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Gary McCain

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A Reasonable Solution to Gun Violence

GARY MCCAIN



Gun violence in the United States has become a pervasive part of society and has long been a contentious issue among the general population. Some argue that we should implement strict gun control laws to reduce the number of firearms owned and decide who is allowed to purchase them, which, in theory, would reduce the number of murders, particularly the mass killings that have become so frequent as of late. Gun-ownership advocates such as the NRA claim that this argument is absurd because people employ a plethora of different weapons—from knives to vehicles—to murder others, whether they are targeting a single person or a crowd. They assert that people will simply find other methods of kill-

ing each other, which is a valid point—nearly anything can be used as a weapon. After a comprehensive analysis of information pertaining to the issue of gun violence in the United States, including its root causes and potential solutions, I have concluded that the best solution to gun violence in the United States is, in my humble opinion, more guns.

Not only do I argue in favor of a greater distribution of firearms in society, but I also believe we should support some of the recent open-carry bills that require no license or training to ensure that most citizens have the ability to defend themselves and their loved ones. I also believe citizens should have greater access to military-grade firearms such as assault rifles. This is crucial to creating a safe

society in which people are able to defend themselves both individually and as a whole. The Revolutionary War and, to a lesser extent, the current situation in Ukraine, is *prima facie* evidence of how a population, when properly armed, can fend off any enemy despite overwhelming odds. When faced with the dire threat of imminent invasion, the Ukrainian government armed many of its brave and patriotic citizens, who have been of great assistance to the military in fighting back against the Russian aggressors. Now envision the same scenario if all Ukrainian civilians, rather than the small percentage that were given weapons, had already been armed with fully automatic assault rifles before the conflict began. Would it not stand to reason that the Russians likely would have been immediately repelled on all fronts?

Critics will bring up the large number of mass shootings in the United States compared with other countries, with the intention of strengthening their case against firearms. However, why does the media focus solely on shootings? What about the significant number of mass stabbings in the United States (McCain)? Where is the legislation to ban knives? These dangerous weapons are not even protected by the Second Amendment, yet the media continues to focus exclusively on guns, such as the fully automatic assault rifle with an expanded magazine, while ignoring the considerable number of mass slashings that have occurred (McCain). Critics will also claim that my fellow United States citizens do not need a fully automatic assault rifle with an expanded magazine and sniper scope for self-defense because we are not attempting to journey across a zombie-infested post-apocalyptic land with a ragtag band of

survivors, nor are these weapons necessary for hunting because hunters are not stalking the deadly and elusive velociraptor in Jurassic Park. These types of preposterous arguments are designed to give the impression that some of my fellow patriotic Second Amendment supporters are gun-crazed zealots, but nothing could be further from the truth. While it may seem that some avid gun enthusiasts are fanatics simply because we have enough guns to invade a small country, the reality is that many of us are merely collectors who appreciate the exquisite form of the bipod-mounted fully automatic assault rifle with an expanded magazine and sniper scope, similarly to the way a car enthusiast admires a classic sports car. Then there are those of us who want to be prepared for the myriad life-threatening situations we face in today's society. For example, the rise of mass killings in our country is precisely why more people should own guns for self-defense purposes. Think of that glorious moment when a would-be killer stands in the midst of a crowd and prepares to use his weapon of unspecified type—probably a knife—to unleash death and destruction, only to discover that nearly everyone in the crowd is armed as well. There is a high probability that during the ensuing chaos the perpetrator will be so startled by the sight of a patriotic elderly woman brandishing a .357 Magnum—wisely carried in her oversize purse—that he will be one of the people instantly mowed down by the hail of gunfire before he has the opportunity to harm anyone.

Then we have the issue of protecting our children, who, while they are in school, are always at the mercy of any maniac with a bladed weapon. Many of my fellow ammo

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aficionados argue that teachers should be armed while in school, which is a tremendous idea. However, I am not certain that it is enough. What happens if the teacher is killed? Who will defend the children then? Why not take the next logical step and allow children—fully trained, of course—to arm themselves as well? The only unquestionable way for children to defend themselves is by having the tools to take such action on their own behalf. Obviously a child could not carry a bipod-mounted fully automatic assault rifle with an expanded magazine, a sniper scope, and a silencer, but we could allow them to possess handguns that would be appropriate for their size and ability. More-

base in this particular industry. Companies could offer firearms in a variety of bright colors and patterns, specifically designed to appeal to our youngest consumers. We could give our children the tools they need to protect themselves while also increasing our country's prosperity. From my perspective, this is the very essence of the American Way. How could anyone reasonably object to such a patriotic and pro-family position? Imagine the look of utter horror on a villain's face, as he strides into a classroom with malicious intentions and a weapon of undetermined type, when he encounters a plucky young student named Timmy who reaches into his backpack and pulls out his neon-green

When you are fending off an assault on your home by machete-wielding gang members or your compound is under siege by federal agents, you will most certainly need a bipod-mounted fully automatic assault rifle with an expanded magazine, a sniper scope, a silencer, and armor-piercing bullets.

over, if there are doubts regarding the capability of children in these situations, one needs to look no further than the legions of children who act as militia soldiers in various war-ravaged countries, such as Uganda. Indeed, if one has reservations regarding a child's ability in combat situations, then I suggest that you consider the Lord's Resistance Army (Eichstaedt). Children have proven to be not only brave in the face of an enemy but quite proficient at slaying said enemy as well. Thus I am certain that a group of these little killing machines could handle a typical "lone wolf" killer. Furthermore, as a capitalist society, we must consider the potential for boosting our economy by expanding the customer

pistol—designed to look like a gun from the *Star Wars* films and likely festooned with SpongeBob SquarePants stickers—and proceeds to riddle the fiend with bullets.

Unfortunately, the danger even for adults goes beyond the confines of their own homes. What would you do if members of a drug cartel mistook you or a loved one for a police informant? What would you do if you were living with an anti-government militia and the United States government was attempting to infringe upon your God-given right to overthrow it in a bloody coup? When you are fending off an assault on your home by machete-wielding gang members or your compound is under siege by federal agents,

you will most certainly need a bipod-mounted fully automatic assault rifle with an expanded magazine, a sniper scope, a silencer, and armor-piercing bullets. My plan would possibly even end domestic violence and bring an era of familial harmony never before seen in the history of American society. An abusive father would no longer beat his wife or children because each of them would be armed. Well, one could argue, what if dear old Dad does attack his wife or children, or even shoot them? While this scenario could certainly still occur, one of the remaining members of the family could return fire rather than wait to meet a similar fate.

Think of it as similar to the nuclear arms race, which produced the concept of Mutually Assured Destruction. Visualize an American family sitting around the dinner table eating a meal in perfect harmony, beads of sweat dripping down the face of each family member as Dad wonders if Mom knows that he just lost the money for the mortgage payment during a reckless night of gambling when he was supposed to be “working late” at the office, Mom wonders if Dad knows what she was doing with Dad’s best friend while he was “working late” at the office, and their son wonders if Mom and Dad know that he is about to fail all of his classes in school. Despite all the rage-inducing problems families face on a daily basis, acts of violence in the home would become less ubiquitous due to the common desire for self-preservation that is an integral aspect of the human psyche. Think of this peaceful family meal as a microcosm of society as a whole. Is that not a dream worth striving to achieve?

The main impediment to building this

utopian civilization, in which nearly every law-abiding member of society possesses at least one firearm, is cost. Many of our fellow patriotic citizens simply lack the financial resources to purchase even the cheapest firearms. Rather than forcing these families to choose between food and their patriotic duty to defend themselves, their community, and their country, I support adding sufficient funding to the budget to create a new social program. This program would give each American family living below the poverty line a one-time payment voucher that could be used only to purchase a firearm for each family member and an adequate amount of ammunition. While the amount would not be enough money to buy a bipod-mounted fully automatic assault rifle with an expanded magazine, a night-vision sniper scope, a silencer, and armor-piercing bullets, it would certainly allow them to procure a decent gun for self-defense.

The problem of violence committed by evil, unpatriotic persons who occasionally use guns instead of knives can only be addressed by the mass distribution of guns. Critics can argue about so-called “dangers” certain types of guns pose to society, but the reality is that the United States would be a safer place with bipod-mounted fully automatic rifles with expanded magazines, night vision sniper scopes, silencers, armor-piercing bullets, and grenade-launcher attachments than without them.

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