

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“There is the good and the bad, the great and the low, the just and the unjust. I swear to you that all of that will never change.”Albert Camus**

### **THE CAPTAIN BRETT CROZIER AFFAIR:**

**Speak about unjust, in my opinion this is a text book example. I’m not going to reiterate all aspects of the case, but Captain Crozier was relieved of command of the air craft carrier, Theodore Roosevelt, after being frustrated by lack the Navy’s response for his urgent pleas for help, as 1000 of his sailors were sick with Covid-19 (CV). Captain Crozier was relieved by a then acting secretary of the Navy for having gone outside channels to seek help, but the Captain had not been getting sufficient help within channels.**

**This all happened around the end of March and Captain Crozier's being relieved of command created a huge public outcry, so much so that the Navy decided perhaps they should investigate further. At that point, in stepped the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Michael Gilday. He and other senior Navy brass then took five weeks to investigate and recommend that Capt. Crozier be Reinstated as Captain of the ship - oops, not so fast, we have a new acting Navy Secretary, James McPherson, who says in effect, "Hold on a minute, we need 30 more days to investigate further." 30 days turn into about 7 weeks, and four days ago Adm. Gilday, with yet a third Navy Secretary, Kenneth Brathwaite, standing by his side (all of three weeks on the job) announces Capt. Crozier will not be going back to his ship, effectively ending his career. This is such a political gong show. The office of the Secretary of the Navy has been a revolving door and has become totally politicized.**

**Also coming in for criticism is Rear Adm., Stuart Baker, head of the aircraft carrier strike group and Capt. Crozier's immediate boss. His promotion to a second star is now on hold.**

**But wait a minute, how did the ship come to be infected? Well it turns out that Adm. Philip Davidson, head of the Indo-Pacific Command thought it would be a good show of American force in the region to have the ship make a port call in Vietnam where CV was already known to be present. It is presumed that is where the crew acquired the virus. But, “ hey”, Adm. Gilday seems to say, “ You just keep doing your fine job Phil.”- no criticism or censure for the man who made it all possible.**

**Adm. Gilday justifies his decision by saying that the best people possible are needed on the ship, “gripping problems. I need them driving solutions. I need them communicating fearlessly.”**

**So, if the CNO’s conclusion, after the first thirty-five day investigation, is found to be faulty, what sort of leader can he be in war time? Bottom line, in my mind, Adm. Gilday is the antithesis of what he espouses above.**

**This is painful to me, as I am a huge fan of the Navy. My father served on active duty in WWI and WWII and my first cousin, Captain John**

**Butterfield, was a highly decorated career officer. Lastly, this final decision is a real morale downer for the troops - a real black mark for the distinguished history of the Navy, just because of politicized, civilian interference. Admiral Gilday, you've been infected by the political virus - suggest you submit your retirement papers.**

**In full disclosure, it should be reported that a senior administration official has been quoted as saying, "No one from the White House was consulted with or provided guidance on the decision." Well, it aint over til it's over. Members of congress are now conducting their own inquiry.**

### **PANDEMIC UPDATE:**

**More exciting news on vaccine development as the pharmaceutical firm, Inovio, is in process of developing the first DNA based vaccine to be used against a human disease. Human trials are underway.**

**The next piece of news, not so encouraging. It has long been thought that antibodies**

**acquired by those who have survived the CV make them immune from future infection. Now it turns out that that protection may only last two to three months especially in those asymptomatic people who have the disease, but have never been incapacitated. In that fairly short time frame, 40% of asymptomatic people showed undetectable levels of antibodies compared to 13% of symptomatic people. However, in a new study, a second set of antibodies targeting the so called spike protein, needed to neutralize the virus, were still present. Conclusion is, there is no conclusion. Case in point; going back to the break out of the virus on the air craft carrier, over 1000 were taken off the ship having tested positive for CV. They went back on board after they tested negative for the CV. They had been “cured”. But then, some time later, 13 of them once again tested positive. Bottom line is, it can't be said that if you've had the virus you're immune from further infection.**

### **ACTION VERSUS REACTION:**

**Some very encouraging news in today's press about U.S. companies making meaningful**

**commitments regarding employment and assistance programs for members of the black community. Just a few of them are; Amazon, IBM, Apple, Facebook, Pepsico, Target, Walmart and 14 others, essentially stating it is their objective to not only hire more blacks and Latinos, but to dramatically increase their numbers in the executive ranks. That's the Action side of the aisle.**

**Then we have the Reaction side of the aisle; the feeding frenzy to tear down statues and other symbols continues unabated, many of which are of historical significance to many. But, the offended must be placated. Anything that has a tinge about the confederacy must go. Christopher Columbus, off with his head, and anyone celebrated for valor in the Indian wars, they must go as well.**

**Speaker Pelosi didn't know it until informed by the curator, but on the walls next to the Speaker's Lobby hung the paintings of four former speakers, all of whom had joined the confederacy. Now there are four gaping spaces on the walls, the former residents in their new home, a darkened warehouse. Similar efforts**

**to rid the Capitol of confederacy tinged statues is ongoing.**

**Now, here are a few objectionable examples that have been around forever which, from the time I was a teenager, I thought were insulting to the people represented in the advertising; much more so than inanimate statues and portraits hung in galleries: The comical, unflattering, depiction of the indian used by the Cleveland Indians and the depiction of figures like Aunt Jemima, Uncle Ben's and Mrs. Butterworth, evoking images of people subservient to white people and perhaps invoking memories of slavery as well. How could this have been going on for all these decades? The Cleveland Indians backed off some time ago, but these other corporate sponsors may have modernized their Aunt Jemimas et al, but the idea and the memory is still there. Oh, but guess what? Just now these companies have become aware of their offensive branding and after 130, years, Aunt Jemima is about to be retired.**

**The state flag of Mississippi was first flown in 1894 and has the confederate stars and bars emblazoned in the upper left corner. This has been the subject of debate over the years, but in 2001, two thirds of the voters elected to keep it. The NCAA is bringing some needed pressure to the state saying that unless the stars and bars are removed from the flag no major NCAA competitions will be held in the state. They love their football and baseball in Mississippi, so it appears the idea has some traction. It's nice to see something positive about the NCAA for a change.**

**Finally, what happens to "Gone with the Wind"? The movie, made in 1939 is the highest grossing film of all time, adjusted for inflation, and has' "enduringly shaped popular understanding of the Civil War and Reconstruction, perhaps more than any other cultural artifact." The movie and the book are vilified by the black community for, "its racist stereotypes and whitewashing of the horrors of slavery." I repeat, what happens to "Gone with the Wind"?**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**



