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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.” Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address.

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG AND TODAY:

Here we are almost at the 157th anniversary (7/1-7/3 1863) of the Battle of Gettysburg, the turning point in the Civil War and the most calamitous battle every fought in our country.

Many people have an incorrect understanding of the casualties on those dates. 46,000-51,000 were said to have been casualties, but many misinterpret what “casualties” mean.

Here is the breakout by Union and Confederate armies: Union: 3,200 Killed; 14,500, wounded; 5,400, captured. Confederate: 4,700 Killed; 12,700, wounded; 5,900, captured. Nearly 8,000 total killed and 27,000 wounded. I would conjecture that being wounded back then was extremely serious given the lack of today's medical advances. So, for many who survived, life would never again be normal.

In the 150+ years since, many memorials have been erected at Gettysburg for both Union and Confederate soldiers. And, today, can't you guess, there are those who want the Confederate memorials removed.

Smerconish on CNN conducted a poll asking, Leave the memorials as is or remove them? The response was 60% leave them and 40% remove them. Where is this country coming from, or going towards, that 40% of the respondents would vote to take the memorials away.

We were at Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery for the 50th Anniversary of D Day. What a beautiful and emotional site. But, very

near is a similar German cemetery with their own memorials and tributes. No one would think to alter what is there because we were bitter enemies and won the war. It's part of history, which is sacrosanct and must be preserved.

Not so with the revisionists in our own country who prefer the rear view mirror to the path ahead. 40% say remove the memorials, what are these people thinking?

Adding insult to injury, we discover that on June 19th The Statue of President Grant was defaced and torn down in San Francisco. Wick Murray, one of our readers and a preeminent American and Civil War historian writes, "What is astonishing about the thrashing of the Grant monument is that without him there is no Union victory in the Civil War and no Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, without which there is no basis for the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s."

NOW LET'S GET THE NATIONAL ANTHEM:

Along come historian, Daniel Walker, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Kevin Powell, activist and congressional candidate. They contend we have to get rid of the National Anthem because Francis Scott Key was a slave owner. Powell thinks it would be great if John Lennon's, "Imagine" could become the new National Anthem. Geez!! I disagree with these two. Why? Because, You can't do away with the National Anthem and still have George Washington on the one dollar bill. If you're true to your cause, you have to follow the trail to the end. Once that is accomplished suggest you raze Mt. Vernon and rename D.C., how about Kumbayatown?

Not unlike Sherman's march to the sea, anything in the protestors' line of march has to go. In Orange County, California we are suddenly told that John Wayne was a racist and a bigot. After decades of silence, it is now demanded that John Wayne Airport be renamed.

The biggest target to fall so far is Woodrow Wilson, Princeton graduate, past president of Princeton and president of the United States

who guided the country through WWI. In this case there is a very legitimate point. Wilson had overseen the resegregation of the Federal Government after it was already desegregated. In an Oval Office meeting with civil rights leader, Monroe Trotter, Wilson said, "Segregation is not humiliating, but a benefit, and ought to be so regarded by you gentlemen."

It's hard to deny that his name should be taken off a residential college and the School of Public and International Affairs. The surprising thing is that only four years ago the college voted to maintain the status quo. All of that said, Wilson was a giant figure and somewhere, somehow, his good actions should be remembered.

Another issue of legitimate complaint is the Emancipation Memorial in Washington showing a freed slave kneeling before the outstretched hand of Lincoln. This was actually paid for by a collection taken up amongst freed slaves. However they never had a say about the completed statue. One person, descended from a slave family commented, "The meaning is

degrading... to see my ancestors at the feet of Lincoln- it's not imagery that inspires African-Americans to see themselves as equal in this society." Nonetheless this statue has important historical significance and will hopefully be relocated to a museum and given appropriate context.

An interesting anecdote occurred after the Emancipation Proclamation. A number of former slaves knelt before Lincoln. His reaction, "Don't kneel to me. That's not right."

But, on and on this drum beat goes, some of it justified, as just above, and a lot of it senseless , driven by marauding mobs. As suggested in the last issue, these decisions should be taken in a judicious manner. I'm hearing and reading a growing and, thus far, silent resentment to many of these actions.

The copycats, not related to black issues, think this is their day as well, so it's open season on Christopher Columbus for starters. The logical path is to now examine every aspect of our society. It is known Henry Ford was anti semitic, let's boycott or shut down Ford. What

about Japan? They declared war on us, killed many thousands of our people. How can we possibly be buying their cars?

Adding to this discussion, one of our readers writes, “The new short list: (targets for attacks) FDR for imprisoning 120,000 Japanese- Americans; Senator Robert Byrd, The Grand Kleagle of the WV Klan; Justice Hugo Black, counsel for the Klan; Yale University named for Elihu Yale, a slave owner and trader. Lenin, Marx, Stalin and Mao all knew that to impose their new order the past needed to be extinguished. Sound familiar? Where will this lunacy stop?”

IT’S DEFUND THE POLICE TIME:

Just one more feeding frenzy sweeping the country. But before we get into that, just a quick review of what the police have to contend with: Chicago- Memorial Day weekend, 85 shot, 24 killed. Last weekend 102 shot, 14 killed. Almost all of this is black on black crime. Where are the protestors about the three year old girl that was killed?

Parts of our major cities are just war zones and there are no comfortable days for police in those areas. They and their families have reason to be thankful every day they come home from their shift.

So, how is the new idealism working to defund or abolish the police? I'm sure we all remember that the Minneapolis City Council voted 9 to 0 to abolish the police department. They know what they don't like - the unnecessary killing of a black man by a white officer, but they don't know what they like or need.

The replacement for the police department is to be "The Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention." ,or, to make it simple, let's just call it DCSVP. Perhaps, it will wind up like the Triborough Bridge in NYC which, was renamed the JFK Bridge. Guess what? Most people still call it the Triborough. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Minneapolis still needs a Police Department.

“The new department will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic public health oriented approach.” Holy cow! Sounds like the brochure for Canyon Ranch.

If law enforcement is needed, you need people who know the law and know law enforcement. What I’m reading so far about these folks in Minneapolis is they are way out of their depth. A typical example; how to handle domestic issues? Well, you send someone over from Family Services, maybe with a back up from the mental health department.

Wrong! Guess what? The FBI reports that 14% of all police fatalities on the job come from responding to domestic disputes. In my opinion, Minneapolis is throwing out the baby with the bath water – just making a huge mistake – looking forward to seeing their future crime stats.

Your faithful scribe,

PB

