

Prayers and Thoughts on the Newtown Tragedy;

All of us in this industry were in horror seeing the event in CT unfold. The impact to this nation was significant and many broken hearts from coast to coast cried openly that day. We must think about the issues of our nation and help to work with many to resolve the “evil” we experienced at Sandy Hook School.

Hoping I’m thinking from a logical position and not trying to forward any one position here are my heartfelt thoughts.

1. All of these tragedies revolve around personalities of social outcasts, mental illness and parents and family who did not reach out to let their communities help or in the worst case, warn them. Parents with troubled members tend to not reveal the problem or admit to it. Being involved with Law Enforcement there is no warning communication or access to potential actions because our society is liberally anal about privacy concerns. There has to be more accomplished to identify these individuals, help them and prevent them from doing harm. The evil is the problem.

Further, access to extremely violent video games is affecting our youth, dance around the issue if you are too stupid to see it. It is desensitizing our youth to accept death, killing, gory dismemberment, mass murder and awarding points for it to be the winner. This, by definition is brainwashing, if you see it and hear it long enough it becomes a norm. Be a parent; get the kids out of the house with you. Go camping, fishing, help with wildlife habitat work, donate time to your community with your kids, and enjoy a good relationship with God at a Church of your choosing. Talk to them about the important rules of life, respecting life itself. Take away the violent video games completely.

Faith in Christianity has been pushed aside, way aside, the core of humanity, the reason we became a great nation. Christmas is not a political event; it honors the birth of Christ. I will tolerate Atheists but not allow them to change our society, they are the minority and need to understand it and respect the strength of our country is not in their beliefs.

2. The first murder recorded in the only book that should guide us was when Cain killed Able with a club. God did not ban all clubs; he worked to remove the evil in Cain’s heart. We must learn from our lord. Right now, many liberals want to grasp the “club” and pay no attention to the evil and they are dead wrong.
3. The “club” is not the issue, our freedom to use a rifle for sport, hunting and just on the range if we wish should not be infringed by liberal views who grab their tennis rackets, golf clubs and baseball bats with no thought they are all used in murders. More laws

about the “club” are not needed in general. I do suggest we re-think some of the approaches;

- a. Semi-automatics need to be termed “Standard Actions” by the industry, which it is, get rid of the word automatic; it is a grab word for the liberal press and anti-gun in any form. We must change the term “assault weapon” the liberal media uses it as an attack word. I prefer “Sport-Varmint” but someone more politically connected can come up with their version.
- b. I would totally support laws being changed that families with mentally challenged members, troubled individuals, cannot have firearms in the home period. We can change the 4473 immediately. There is no security you can provide that would keep a family member from finding the code or combination for any gun safe. Relatives also must totally secure or remove their guns if it is known a family member is diagnosed or has issues with social interaction. If you have such a child or member act today to secure all your firearms out of the house, do it now and get help for them.
- c. Everyone must use secure safes to store and keep their firearms, especially if you have knowledge of any persons with concerns of social interaction, psychological challenges in any form that may visit your home.
- d. Face book or any social media postings of potential violence must be addressed quickly with a new set of laws for individuals posting social threats with consequences of all ages. We can monitor that and report it, as I write this on the news was an alert that a teenager was arrested for posting threats to his high school. That is the right approach.
- e. I do support screening, training and arming school administrators and our local law enforcement totally supports this approach. They are the first line of defense. Someone jokingly said we should hire unemployed veterans to guard schools, why not?

In the meantime, *you must get involved*; contact your Congressman and Senators, this time YOU WILL NEED TO FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS. Yes, join the N.R.A. It is the only voice we have and though not perfect, will fight for you and your rights. Pay attention to who and what supports a logical approach and who just wants to grab our rights. Use logical, factual arguments, research and state facts do not bloviate.

Thank you for reading my thoughts, use what you like but get involved and stay involved.

Truly, yours in prayer for Newtown,

Craig