

October 2, 2017  
Another Day...Another Tragedy

I woke up this morning at about 2:30 a.m. (when I normally do). I rolled over to turn on the news to catch the headlines (like I normally do). I listened to the anchors and watched the images on the screen (like I normally do). But today wasn't a day like it normally is.

When I watched the anchors, I saw pictures that horrified me...

- ...pictures of violence and terror.
- ...images of destruction and death.
- ...scenes of fear and desperation.
- ...photographs of heroes and heroines in hell.
- ...portraits of people running for their lives.

I heard the stories about a mad-man who had occupied a 32<sup>nd</sup> floor hotel room, raining down a blanket of bullets that robbed people of their lives and filled hearts with fear.

I watched the news, off and on, all day. I heard the President speak and saw him observe a moment of silence at the White House after the flag was lowered to half-staff. I saw the reporters reporting from the scene, speculating about the shooter, praising the first-responders and cutting to interviews of public officials and police authorities reporting on the up-to-date news.

I have also followed twitter during the day. I have seen posts of broken hearts, shed tears, shocked emotions and sadness dripping from my phone. Many said that this was not a day for politics (and it isn't). Some said it is not a day to discuss guns (which it most certainly is).

I am a supporter of the Constitution and even the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment found in the Bill of Rights. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment says: "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."<sup>1</sup> I agree.

I have always heard people say, "Guns don't kill people, people do." But as I posted on twitter this morning, "When will we realize that people use GUNS to kill people...we need common sense gun laws, not NRA fanaticism."<sup>2</sup>

Read the amendment again... "A well-regulated militia..." I believe in the right to bear arms. However, I believe that this right must be well-regulated and what we have now is not, by any means well-regulated.

The NRA has blocked a move to computerize gun sales records to make it more difficult to track the origin and background of guns uses in moments like Las Vegas. The organization has blocked waiting periods so that adequate and full background checks can be done on the people purchasing the guns that end up killing people.

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<sup>1</sup> "US Constitution, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment", Cornell Law School, [https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/second\\_amendment](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/second_amendment), accessed 10/2/2017.

<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/DonBrackbill/status/914925395488555008>.

Even as the events of today transpired, and I write with a heavy heart, it is reported that the House has in its consideration a bill that would make silencers on guns legal in our country. The NRA supports the legislation as they believe it would be an infringement on the second amendment.

However, what about the “well-regulated” part of the amendment?

Can you imagine the death that would have ensued if the people in Las Vegas did not hear the ratt-a-tat-tat of the gunfire and scatter to find safety? What if people simply dropped with the reverberation of the speakers where the music was coming from without knowing that they were being mowed down by gunfire?

Not only can I not imagine...I really don't want to.

It is time for gun advocates and gun control advocates to come together and come to a common sense solution to the violence that has occurred in our culture. I think we need to understand that our gun rights can be protected when there is a “well-regulated” right to bear arms.

I am no constitutional scholar...in fact, I don't claim to be a scholar at all. But I do not one thing.

It is time for our gun rights to be governed by a sense of good, righteous regulation, rather than being determined by the NRA.

