

Good News

The only thing necessary for ~~evil~~ good to triumph is for good people to do ~~nothing~~ something.

Victories for First Amendment Rights!

These people protested, then chose to go to trial to defend their and our civil liberties. The frosting on the cake is that they won their cases. A victory for one is a victory for all!

Protest of the Muslim Ban: Verdict “Not Guilty!”



Mike Madden holds the sign he used to protest at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

On January 29, 2017, Mike Madden, an antiwar activist and Veteran for Peace (Chapter 27), went to the Minneapolis International Airport to protest Trump’s Muslim travel ban, objecting to its religious and racial discrimination. He arrived too late to join the rest of the 1,000 protesters opposing the ban, so he protested by himself, asserting his First Amendment rights by walking about the baggage claim area, holding a sign on which he had written “Muslims Welcome” in large letters. When law enforcement demanded that he leave, he refused but did not resist arrest, while waiting for his wife to pick him up to give him a ride home. He was cited and booked. In June of 2018, he went on trial for criminal trespassing at a “critical public service facility” – a gross misdemeanor that carries a sentence of up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. After deliberating only one hour, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. – *WAMM Newsletter Staff*

Protesting Shooting of Philando Castile: Verdict “Not Guilty!”

The arrest of peace and justice activist Roger Cuthbertson was made on July 27, 2016, near the Governor’s Mansion in Saint Paul, Minnesota, during a protest following the shooting to death of Philando Castile, an African American, by police officer Jeronimo Yanez. The charges against Roger Cuthbertson were: count 1, Public Nuisance, punishable by \$ 0 to \$1,000 dollars fine and 0 to 90 days imprisonment, and count 2, Unlawful Assembly, punishable by \$ 0 to \$1,000 fine and 0 to 90 days imprisonment... Roger's testimony was informative, emotional, and heart-felt... Roger talked about being motivated by the killing of Philando Castile that he learned about from

the live video of the incident by Castile's girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, and Roger also listed victims in so many shootings of black citizens by police without accountability. He said he needed to be at the mansion to express his grief and desire for a better system... Roger said he heard the requests by police to leave the street, but he didn't leave because he had a first amendment right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances...

Mollie Wetherall was also on trial with charges related to a protest near the Governor's Mansion. Mollie testified about the anguish of Philando Castile's murder. She affirmed her belief that activism is a tool to help us make our society what we want it to be. Mollie testified about the anguish of Philando Castile's murder. She affirmed her belief that activism is a tool to help us make our society what we want it to be. Her reason for being at the Governor's Mansion was to get in community and seek a better way. She described her unjust arrest and full body search and professed her intention to protest and commune peacefully and not to block the street. The police gave no alternative place for protectors to exercise their right of assembly and petition. Mollie's intent was not to be in the street, but other options were blocked. Her intent was to be peaceful.

After hearing three days of testimony, the jury deliberated and returned the verdict "Not guilty" on all charges. — *from Jo Schubert's report on the trials of Roger Cuthbertson and Mollie Wetherall*