

Testimony: Gun Violence Prevention

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My name is Bob Tower and I live in South Windsor, Ct. I have come here today to let you see how the blood shed by little children at Sandy Hook school has affected this 70 year old guy. A number of heartbreaks have occurred in my lifetime. Most notably the Vietnam War, Iraq War, Afghanistan War, Oklahoma bombing, Columbine shooting, numerous other similar shootings and the attack on the World Trade Center. These are all very horrific events and much for mankind to be ashamed of. Loss of any human life is very sad but when I close my eyes and picture those little bodies blown apart by a military style weapon I realize this is as bad as it can get and mankind has sunk as low as he can go. The hurt inside of me simply makes me cry. Everyone should think of this every so often to remind ourselves not to become apathetic and complacent about this issue. Unfortunately, I am sure many people have already put the incident behind them.

I have called frequently to all of my congressmen in Washington and written to Vice President Biden and President Obama numerous times. I have discussed this issue with practically everyone in my family and many coworkers. Unfortunately, what I have found, in addition to having too many of our state and federal elected officials strongly influenced by the NRA, is that a significant number of voting citizens are already apathetic. Have we really become so numb to murder that we simply accept it? These two facts bring me much frustration because, to me, the elimination of assault weapons and weapons with ammunition magazines or clips is something everyone should agree with. These two facts also recently woke me up and made me realize that this battle is going to be much tougher than it should be. When I told my 33 year old son that I want to help outlaw assault weapons forever he said "Dad, don't get your hopes too high". Unfortunately, he also is convinced that nothing will change and it will be "status quo" as it has been since Columbine thirteen years ago and probably before that.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, just like everyone else I don't know how long my life will be but you can be assured, God forbid that it takes that long, I will be in this fight to the end!

I have one request of all our politicians. Please don't complicate it. Set your goal to something that has a chance of being achieved. If you have a

heart and warm blood in your veins you know the right thing to do. We all must stay vigilant for as long as it takes to obtain true sensible control of the weapons mania in this country.

Remember, this is not and should not be a political issue.....this is personal to me and to most people. Please make it a personal issue of yours and let us work together to make the future much safer for everyone. Thank you for your time.

One last item, if I may. If any of our state legislators involved with this effort for gun violence prevention have ever received or are presently receiving support from the NRA or any weapons lobby I respectfully request that those people not be involved in this effort. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please fight the good fight and don't allow the NRA to continue to bribe their way to achieve what they want.