

## **Changing Guard Now**

**By Eydie McDaniel**

The New York Times recently printed 7000 names of black American human beings killed by police officers. In debates Kamila Harris said bad cops are bad for good cops.

Nothing has stopped willful police murder of black Americans. Yet absence of law-enforcement would bring our lives into violent chaos. When someone's life is being beaten away, we need the police. When someone insane and angry invades our home, we need the police. No pleading can meet a violent beating, stop a racing drunk driver, or spare every child in a school massacre. Waving an opinion won't often stop a waving gun. I don't like it but in some moments force is vital.

Blaming the whole group, the police, for bad cops only loads on more pressure to an already difficult job. My brief, week long research showed a strong desire to help one another motivated most people who pursued law enforcement. In addition, many good police minds are already rethinking how to foster better service and redesign what police do. Our good police officers get rewards but those rewards come from their own camps, the justice department or their police department. Since police officers are part of our lives, the most noble ranks of our culture ought to give police humans recognition for making positive difference. Honor deserves honor and it deserves inclusion.

In the days since the murder of George Floyd, my heart and soul and almost every waking hour has gone after learning more, listening more, going deep for doing more to help liberate black Americans. The world-famous knee on the neck murder lasted eight minutes and 45 seconds and finally got what seems like a lot of attention. But if we don't seriously confront our biases, intentional or unintentional, it's all a big: "So what?" just like always for the last 400 years. I feel humbled to be part of hideous white domination. This must be a white battle now. It should have been a relentless uncompromising fight centuries ago. No young black drivers should tremble in the more frequent traffic stops for fear of bad results that do happen because their skin is darker than the cop's skin. No parent should have to teach another precious child that someone will hate them for their dark skin. Such stress causes health problems both physical and mental.

Hating each other can't be fixed by blaming any whole part of us. The solution for living together in peace is in coming together as a whole community. We cannot afford to keep the stupid habit of abiding biases. We all need each other. Changing must be a healing, not just another line in the sands of time. Equity, goodness, and caring about each other can finally make true the beloved dream; America Land of the Free and Home of the Brave, for the first time. By seriously investing right now we can take down the brutal guard of bias in all of us.