



THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **August 20, 2021**

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“There is some good in this world and it is worth fighting for.”

– J.R.R Tolkien

Me watching y'all play Simon says with the CDC every week...



The Chief's Desk

So, what does failed leadership look like? I'd share a picture, but I don't want to offend anyone in particular. Honestly, over the last nearly 24 months the failures in leadership, especially by some elected officials across our country, have been so great in number that I'd have to share more pictures than I can fit.

Nearly 20 years ago, our country experienced one of the most significant tragedies in our history, and for some of us, our lifetime. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 directly impacted three separate areas of our country – New York City, Washington D.C., and Shanksville, PA. In the hours, days, months, and years following we came together as a country supporting one another, our communities, and our flag. Today, it's hard to recognize who we are, or were – depending on your point of view.

The divisiveness we are experiencing today is heartbreaking, and absolutely unnecessary. I don't have to think how you think, or believe what you believe. That is what makes this country great, and separates us from groups like the Taliban. Unfortunately, we have been led to a dark place by some elected officials, scientists, medical folks, and a complicit media. Gone are the days when our elected officials actively sought differing opinions so they could make an informed decision. That has seemingly been replaced by censorship, or canceling out of any opposing points of view – which has not gone unnoticed in other parts of the world.

We have been divided by everything it seems: race, religion, and gender, to name a few. And one of the most divisive subjects out there right now – wear a mask, don't wear a mask, get the shot, don't want the shot, if you don't get the shot you are endangering others... What?? Get the shot if you want it; don't get it if you don't want it. Consult your medical provider, your family, or no one at all. It's your choice one way or the other, and it will remain that way in our organization.

I saw a friend post something the other day equating the COVID shot to getting the measles or polio vaccine. His meme stated, "We've controlled these other diseases." That is correct; however, he was likening the measles vaccine to the COVID shot. The fact is, there is no comparison between the measles and a SARS virus – that I can find. Viruses mutate, and we all knew this was going to happen. That's the reason they have to develop a new flu shot, or "influenza vaccine" every year, and that is the reason they are working on a booster for the COVID shot i.e. COVID is a virus and it mutated; it will do it again.

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Upcoming Events:

August 23: Meet with state emergency managers in Phoenix, Board meeting
August 24: Chief on Vaca 30th wedding anniversary, Facilitate conference call between AFCA and DFFM
August 25: Meet with Coyote Crisis Collaborative, Healing Fields Meeting
August 26: Yavapai County Chiefs meeting

Board Meetings:

August 23 Administration
CAFMA – 1700-1830

The World Trade Center's Construction: 8 Surprising Facts

By: Sarah Pruitt

In early 1962, when the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey officially authorized a plan to build the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan, it came just months after President John F. Kennedy announced the U.S. goal of sending astronauts to the moon. The vision for the seven-building complex—which would cost an estimated \$470 million (more than \$4 billion in today's dollars) and include the two tallest buildings in the world—embodied that same brand of American optimism and ambition.

The twin 110-story towers at the heart of the World Trade Center were designed to surpass New York's iconic Empire State Building—then the world's tallest building. Building the new towers would marshal unprecedented levels of design innovation, engineering prowess—and breathtaking risk.

1. A little-known Japanese-American architect was chosen to design the World Trade Center.

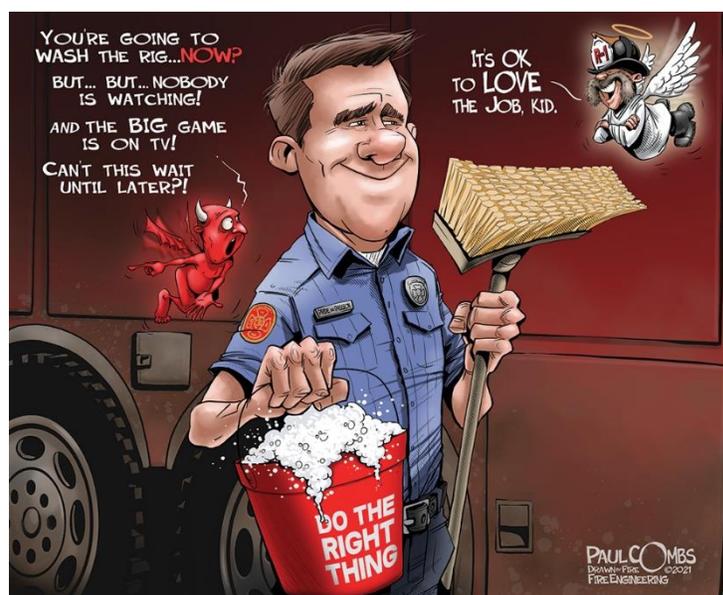
Born into a poor family of Japanese immigrants in Seattle, Washington, Minoru Yamasaki put himself through college working in fish canneries in Alaska. He started his career in New York, working for the firm that built the Empire State Building, and rose to helm his own firm in Detroit. By 1962, when Yamasaki applied to design the World Trade Center, he had completed work on a single high-rise building: Detroit's Michigan Consolidated Gas tower, which had just 30 stories.

The Port Authority chose Yamasaki based on his proposal to design a vast trade center that still had the intimate, human-focused qualities of his other designs. Tasked with building the world's tallest building, Yamasaki settled on a design of two towers and five other buildings that would together comprise some 15 million square feet of office space.

history.com

Drawn by Fire: Do The Right Thing

By: Art by Paul Combs; Commentary by Dan MacAuley



Taking Pride in All That You Do

Each day, firefighters around the world report for duty, ready to respond to a wide variety of emergencies called in by their citizens. Once at work, you determine the type of person and firefighter you'll be for the remainder of the shift. Housework commences and rigs are checked, but then what? Maybe watch TV or take a nap? How many will wash the rig, clean the tools, or take the time to do a drill? The fire service and society in general has taken a "kinder and gentler" turn and it's showing. This is a paramilitary organization, which means that's how we should be training and acting. From the condition of the firehouse and rig to the tools and ability to perform our duties, we need to take pride in all we do. Instead of walking by a dirty rig, wash it without being asked. Take the trash out when it's full. Know your streets. Take care of the tools. BE PROFICIENT AT YOUR JOB! Most firefighters are on shift for 12 or 24 hours...leave things better than you found them! This job owes us nothing at all, and there's no need to put a long-winded self-pat on the back all over social media. Putting a photo up showing pride is a completely different story than using "me" and "I" a dozen times. If you see something that is broken, wrong, or dirty, make the necessary changes. If it's above your paygrade, say something. Don't leave something for the next guy or the next group to find, because it may be too late.

fireengineering.com

Chief's Desk Continued

It is important that you seek information in places other than social media or memes before you start lecturing others, or make decisions about your own health care. On a final note, there doesn't seem to be a defined end game for this entire debacle. The damage done thus far as a result of the ill-advised measures taken to combat COVID are unprecedented e.g. financial, physical and emotional health, supply chains, worker shortages, etc. And, what some are trying to do to kids today is quite simply unconscionable.

As an interesting fun fact, I was riding with Engine 58 the other day and decided to look at the side of our box of blue surgical style masks. The statement on the side of the box is "*May not provide protection against viruses.*" The statement was on the side of the box pre-COVID and remains on the side of the box today. I would add that this is the same message on the side of the box of masks purchased at local retailers. Regarding cloth masks, I read a study out of Australia that was completed pre-COVID. The use of cloth masks as part of that study in the clinical environment led to an increase in disease spread by 7%. I shared the study in one of my earlier Reviews in 2020. In fact, there are numerous studies from around the world that have concluded that the masks have not made a difference in the rate of transmission. In fact, mask-to-mask transmission is documented. If memory serves me correctly, the most recent study was out of the University of Kentucky.

I'm not telling anyone not to wear a mask. However, at least do your own research in order to make your decision. And, those who choose not to wear a mask should not judge those who do, and those who choose to wear a mask should not judge those who do not. For our response crews, we provide you the appropriate level of PPE for a known or suspected COVID call. Otherwise, you are not required to don a mask unless you are in uniform and entering a building that requires masks. Additionally, if a patient requests that you put one on, don't argue. Don the mask out of respect for the patient. We are

here to serve the public both physically and emotionally. So, if it makes your patient feel more comfortable, put it on.

I suspect just the fact that I question the usefulness of masks will upset some folks. This is despite the fact that I did “follow the science.” It’s just not the science that fits the narrative, but it was the science that existed pre-COVID, as well as verified studies released post COVID. Unfortunately, that information does not follow the *approved* narrative. All I can say is, do what you feel is best for you and your family. You are welcome to your opinion, just as I am welcome to mine.

Let me be clear, COVID is a thing. That said, it’s a thing we have to learn to manage. It’s not a thing that’s going away. To that end, we have to stop scaring folks, we have to start sharing differing viewpoints, and we need to treat each other with respect.

I believe that one of the problems we are facing as a country is that we are electing and being governed by two extremes – left and right. It’s not unlike Twix candy bars, i.e. the left and the right Twix, “Pick a side”. There is no difference between the two. The same can be said for left and right extremism, they’re both toxic. Those in the middle trying to moderate and focus on what is best for our country as a whole get squashed. We need to stop battling and get back to collaboration.

What we are witnessing in Afghanistan right now is an unimaginable tragedy, and an absolute failure of leadership and management at the federal level. Why is this important to our Agency? First, we have military members within our ranks, and are hiring more as I write this. How does what they are witnessing today impact them? Second, does the number 343 ring a bell? We lost a lot of firefighters on 9/11 as a result of a terrorist act planned on a distant shore in a country friendly to terrorists. I think this has the potential to impact us at some point in the future. Finally, what does it say about our country? It certainly doesn’t send a message of leadership, care, or compassion for fellow human beings.

Allow me to dispense with the negative narrative and turn to hope for a better future. Up until now, I’ve been pointing out everything that each of us is seeing and feeling. Frustration, anger, fear, nervousness, and a general feeling of unsettledness are all feelings I believe most of us can identify with right now. So, how do we change it?

Some of it won’t change until we start electing better people e.g. less divisive and more collaborative into positions of power. That begins on the local level. Second, turn off the news, or at least limit your intake. Remember, these reporters are not out to inform you, they are out for the next big story, or the next big headline that follows some predetermined narrative. For the most part, they’re not researching or asking questions, they are simply reporting a story. For the news media, fear, violence, and sex sells. We’re in a 24-hour news cycle and they need something to keep our attention. Third, and I’ve said this before, stop arguing with people on social media! It is not worth your time and aggravation. Fourth, get back out with your family and friends. Humans are like herd animals, we need to be with other people. Finally, have a dialogue and listen to other perspectives. You never know, they may actually have a point. If you don’t agree in the end, agree to disagree and move on.

Remember, we cannot control what the knuckleheads in Washington D.C. are doing. It’s okay to have some level of frustration with the inconsistencies and constantly changing narrative, e.g. do this, no don’t do that, yes do that again – unless you shouldn’t. Moderate the amount of time you allow yourself

to be angry or frustrated with things you cannot control. If there is something you can control, take control of it, and don't let others burst your balloon.

We still live in the greatest country on the planet. People will swim across the ocean in hopes of tasting just a bit of the freedom we enjoy. I do not see many people swimming across an ocean, a river, or even standing at a checkpoint on our northern border trying to escape the United States. Honestly, if you want to leave that bad, we have people that will help you pack 😊 Just saying... Keep your head up, good things lie ahead for us as long as we do the work and come together no matter our disagreements.
