

To the Editor January 27, 2020

Second Amendment Delusion

“A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

In my view it takes a perverse politically motivated reading of the our country's founding Constitution to believe that the 2nd Amendment refers to anything other than a Citizen Militia. Notice the commas between the phrases. They are not separate sentences, but just part of one long twenty-seven-word run-on sentence, frowned on these days by modern writers. Our Founding Fathers, the framers of this Bill of Rights were reacting with this language to a tyrannical and oppressive British government. They wanted to ensure that the people had control over their government, and not the other way around. This by force if necessary, via a well-regulated militia.

Just because it has been interpreted a different way by our courts, most recently in the 2008 case *District of Columbia v. Heller*, does not mean that this needs to be permanent *Stare decisis*. Politics aside, we as humans and as citizens of this country continue to evolve beyond our brute reptilian brain evolutionary start, and historical and primitive tribalism in our search for a more perfect union. We have ratified amendments to grant rights and prevent discrimination of all kinds over these 240 years. We have also repealed and replaced amendments. The Twenty-first Amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment which had mandated a nationwide Prohibition on alcohol. Right now, at least 21 percent of us favor repealing the Second Amendment. As more children die in schools, shoppers in stores, people at concerts and in theaters, and employees at their workplaces continue to be slaughtered by weapons of war, this will likely increase. Just think of the psychological damage Active Shooter Drills are doing to our young children in their schools.

Over these years, the original concept of a colonial Citizen Militia has morphed into a state National Guard, and then put under Federal control, thereby undermining the entire original concept. It was then perverted even further by some war mongering politicians into a vehicle to be used as a back door conscription for the preemptive, and unjustifiable invasion and war in Iraq.

I personally used an M16 in Army Basic Training but could not then have one for personal use. Did I feel deprived or cheated? No. Because it makes no sense to bring a weapon of war into a civilian population. Not for hunting, not for sport. It is not a target shooting weapon, like a Marlin XL7 20 or 30.06 .It made no sense then, and makes no sense now.

More guns make us safer? Statistics show differently. The NRA, the marketing and lobbying arm of the gun manufacturers, has sold this idea to the American public for decades.

If more guns make us safer than we should be the safest country in the world, rather than one that has multiple homicide shootings seemingly every day now. Civilian ownership of assault weapons is a recent phenomenon. So are mass shootings in our schools, churches, stores, workplaces, and shopping malls!

Does it scare you that there are 310 million guns for 330 million people in this country? No, you say?

How about the fact that it is only 10 million people who own 150 million of those guns?

Collectors and the 120 plus gun clubs focused on this *man jewelry* aside, does the Second Amendment guarantee the right of citizens to maintain gun arsenals? How about the right to own machine guns? Somehow, with pure motives, we can get to a sensible compromise on gun licensing and regulation. Should the parents of school children be willing to sacrifice them so that you or I could own one of the 638,000 machine guns in circulation in this country?

An overwhelming majority of Americans, some 70%, favor stricter gun control laws. 57% of us favor a ban on the manufacture, sale and possession of rifles capable of semi-automatic fire, such as the AR-15. 63% of us favor a ban on high capacity magazines according to a CNN poll.

As a gun owner of more than thirty years, citizen gun armories coupled with the political divisiveness in our society, and the spread of misinformation scare the hell out of me.

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