

## 2020 Update

There was in 2020 a worldwide pandemic called COVID-19. Thousands of people died here and around the world. People were ordered by the governor to stay home. People had to wear masks and practice social distancing which meant they had to stay six feet away from others in public places. Businesses had to limit numbers of customers in their places and many big public events were canceled. So far it was not as bad as the flu epidemic of 1918-19 which closed down the country. 675,000 died in US pop of 103,208,000. It killed 3% of world population and 0.65% of US population. As of Late July 2020 less than 0.08% of the Michigan population have been killed by COVID-19 but it is ongoing and estimates that 0.5-3% of population could eventually die from it. A vaccine against it is being worked on.

In 2020 we had a lot of protests after a police officer kept his knee on a criminal's neck who was already handcuffed killing him.(not in Michigan) There was an outcry from some groups to do away with police departments. But history shows cities must have police departments including public safety otherwise crime runs rampant and lives would be in danger. We have a wonderful thing now. The 911 system. If you need help just call 911 and most of the time one gets timely and often lifesaving help. Police and firemen risk their lives daily to protect us. Just look at places like Syria in which public safety has broken down. People are losing their homes and lives. Rule by American law is much better than rule by brute force and anarchy. But in some countries, there are now areas with Islamic law. In England there are some no-go Islamic zones with Islamic law that the police no longer control. And lately an outcry from women and people there who have been denied human rights. They are closing Christian churches and harassing nonbelievers and there have been "honor" or other killings (an excuse to murder someone they disagree with and even murder gays. Slaying of nonbelievers is after all ordered in the Quran in many verses, which is current Islamic Law.) This can happen here if they get a majority and if they get enough people on the city council. Look at some other cities you will find it is happening slowly in that direction. No, I am not bashing this is fact based. Just look at England and Europe. One lesson of history is that if you allow enemies to live amongst you they may eventually build enough power to hurt you.

It has become apparent that the news media is not always telling all of the important facts in stories. Many TV and radio stations and newspapers are now owned by big corporations with their own agendas which influence what information is given out to the public. Journalism used to be to present the most important facts first then truthfully present the rest and give both sides to stories if known. The media is greatly failing in this.

We have not put a priority on education. Our kids are testing much lower than kids in third world countries. The lack of education of young people is showing in their ignorance of government. There have been mass protests on many causes. The media for example appears to have a liberal agenda in many cases.

Black lives matter which is of course true and fine but when someone has a sign that White lives matter, or Blue lives matter or even ALL LIVES MATTER they are abused, insulted, attacked, sometimes even fired from their job. Something is obviously wrong here and with the public. We veterans for the most part have served our country in the cause of freedom for all and most of us continue to work to eliminate racism and injustice. Yet in Warren in July 2020 a Warren veteran carrying an American flag to an event had his life threatened. Something is seriously wrong here. We are failing to properly educate our people. We may pay dearly for this.

Many young people have little idea that many fought and gave their lives for their freedom or what life is like in other parts of the world without freedom. I have heard many young men say they would go to Canada before they would fight to defend the USA. To this old veteran this is beyond alarming. Our American flag and country stand for Freedom with Liberty and Justice for All and for freedom from fear and need. We have established freedom here and justice and have created abundance for most citizens. Just go in a Walmart there is about everything you need at reasonable prices except medicine, health care, affordable housing and cars. Many of us are working on improving things further. However, some racism still exists, and greedy rich corporations are still hogging the profits to keep excess profits for themselves rather than pay livable wages to workers. We still need to create affordable housing and medical care for every child and citizen. Warren still has homeless families with children sleeping outside with the rats. Inexcusable. And political parties are still not putting up candidates or programs to help us working people. Congress and all political parties there have bowed to bribery and have failed to stop corporate welfare, wasting our money, failed to provide medical care, regulation of the drug and medical corporations who are gouging Americans. And they have failed to begin a program of creating solar panel farms all over and have the power companies buy that free clean electricity and give every citizen an equal share of the profit providing basic income for all which would eliminate welfare, poverty and boost the economy. This would be a win win for all and help the environment. Everyone could still work for more income. It auto companies made small two-person electric cars we could have free fuel also really cutting pollution.

There is still work to be done to improve things. Your ideas and help is needed. Join our Think tank.