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# Opinion

## Truth of Fake 'Hero' Cop Proves White Lies Matter

Writing under the headline, "Police lives matter too," Chicago Tribune Columnist John Kass summed up the sentiment — and mass hysteria — surrounding the supposed Sept. 1 murder of a policeman in a bedroom community 50 miles north of Chicago. He wrote that the killing "had nothing to do with our hashtag politics of which lives matter," but that Kass was wrong.

We have since learned that it was all a hoax or, as the chief investigator put it, "a carefully staged suicide" by the man known as G.I. Joe, who was about to be exposed as a thief.

Even though the number of cops losing their lives in the line of duty by firearms is down this year, cops and conservatives have sought to project a different picture in the aftermath of the August 28 murder of Harris County, Texas Deputy Sheriff Darren H. Goforth, who was repeatedly shot in the back of the head at a service station in Cypress, Texas, a Houston suburb.

Just days later, more than 1,000 miles away, the death of Lt. Joseph Gliniewicz in Illinois brought about increased attacks on the Black Lives

George E. Curry  
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Columnist

Matter Movement and President Obama. Now we know that Gliniewicz was lying when he radioed in that he was in pursuit of three suspects — an African American and two Whites — after he was supposedly shot by them. The resulting manhunt cost more than \$300,000.

Though Obama had strong-

“Though Obama had strongly denounced attacks on police, his critics pretended he had never said a word

ly denounced attacks on police, his critics pretended he had never said a word.

Media Matters, the watchdog group, noted in a headline: "Fox Figures Demand Obama Make Remarks Condemning Violence Against Police Days After He Did Just That."

As Media Matters pointed

out, the myth of the 'Ferguson Effect' — the idea crime has increased because cops are more restrained because of increased scrutiny in the aftermath of episodes of police brutality — has been thoroughly discredited."

Even so, Fox co-host Kimberly Guilfoyle said, cops "don't want to be arrested or persecuted for just putting on the blue every morning."

But Radley Balko of the *Washington Post* destroyed such faulty reasoning.

"On the first point, the implication seems to be that people should just keep quiet in the face of what they perceive to

problem with protester or social justice culture, it's a problem with police culture."

The real problem is that the crew at Fox TV and other conservatives, some running for president, took the easy and popular way out by rallying around police, even when attacks on them are down, all the facts were not yet in and, in the case of Lt. Joe Gliniewicz in Illinois, he was plotting to have a hit put on a city official because he feared she was on to his trail.

All of them owe President Obama and the Black Lives Matter Movement an apology. But, like Donald Trump, they are incapable of admitting they are wrong.

George E. Curry is President and CEO of George Curry Media, LLC. He is the former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine and the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA). He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, [georgecurry.com](http://georgecurry.com). You can also follow him at [twitter.com/currygeorge](https://twitter.com/currygeorge), [George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgeE.Curry), and *Periscope*. See previous columns at <http://www.georgecurry.com/columns>.

## Child Watch: Helping Children Cope with Crisis

Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Children Elaine Zimmerman helps meet many child needs in her state including sharing advice to help children cope with terrible events.

Some of our nation's largest tragedies have hit Connecticut's children close to home.

Many lost family members who worked in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

Then there was the unimaginable heartbreak and horror of the mass shooting in Newtown, Conn., when 20 first-graders and six beloved teachers were murdered in a place where families believed their children would be safe.

Constant stories about wars, desperate refugee parents and children, worries about attacks on places of worship, and the cumulative natural and unnatural devastation can make the world seem like a very scary, unpredictable place.

So Elaine Zimmerman has shared suggestions she, as Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Children gives adults to help children cope with crisis and provide all children the security they desperately need.

• Connect. Counter isolation and fear with comfort and understanding.

Marian Wright Edelman  
Children's  
Defense  
Fund

Listen carefully and answer children's questions directly and honestly whenever possible. Authentic response in tragedy is so important to children and youths.

“Authentic response in tragedy is so important to children and youths

- Provide a message of warmth and security. Children need to know that home is safe, so show them you love them and will protect them.
- Highlight steps to keep school safe. As a teacher, note strong school safety measures and explain that school is one of the safest places in our communities.
- Know what to do, as much as possible, in a disaster. Develop emergency plans that include roles for the children. Ensure they know adults are thinking about

their safety.

- Direct children to a school or community counselor who serves children and families if you perceive that the response they are showing might benefit from a professional conversation. Counseling, often short-term and focused, can be tremendously helpful when needed.
- Show antipathy to violence and hatred. Bullying and racial bias in school are local forms of the cruelty we see on the world stage.

constructive, creative ways.

I am deeply grateful for resources like these.

Children desperately need adults to help them process and cope within the violent and uncertain world we have created for them.

They also need to see adults working with and for them to create a better, safer nation and world for tomorrow. Elaine Zimmerman reminds us that "[Children] want to repair the world. From the youngest to the oldest child, there is a stark awareness of the plight of others."

"To them, our world is unsafe, violent, hateful — and yet good. This is a healthy sign in a complex time."

Adults should join our children with urgency in repairing and building a world safe for every child.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose *Leave No Child Behind*® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

- Ask children who their heroes are. Mention yours. Talk about heroes together.
- Honor good works and deeds.
- Help children become everyday heroes.
- Get back to normal. Do not let a tragedy leak into play, routine and normal activity.
- Bring hope back that change can happen. For many, current events have put hope in a back drawer. We owe it to our children to reclaim it. Children need hope if they're to lead in