



### **In Their Own Words**

*"You don't need no gun control..."You know what you need? I think all bullets should cost \$5000."*

Chris Rock liberal intellectual and comic

*"I believe the reason we're seeing more women of color joining this movement to use firearms is because they're realizing this is not a political issue. It really never has been. It's about personal safety and protection."*

Stacy Washington, conservative columnist, on reports of an upsurge of minority women buying firearms.

*"Democrats want votes from the poor, urban minorities, but they aren't really looking out for them. These are the most likely victims of violent crime – so why not let them defend themselves and their families?"*

John Lott on reports that legislators opposing a fee increase for carry permits in Texas were Democrats

*"...citizens have never used guns to save lives – and they never will...guns are not useful for defense. They are only effective in the hands of the violent..."*

Shannon Watts, founder of the anti-gun rights Moms Demand Action, and Michael Bloomberg, anti-gun right zealot and former mayor of NYC

Commenting that America's gun control status quo was admired by *"two discrete groups, the NRA and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)...ISIS approves of America's lax gun regulations."*

Eric Levitz writing in a post on the New York Magazine's website.

*"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves."*

British statesman William Pitt the Younger writing in 1783

### **Responsible Armed Carry**

Like many of you I am a believer in my right to protect myself and my family and that extends to when I leave my home. I have a handgun carry permit and I often reflect on "what I would do" in many scenarios that I conger up as I reflect on what is going on in our community, our country and the world. I read everything I can get my hands on regarding the many aspects of this awesome responsibility when I go out of my home armed. One thing I have tried to address is training. We can't get enough training in how to properly fire our personal protection weapon. When was the last time you went to the range and practiced, really practiced, with your firearm? I found this to be one of my shortcomings and I've tried to remedy this by using ORSA's outstanding facilities. I am a member of the Concealed Carry Association and get their excellent magazine, "Concealed Carry, which is filled with a tremendous amount of information from A to Z for the avid armed citizen.

One article in the May-June issue by Alan Korwin is worthy of highlighting. It is titled "When You Walk Out the Door."

"Am I willing to completely upend my entire life today by shooting someone? That's the question you have to ask yourself as you cross the threshold of your home, armed, because you think you might need your gun."

"Sure, it's a common mental exercise. You have often thought about the need for deadly force to protect yourself or some other innocent. We have all considered having to face some dangerous dirtbag. Sidearm in hand, the life-

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threatening catastrophe ended, the day saved by you and a handful of well-placed shots.”

“But how often does that translate into thinking about what happens right after you shoot? Everything you ever knew and your entire life going forward changes dramatically.”

“You have to acknowledge and accept, when you make the decision to carry that firearm, not just that you might have to shoot someone, but that doing so will likely end your life as you know it...If the choice is between ending all your comfortable patterns and your agenda for a few years and permanently leaving the planet early, there’s no question. You take your lumps and save your life. That’s the only real reason to ever use deadly force.”

“On the street, the appropriate mindset is Lovejoy’s Safety Rule No. 1: “It’s always better to avoid a gunfight than to win one.”

“In a calamity, aren’t cover and escape a private citizen’s primary concerns? Are you honor-bound by some unwritten law to step in because you are armed.” Your carry permit grants exemptions to carry, “they do not authorize freelance police action.”

The above is provided as food for thought because carrying a weapon in public is an awesome responsibility. Part of the training required bearing this responsibility is pondering “when you walk out the door” and thinking about “what would you do” if you find yourself in a situation that might warrant drawing your weapon and having to shoot someone.

## Legislative Updates

### The Silencers Helping Us Save Hearing (SHUSH) Act, S.1505

Introduced by Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) last week the SHUSH Act would eliminate ALL the federal regulations covering the possession, purchase, transfer, etc. of suppressors. This bill is even better than the Hearing Protection Act (HPA).

“Suppressors can make shooting safer for the millions of hunters and sportsmen that exercise their constitutional right to use firearms every year,” Sen. Lee said in a press release.

“The current process for obtaining a suppressor is far too expensive and burdensome. Our bill would remove these unnecessary federal regulations and make it easier for firearms users to protect themselves,” he added.

Under the Hearing Protection Act suppressors would be removed from the NFA list — no \$200 Tax Stamp, no registration, no reams of paperwork — but they would still be restricted like firearms. In other words, purchasers would have to pass a background check from a licensed gun dealer or FFL.

Under the SHUSH Act, suppressors would not only be removed from the NFA list, but they would also NOT be treated as firearms. That’s right. No FFL needed. No background check needed. Buying suppressors would be just like buying any other firearm accessory, e.g. new grips or new sights or lasers or lights.

“By properly classifying suppressors as a firearm accessory, our bill would allow sportsmen to have better access to hearing protection and preserve the hearing of sportsmen, gun owners and those who live near shooting ranges,” Sen. Crapo said.

### Protecting the Second Amendment Act HR 1976

Introduced by Rep. Evan Jenkins, R. W.V., this legislation would amend the Gun Control Act to permanently prohibit executive actions like the southwestern border states’ rifle sales reporting initiative launched under Operation Fast and Furious during the Obama Administration. The bill states that no FFL could be subject to any generalized or ongoing reporting requirement based on the FFL’s geographic location or on the sales of multiple long guns.

This bill is designed that no future administration could ever duplicate another abuse of power like Operation Fast and Furious.

Rep. Jenkins said in introducing the bill: “The federal government has tried to impose a gun registry on lawful gun owners in direct violation of their constitutional rights. I have introduced legislation in the House to stop this intrusion into the lives of responsible gun owners. As a staunch advocate of

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the Second Amendment, I am proud to stand up for the rights of law-abiding Americans.”

### **Murders in the USA**

A report from the Crime Prevention Research Center revealed just how concentrated murders are in the U.S. Citing county-level data from 2014, researchers determined that a small fraction of all counties are responsible for a majority of murders in this country. Just 2 percent of all counties account for 51 percent of the nation’s murders. The top 5 percent of counties account for 68 percent of all murders. Further 69 percent of all counties experienced one murder or less in 2014. “The worst 1% of counties have 19% of the population and 37% of the murders. The worst 5% of counties contain 47% of the population and account for 68% of murders.”

### **America’s 1st Freedom, July 2017**

#### **In the Land of the Absurd**

- Michael Bloomberg has pledged \$25 million through his Everytown for Gun Safety group to fight against national concealed-carry reciprocity legislation.

- 2013 second grader Joshua Welch, 7 years old, was suspended for chewing a Pop Tart into the shape of a gun
- March 21, 2017 Hunter Jackson, 4 years old, was suspended for seven days from a pre-school for bringing a spent .22 shell casing to school so he could tell his friends about a recent hunting trip with his grandfather.
- Caitlin Miller, 5 years old, was suspended for making a shooting motion with a stick. Caitlin was playing “King and Queen” (sounds like playing cowboys and Indians as we all did as kids) with her classmates and was given the make-believe job of protecting the royals.
- California legislature passed a bill banning ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds. Apparently these politicians believe that these “high capacity” magazines are too dangerous for, law-abiding gun owners.

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### **THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

The Right to Keep and Bear Arms (RKBA) column is now available each month on the ORSAONLINE web site at ([www.orsaonline.org/rkba.asp](http://www.orsaonline.org/rkba.asp)). From time to time, the RKBA column will be included in the printed version which is mailed to members’ homes when space permits.

Please remember that each edition of the Rangefinder is also available online at ORSAONLINE ([www.orsaonline.org/newsletters.asp](http://www.orsaonline.org/newsletters.asp)) and is normally available before the edition arrives by mail.