

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Freedom for the bullies

Last week a group of angry parents shut down a meeting of the Spring-Ford School Board. The board voted to adjourn the meeting rather than try to conduct business over the din of people who refused to sit and listen respectfully.

A few days before that, Canadian police ended a three-week occupation of downtown Ottawa by hundreds of truckers who blocked the streets with their tractors and continuously blew their horns to further disrupt the life of city residents.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

In both cases, the protests focused on government attempts to contain the coronavirus pandemic, either through wearing masks or vaccinations or both.

Nearly 950,000 Americans have died from the coronavirus since it first arrived in America in January 2020. That's more than twice the number of American soldiers and sailors who died in World War II.

Several vaccines for the coronavirus were developed in record time and became widely available a year ago, but a significant minority of the population has refused to get them.

Ironically, vaccines have virtually eliminated terrifying diseases like polio, smallpox, rubella and measles, which previously killed and crippled millions of people worldwide.

But the coronavirus vaccine is a political issue, not a scientific one. And enough people have refused vaccinations to keep the virus spreading.

Most of these protestors self-righteously see themselves as free-

dom defenders.

And whether at Spring-Ford or Ottawa, they believe their right to protest in a disruptive manner supersedes the rights of others to a civil society.

That's called bullying, and unfortunately it often works quite well.

While people loudly proclaim their "freedom" to not get vaccinated or wear a mask, the most awesome power government can exercise is taking a citizen's life away.

From 1940 to 1973, the United States government exercised that power through the Selective Service System. All male citizens aged 18 to 26 were subject to two year's service in the Army. Everyone had to register. If you were deemed fit, you could be forced into military service.

In addition to providing soldiers for the Army, the draft encouraged others to voluntarily enlist in the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marines.

More than 1.5 million men were drafted during the Korean War era: 36,000 American soldiers were killed.

During the Vietnam War era, 2.2 million men were drafted. More than 58,000 American men were killed in Vietnam. Most people in my generation know someone who was killed in Vietnam.

My brother was drafted immediately upon graduating from college in 1966. He was fortunate to be posted to Thailand. One of my wife's classmates joined the Marines after graduating from high school in 1966. He was killed in Vietnam a week before his 20th birthday.

Compulsory military service is thankfully over. Today, we've reached the point where bullies disrupt the peace because they are asked to get vaccinated or wear a mask.



"FREEDOM" protesters shut down central Ottawa for three weeks before they were finally evicted by police. Protesting bullies showed no consideration for the people who actually lived there.