

THE *BULLET*

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Official Publication of Western Missouri Shooters Alliance

February 2020

What's To Blame

Today I received an Email titled, "Who's To Blame For These Mass Shootings?" I would add, and many of the other shootings around the country, along with much of the other violence. I guarantee you, there are many reasons, many of which have never been brought up, but none are the fault of the guns or gun ownership.

I recently learned the statistics pertaining to mass shootings are very misleading, that in the last year there have been two hundred mass shootings. It is my belief, the progressive left has influence on the accumulation and outcome of these statistics, making them misleading to support their agenda. In the statistics, mass shootings are described as any shootings involving four or more people. Gang wars, shootouts with police, a psycho killing their family members are all included. School shootings take into account any shooting within a few blocks of a school even if it occurred at two in the morning. It could involve Robbery of a convenience store two blocks away, but the description leads people to believe it was on school grounds. That is not to say these shootings aren't horrendous and committed by undisciplined individuals with some perceived self-serving psychological problems. Which leads us to some reasons for these perceived self-serving actions.

In the nineteen fifties, people could discipline their children, teaching them right from wrong. Parents took their children to church every Sunday where they learned the teachings of the Lord, the golden rule, principals of leading a life of service, charity and ethics. Parents were allowed to discipline their children to instill and reinforce these teachings by bringing their little butts in contact with a flat hand or a green switch if necessary. I'm not at all talking about abuse but discipline. Today, parents would be arrested and charged with child abuse and children threaten to turn them in. What's worse, the police would take the children's word, even if they only got a hand to the butt. Parents taught their children respect for others. Children had two parents in the home to help bring them up properly. Many parents just aren't doing their job today or have other factors undermine their influence. In the fifties, these problems just didn't occur.

I don't care what anyone says, but in the fifties, children didn't play violent video games from dawn till dusk, the object of which was to kill as many of your opponent as possible to be a winner. In the fifties, you were a winner by getting good grades, playing on your schools' football, basketball or track team, being a leader in your school, having good friends and being a good friend. Today, if you get good grades, are a leader in your school or a good athlete, in many cases, you are looked down on, ridiculed, shunned and given no or little respect. Teachers and principals aren't allowed to take any kind of disciplinary action with disruptive, uncooperative students. These students can disrupt the learning process for other students, disrespect teachers, school employees, principal and disregard school rules with impunity. School employees, by taking any disciplinary action, are at risk of losing their job and or being sued by parents that don't discipline their children or want to take advantage of the situation.

In the fifties, we didn't have socialist progressives insulting our President and disrespecting the office of the President as well as those who voted him into office. We didn't have socialist progressives doing their best to divide our country, calling anyone who didn't agree with them racist and using other racial slurs. We didn't have socialist progressives with the intent of doing away with the first, second, fourth, fourteenth amendment to the constitution, our economic and political system. In the fifties, children had to learn the Constitution of the United States, how and why the U.S. came about and then, pass a Constitution test. Young adults and children of today don't know as much about the founding of America as an immigrant becoming an American citizen. There is not near the respect, gratitude and knowledge for and of our forefathers and what they went through to give us our Constitution and this free country.

Not all, but the large majority of gun violence shootings, robberies, drive by's and random acts of violence involving a gun, are committed with stolen or black market guns. In U.S cities and other countries with the strictest gun laws, those with the intent to commit violent crimes will somehow get a gun, use a knife or ball bat, or some other weapon.

More gun laws are not the answer. Restricting guns, gun dealers, gun owners and gun shows are not the answer. To correct the problem, correct all those mentioned above. Without those problems being corrected, without respect

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for other people, without the first amendment, without tolerance, without the ability and proper motivation for parents to discipline their children, without some sort of religious background, without learning about the founding of our country and the reason for it, without respect for our laws, including our immigration laws and why they were enacted by the "immigrants" or descendants of immigrants that made them, it will just be something other than guns. It's time to correct the real problems that cause violence and leave the Second Amendment alone!
W.R.S.



...dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to:

1. **Counter the designs of malicious legislators.**
2. **Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.**
3. **Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.**
4. **Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.**
5. **Network with other pro-gun groups to coordinate local, state and national strategies.**
6. **Train people in basic firearm safety and handgun defense.**
7. **Sponsor and support pro-gun legislation**
8. **Make politicians aware that gun owners are awakening from their accustomed apathy and**
WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER EROSION OF THEIR FREEDOMS

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COMING EVENTS

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WMSA

General Membership Meeting

7:00 PM

March 24, 2020

May 26, 2020

July 28, 2020

Sept. 22, 2020

Npv. 24, 2020

Bass Pro Conservation Room
 Independence, MO

•••

MVACA

Missouri Valley Arms Collectors Assn.

July 25-26, 2020

KCI Expo Center
 Kansas City, MO

••

R. K. Shows

KCI Expo Center

Feb. 15-16, 2020

March 28-29, 2020

••

Lake Lotawana Gun & Knife Show

March 21-22, 2020

29709 E Alley Rd.
 Lake Lotawana, MO

•••

American Legion Gun & Knife Show

April 25-26, 2020

16701 E. 40 Highway
 Independence, MO

•••

Annual Gun Rights Rally

April 7, 2020

10:00 AM—Noon
 Capitol Rotunda
 Jefferson City, MO

Call 877-333-WMSA or check the web site www.wmsa.net



Virginia: Front Line of the 2A Rights Fight

Following the Democrat Party's narrow takeover of both houses of Virginia's General Assembly this past November, those majorities are teaming up with Democrat Gov. Ralph Northam to undercut the commonwealth's historically staunch pro-Second Amendment status. In response, thousands of patriotic Virginians have risen up in defense of their constitutionally protected rights to challenge the Democrats' planned gun-grabbing agenda by declaring their communities Second Amendment Sanctuaries. Thus far, 75 of Virginia's 95 counties and 18 of the commonwealth's legally independent cities have enacted Second Amendment Sanctuary policies.

However, the fight is far from over, as Democrats have begun issuing threats against their fellow Virginians should they refuse to comply with Northam's proposed draconian gun-grabbing legislation (SB 16). "I'm not the governor, but the governor may have to [mobilize] the National Guard to enforce the law," warned Democrat state Rep. Donald McEachin. "That's his call, because I don't know how serious these counties are and how severe the violations of law will be. But that's obviously an option he has."

Virginia's National Guard was quick to respond, "We understand and respect the passion people feel for the U.S. Constitution and 2nd Amendment rights. We will not speculate about the possible use of the Virginia National Guard." In other words, *Keep us out of this.*

McEachin also threatened to withhold tax revenue from 2A sanctuary counties. "They certainly risk funding," he warned. "If the sheriff's department is not going to enforce the law, they're going to lose money. The counties' attorneys offices are not going to have the money to prosecute because their prosecutions are going to go down."

While McEachin alone is not in a position to back up his threats, Democrats in the General Assembly have in fact taken action with a bill clearly aimed at compelling law enforcement into enforcing whatever anti-2A legislation they may pass. The recently introduced HB 67 would terminate the employment of any law-enforcement officer who refuses to enforce a state law, irrespective of the local government's position. Democrat Rep. Gerry Connolly explained, "I would hope they either resign in good conscience because they cannot uphold the law which they are sworn to uphold, or they're prosecuted for failure to fulfill their oath. The law is the law. If that becomes the law, you don't have a choice — not if you're a sworn officer of the law."

Northam himself echoed Connolly's comments: "If we have constitutional laws on the books and law-enforcement officers are not enforcing those laws on the books, then there are going to be consequences, but I'll cross that bridge if and when we get to it." Just what those "consequences" would be, Northam refused to elaborate. And he might want to explain how "constitutional" laws can ban constitutional rights.

Northam has attempted to prevent the growth of the 2A sanctuary movement by offering to insert a "grandfather clause" into SB 16 exempting currently owned "assault weapons" from the legislation's ban on possession of AR-15s and many other firearms, but many Virginians aren't buying it. "Any erosion of our constitutional rights is just the beginning," one Virginia resident argued. "This is just the tip of the iceberg on what they ultimately want, which is complete gun confiscation across the whole United States. These United States were founded with firearms. All the other rights we have are only guaranteed because of this right." Well said.

Second Amendment Gun Rights

The second amendment is part of the Bill of Rights which are INALIENABLE and CANNOT be compromised by man, in any way, shape or form. This is considered to be the second most important RIGHT of mankind, second only to the FIRST amendment, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the press.

It was made part of the Constitution to assure protection of the other nine Bill of Rights, our freedom and all our rights provided by the Constitution. This was established to guarantee the protection of our freedoms, our way of life and our pursuit of happiness to not be usurped by a government, to insure we would have a government of the people, by the people, for the people where the people would tell the government what to do and not the government telling the people what they must do. Our forefathers, having come from a controlled society wanted to protect our rights for posterity.

If you have any doubts, read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, then study why and how America came about. You should read and become familiar with these documents anyway, If only to refresh your patriotism!

Every society, throughout history, that became dictatorial, began to control and confiscate guns as one of their first actions to control so as to have all the power and little resistance as they increased their control over their citizens. Protect ourselves, protect your family, protect our way of life, protect our freedom, protect the Second Amendment.

WRS

"I have seen the rise and fall of Nazi tyranny, the subsequent Cold War, and the nuclear nightmare that for 50 years haunted the dreams of children everywhere. During that time my generation defeated totalitarianism. As a result, your world is poised for better tomorrows. What will you do on your journey?" —Ronald Reagan



Start the New Year Right

Jose Nino

Y'all probably saw the news about Jack Wilson, the armed individual who stopped the shooting at West Freeway Church of Christ near Fort Worth, Texas. A madman, with an extensive criminal record of aggravated assault, theft, and illegal gun possession, decided to show up at the church on December 29, 2019 and carry out an atrocity. The assailant drew out a shotgun and opened fire at the congregation. He was able to kill two people but was instantly taken out by Jack Wilson with only one shot. God bless Wilson and his heroics.

As a long-time resident of the Lone Star State and follower of Texas politics, I've routinely ragged on its politics. But I'll give credit where credit is due. Texas' gun laws remain quite solid, even though the legislature has failed to pass Constitutional Carry during the last few years. In fact, a great liberty conservative Matt Rinaldi helped pass a bill in 2017 which allows churches to have armed volunteer security.

Nevertheless, churches in Texas are allowed to determine their own carry policies. And West Freeway Church of Christ's policies proved to be a game-changer in this encounter. Imagine if this church did not allow people to carry? The body count would have been much greater. But this obviously flies over the gun-grabbing ghouls' heads. They would like to see all venues turn into gun-free zones via legislative fiat. That means if you decide to carry at one of the aforementioned zones, you will wind up in a cage. That's the nature of the beast.

Defensive gun use situations are quite common in America. The media obviously tries to downplay defensive gun use cases, but they occur with great frequency. That is to be expected from the bobblehead media.

But for average Americans, the Second Amendment can be a lifesaver in encounters with criminals. Cops are minutes away when seconds count. You can carry a firearm but you sure as heck can't carry a cop. I got into defensive gun use cases and other benefits that the right to bear arms allows us to exercise in my guide *The 10 Myths of Gun Control*.

Packing heat: More than 10% of adults in 13 states licensed to carry

The 2019 update on concealed carry in the United States from the Crime Research Prevention Center reveals that more than 10 percent of the adult population in 13 states is licensed to carry.

In addition, four states now report more than 1 million active carry licenses and one of those states, Florida, has more than 2 million carry concealed weapon licenses in circulation.

The report estimates 18.66 million U.S. citizens are licensed to carry across the 50 states. This amounts to an increase of approximately 8 percent over last year. From east to west, the states with the highest ratios of carry licenses to adults are Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah and Washington. In addition to Florida, Georgia and Pennsylvania, Texas has also passed the 1 million mark for carry licenses. According to the report, Alabama has the highest ratio of licenses at 26.3 percent of the adult population, with Indiana coming in second with 17.9 percent.

This comes as former Vice President Joe Biden has this week unveiled his new gun control package, which the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms quickly labeled as a plan "with the same goal, but a different sales pitch." "The Biden gun ban scheme falls right in line with the other Democrat presidential candidates' goals of prohibition and confiscation," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

The Washington Examiner is reporting that Biden is no longer the strong Democrat front runner he was earlier this year. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is rapidly catching up to the 76-year-old former vice president, who is clinging to a 2.2 percent lead, the Examiner said. Part of Biden's problem may be his gun control package, which includes a so-called "buyback" option for people who own semiautomatic sporting rifles, to registration and regulation under provisions of the 1934 National Firearms Act, which will treat semi-autos like machine guns. Biden no longer comes across as a "moderate" on the gun control issue, Gottlieb maintains.

Sixteen states now have "constitutional carry," where no permit is required to carry openly or concealed. The Crime Prevention Research Center acknowledges that this fact means far more people may be legally armed than the numbers say.

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2020 ANNUAL CAPITOL

GUN RIGHTS RALLY

STOP 'RED-FLAG' LAWS! RESTORE OUR GUN RIGHTS!

WE NEED YOU AT THE RALLY!

Have you heard what's been happening? Gun rights are under heavy attack and taking big losses in other states. Missouri does have pro-gun legislative majorities, but still, it's no guarantee against sneaky or duplicitous legislation – like “red-flag” anti-gun bills that weaponize opinions to trample rights on “safety” grounds. These egregiously unconstitutional bills *must not* be allowed to pass here.



Good pro-2A bills are also back again this year – like the *Second Amendment Preservation Act* and other bills that cut the number of gun-free zones, legalize ccw on buses, and more. We must strongly encourage legislators to vote “yes” on the best 2A bills and get them passed. Failing our support, they could simply stall out again this year.

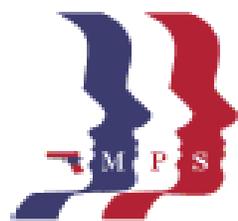
We have majorities now, so the time to get it done *is* now. Take off work! Join us. Bring friends. *Let's do this.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WMSA (877) 333-9672 • GCLA (314) 385-4867 • MissouriCarry.com/RallyDay

BE THERE. IT MATTERS.

TUESDAY • APRIL 7, 2020 • 10AM-NOON
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THE 2020 ANNUAL GUN RIGHTS RALLY IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THESE AND OTHER PRO-FREEDOM GROUPS

"Here comes the orator! With his flood of words, and his drop of reason." – Benjamin Franklin



LIBERTY NOTES

By Kevin L. Jamison

It is a good day for Liberty.

The US Concealed Carry Association, publishers of Concealed Carry Magazine, will have their annual concealed carry expo in Kansas City Missouri 20-22 March, 2020. It will be held at the KCI expo center where the RK gun show is held. There will be seminars, classes, exhibits of all manner of self-defense equipment and accessories.

Rally Day has been changed to 7 April, 2020 still in the Capital Building in Jefferson City. A great many anti rights bills have been filed and it will take a good showing just to maintain our existing rights. To expand our rights will take a great showing.

Virginia's annual Gun Rights Rally was magnificent. They do it on Martin Luther King Day, which fits in with gun rights as civil rights. It seems that the Virginia legislature is open on this federal holiday. The Virginia Governor (let him not be named) declared a state of emergency for predicted violence. He invoked the Charleston violence by racist and ANTIFA groups. The rally had been held for years without trouble. The governor claimed "intelligence" of planned violence. The only public evidence was the arrest of three (count them *three*) violent racists who might have planned to attend and might have planned violence. In the event 22,000 persons attended on a cold Virginia day. They were of various races however the media kept stressing they were predominately white males. There was a small group of socialists who denounced the Rally through a bullhorn as "phony" and preached revolution to bemused Rally participants. This may have been an attempt to provoke violence. It failed. Their bullhorn was occasionally drowned out with chants of "USA." There was no violence. One person was arrested for wearing a bandana as a mask in violation of the law. This person was a left-wing activist.

The Virginia governor sent "non-essential employees home. Business were urged to do the same. Extra police were brought in, who got on well with the demonstrators. Everything was done to create an aura of impending doom. A "gun free" protest zone was established. This left the vast majority of participants outside the zone, and armed. I do not think the persons wearing camouflage and body armor did us any good. This usually seems to be more of a threat than a protest. I seldom think that open carry of semi-automatic rifles does us any good. In this case it made the point that thousands of armed people can gather and there is no violence.

The Virginia governor will doubtless claim that his actions made the event safe. It may have suppressed turn out. In light of the governor's threats to use the National Guard to enforce his proposed gun laws some people may have thought it a trap. I understand this but it reminds me of the "St Crispin's Day speech from *Henry V* that by shrinking from the conflict they "will hold their manhood cheap." It was a good day for liberty.

The Chiefs won an important game. I was not watching but I knew the game was over and we had won when I heard gunfire. This is stupid. What goes up must come down. Every person injured is another advocate against us. My father was on Okinawa when WW II ended. He said "every nut on the island started shooting in the air." People were killed by celebrants of the end of WW II. An American outpost in Iraq went to battle stations when gunfire erupted all around them. They prepared to repel boarders only to discover none of the gunfire was coming their way. The Iraqi soccer team had won a big game and the gunfire was celebratory. I don't see how anyone is still alive in the Middle East.

A killer opened up on a line of people entering a Kansas City bar. He killed one and injured 15 before a security guard killed him. The only thing to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.

The senior Iranian general and mastermind of their terror program has been killed. His crimes date back to the seizure of the American embassy. There should be no problem with this. In WW II Admiral Yamamoto, architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor was ambushed and killed. The British tried to assassinate Field Marshal Rommel. My problem is that the talking heads referred to this as "taking him out." He was not escorted from the playing field, he was killed. And it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.

The Western Missouri Shooters Alliance held a postcard writing event. At the last general membership meeting postcards were distributed and the members invited to write a short message to the Missouri Governor. The members received a reply from the governor. It was a mushy statement of support for the Second Amendment but a start. The governor's statement to the legislature included a statement of support for gun rights. It did not offer any support for the various anti-gun rights proposals in the legislature. Little things can have good results.

One columnist has written New Year resolutions for the gun community. The first was to clean your carry gun. I would also resolve to practice with it. A great resolution would be to send a pro-rights letter to the governor.

I settled the beard growing contest. I declared martial law. If the governor of Virginia can declare a state of emergency when there is none then I can declare martial law. One of the contest judges objected saying that I did not have the power to declare martial law. I made him sit in a corner and **think about what he had done**. Another judge claimed that martial law was unconstitutional. I made him sit in a corner and **think about what he had done**. Another judge wanted to know my authority for declaring martial law. I made him sit in a corner and **think about what he had done**. I was running out of corners so went straight to the winner. Kim Marchant-Lucas is the winner of the Beard Growing contest. Some might argue, at least until they realize I have a corner left, that Kim is a woman and cannot grow a beard. They forget that under our politically correct rules the contestant only needs to **imagine** a beard length. Kim imagined a long flowing mass of hair that would make Rapunzel envious. Her prize is an

LIBERTY (Continued on page 7)



LIBERTY (Continued from page 6)

empty cartridge case, and she must empty it herself. The runner up is Paul Allen who actually has a long beard. But, he is a man and under our politically correct rules that counted against him. That is the contest. There will be no re-counts and no appeals. I still have a corner left.

The National African American Gun Association has announced its inaugural convention will be 14-16 August at the EpiCenter in Atlanta Georgia. The internet post of this news was greeted by persons complaining that this is a "racist" organization. These commentators do not appreciate the value of an African-American organization that is on our side. African Americans have a unique experience with gun rights and a unique need for self-defense. They draw attention to our cause simply by refuting the stereotype of a gun owner. How many times were the Virginia demonstrators denounced as racists? With NAAGA with us that will be a harder accusation to make.

President Trump issued an executive order repealing the \$2,500 yearly tribute the State Department levied on gunsmiths. This is great, although three years late.

We shall overcome.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

LAST OF LAST YEAR
FIRST OF THIS YEAR

K. L. Jamison

Last year I spoke to the new Mayor of Kansas City. This was an attempt to strike up a relationship, however minor. We spoke of things the City could and could not do to reduce Kansas City violence. The Mayor elected to pursue the things the City could not do. He pushed through a City ordinance prohibiting children and persons convicted of adult abuse from possessing guns. There is a federal law against these things. It is unclear what additional effect a city ordinance might create. There is another problem. The state of Missouri does not have such laws. Under RSMo 21.750 local laws cannot be more restrictive than state law. The Mayor defies state law and insists that he is not on that grounds that he is doing a good thing, which is irrelevant, and federal law has the same restrictions, which is true and irrelevant. The Mayor hopes to prod the legislature into passing anti-gun rights bills. In the meantime, if anyone is charged under these ordinances the first defense is a motion to dismiss as an illegal ordinance.

Ex-Mayor Bloomberg has declared for the Democratic candidate for president. He has an anti-gun rights platform and a background to prove he is serious. He has thrown enough money at the race to be a player, but even anti-gun rights organizations have not shown much enthusiasm for him.

Hillary Clinton has sent out whispers that she is willing to become the candidate and save the party. Anything could happen.

The NRA-ILA grassroots representative (Kelvin Curtis) has been moving through the state. He has met groups to find out our needs. Of course, he wants our help too. He stresses that the NRA and ILA are separate entities. He wants to establish new grassroots groups in the state. The last issue of our newsletter consisted largely of how to do so.

We have spread the last issue of our newsletter across the state. We hope to inspire new grassroots groups. Anyone interested in forming a group, we are willing to help.

There has been another attempt at a church massacre. It was again thwarted by an armed citizen. This is nothing new except that it was filmed. The usual suspects will no longer be able to claim that an armed citizen has never stopped a massacre. They have said that they were shocked that a citizen had a gun in church. Some have said the citizen should not have had the gun. They would have been happier with a massacre.

The New Year opens with reason for optimism. People are angry. We have been insulted and abused. The usual suspects have been told no one is coming for our guns while the same people push bills that will take our guns. We have a chance of getting more and more efficient grassroots groups. The Virginia Citizens Defense League has set an example for us with a mammoth rally in their State Capital. If they can do it, we can do it. We have to counter the influence of the Mayors of St. Louis and Kansas City; and the usual suspects.

There is a raft of bills in Jefferson City with the intent of taking away our rights. We have stopped these efforts for thirty years. To make progress we will have to make greater efforts.

I thank-you for the honor of being your president.



YOU CAN'T FIX
STUPID
BUT YOU CAN
VOTE IT OUT!

"There is one way to settle our disagreements: it's called peacefully, at the ballot box." —Donald Trump



And The Winner IS:

Michael M. from Kansas City, MO. His winning ticket was drawn at the RK Gun Show January 12th, 2020.

Michael is now the proud owner of the Kel Tek 2000 9mm carbine.

Look for information on our next Rifle to be given away later in this issue of the Bullet.

"I'm a gun rights supporter but I'm frankly embarrassed by the protestors in Virginia [yesterday]. It's pretty rude to be so peaceful after the media were rooting for violence. Not fair to make them look stupid like that."

—Matt Walsh

"In the '70s and '80s, many of these guns were as available as they are now, but we weren't having these mass shootings that we have today. So I think we need to really ask ourselves the question of what has socially brought us to this point in history, and what have we done, and what can we do differently to change society. That's certainly a question that needs to be continued to [be] ask[ed], because I don't know that taking everyone's guns, and buying everybody's guns back, is going to cure the national massacres that we've had in recent history."

—Democrat Rep. Vicente González

"I wholeheartedly believe that the media is politicizing this tragedy. It seems that gun control laws is the major topic of conversation rather than focusing on the bigger issue of 17 innocent lives being taken at the hands of another human. ... I know many people who are pro-gun and others who support gun control but it seems that the media is specifically targeting those in support of gun control to make it seem as if they are the majority, and the liberal news outlets are the ones that seem to make the bigger effort to speak to these people."

—Brandon Minoff, a student of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

"Perhaps the president should reissue his executive order and say that all immigrants and refugees coming into the country must undergo more severe background checks just in case they want to purchase a firearm. The Left would really be in a bind then!"

—Gary Bauer

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom of Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States."

—Noah Webster

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Which Is the Most Important Gun Safety Rule?

Kevin Michalowski - 10/17/2019

We all should know the four cardinal firearms safety rules. But let's recap:

Treat every gun as if it is loaded.

Never point a gun at anything you are not willing to destroy.

Know your target and what is beyond it.

Keep your finger off the trigger until you have made a conscious decision to shoot.

Those are the four rules every new shooter learns, usually in a hunter education course or some other basic firearms class. The rules are hammered into us as shooters ... and yet negligent discharges (NDs) occur. Still, the people who keep track of these things say that the number of people unintentionally killed or wounded continues to fall as the number of people taking safety classes continues to rise.

But only those incidents that result in an injury or death are recorded. The world only knows about my most recent ND because I chose to share that information in this space. I own my failure, and that (insert expletive) will not happen again. No one was injured because I followed rule No. 3. But I never would have had that ND if I had been paying really close attention to rule No. 4.

I actually like the three safety rules offered at the SIG Sauer Academy better than the four rules we all learn, but I'll not cloud the waters with that right now. Let's look at the Big 4, as no one else ever calls them, and pick out which one is most important. I gave you a hint.

Gun Safety Is No Accident

Let me take a few steps back. First, you will never see me put the words "accidental discharge" in print (or online). That's because I firmly believe any unintended discharge of a firearm is a result of negligence. Guns don't just go off. They are made to fire. And if a gun you are in control of makes a loud noise, 99.9999 percent of the time, you caused that. Either you intended for it to get loud or you were negligent. The rest of the time, if the gun just suddenly erupts, that is likely the result of poor maintenance or inattentive care, which means someone caused it. The gun did not just go off. Every once in a while, someone will drop a gun and it will fire. That too is negligence. So, there are no accidents. Only negligence. Don't try to change my mind.

But I digress.

Back to the Most Important Gun Safety Rule: Rule No. 4.

Typically, when a gun is made to fire, it is because someone has a finger on the trigger. One might see a piece of clothing introduced to the trigger area as the gun is holstered, but that is negligence too. Be more careful.

Let's say you pull a gun out of the safe and, while carrying it to the work bench, you accidentally point it at your brother. THAT is a violation of Rule No. 2, but it will not cause an ND unless you have your finger on the trigger. So, Rule No. 4 kept your brother safe in this case.

Have you ever really tried to live within the boundaries of Rule No. 1? Goodness, that's impossible. You can't treat a gun as if it is loaded while you clean it. And, if you have a Glock, in order to clean it, you must violate Rule No. 2 just to fieldstrip the gun. After all, you are NOT intending to fire the gun, but you are pulling the trigger.

Rule No. 3 is pretty much moot if you don't pull the trigger. True, you could be pointing a gun at a target before you notice the school bus in the background, and at that very moment the sear engagement could let loose and the gun could fire without a trigger press ... but the odds of that are so small it is almost incomprehensible.

In the end though, there is, as Ed Combs likes to say, "a non-zero number" that defines that chance. With stakes so high, I would rather not point a gun in the wrong direction just to prove the statisticians are on the right track.

Rule 4 is No. 1

But I'm still sticking with Rule No. 4 as the single most important of the four cardinal gun safety rules. Yes, know them all and follow them all. But if you make trigger-finger discipline a priority, the chances that you experience a negligent discharge drop greatly.

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REMINDER Next General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM
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CONTACT INFORMATION - *Let them know what you think!*

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 425- 454-7012

Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance
<http://www.gclastl.org/>
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Arming Women Against Rape and Endangerment
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