

Has Government Earned Our Trust

Eleventh in a series

© January 9, 2010

by Michael Keehn

mhkeehn@gmail.com

Should Americans trust their government? That's the question isn't it? I think we would like to give our trust, but do we have sufficient cause?

To Protect and Serve - Elio Carrion:

On June 28, 2007, Ivory Webb, a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy at the time, shot Elio Carrion three times, once in the back, once in the shoulder, and once in the chest, as the unarmed Mr. Carrion knelt on the ground. Carrion, a United States Air Force airman, was back from Iraq when shot. He survived the shooting, but required many months of physical therapy.

The event, caught on video, shows Carrion trying to get up, as ordered by Webb, when he was shot. Normally any American would be sent to prison for this, but we are not equal in the eyes of the law, and Ivory Webb was found *not guilty* of any wrong doing.

This event took place after a high-speed car chase, in which Carrion was a passenger. Webb ordered Carrion to *kneel* and then to *stand-up*, and then shot Carrion while the man was doing as ordered.

It is interesting to note that if Carrion, a United States military man serving in Iraq, had shot and killed an Iraqi in his own home, or if the Iraqi had shot and killed Carrion, the vast majority of the American people would be on Carrion's side. But when a police officer kills one of us, in this case a man serving in our military, a jury made up of people like us don't even give him the benefit of a doubt. While the victim of the shooting depends on us for justice, the vast majority of Americans support the policeman without even caring that an innocent man, wearing our uniform, has been shot in our name. All too often we sanction murder if committed by a police officer. Lon Horiuchi for example.

In the case of Carrion, he cried out, "*I'm in the military... I'm on your side.*" But it doesn't make any difference. So an unarmed man, who has harmed no one, who represented a threat to no one, is shot three times while trying to obey a police officer's orders.

Derek J. Hale:

On November 6, 2006, United States Marine Derek J. Hale was back from Iraq. He had been honorably discharged on a combat related medical issue. Hale, house sitting for a friend, sat peacefully on the porch steps late that afternoon. He had joined a motorcycle club and was participating in the *Toys for Tots* program sponsored by the club. About 50% of the club members were former military men, providing Hale with some friendships and comradery. Like many clubs, *the Pagans* probably included some disreputable people in their ranks. Unknown to Hale, the club was being investigated for drug dealing.

Hale was joined by Sandra Lopez and her two children. The father was Hale's friend Raul Morales, for whom he was house sitting. When she learned that Morales had been arrested, she asked Hale to help her with some of the children's belongings and Hale hauled several items to her car.

Meanwhile, the dogs got out and Hale ran up and down the street corralling them. Unknown to Hale he was under surveillance. After corralling the dogs and loading the car, Hale sat back down on the porch to visit with Ms. Lopez. This was observed by the surveillance team and noted. Also noted by the surveillance team was the fact that Hale did not appear to have any weapons in the sweatshirt he was wearing. This being observed while Hale ran up and down the street after the dogs.

During this time, Fred Mixson and his brother Harold, arrived next door. Parked across the street and standing in the door of his van, Mr. Mixson relates that a black sport utility vehicle came speeding up the street. According to Mr. Mixson, this vehicle screeched to a stop in front of the house where Hale was sitting on the steps.

Several people jumped out of the vehicle and ran to where Hale was sitting on the steps. The term people is used, because although none were in uniform nor displaying badges. Nor, according to Mr. Mixson, did they identify themselves.

These officers, with weapons drawn, ordered Hale to take his hands out of his pockets. However, Mr. Mixson states that within one second of that order Hale was shot the first time with a taser electric stun gun. Mr. Mixson said Hale hadn't done anything to provoke the attack and wasn't given enough time to comply. The construction crew next door was also witnessing these events.

Witnesses relate that Hale shook violently from the paralyzing electric charges. His right hand had come out of the front of his sweat shirt and was shaking violently. Because of the paralysis produced by the taser, Hale was not able to get his other hand to cooperate and come out of his pocket. Seconds later police repeated their command to remove his hand and tasered him a second time which caused Hale to roll onto his left side and vomit in the flower bed according to Mr. Mixson.

Hale rolled back to his right and police Tasered him a third time as told by Mr. Mixson. Both Fred and Harold Mixson said that Hale never threatened the officers.

Policeman William Brown of the Wilmington Police Department closed in and shot Hale three times in the chest with a .40 caliber hand gun. And former Marine and American, Derek Hale, died.

Lt. William Brown was cleared of wrong doing by the official channels. A civil complaint was filed which relates Hale twice shouted, "I'm trying to get my hands out." Hale also cried out, "Not in front of the children." Oh yes, the very young children were on the porch to see a man gunned down by American police. Confirmed by witnesses, Sandra Lopez yelled, "He is trying

to get his hands out. He cannot get his hands out!”

Withing a few hours of this murder, the Wilmington Police Department began fabricating a story in order to *justify* the killing of Derek Hale. WPD officers contacted the police in Massassas, Virginia and informed them that Derek had been charged with drug trafficking two days before he was killed. This was a lie. But because it came from someone vested with the power of ***the state***, it was accepted as if it were true, and this lie was cited in a sworn affidavit to secure a warrant to search Derek’s home.

Conducting a search meant that Derek’s grieving widow, Elaine, and her two children were shoved aside while the search was conducted.