

A Line In The Sand

The time in the life of every lover of freedom and liberty to take a stand to protect our God-given rights has come. The usurpation of powers by those in the United States government has been going on for many years. The “fiat money” system, created in 1933 and put into full effect in 1971, is on the verge of total collapse. Spending is out of control, and Barack Hussein Obama and others in Washington D.C. apparently refuse to make the necessary real cuts. Those in the Obama Administration obviously believe that they can do anything they want to do by “executive orders” and “regulations”. The Constitution for the United States of America and the Constitutions of the States are virtually ignored by most of those in government at all levels of government. Now the “gun control zealots” are again pressing for a United States government “assault weapons ban” because of the tragic mass shootings at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14, 2012. Virtually ignored by these “gun control” zealots are the consistent facts that these and other mass murders took place in a “gun free zone” by a mentally ill individual who was adversely influenced by many social conditions of today.

Among other things, the “gun control” fanatics want a national “universal background check system and database” for ALL gun sales. In reality this will become a national registration system for all law abiding gun owners. They also want to make many semi-automatic weapons and magazines of more than 10 bullets illegal under United States “law”. New York State just made it illegal for private individuals to buy any “assault weapons” and to have more than 7 bullets in a magazine. Clearly, criminals will not comply with any of these government demands.

History proves repeatedly that tyrannical governments and their tyrant leaders disarm the people just before they totally enslave or kill them. Adolf Hitler, Mao Tse-tung, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, Kim Il-Sung, Fidel Castro, Saddam Hussein, Mahmond Ahmadinejad, and Bashar al-Assad are some of the worst dictators in recent history. They all brutally ruled over the disarmed people of their country. Even British subjects have had their guns and ammunition taken away.

“The most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to permit the conquered Eastern peoples to have arms. History teaches that all conquerors who have allowed their subject races to carry arms have prepared their own downfall by doing so.

-- Adolph Hitler, April 11 1942

“No kingdom can be secured otherwise than by arming the people. The possession of arms is the distinction between a freeman and a slave.

-- "Political Disquisitions", a British republican tract of 1774-1775

In fact, the April 19, 1775 “shot heard ‘round the world”, that officially started the “War for Independence” in America, was a result of British troops attempting to seize canons, guns, powder and ammunition allegedly stored by the colonial militia men (all British subjects) in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. This attempt to seize the people’s weapons, used to defend themselves, their family and their community against a tyrannical government, failed and lead to the creation of the first Thirteen free and independent States and later the United States of America by 1788.

"One of the ordinary modes by which tyrants accomplish their purposes without resistance is by disarming the people, and making it an offense to keep arms."

-- Constitutional scholar and Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, 1840

"To disarm the people... was the best and most effectual way to enslave them."

-- George Mason, speech of June 14, 1788

During his appearance on Sunday's (February 3, 2013) "Fox News Sunday" program, retired astronaut and Naval Captain Mark Kelly again explained what happened on January 8, 2011 when U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords, his wife, was shot in the head while conducting a constituent meeting in the Safeway supermarket parking lot in Casas Adobes, Arizona in the Tucson metropolitan area. She was shot through the head at point-blank range by Jared Lee Loughner, a 22-year-old Tucson man, using a 9mm Glock 19 semi-automatic pistol with a 33-round magazine. Eighteen others were shot that day. Six of the nineteen shot died.

Among other things, Mark Kelly said that when attempting to load the second 33-round magazine, Loughner dropped it, giving a nearby woman the opportunity to grab the magazine and a couple of men a chance to tackle the shooter. Captain Kelly concluded that if the shooter had only had a 10 bullet magazine, a young girl [nine-year-old Christina-Taylor Green] would be alive because she was shot with a bullet after round 13. Captain Kelly went on to say that "assault weapons" should be banned and we need a nation-wide universal background check database.

Ignored is the fact that the shopping plaza, like other mass shooting locations, was a "Gun Free Zone". **Had one or more of the people in the plaza on January 8, 2011 been carrying a concealed weapon, perhaps no one would have been shot or murdered.** (See my January 5, 2013 Times News Column/Article titled: "Guns Are Not The Cause!")

It should be noted that among the six people murdered on January 8, 2011 was Federal Judge John Roll. (A fact rarely reported.) Judge Roll was the Arizona Federal District Court Judge who heard Sheriff Richard Mack's 1994, Tenth Amendment case which challenged the constitutionality of the "Brady Act". This "Act" required the Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) to collect background information on handgun sales for the U.S. government at the cost of the local jurisdiction. Failure to comply with the "Brady Act" subjected the CLEO to "fines, arrest or both". Judge Roll issued an Injunction that prohibited Sheriff Mack from being arrested or fined for not complying with the "Brady Act". Judge John Roll succinctly described the issue in the following way:

"Mack is thus forced to choose between keeping his oath or obeying the act, subjecting himself to possible sanctions."

Judge Roll was a Pennsylvania native who got his law degree from the University of Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, three sons, and five grandchildren.

In Pennsylvania, the other States of the Union, and the United States of America, everyone's life, liberty, property, and other rights are constitutionally required to be protected equally.

Article I, Section 21, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania states:

"The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."

By constitutional "oath of office", everyone in our State government is required "to support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and to discharge the duties of [their] office with fidelity." (Article VI, Section 3)

It is past time to stop all usurpations of power by the national government. Please support HB-357.

"THOSE WHO GIVE UP ESSENTIAL LIBERTY TO PURCHASE A LITTLE TEMPORARY SAFETY DESERVE NEITHER LIBERTY NOR SAFETY." --- Benjamin Franklin