

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Another sad cop story

The recent tragic death of Sandra Bland has brought more negativism to law enforcement. I believe everyone would agree that the officer took a traffic stop from 0 to 60 in two seconds and it was unwarranted. Also, threatening to taser a female because she was smoking a cigarette in her own car after being stopped for failure to signal for a lane change and didn't want to get out of her car is kind of sloppy.

However, the officer really did nothing wrong despite the efforts of the politicians and the press to make him the bad guy. The press is trying hard; from front page headlines to reporters Steve Chapman, Eric Zorn, and Clarence Page of the *Chicago Tribune*, not too much in the good column was written.

It's just sad to read all the nasty because the officer was basically "rude." And you veteran coppers may remember that years ago I wrote a multi-issue series of essays on how cops get in trouble. It was called R.U.D.E. — an acronym for Running your lips, Unlawful use of force, Driving, and Error in Judgement. This particular officer can be lumped into Running your Lip and/or an Error in Judgement.

Being rude and threatening to "light her up" with a taser is an error by letting the issue escalate. None in this instance, however, are firing offences. This kind of stuff happens in police encounters. However, the officer has been put on administrative leave for violating a "courtesy policy."

I'd love to see that policy. It's garbage, I'm sure. Whether a cop is supposed to be nice to everyone, I don't know. With the way people treat cops nowadays you just can't be stupid or unaware.

Right now a cop killer in Chicago is being tried for executing an officer standing outside his precinct. He was killed standing outside by a black guy. No encounter, just three bullets to the officer who had a life and a family. One in the head and while on his back, the suspect shot him again in the eye and the face. His attorneys claim the assailant was afraid of the cop fearing he would be shot, so he took the officer's gun and shot him.

Don't see too much about cops lives matter, do you? And yes, black, white, Latino, suspects have killed cops. It goes both ways.

We have a violent and sick society. People of all persuasions will not stop killing each other. Policing is easier said than done. But the end result on the Ms. Bland case is that she took her life over this incident after a minor traffic stop.

The officer had nothing to do with her death. She was in the jail for three days and took her life. People do that, too. It is tragic but not uncommon, and this officer should not be blamed for this. But the press and politicians are trying, implying she shouldn't have been stopped, told to put out her smoke, or threatened with a taser.

You know, I tend to agree with the fact that the police make too many stops that are simply minor and have a tendency to piss off folks. It's a pimpy stop but it is also on the books. It's a probable cause or a cumulative of other violations an officer sees and is the last reason for a stop. Should he not stop someone who violates a law that's been on the books forever?

And what about the threat to taser? That's a nothing. He didn't after the warning because she complied. Then she assaulted the officer. She is aggravated — I get it. But it's not an excuse to strike or kick an officer. So she gets tagged and arrested, and the cop leaves her at the jail. Three days later, she commits suicide.

The cop haters claim she was killed at the scene and propped up at the jail by the guards who took her mug shot after she was dead. Can you say conspiracy theory? Race baiters or full of you-know-what?

You can bring out the Department of Justice, the FBI, the state police, NASA, SETI, or the CIA and the same conclusion will arise. She was despondent in jail and maybe suffered depression and cutting issues, and had drugs in her system and that caused her tragic act.

But solutions, like Big Dick Durbin pours out, brazen and pernicious bilge like this (to paraphrase), he told a group he was talking to that while he was driving on the expressway, he saw many cars changing lanes without signaling. So he's outraged? Well, Mr. Dick Durbin, who put this law on the books? The cop, the prison authorities? No — you guys did. Your legislators made these laws, printed it, publicized it and voted on it. You all gave it to chiefs and mayors who gave it to street cops and told them to enforce the law.

So now you criticize the officer as well as others for the officer doing his job. The press crucifies him also. Okay then, let's see how you and other legislators demonstrate your integrity by eliminating this law from the books. I want to see you all scramble when drivers change lanes without signaling everywhere, endangering everyone.

Let's see all you politicians and newspaper people remand this law. I'm okay with that. And I'm okay with white cops only stopping white people, black cops only stopping black folks, etc. if that will help from them being demonized and threatened all the time.

Will that stop your nastiness? We say in Italian "che peccato" which means "it's a shame" and that you are. You're trying to make this a racial issue or a brutal cop issue. It's neither. It's called doing your job. Too many laws bring you revenue and you blame everyone else but yourselves when something goes wrong.

Vita é bella