



Taking guns just the beginning

By: Don Severe – February 16, 2013

Opposing parties are discussing gun control; the principal argument involves the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution.

Specifically, its meaning ... what the founding fathers intended?

Gun control advocates willingly ignore the amendment, believing the “Founding Fathers” could not have envisioned the nation today.

Gun control opponents believe the Constitution is a living document whereby citizens are federally governed with the right of self protection.

The Supreme Court has upheld the 2nd Amendment validating citizen’s rights to keep and bear firearms. “Keep” and “bear”: clearly unambiguous.

The Constitution is not subject to interpretation by the Executive and Legislative branches. The Supreme Court can rule on the legality of the Constitution.

The founding fathers believed that free persons have the right to protect their property.

They tacitly approved of firearms of the time. There were a variety of firearms, both long guns and handguns preferable over knives, swords, maces, spears, crossbows, axes, etc. Improvement of weapons was to be expected. Weapons would modernize over time and populations would grow.

The Bill of Rights was adopted in 1791. Jefferson was Secretary of State.

As the author of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson stated: “[A] bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse.”

Jefferson’s 2nd Amendment intent was clear. “The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.” “No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.”

Jefferson experienced tyranny under the British monarchy. He understood history, the nature of God, his laws and the nature of man. Apparently, many people do not understand the loss of Constitutional rights. Jefferson's wisdom is paramount.

President Kennedy held a dinner for a group of the brightest minds. He made this statement: "This is perhaps the assembly of the most intelligence ever to gather at one time in the White House with the exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

We hear the term "assault weapon." Any weapon used to assault another person is an assault weapon. Appearances of weapons haven't much bearing on effectiveness. In 2010, 1.7 percent of the murders in the U.S. were committed with rifles. Less than 2 percent of murders involved guns purchased at gun shows. More murders were committed with hammers, axes, clubs, etc. than firearms.

There are 108 nations that have higher murder rates than the U.S. with having gun bans. Chicago and Washington, D.C., have high murder rates and strict gun bans. A much safer city, El Paso, Texas, does not ban gun possession. Across the Rio Grande River, one of the most dangerous cities in the world, Juarez, Mexico, has strict gun bans.

About 2 million violent crimes per year are prevented by armed citizens. (Ref: Cato Institute). Disarmed, women, children and senior citizens are most vulnerable to criminals. If the 2nd Amendment is stripped away, what next? The 1st Amendment? No more freedom of speech? How will that work for you?

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