

## 2ND AMENDMENT ENFORCES THE 1ST AMENDMENT

Personal views by Rickey Lyn, a retired FBI Special Agent, 20 plus years experience.

Americans must focus on the correct narrative regarding the deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas. Our focus should be on our Right to Keep and Bear Arms, and not on the homicidal mindset of the perpetrator. We must be mindful that politically motivated activists aim to confuse us so that we might agree to water down or to even do away with our Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

The truth is that the political opportunists have selected this “crisis” to advance an agenda that attacks our Constitutional rights.

By falsely connecting the Las Vegas homicides to the 2nd Amendment, the leftists want to capitalize on the emotional content of the tragedy and connect it to their political agenda. At the same time, these progressives ignore the daily homicidal violence in cities like Chicago, Baltimore, and San Francisco — all cities that have restrictive firearms regulations instituted by elected leftists.

The creation of our constitutionally limited Republic meant that we the people agreed to a compact that defined the roles and responsibilities of the government and the citizenry. This consent was given by the people in order to adopt a framework that defined how the government would work and most importantly, what the government CANNOT do. Our Constitution is a literary and functional miracle.

The U.S. Constitution affords the citizenry the right to delegate certain freedoms to governmental authority, such as common defense, criminal and civil laws and enforcement, but this delegated authority does not require that we abdicate our individual responsibilities to fulfill our personal visions and ambitions.

To reinforce the rights of the citizenry, the Bill of Rights was amended

to the Constitution as a condition of its passage. The governed must give our consent to empower our Republic. Therefore, the means of the governed to withdraw that consent cannot be abridged or infringed. This issue is at the core of the 2nd Amendment and is central to the individual freedoms delineated in the Declaration of Independence.

Consent by the governed is essential for a government to exercise its power. In order for the people to protect and defend themselves, the 2nd Amendment cannot be reduced to calling the authorities and pressing “1” for robbery, “2” for assault, “3” for no water and “4” for grievous bodily harm! No matter the level of civil services and protections provided by the governmental authority, the individual is still personally responsible to ensure that he can address dangerous and life threatening situations.

Personal responsibility requires that we cultivate and elect officials that embrace the liberties essential to enable individual responsibility. This element is missing in the political movement that would cast the Las Vegas homicides shadow over each American’s Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Political opportunists are seeking to nullify the 2nd Amendment as an individual right. This movement cannot stand; it is anathema to our heritage and represents the adoption of foreign concepts that undermine the principles of the Republic.

The 2nd Amendment is the cornerstone of our Republic and a key to

the ethos of those that traveled to the New World for religious freedom and personal opportunity.

The primary precept undergirding America’s history is man’s relationship with our Creator God and the Bible. Their desire to defend their liberties guided our Founders to seek governance under Natural Law.

Our Founders believed in the people’s indispensable duty, under God, to maintain, defend, and preserve those civil and religious rights and liberties.

Today it is imperative that Americans retain our right to possess the tools necessary to protect our lives, liberties, and properties. Firearm ownership is the first to be trampled by totalitarian regimes, since a disarmed populous is at an extreme disadvantage against an armed authority.

The right of the people to limit the government’s action is first accomplished through the ballot box. And should the need arise, they have the obligation to resist an oppressive government that no longer operates through the consent of the governed.

The Right to Keep and Bear Arms is not simply an old custom, it is part of the fabric of our Republic and our heritage. It protects the relationship between the American people and our government. Once armed with the facts that support our Constitution, the electorate can push back on the activists and politicians that provide the soundbite headlines intended to undermine our nation.

Since our cause is right and our principles are just, we must engage our friends, neighbors and elected officials. Remember that violence is not caused by Constitutional liberties, but by individuals bent on evil. 

