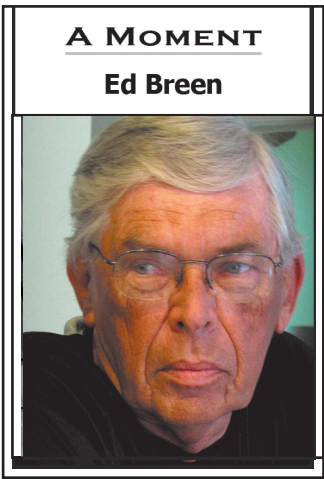


# The ‘Naughty and Nice’ list for 2020

With Christmas only a week away, it is time, even in this Age of COVID, to sort the Naughty from the Nice in a year in which Naughty seemed to prevail.

We’ll get to those whose stockings shall be filled with coal, but let’s cheer ourselves first with a few from among the Nice who are with us. And, indeed, especially this year, the Nice have been extraordinary in their gifts to the rest of us.

We can start right here at home in the rooms and corridors of Marion General Hospital, both at the mother house on Wabash Avenue and the dozen or so satellite operations around the county, where something like 1,100 men and women have focused like lasers on preserving the lives and protecting the health of all of us as COVID raged. Four thousand cases, more than 60 of our neigh-



A MOMENT

Ed Breen

bors dead. Equipment at a premium, rest at an even greater premium if at all.

Yes, they and all the other “first responders” – police, fire, EMTs, ambulance staff, bus drivers, utility workers, — all those who put themselves in harm’s way to do their jobs going all the way back to mid-March deserve the very finest we have to give them.

Teachers, administrators, anybody working in a school from the toddlers to the college pros. They’re right there, too. Something special.

And that list goes on.

*“...let’s cheer ourselves first with a few from among the Nice who are with us. And, indeed, especially this year, the Nice have been extraordinary in their gifts to the rest of us.”*

People, primarily young people who have staffed the drive-up and carry-out windows at restaurants day after day because a take-home burger became a treat for the rest of us. You know who you are.

And, of course, not nearly so close to home, but the shiniest and most luxurious gift of all is reserved for the still-unnamed men and women with the lab coats and microscopes who have untangled the web and tentacles of the evil coronavirus, unmasked it and made an antidote that will

protect the millions of us.

I have no certain knowledge of this, but there is plenty of reason to believe that millions of those little frozen bottles are passing through Grant County right now on Interstate 69 on their way from the factory up near Kalamazoo, Mich., to the airports of FedEx in Memphis and UPS in Louisville. Distribution centers are sprouting overnight in obscure places around the planet like Pleasant Prairie, Wis., and Karlsruhe, Germany.

When Stephen Ambrose wrote his monumental book 25 years ago on the building of the transcontinental railroad across America, he titled it “Nothing Like it in the World.” We now have a contender. In its own way, the creation, manufacture, distribution, and inoculation of 330 million American arms is . . . well, there’s been nothing like it in the world.

But there are others on the list. Not necessarily so “nice,” but those who showed the courage to do the right thing when it needed to be done. Right there among them are the nine men and women of the Supreme Court of the United States who last week were asked to subvert the Constitution of the United States, to overthrow the will of the American people to please the yellow-haired narcissist who doesn’t want to leave.

No, the men and women of the court

said, including the three beholden to him for their jobs. No, we cannot and shall not do that because it is a violation of the law of this land.

On the Naughty side of the room – those who need to be put in the time out chair for quite a while – are those who crafted the idea of simply overturning the votes of millions in four states because Texas didn’t like the way they voted in Pennsylvania and Michigan and Wisconsin and Georgia.

And we need a large shipment of time-out chairs to accommodate the 126 members of the U.S. House of Representatives who told the Justices they believed this was a good idea.

To their everlasting credit, two of Indiana’s representatives – Susan Brooks, who represents those of us in the Fifth District and Larry Buchson from the Eighth District—refused to participate in the holiday charade. We applaud them.

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