



# ROSSMOOR NEWS

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## Republican Perspective

*By John Littig*

The Post-Racial President: Re-visited - Again

The column published Aug. 21 under the “Republican Perspective” title compared reaction to the Trayvon Martin death with reaction to the beating of a 13-year-old by three older boys. The sequel, which appeared Sept. 4, focused on the separate murders of Joshua Chellew, Christopher Lane and Delbert Belton.

Both articles discussed the reaction of the Reverends Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton as well as President Obama. “Jackson, Sharpton, and Obama had jumped in when the perceived victim was black, but could not find their voices when the victim was white.”

Now along comes another case - another opportunity for the reverends and the president to condemn violence by blacks against whites with the same vigor as when the roles are reversed.

Lawrence “Shine” Thornton was an 87-year-old Navy veteran of World War II. A retired electrician, he ran a liquor store and sold award-winning tamales for which he had a special recipe. He was active in St. Joseph’s Catholic Church and in the Knights of Columbus.

On Oct. 18, Thornton was attacked in his driveway by four teens. He was airlifted to a hospital, but died two days later from his injuries.

Police have arrested Edward Johnson, Leslie Litt, Terrance Morgan and Geblonski Murray - all black.

So far, true to form, the reverends have not spoken out or led any marches on behalf of the 87-year-old World War II veteran. But then again, we all would be shocked if they did.

But how about the post-racial president? Well, you could argue that he should not inject himself into local issues. But he chose to do so in the Trayvon case, and in that of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates - cases in which blacks were the perceived victims. So he’s apparently not averse to commenting on inter-racial crimes.

As I said in a previous column, he has “the bully pulpit, and thus he is able to influence public opinion and our national discourse. In addition, his own racial heritage makes him uniquely positioned to influence young black men...” and “His failure to do so raises two important issues. First, he reveals a disturbing imbalance of mindset on matters involving race. Second, he misses an opportunity to favorably influence the lives and actions of young black men - who disproportionately commit violent crimes and thus disproportionately populate the nation’s prisons.”

So how did the president do this time? Again, dead silence. And again, another lost opportunity.

It certainly would be welcome and refreshing for the president of the United States to take a balanced and constructive approach in relation to racially tinged crimes. Unfortunately, his track record makes this doubtful. Also unfortunately, the future will likely bring an abundance of opportunities for him to ignore.

John Littig can be emailed at [jslittig@aol.com](mailto:jslittig@aol.com).