

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Enlightening the Community

Telford Telescope: My soul-shredding tragedy



By Dr. John Telford
SUN COLUMNIST



n the day after Christmas I learned something that rendered me desolate and frightened. It wasn't the pandemic which Trump non-handled that scared me so horrifically--although it killed my high-school classmate and boxing com-

padre Ducky Dietz and my Olympian fellow U.S. trackman Rafer Johnson, plus three other friends I've had on my radio show--my DPSCD board-campaign manager Isaac Robinson, my fellow 14th Congressional District Democrats board member Tom Wilson, and Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon. With Trump having criminally abrogated his duty concerning the pandemic, it has now killed nearly half-a-million of our fellow Americans--both voters for him and against him--and it's poised to kill half-a-million more of us soon, the largest percentage of fatalities to be those stupidly refusing to wear masks, sanitize their hands, observe social distancing, congregate together against scientific advice, or refuse to be vaccinated. In my recent capacity as Poet-in-Residence for the Detroit Public Schools Community District, let me share with you again this poetic parallel of the ancient to the present: 'Nero played his fiddle: meanwhile most of Rome incinerated. / Trump played on his golf course while America disintegrated.'

And of course I wasn't frightened of Comrade Trumpski himself--the neo-Nazi Adolf TRUMPler, Benito TRUMPELLini--that treasonous, amoral, hollow, unhinged, sadistic, cowardly, abusive, bullying, self-absorbed and evil sociopath--nor was I afraid of the cravenly traitorous ReTRUMPlicans in Washington who supported the pathological narcissist Trump's fascist efforts to overturn Joe Biden's fair election victory out of abject, self-serving fear of incurring the wrath of the increasingly deranged Trump, or of crossing the treasonous Trump at all in any way. So--Indeed I say NO, NYET--I wasn't scared of

the Putin-worshipping wannabe dictator Trumpski and his obsequious minions. No, indeed--Trump and his lackeys weren't why I was so scared, nor were they WHAT I was so scared OF--because our nation can rest assured that President Joe Biden will reverse the seditious, anti-American carnage that Trump and his boot-lickers throughout the past four lawless years wreaked upon our endangered democracy, and Biden will undo the damage that Trump's co-conspirators criminally inflicted upon our once-shining international reputation for championing freedom and righteousness.

The reason I was more desolate and frightened than I'd ever been in my entire 85 years of existence on this particular planet was quite ANOTHER--and more gut-wrenchingly TERRIFYING--reason that had absolutely nothing to do with Trump or his hypocritical, groveling ReTRUMPlicans. I was so viscerally scared because I had just learned from my beautiful wife Adrienne this catastrophic, soul-shredding news: she had fallen victim to something even worse than the deadly COVID-19, and worse than the multiple sclerosis she has long suffered from. My lovely Adrienne--that wonderful retired school principal who has always loved little children--that loving mother and grandmother who has been the faithful, progressive, nurturing, and ever-constant companion at my side in every single second of all of my multitudinous enterprises and activisms, including my pro bono superintendency of the Detroit Public Schools--had entered the hospital in late December with a minor infection only to be tested and informed that she was riddled with stage 4 CANCER, the fearsome disease which has now stolen her from me irrevocably. So you'd better always hold your spouse or your significant other close--VERY close--because you never can know just when Fate will intervene without warning and separate you forever.

Hear DPSCD Poet-in-Residence and former world-ranked sprinter John Telford Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. on WCHB AM1340. Call him at (313) 460-8272, email him at DrJohnTelfordEdD@aol.com, or write him at 8900 E. Jefferson, Detroit 48214 to get signed copies of his Detroit-oriented books. His website is www.AlifeontheRUN.com.

State updates MI COVID-19 Safer Dining Program for restaurants to help protect customers and workers

LANSING, MICH. - The State of Michigan is expanding on the new MI COVID-19 Safer Dining Program. Under the voluntary program, restaurants utilize a licensed HVAC contractor or engineer to inspect their ventilation systems and receive recommended changes to improve circulation within their workplace to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. The program's parameters are based on the best guidance available from the CDC, EPA and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

The program, directed by the Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), will help make restaurants operate more safely - for their workforce, diners, and local communities - and help diners identify restaurants committed to safer operation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Restaurants are encouraged to have their HVAC system inspected to ensure effective ventilation. Proper and efficient HVAC systems or other ventilation changes, along with compliance with MDHHS and MIOSHA orders and guidance, can lower the probability of transmission in indoor settings.

Once restaurants successfully complete the voluntary process, they will receive a certificate to post at their establishments that verifies their participation.

"This voluntary program compliments the State's outreach and educational efforts related to HVAC and other workplace safety programs," said COVID-19 Workplace Safety Director Sean Egan. "We remain committed to helping businesses implement processes and techniques to maximize safety through layered mitigation strategies, and this program is another opportunity for businesses to do just that."

Businesses can begin the process now by visiting Michigan.gov/COVIDSaferDining to download the program participation forms to comply with the Michigan Safer Dining program and further mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in indoor dining locations.

The website also offers a variety of support resources for restaurants and other

businesses, including resources to locate licensed HVAC contractors across Michigan.

"As our community members look to once again support our small, local business in person, building confidence that customer safety is being prioritized is going to be extremely important," said People First Economy President Hanna Schulze. "The fact is, many of these businesses have been going above and beyond to provide safe environments for their customers and employees since the beginning of the pandemic - take the Michigan Restaurant Promise, for example. Opportunities like this ventilation certification will present another opportunity for businesses to communicate that they have been, and will continue to, take every care to serve patrons safely."

Gov. Whitmer has proposed funding to support the Safer Dining Program as part of a \$10 million supplemental budget request for restaurant support through MI-OSHA.

The Safer Dining program builds on LEO's existing suite of programs to support all types of Michigan employers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs include:

- MIOSHA's Ambassador program, where safety and health experts have partnered with NSF and are visiting businesses statewide to offer free education and support, with a focus on workplaces with a higher risk of community transmission. Employers can schedule their free consultation online.
- LEO's series of HVAC webinars to help educate businesses on HVAC needs, resources and recommendations, including utility rebates, incentives and financing.
- A set of online resources at Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety provides businesses with the guidelines they and their employees must follow and includes a sample COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and a reopening checklist to help businesses put safeguards in place. Businesses can also find posters for employees and customers, factsheets and educational videos and more.

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