I said "I don't care what some black-robed crook says." The supervisor turned his head, but could not conceal his smile. He didn't seem quite the bonehead the other cops were.

In the meantime, the sculleryman that called the cops came out to better observe the matter and I asked him to tell my party that I might be arrested so they wouldn't wonder what happened to me. This sculleryman reported this matter to the waitpersons who were serving my family and so my family was kicked out of the restaurant. They were not able to finish their meals and doggy-bags weren't considered. I wasn't able to have any dinner at all.

Being that I had my wife, two stepchildren and the dog (which the supervisor said "appeared to be just fine" — Katie was wagging her tail in a sheepish fashion, knowing that something was going on) I decided to give them the "escape hatch" that Tommy Cryer would refer to, so they could end the matter. After all, my family were potential victims as well. So I offered to show my drivers license if they would let us go to the Mason-Dixon Line unmolested. The supervisor agreed and we were able to leave Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has very strict dog laws. I know. I have assisted people litigating such matters in the past. Pennsylvania has everything in common with a communist country, and more.

Being as distracted as I was, I only remember four cop cars. But my younger stepson reported that there were five cop cars. The scene lasted nearly an hour.

But the story had a somewhat happy ending. I wrote to the owner of Carlisle and she sent a complete refund and a letter of apology.

Don't we live in interesting times?



The Judgment of Cambyses
1542 AD: Grisaille and silver stain yellow on lightly tinted glass pane. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

The old fashioned way to get rid of corrupt judges:

While nobody in our offices would condone such barbarity, history is set in stone. History tells us Cambyses was a Persian king who lived in the sixth century BC. He took harsh measures to combat corruption among his administrators. When he caught the judge Sisamnes taking bribes, he sentenced him to a terrible punishment: Sisamnes was skinned alive. Dirk Vellert summarised three episodes of the story on this small pane of glass. We see Sisamnes before, during and after the skinning: on the left he is standing with his head bowed submissively before Cambyses, who can be identified by his sceptre and pointed hat. In the middle he is being skinned. In the background his flayed skin can be seen.



Proclaiming Liberty Throughout The Land

Save-A-Patriot Headquarters has been very busy moving to our new location on Center Street here in beautiful Westminster, Maryland. Our new Headquarters are in an historic four-story mostly brick building that used to be a grammar school occupying a prominent part of that building on the first floor. The move is nearly complete, but we need to move our large sign, setting it above the entrance of the building. When this finishing touch is completed, we will publish a photo of our new Headquarters. The new location has, as they might say on “Antiques Road Show”, a lot of “provenance.”

Liberty Works Radio Network will also be working out of this location and the adjustment will be difficult. However, our dedicated staff is making every effort to keep us on the air without any glitches while we settle in.

Please understand that our volunteer resources here in Westminster are stretched to the limit and we dearly need contributions from the liberty-loving supporters of Liberty Works Radio Network and Save-A-Patriot Fellowship. If possible, please send a donation consistent with your pocket book. Frugality only goes so far.

Also important: Please remember the Members of the Fellowship, LWRN and its staff in your prayers. If it wasn't for the grace of God, with the prayers and financial assistance of our Membership, we would not have been serving *We the People* for 29 years.

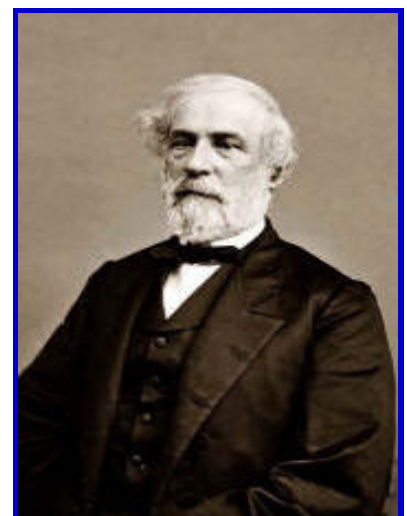
ON PRAYER by Robert E. Lee

This was written by Robert E. Lee after the War of 1861. This is the kind of prayer we need all the more in these troubled times.

Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is the greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray-to really pray.

Let there be prayer at sunrise, at noontime, at sundown, at midnight-all through the day. Let us pray for our children, our youth, our aged, our pastors, our homes. Let us pray for our churches.

Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word "compassion" out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have not known Jesus Christ and His redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our leaders.



Robert E. Lee

...a man for all seasons.

Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice.