

Retired police captain David Dorn was checking on his friend's pawn shop when he was shot and left to die on the sidewalk at 2:30 in the morning on June 2nd. The seventy-seven-year-old African-American man was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, who often checked on his friend's pawnshop when the alarms went off. That fateful night, there was someone there with a gun.

Former St. Louis police chief Tim Fitch and Dorn's friend for thirty years said, "He was very dedicated to youth, especially disadvantaged youth. He wanted to see them succeed. He wanted to be a role model for those young men and women to go into law enforcement."

John Hayden, the current St. Louis police chief, said, "Many of us, the other officers, looked up to him. [He] was very well-liked, very pleasant. And his wife still works here. So a very said time for our agency. We will honor him."

By all accounts, Dorn was a fantastic police officer, family man, and all-around person, yet, he died while rioters and looters ruled the night. Why doesn't his black life matter? Why was David Dorn's death shoved under the rug by many mainstream media companies? Why isn't his name listed on the Black Lives Matter website?

Celebrities, athletes, and media personalities have continued to beat the drum of "no justice, no peace." But what about justice for the blue lives that were lost during the George Floyd riots?

Patrick "Pat" Underwood was a contracted security officer working for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service to protect a U.S. Courthouse in Oakland, California. One drive-by shooting later and Underwood, who was black, was dead.

"I know if I were talking to him right now," Angela Underwood Jacob, Patrick's sister said at the memorial service, "what he would say [to] all of us, here today, and across America, is to stay strong—stay strong, and focus on love and peace and unity...It was senseless, you know, he was standing there trying to protect everybody, and he wouldn't have hurt anybody."

Once again, his story was largely ignored by the press. Why? Because the murders of David Dorn and Patrick Underwood don't fit the narrative.

David Dorn and Patrick Underwood gave their lives protecting the lives and property of others. They dedicated their entire careers to serving their communities and striving to make them safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Unlike the looters that smashed storefront windows to steal a flatscreen TV, Dorn and Underwood cared for black lives and made it their job to protect them.

The narrative the mainstream media pushes is one that paints police officers as bigoted, racist psychopaths. They claim "systemic racism" is causing an epidemic of young black men dying at the hands of white police officers.

But their narrative is false. Police officers like Derek Chauvin—who had no regard for the life of George Floyd—are extremely rare.

To better understand the issue, we must resist taking the isolated murder of George Floyd and assuming that it exemplifies the bigger picture. What *do* the statistics say about the rate of police officer shootings as it relates to race? Since 2015, black-Americans have made up about a quarter of fatal police shootings annually. In 2019, for instance, 1,004 people were fatally shot by the police. Two-hundred and thirty-five of those people were African-American. One could draw from those numbers that black-Americans are shot and killed at an inflated rate, given that they make up only 13% of the population. However, one must look at the crime rate within the black community to better understand this number. In 2018, black-Americans made up 53% of the homicide offenders and 60% of the robbery offenders. They are also incarcerated at a rate five times that of white-Americans.

The fact of the matter is that most police officers—99%—are good cops who care for their community. The majority are like David Dorn and Patrick Underwood. Cops are not roaming the street hunting down black men to murder for the fun of it.

When the mainstream media pushes a narrative that is police officers are bigoted and corrupt and that our country is “systemically racist,” they are ignoring the hundreds of years of progress we have made in this country. They continually want to begin at chapter one of this book we are writing together called the United States of America. To them, there has been no progress since our inception.

Just as we cannot forget the lives of David Dorn and Patrick Underwood, let us never forget or discount the advances the United States has made on the issue of race.

Slavery abolished. Jim Crow repealed. Jackie Robinson. Desegregation of our schools. An African-American man being elected to the highest office in the land.

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said in the past that America was born with “the birth defect of slavery.” Yes, we have had our problems, but we have also made incredible progress.