

Nashville's Heroes



From The Patriot Post
April 6, 2023
by Nate Jackson

The world is full of awful things, some just the result of corrupted nature and some due to intentional evil. The latter was the case in Nashville last week. Yet often during either natural or perpetrated calamity, we also see the best of humanity rise to the challenge. We ought always stop to appreciate that.

Rex Englebert and Michael Collazo are the two Nashville police officers who fired the shots that took down the murderer at The Covenant School. When the natural reaction anyone has is to run from gunfire, they ran toward it. With the help of several other officers, they ended the threat in accordance with their training.

For that reason, these men say they were just doing their job. As we saw in Uvalde, however, that's not always the way things play out.

Collazo, 31, is a nine-year veteran of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNPD) and a six-year veteran of the Marine Corps. He's also a former firefighter and SWAT paramedic. He's married with one little girl.

Engelbert, 27, has been with the MNPD for four years. He's engaged to be married.

The MNPD released the harrowing body cam footage last week (viewer discretion is



Rex Englebert, Michael Collazo, and their fellow officers saved a lot of lives at the risk of their own.

advised). Heroism is an overused word these days, but the video clearly shows that Collazo and Engelbert are heroes.

Engelbert was among the first on the scene. After a woman described the situation to him as he was grabbing a rifle from his police SUV, he calmly replied, "Okay, yes, ma'am." She continued giving details and then, to other officers, Engelbert said, "Let's go!" Moments later, he fired the first shots to take down the killer.

Collazo was moving with a different team of officers after entering the building through the same door as the killer. There he found the first victim, custodian 62-year-old Mike Hill. When Collazo met up with Engelbert and others, he ran forward to fire more rounds at a still-moving suspect and then disarmed her at gunpoint.

The body cam footage lasted less than three minutes, which, to these officers, probably felt like an eternity. They may now feel less like heroes than they do simply regular men struggling to cope with grief and shock.

Reflecting on the incident this week, Engelbert said he was simply nearby at the time and even had to rely on GPS to find The Covenant School. "I really had no business being where I was," he said. "I think you can call it fate or God or whatever you want, but I can't count on both my hands the irregularities that put me in that position when a call for service came out for a deadly aggression at a school." He credited two school staff members for not running but giving "concise, clear information" to help as he was the first one to enter the school.

"Once we started hearing the first shots," said Collazo, "that's when everything kind of kicked into overdrive for us." His description of what he and his fellow officers did upon entering the upstairs hallway shows how difficult it can be to follow training: "We had to push past [one] victim because we continued

to hear more shots being fired."

Detective Sgt. Jeff Mathes, who was with Collazo at the time, said, "To this day, I don't know how I did that morally." Yet he too knew that there could be no hesitation to save other lives, even possibly at the expense of his own. "I'm not going to stop and say time-out and go talk to my wife, talk to my kids," he explained. "I'm here to make sure everybody else goes home."

Collazo agreed on the toll it takes. "My wife's going through this," he said. "My family's going through this. Officer Rex's fiancé's going through this. Sergeant Mathes' wife is going through all of this and it's tough."

Every cop and his family knows he might not make it home today. And every cop is just as much human as the rest of us.

Nashville Police Chief John Drake even admitted that when he saw a group of kids days later, he simply started crying. That's true of an awful lot of Americans.

The young victims were Hallie Scroggs (the pastor's daughter), Evelyn Dieckhaus, and William Kinney. The adults were Head of School Katherine Koonce (60), Cynthia Peak (61), and Mike Hill (61). They are now enjoying the eternal embrace of their savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks to Collazo, Engelbert, and their fellow MNPD officers, other kids and staff at the school will live a bit longer before that moment comes.



Covenant



Churchillisms

No matter how many times you read the thoughtful quotes of this great person, they seem to become more true over time. I hope our children and grandchildren are listening!

Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions.

Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision.

A nation that forgets its past has no future.

A good speech should be like a woman's skirt: long enough to cover the subject and short enough to create interest.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Life can either be accepted or changed. If it is not accepted, it must be changed. If it cannot be changed, then it must be accepted.

We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

Life is fraught with opportunities to keep your mouth shut.

An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat them last.

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, April 24th

(On the last Monday of the month)

Note Date: 5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge

on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

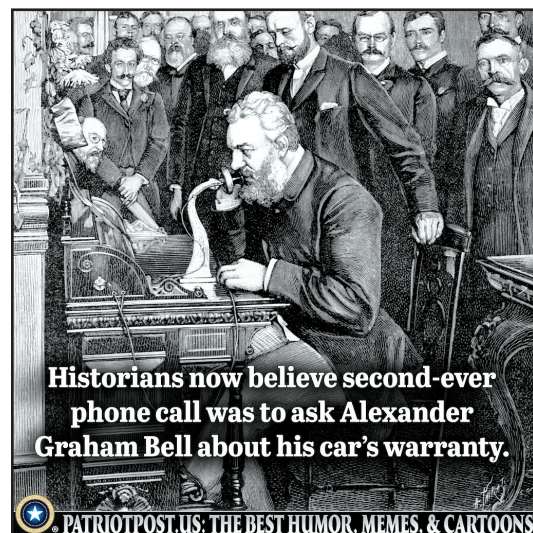
- Updates from the SRA fire hazard zone and those pending for LRA north of the highways.
- King of Hammers' money for Fireworks.
- Town clean-up proposal in the summer.
- Reports from the County Sheriff's Dept., CHP, and our County, School, State and Federal representatives.

• Chamber and Roadrunner news.

PENDING AGENDA ITEMS:

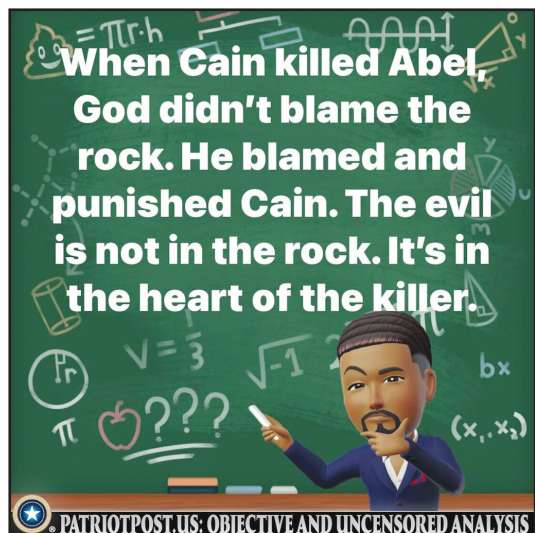
- Status of our LV "Emergency Plan" with the County. Encourage essential businesses in town to have backup generators so critical services are available during power outages and emergencies.
- Create a list of people willing to take residents to doctors' appointments, shopping, etc.
- How did the "Hammer's" help or hurt our local economy? Related traffic in LV?
- Help coordinate the calendar of community events.
- What County/State/Federal services are most important for Lucerne Valley and how can we citizens help their efforts.
- What are the good, bad and ugly experiences we've had in Lucerne Valley recently.

On The Lighter Side . . . from the Web



Historians now believe second-ever phone call was to ask Alexander Graham Bell about his car's warranty.

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