

# Left plays favorites in Finicum and Brown shootings

Michael Costello/Lewiston Tribune

The drone evidence is clear. The policeman who shot LaVoy Finicum to death had to make a snap decision. The choice that lay before him as Finicum's hand disappeared under his jacket was:

- Did he want to see his family again?
- Or did he want to learn the hard way if Finicum was about to draw a firearm?

The policeman made the right decision. A 9mm pistol was recovered from an interior pocket in Finicum's jacket, just where his hand had gone under the jacket.

Finicum was one of the sagebrush rebels who occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon. He and five others were apprehended after Oregon State Police and the FBI set up a roadblock that intercepted them as they traveled north toward John Day, Ore., on I-395. Finicum tried to evade the roadblock and embedded his truck in a snowdrift.

The violent conclusion to Ammon Bundy's nonviolent resistance was just what the left wanted. They even called for it. Oregon's governor demanded that the federal government use force to end the occupation. And I don't recall any demands from the Oregon governor's office to forcibly remove the Occupy Wall Street mobs.

The drama on I-395 reminded me of Ferguson, Mo., during the summer of 2014. The disparate reactions of our leftist illuminati to these two events tells us much about them.

To review, on Aug. 9, 2014, police responded to a report of a strong-arm robbery at a convenience store. Darren Wilson, the first policeman on the scene, observed the 300-pound Brown and his accomplice, Dorian Johnson, walking down the middle of the street. The two fit the descriptions of the suspects and their behavior would have drawn police attention in any case. Wilson used his car to block the suspects' path and Brown attacked Wilson through the driver's-side window and fought with Wilson for control of Wilson's firearm.

The firearm discharged during the struggle. Brown and Johnson fled with Wilson in pursuit. Brown turned around and charged Wilson. Wilson defended himself with his service pistol and Brown died.

Wilson had a choice. Did he want to take his chances with hand-to-hand combat with the massive Brown, or would he defend himself and live see his family again? Wilson made the right decision.

People claiming to have witnessed the event told a variety of stories about how Wilson murdered a defenseless Brown. After sampling the menu, the mainstream media settled on the falsehood that Brown was shot to death as he raised his hands in surrender.

"Hands up. Don't shoot" became a popular narrative on talk shows and street protests. As we later learned from a Justice Department investigation, it was all a lie.

As was the case with Brown, "witnesses" with their own agendas are now claiming that Finicum had his hands up and was trying to surrender when he was shot. No honest viewer of the video would agree.

Finicum's advocates are claiming that the FBI released the drone video to besmirch Finicum's reputation. This also has its analog with Ferguson. After the professionally indignant spread their nonsensical stories about what a paragon of virtue Brown's life had been, police released security camera video of Brown and Johnson roughing up a convenience store clerk less than half Brown's size.

The Ferguson agitators denounced the Ferguson police for smearing Brown's good name. Among the agitators who argued that the video should not have been released was the United State Justice Department.

Former Attorney General Eric Holder knew a good narrative when he saw one and wanted nothing to contradict it.

Another big difference is that the mainstream news media will not promote the Malheur protestor's cause. "Hands up. Don't shoot" wove its way into numerous television shows. The Washington Redskins took the field in a preseason football game with their hands raised over their heads.

Another difference is that, the sagebrush rebels' cause is now poisonous. Congressmen who should have addressed this issue long ago would not now touch it with a 10-foot selfie stick.

Even after the "Hands up. Don't shoot" narrative was proven false, the lie propelled the agitator's cause. The president and much of the Congress took up the protestor's cause. The mainstream news media still presses the agitators' case. The sagebrush rebels' case is every bit as just. But civil disobedience only serves the causes of the left.

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