

Yes There are People Like This

This is my written response, and the only one, to the e-mail Tony Trumps forwarded to numerous Sun City people on January 10, 2016, and his ongoing letters to various newspapers during and after the campaign.

In that e-mail, Tony asserted I lack experience in law enforcement, that I have never strapped on a gun or made an arrest, never seized drugs, never chased a suspect, never solved crimes or recovered stolen property, never experienced having a partner killed, never broken up a gang fight, or never faced violent, cold-blooded killers, never experienced having a team mate killed and never dealt with bereaved families.

For the record, I commanded the Reserve NIS/NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigation Service -- the Navy's equivalent to the FBI) office in Houston emphasizing the deployment of more credentialed agents. I was the class leader in my NCIS basic agent training. I was nicknamed "Dirty Harry" by my classmates after I picked up a S&W Model 19 for the first time and shot a perfect score on the first round at the combat range. I worked covert and unarmed with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) in Panama. I lived in the same hotel with the drug lords. We took down the biggest Cartel in the world---the most cold-blooded killers of their time. I don't think anyone needs to be reminded that the NCIS and the DEA are law enforcement agencies.

Tony was mistaken when he indicated I had desk jobs all of my life. When I got in between an African American child and an angry white mob in Columbus, Georgia, I was only 18 years old. I successfully negotiated the release of two active duty Air Force service personnel from an angry crowd in a Taiwanese village when I only knew six words of Chinese. And getting catapulted off an aircraft carrier is not a desk job.

I do not understand why Tony apparently thinks that the blood of a fallen soldier is less important than the blood of a fallen law enforcement officer. There is no difference between them when you are at their funeral service and see the small children left behind cry because they have lost their father or mother. This is especially true when the body was lost in combat and there is nothing to bury but memories. I also saw the tremendous emotional loss faced by people leaving loved ones and their country behind when we evacuated more than 2,000 Vietnamese refugees from Saigon.

Tony's attitude of marginalizing my military service seems odd but no one should be surprised to learn that Tony never served in the military. He has never experienced or witnessed PTSD conditions during or after a war. He has never experienced the trauma of coming home from the war zone and having your own daughter cry because you have been gone so long she does not know who you are.

In the military, people are selected to command based on their previous performance—not longevity in grade. The national process is highly competitive. I was selected for promotion to O6 after only 19 years of commission because of my performance, on average it takes 21-23 years to reach the rank of CAPTAIN. Had Tony served in the military, he would know that selection boards handle promotions to the higher ranks. Competition is at the national level. Commissions come from the Commander in Chief with the approval of the Senate. In 1971 people accepted in to the Navy flight program was 3 tenths of one percent of college graduates, 80% of those got commissions and about 15% made it to O6. Also I was a leader in that class.

Guess what, my civilian career has had the same achievement level. Graduate degrees, patent work in chemistry, software and systems engineering. Selected at Texas Instruments as top 2% technical engineering staff; corporate, national and international leadership; missionary, church builder and church leader; father raising two kids that graduated with honors; and for more than 20 years of this time I spent more than 30% of my weekends defending our nations and being away from home for holidays and birthdays. There is more for those who want to contact me.

And by the way, I was endorsed by founder of the national Constitutional Sheriffs and Police Officers Association, Sheriff Joe Arpaio, retired District Attorney, police, NCIS, Corrections Officers, DPS and others who have better judgment on who is qualified to be sheriff rather than Tony and Betty.

When one looks at Tony's bio-resume, it is understandable why he has trouble grasping this level of achievement. The above overview only covers two careers up to early retirement. One final note, when I returned from Vietnam I had four years management experience to go with my engineering degree and graduate work at USC, but couldn't get a decent job because I was a Vietnam Vet.

No telling what Tony and his buddy Betty Schleder will try next, maybe more lies from the SC Grandmas.

Bill Kelberlau