



Don't disarm in the wake of school tragedy

By Brian Bresnahan – 12/19/2012

Like so many other Americans, I was shocked last week at the events in Connecticut.

Like so many Americans, I too went home, hugged my children, thanked God for their safety, doted over them, and kissed them good night.

Like many other Americans I too wept later that night, grieving over the loss of innocent lives, and for those left in the wake of destruction.

Like many other Americans I wrestled with questions about how evil the individual must have been to shoot children.

Like many other Americans, I wondered why there weren't armed personnel at the school that could have shot the mad man.

Like so many other Americans, I knew that the murderer killed them before killing himself; it wasn't the guns he had in his possession.

Like so many other Americans, I knew that he could have also used a baseball bat, a nine iron, a knife, machete, axe, pitchfork, his car, a hammer, explosives, or a compound bow for his murderous rampage.

Regardless of the weapon, it was still he, the evil man, who killed the children and teachers. He put an inanimate object into motion so that he could kill.

After grieving the loss of so many innocent lives, their deaths should serve as a wake-up call, not to take away the rights of the law abiding citizens, but for promoting them, so we can protect ourselves and one another from the evil madmen who will always try to harm us, by any means they might possess.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, nearly 5,340,000 violent crimes were committed during 2008. Only about 8% were committed by criminals armed with a gun.

Conversely, in 2000, the Journal of Quantitative Criminology reported that Americans use guns to defend themselves and others at least 989,883 each year.

In 2000, the CATO Institute also noted that, "the 31 states that have 'shall issue' laws allowing private citizens to carry concealed weapons have, on average, a 24 percent lower violent crime rate, a 19 percent lower murder rate and a 39 percent lower robbery rate than states that forbid concealed weapons."

Chicago has some of the most restrictive gun laws in the U.S.; they also have some of the highest crime and violent crimes rates. Data from multiple agencies show that after Chicago passed an outright handgun ban, it experienced a 40% higher incidence of murder by handguns.

On the other hand, similar analysis indicates that since Florida became a right-to-carry state, their murder rate has decreased 36%. The murder rate in Texas decreased an average of 30% after passage of its right to carry law.

When people can protect themselves, crime decreases.

But the anti-gun crowd doesn't hold people responsible for their own actions. Just as they won't therefore hold a criminal responsible for a crime (all the focus on the guns not the crime or criminal in Connecticut), neither will they let law-abiding citizens responsibly protect themselves.

Hypocritically, for them it's the gun's fault a crime is committed, but never prevented.

They also fail to concede that evil exists in this world. With the erosion of faith in God has also come their inability to recognize evil for what it is or attribute atrocious acts to evil people, especially if they won't hold individuals responsible for their actions. Again, only the instrument of the crime can be accountable.

When those who lose the compass of faith won't hold individuals responsible for their actions, but are then empowered within the government, personal freedom is threatened under the guise of "protecting society" through anti-gun legislation, leaving innocent people vulnerable to criminals, and to their government.

Our Founding Fathers understood this reality from the history of tyrannical governments and by experiencing it themselves. An unarmed society was an easily controlled society, and one that was easily oppressed.

Therefore, they enshrined the Second Amendment within our Constitution by which we could maintain our freedom and our security.

Benjamin Franklin well understood that the balance of freedom and security lay with giving up neither when he declared, "People willing to trade their freedom for temporary security deserve neither and will lose both."

Americans should not disarm themselves in the wake of tragedy. We should re-arm ourselves.

We must provide for our own security against those who would do us harm, while remaining skeptical of, and standing vigilant against the motives of those who would seek to deny us our freedom and security.