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### Trump Dismantles Obama's LGBT Policies

Politico has published a deep dive into the myriad ways the Trump administration is rolling back, curtailing, or completely ignoring the many pro-LGBT advances won during the Obama administration. The piece begins:

“The nation’s health department is taking steps to dismantle LGBT health initiatives, as political appointees have halted or rolled back regulations intended to protect LGBT workers and patients, removed LGBT-friendly language from documents and reassigned the senior adviser dedicated to LGBT health.



The sharp reversal from Obama-era policies carries implications for a population that’s been historically vulnerable to discrimination in health care settings, say LGBT health advocates. A Health Affairs study last year found that many LGBT individuals have less access to care than heterosexuals; in a Harvard-Robert Wood Johnson-NPR survey one in six LGBT individuals reported experiencing discrimination from doctors or at a clinic.

The Trump administration soon after taking office also moved to change the agency’s LGBT-related health data collection, a window into health status and discrimination. Last month it established a new religious liberty division to defend health workers who have religious objections to treating LGBT patients.”

I encourage you to read the full article here: <http://bit.ly/DT-AntiGay001>

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### Don't Just Lead Well; Follow Well

Media and literature on leadership abound. Everywhere you look, there’s another book, podcast, or motivational speech on how to become a better leader. It’s a funny thing though . . . given the fact there are so many people leading out there, there must subsequently exist even more folks who are following them. And yet, almost no material — no books, no podcasts, no lectures — exist on how to become a good follower. The topic is almost completely absent from education and our cultural conversation.

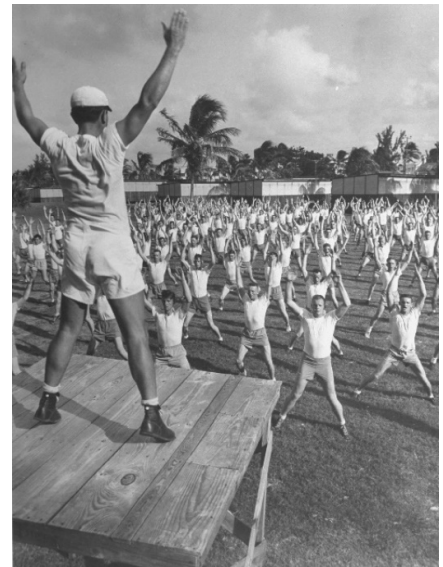
The public’s utter lack of interest in learning how to follow isn’t any more surprising than its keen interest in leadership. Seeing ourselves as leaders warms our pride and enhances our sense of identity. Everyone wants to see themselves as self-sufficient, independent iconoclasts — leading the charge, marching to the beat of their own drummer. The Chief. The Big Cheese. The Head Honcho.

But nobody wants to see themselves as a follower. Yuck. The word crinkles the nose. Leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Followers are dependent, conformist, submissive. Not at all like how we want to see ourselves.

Why You Should Embrace Being a Follower:

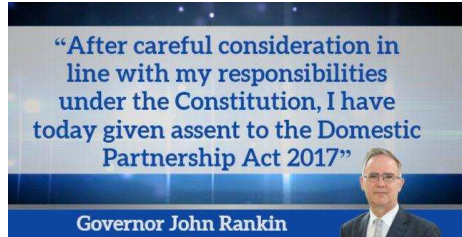
- Following Is Learning
- Following Is Liberating
- Following Helps You Achieve a Higher Purpose
- Following Is the Road to Leadership

To learn more, Brett and Kate McKay wrote this great article about the art of following well. It’s online at The Art of Manliness at <http://bit.ly/FollowWell>



## Bermuda repeals same-sex marriage!

Bermuda has become the first jurisdiction to legalise and then repeal same-sex marriage, in what critics have called an unprecedented rollback of civil rights by the British territory.



Bermuda's governor has signed into law a bill reversing the right of gay couples to marry, despite a supreme court ruling last year authorising same-sex marriage.

Walton Brown, Bermuda's minister of home affairs, said the legislation signed by Governor John Rankin would balance opposition to same-sex marriage on the socially conservative island while complying with European court rulings that ensure recognition and protection for same-sex couples in the territory.

Bermuda's Senate and House of Assembly passed the legislation by wide margins in December and a majority of voters opposed same-sex marriage in a referendum.

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## The 15 Association Anniversary Weekend

The 15 Association hosted its 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the weekend of February 23<sup>rd</sup> –25<sup>th</sup>. A Formal Dinner was held Friday night at Patio Español, including a silent auction. On Saturday, they held their regular monthly Men's BDSM Play Party at SF Catalyst, followed by a late afternoon play party at the SF Catalyst on Sunday. The 15 Association is a social and sexual fraternity for men who engage in BDSM and other kink play. They host all male-identified people who are interested in BDSM and are 21 or older. For more information, see their website at <http://www.the15sf.org>



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## Number of crashes drop on The Dragon's Tail

Folks in Blount County have a love/hate relationship with US 129, The Tail of The Dragon, one of the most dangerous roads in the country that also brings a lot of tourism dollars to the area.

The 11-mile stretch has 318 curves has opened the rest of the world to Blount County for about 30 years. Lieutenant Randy Ailey grew up in the area, and he said no one bothered with that road until the 90's. Since then, its popularity has exploded.

"I've seen people from Japan, Australia, Europe and of course we get a lot from Canada, Mexico and all over the United States," Ailey listed.

For many, the main attraction is danger.

"That's what draws a lot of people," Ailey said. "It's advertised as one of the most dangerous roads in the world."

Because of that, there's a balance he and his fellow officers have to maintain.

"We want to keep people safe without running people off," he explained.

The highway is free to ride, but Jeff Muir at Blount Partnership said The Dragon brings countless dollars in tourism.

"It's a nice isolated road, so if you're going to ride it, you're going to stay in Blount County," Muir said.

While sheriff's deputies like to see the tourism, they said they hate working the fatalities.

Since 2002, Lieutenant Ailey said an average of three people die on The Dragon each year. However, each year, deputies learn more and more about how to patrol the road, which has resulted in a lower number of crashes.

"In certain months, we know we're going to have more tourists and we increase patrols," Ailey said. "Instead of doing four days a week, we might do seven days a week; and on holidays, instead of having two officers up there, we may have three or four. Over the past couple of years, it seems to have made an impact on the total number of crashes."

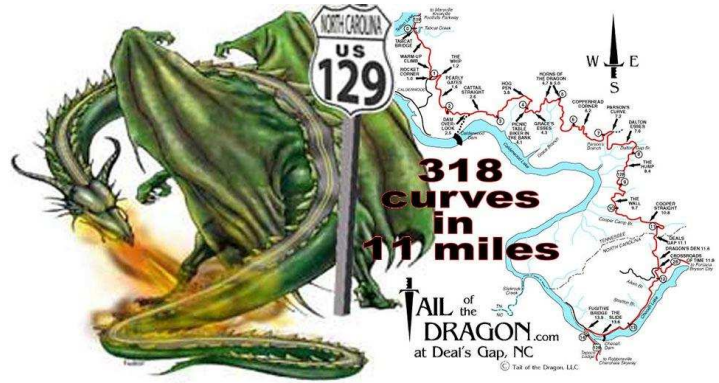




## Dragon's Tail (continued)

On a good day, it can take more than 35 minutes to get up The Dragon, but Blount County Rescue Squad members are also working to bring that response time down. Volunteer John Whitton said they've learnt to post a truck up there during the busy season, just in case.

"We will post a truck up here on the weekends, Saturday and Sunday, from about 10 to 6, to do quick response and dramatically cut down on response time for EMS," Whitton said.



Whitton explained, a lack of communication also poses a threat. Spotty cell phone service makes it difficult for first responders to locate a crash. TDOT recently implemented half mile-markers to make a quicker response time. TDOT spokesperson Mark Nagi said their efforts have also gone hand-in-hand with decreasing the amount of crashes on The Dragon.



"By putting up extra signage, pavement markings, some of those drop off areas, just some of those extra safety measures, we feel have made that a safer roadway. We have not had as many crashes, I don't believe, in recent years that maybe we had ten years ago," Nagi said.

It's the combination of efforts from TDOT, BCSO and BCRS that make the difference in crash numbers, but first responders said, if you're calculating the number of deaths, you also have to count in the human factor.

"We're all on a public road and everybody tends to think it's somebody else who causes the most problems, but the common denominator is the human factor," Whitton said.

Because of The Dragon, the Harley Owners Group (HOG) Rally is returning to East Tennessee. The weekend after Memorial Day, Blount County is expected to be flooded with bikers from all over the country.

Empire City MC spent a week in Deal's Gap riding the Tail of the Dragon (and other roads) in 2014 for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ride. Every five (5) years, ECMC takes a week-long trip somewhere to celebrate their anniversary. In 2019, ECMC will celebrate its 55<sup>th</sup> year and planning for the week-long run will begin this year with the help of all members and many friends.

Portions of this article originally appeared on <http://wvlt.tv>

## NYC congestion pricing plans to charge motorcycles same as cars!

Would you like to pay more to ride your motorcycle in in Manhattan? Well, the American Motorcyclist Association is concerned that the "FixNYC congestion pricing proposal" makes no mention of motorcycles or scooters and, therefore, could result in those riding motorcycles or scooters paying the same congestion fee as a cage!

As a result, the AMA is urging you to write to Gov. Cuomo and tell him to exempt our congestion-reducing vehicles from this toll. Send your message to Gov. Cuomo at the AMA website: <http://bit.ly/NYC-bikes>



This plan is not yet final, so there is still time to make our voices heard. All road users want to reduce congestion and get where they are going faster. Creating incentives for the use of motorcycles and scooters is one way to do so. Gov. Cuomo is a motorcyclist himself and must recognize some of the benefits of riding a motorcycle. Let's educate him and other government officials on the benefits of motorcycles and scooters for all New Yorkers.

Please spread this message to ALL NYS bikers!





"No, your dad isn't hot. He likes to feel like he's riding a motorcycle when's he's looking at them on the Internet."



"We have a mouse. And judging by the motorcycle parked outside his hole, he's a pretty cool one."



"Actually, you could say my injuries are motorcycle related. I sat on my grandmother's motorcycle, and she wasn't too happy about it."

# UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March 21:00:** Spartan MC 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary biker barnight at the DC Eagle, 3701 Benning Road NE, Washington, DC.

**Fri-Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> March:** RIDE: Long Island Ravens' Silver & Black 25<sup>th</sup>+1 Anniversary Dinner/Run. Dinner only package is available as well as weekend package! For more information, visit <http://liravensmc.org/LIRMC25>

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> April 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're booked into.

**Thu-Sun 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April:** RIDE: The Penmen and C.O.M.M.A.N.D. MC present Bears, Bikers and Mayhem in Gettysburg, PA

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> April:** RIDE: Hogs 4 Hope. Charity motorcycle run for the Ronald McDonald House.

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> May 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're booked into.

**Fri-Mon 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May:** Rochester Rams MC CanAm Weekend Invitational, Rochester, NY.

**Fri-Mon 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May:** RIDE: Empire City MC's Motorcycle Weekend in the Finger Lakes!

**Mon-Sat 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June:** RIDE: Spartan MC present "Marathon 23", their 50th Anniversary ride and celebration at Americade, Lake George, NY! For more information, visit their website at <http://marathon.spartanmc.com/>

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> June 20:00 – 21:00:** Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're booked into.

**REMEMBER:** There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Bookmark our official calendar at [calendar.EmpireCityMC.com](http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com) and come along with us on some great rides!

Our physical mailing address is:

**Empire City MC**  
10 W 15<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 609  
New York, NY 10011-6821



Empire City MC is a proud member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council. For more information about membership with Empire City MC, [click here](#) to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application.



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