

[June 5, 2016]

In case you just returned from Mars, Muhammad Ali finally croaked.

I won't waste my time posting the posts of the celebrities weeping and wailing over the passing of The Poster Child for Narcissistic Personality Disorder. Instead, I'll just share this bit of nonsense from Kevin Iole of Yahoo! Sports:

"He was a hero to others because of his stand on the Vietnam War. He was a conscientious objector and gave up virtually everything - his career, his title, most of his income - to stand up for what he believed in".

Oh, yeah, I almost forgot that little matter of Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., refusing to serve his country. May we please dispense with this hogwash for a few facts?

* Clay was rejected for military service in 1962, because - there's no delicate way of putting this - he was too damn dumb, scoring 78 on his Army IQ test!

* Clay refused to register for the draft, in violation of the law.

* Upon converting to Islam, Clay ditched what he called his "slave name". He was named for Cassius Marcellus Clay (1810-1903) -- an abolitionist!

* Clay ditched his "slave name" for Muhammad Ali al-Mas'ud ibn Agha (1769-1849) -- a slave trader!

* The Arabic words used to slur blacks - "abd" and "abed" - mean "slave"!

March 9, 1966. With PhD candidates dropping like flies in Indochina, the military lowered its lofty standards, and, surprise!, "The Louisville Lip" was now deemed good enough to walk, chew gum, and go Rambo at the same time. Learning of his reclassification while speaking to reporters, Ali promptly launched into his "poor me" act:

"My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people or some poor hungry people in the mud for big powerful America. Shoot them for what? They never called me nigger. They never lynched me. They never put dogs on me. They didn't rob me of my nationality, rape and kill my mother and father. What do I want to shoot them for, for what? Why do I want to go shoot them, poor little people and babies and children and women? How can I shoot them? Just take me to jail".

The Army offered Mr. Pacifist Special Services, so that he would be out of harm's way and could continue to beat men up for a living, but he refused. He even called the black member of his draft board a racist! At a June 4, 1967 press conference at the Black Economic Union in Cleveland, Ali - supported by mayor Carl Stokes; football players Jim Brown, Willie Davis, Sid Williams, Bobby Mitchell, Walter Beach, Curtis McClinton, and Jim Shorter; and basketball players Bill Russell, and Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor, Jr. (who converted to that "religion of peace" and ditched his "slave name" for Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1971) - doubled-down. Sixteen days later, he was found guilty of draft evasion. Ali's megalomania was such, he assumed other prominent blacks would rally to his "cause"; he was wrong. Jackie Robinson: "Cassius has made millions of dollars off of the American public, and now he's not willing to show his appreciation to a country that's giving him, in my view, a fantastic opportunity". The "poor me" act was repeated for the benefit of the April 1968 Esquire, complete with Poor Me aping St. Sebastian's martyrdom, being "shot" by arrows.

My neighbor Steve Crawford served in Vietnam. If you wanted to tick him off, all you had to do was mention Ali or Bill Clinton or Bruce Springsteen (who claims to this day he flunked the Army physical) or Jim Morrison (the son of an admiral, he avoided service by telling his draft board that he was gay) or those who pretended to be junkies or those who fled to Canada, and later pardoned by Jimmy Carter (who rolled bottles under his flat feet to give them enough of an arch to allow him to pass his physical and join the Navy during World War II). Many good young men died because of those cowards!

I take that back. The real cowards were the Democrats and RINOs (Republican in Name Only) in Congress who betrayed those good young men by deciding to leave Southeast Asia to the tender mercies of Pol Pot, Pathet Lao, and the Viet Cong; an estimated 3 million men, women, and children were slaughtered as a result. They caved to the anti-war movement, which was fueled, in large part, by the War being broadcast nightly on TV (incredible as that sounds) and by Walter Cronkite, who, in his February 27, 1968 CBS News broadcast, flat-out lied about the on-going Tet Offensive being a "stalemate", and decreeing that negotiating with the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese was "the only rational way out". In November 1969, news broke of the massacre of 347 civilians by 100 American soldiers near the village of My Lai in March 1968. At the ensuing trials, the Captain and his Lieutenant pointed the finger at each other (apparently, the Captain was convinced that ALL of the villagers were either Viet Cong or in league with the Viet Cong).

Lost way-before Cronkite and My Lai was the reason why we were in Vietnam in the first place: to halt the spread of Communism. The government's failure to remind Americans of that was enough for most to buy the lie that our boys were getting - as Joe DiMaggio put it in an interview recalling his 1969 goodwill tour of Vietnam - "shot up for nothing". Also conveniently forgotten by the Left who smear George W. Bush and Dick Cheney with the

Draft Dodger Brush (Joe Biden scored 5 deferments; for "asthma", a "condition" he failed to mention in his memoirs; I don't hear anyone calling HIM a draft dodger!) is that the Vietnam War and the War on Poverty - which decimated the black middle-class and the traditional black family - were prosecuted by... wait for it... wait for it... Democrats!

Once upon a time, public figures comported themselves as something other than braying jackasses. Ali changed all that. His Rope-a-Dope shtick. Calling Joe Frazier an Uncle Tom (and worse). Proclaiming himself The Greatest (even after ex-Marine Ken Norton broke his jaw). "The Greatest" what? The Greatest boxer? Not even close. The Greatest asshole? That's more like it! Cheating on his wives. Banging underage girls. Fathering 9 children by 6 women. Supporting Communist régimes. Spewing hate (Piers Morgan was ripped by his fellow loons for stating that Ali - whose great-grandfather and great-great grandfather were white - was a bigger racist than Donald Trump). Some "hero", Kevin Iole!

In the years after his Parkinson's diagnosis robbed him of his ability to function, Ali became beloved by the very whites who hated him for dodging the draft (that's what the white media tells us, anyway, so it must be "true"!) George Foreman, who allowed Ali to destroy his psyche until he hit rock-bottom and found God, can't claim to be The Greatest. But he can still walk, talk, and wipe his own ass. The real champ.