

# DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Enlightening the Community

## Telford Telescope: Virus blues, and racism

By Dr. John Telford  
SUN COLUMNIST



Our country suffers in the midst of a worsening pandemic that our departing president could have mitigated instead of mis-labeling it a "hoax" when he still had time to take preventive action.

This plague has killed more than 300,000

Americans and will kill half-a-million more within the coming months--including a disproportionate number of African-Americans. Here's a modern parallel - 'Nero played his fiddle: meanwhile most of Rome incinerated. / Trump played on his golf course while America disintegrated.' I've lost friends to the corona here in Detroit, where I was born 85 years ago amid another worldwide crisis. My 1952 Denby High classmate and boxing compadre Bob "Ducky" Dietz, fellow 14th Democratic district executive board member Tom Wilson, state Rep. Isaac Robinson -- my manager in my recent Detroit board of education campaign, Sheriff Benny Napoleon--and possibly my Olympian friend Rafer Johnson--have all fallen victim to the deadly virus. Our country is on the brink of an even deeper Depression than the one I was born into, and looming over us is the doomsday danger of global warming--which Trump called a "myth" fomented by China--as well as the ever-present threat of nuclear attack from North Korea, Russia, China, and now Iran.

On the home front, brutality against blacks by white police has a long and shameful history in Detroit and throughout America. George Floyd was murdered in plain sight of the entire country, and thousands of African-Americans have experienced similar injustices. Along with the pandemic that has closed businesses

and cost jobs, this has been the final straw that broke the proverbial "camel's back." I'm unsure whether most suburban whites can understand this. When I was teaching, coaching, and administrating throughout the 1960s during my first professional go-around in Detroit Public Schools, any black kid who happened to be running down the wrong alley at the wrong time could become fair game for some cop's casual pistol-target practice. More than once, I bailed out one of my athletes who'd been beaten and gone unfed in jail for--to cite one instance--simply having been riding with a buddy who'd been stopped for having a nonfunctioning taillight and no driver's license. Historically and contemporarily, blacks have been mistreated by people who LOOK like me but don't THINK like me. Growing up on 16th Street at McGraw and sprinting with three black relay teammates for Northwestern High, Wayne State, the Detroit Track Club, and the U.S. National Team, I became radicalized early-on by witnessing discrimination imposed upon them.

As the pro bono DPS superintendent trying to stem the educational and economic violence visited upon our children by emergency financial mismanagement and now as a lifetime member of the National Action Network (NAN), I remain a vociferous activist. Dr. Martin Luther King's use of non-violent protest gained significant concessions from a racist white America, but now COVID-19 and Floyd's murder bear clear evidence that King's righteous work remains unfinished. President Biden faces a huge challenge--and we all must take on the equally righteous challenge to help him.

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](http://www.AlifeontheRUN.com).

## In Memoriam: Dr. Susan Moore The death of black doctor of Covid-19 sets off alarms



On December 24, The Grio reported that Indiana University Health Hospital, "addressed claims of mistreatment in how Dr. Susan Moore was treated in the days before her death."

Indiana University Health Hospital, in a statement said, "We are very sad to hear about her passing,"

By Lauren Victoria Burke,  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

"He made me feel like a drug addict," Dr. Susan Moore, 52, said on a video days before her death on December 22 due to coronavirus. The Black Indiana doctor states on a Facebook video that she had received poor treatment from White caregivers because she was African American. Her message reached over a million people on social media as of December 24.

Dr. Moore died on December 20.

"This is how Black people get killed, when you send them home and they don't know how to fight for themselves," Dr. Moore said on the video. Moore asserted that her doctor attempted to discharge her at ten at night.

Moore's Facebook live post received wide attention and a lengthy segment on Roland Martin Unfiltered on December 23. Dr. Moore knew what to ask for as she was being treated for coronavirus and strongly felt she was not receiving the best treatment.

Moore said that despite telling her doctor that she was in pain she received medication after tests proved what she had been saying since she arrived at the hospital.

"I put forth, and I maintain, if I was White, I wouldn't have to go through that," Moore said in her social media video.

adding, "IU Health respects and upholds patient privacy and cannot comment on a specific patient, their medical history or conditions. As an organization committed to equity and reducing racial disparities in healthcare. We take accusations of discrimination very seriously and investigate every allegation."

Black people have died at 3.6 times the rate of White people, and Latinos at 2.5 times the rate of white people, according to an analysis by the Brookings Institution. Moore cared for her mother, who has dementia, and her 19-year old son. A GoFundMe page is hoping to raise \$100,000 to assist the Moore family. It has raised over \$109,000 so far. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/dr-susan-moores-family-assistance?qid=0b67322adabedeba722b9f6d0429414b>

The coronavirus pandemic has hit the U.S. hard and has now become the most deadly event in U.S. history since the Civil War. Over 327,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 in 2020. An average of 2,000 people are dying a day in the U.S. due to coronavirus.

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## Treasury: Prepare today for the 2021 individual tax filing season

With the state individual income tax filing season beginning in late January 2021, the Michigan Department of Treasury is asking taxpayers to take a couple of actions today to ensure returns are processed promptly.

Taxpayers are encouraged to begin gathering tax-related documents and updating their home addresses with current and previous employers so W-2s and other financial documents can be mailed to the correct address. Incorrect addresses typically lead to information being mailed to the wrong location and could cause delays when filing tax returns.

"Please make sure your address is updated with current and previous employers," State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said. "I encourage taxpayers to take a few moments out of their holiday schedules to ensure all of their paperwork is in order for the upcoming individual income tax season."

Other notable items for Michigan's 2021 individual income tax filing season (2020 tax year):

Beginning in January 2021, forms and instructions may be viewed and downloaded from [www.michigan.gov/taxes](http://www.michigan.gov/taxes). In addition, commonly used forms will continue to be available at Treasury offices, public libraries, northern Michigan post offices and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services county offices.

When tax season begins in late January, taxpayers can e-file their state tax returns

instead of mailing a paper return. To learn more, go to [www.mifastfile.org](http://www.mifastfile.org).

Taxpayers may elect to use direct debit when e-filing their 2020 tax returns. A direct debit is a tax payment the state Treasury Department electronically withdraws from the taxpayer's bank account using the bank information provided on the electronically filed return.

State income tax filers have the option of making payments electronically using the Michigan Department of Treasury's e-Payments system. Payments can be made by using, electronic payment (eCheck), credit card or debit card.

The ability to claim a refund for the 2016 tax year expires on April 18, 2021.

Taxpayers who have been recent victims of identity theft are asked to report their circumstances to the state Treasury Department. Reporting identity theft helps thwart cybercriminals who attempt to file returns and steal state tax refunds. To learn more about tax-related identity theft, go to [www.michigan.gov/identitytheft](http://www.michigan.gov/identitytheft).

A complete list of developments for the 2020 tax year is available.

To learn the latest about state of Michigan taxes, go to [www.michigan.gov/taxes](http://www.michigan.gov/taxes) or follow the state Treasury Department on Twitter at @MITreasury. Federal tax information is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

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