

Obituaries



In Loving Memory Veronica Polk

Veronica Polk was born May 22, 1966 and died Oct. 8, 2015. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 11 a.m. at Rose City Park Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda St.

Addie Jean Haynes passed away on September 20, 2015 in Gresham, Oregon. Addie was born on August 30, 1926 to James and Sylvia Thompson in Plumberville, Arkansas.

A memorial service for Addie Jean will be held at Caldwell's Mortuary at 20 NE 14th Avenue at 11:00 am on Friday, October 23, 2015 with the repast following the service, at the June Key Delta House on 5940 N. Albina St. You can find Addie Jean Haynes online at www.caldwellsfuneralhome.com for sending flowers and any other information.



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Compelling Focus on Police Tactics

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tigation skills to several other cases of violent police confrontations, including one in which a half dozen officers dressed as civilians stormed a man's house to serve a warrant at night. The latter incident provoked a bloody confrontation that left the man (a veteran who claimed he was reacting to a perceived home invasion) and several officers wounded and one officer dead. The object of the search? A basement marijuana grow, with no evidence that the homeowner had sold or intended to sell any.

Since the 1970s, SWAT team raids have increased in the United States by an estimated 15,000 percent, according to one of a handful of very helpful analysts interviewed. The film offers some illuminating background about how we got here, mostly via the so-called war on drugs. Fueling Lawrence's concern about an increase in militarization that has gone largely unexamined is the sacred trust that he believes officers owe to the public, which he sees getting lost in the escalation of assault weaponry and military gear that has become so prevalent.

Lawrence does indeed make for a compelling figure around which to build this film; he understands and respects law enforcement and appreciates from his own experience the real dangers they face. He also credibly analyzes several incidents in which members of

the public were killed or injured in confrontations with police and presents convincing alternatives to the justifying narratives put forth by police.

The film analyzes only Utah cases involving white citizens; although a couple of commentators point out that incidents of police violence are disproportionately visited on minority communities, I both missed further analysis of that reality and marveled at how strong a case can be made about police violence even without venturing there. I could not help but

that they found a compelling spokesperson; rather, they build a skillful narrative around Lawrence's concerns, filling in details of specific stories he has investigated and panning out to the larger issues around police conduct. They also give meaningful air time to the views of law enforcement. They have assembled an extremely compelling and nuanced approach to a topic that demands but rarely gets that kind of care, and lucked into incredible timing for their film's release as concerns about police militarization have

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wonder about the vast majority of people of any race who do not have access to a relentless former sheriff to investigate their cases -- and the fact that none of the cases on which Lawrence has applied his powerful police analysis have resulted in meaningful accountability by law enforcement underlines the real difficulty in bringing attention to the problems highlighted here.

Directors Barber and Christopherson did not rest on the fact

increased since the events in Ferguson, Mo. that followed the police shooting of Michael Brown. No matter where you think you stand on these issues, this examination deserves attention.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. Find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.



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