

First I want to thank your committee for providing such an expeditious means of voicing my option given that I cannot attend your public hearing because I have been blessed with gainful employment. Secondly, I want to say that I appreciate the efforts of your committee in including all the voices in this discussion as a true example of representative democracy. We have seen a knee jerk reaction to recent school violence turn into blatant tyranny by the government in our neighboring state to our due west. Connecticut has a long and proud history of patience and perseverance; and your committee is a fine example of how this process should and can produce results that truly reflect the will of the citizenry versed the demands of the media.

A brief biography of myself may be in order here to give you a idea of how I have formulated my opinions on the subject of gun violence:

I am will be 56 years old this year. I formed my respectful relationship to hunting and shooting sports as a direct extension of a heritage handed down from my father. As the second oldest of four sons I started hunting and shooting with a shared weapon at the age of about 8 or 9 years old. I bought my own 22 caliber squirrel gun with my own \$20 a couple of years later. We lived among the dairy farms of upstate New York; so target practice and hunting opportunities abounded. My father taught us commonsense gun safety as he trained us in the skill necessary to shoot and hunt successfully. The use of guns was a common place in my youth as video games may be for current youth. It was not always harmless fun. I lost one friend due to a shotgun accident involving his brother; and my brother was fortunate to survive another shotgun accident with only damage to his hunting vest and jacket. The learned from my father, friends, Scouting leaders, NRA gun safety courses and the school of hard knocks; thus, just like any sporting activity: training, practice and diligence are used to mitigate risk.

Upon reaching age 18, I pocketed a scholarship to LIU and opted for a career in the Army. My first impression from Basic Combat Training was very positive: the weapons were easy to use and maintain and the target did not move; so earning a sharpshooter badge was easy. Upon completing Advance Individual Training for medics, I arrived in the 1/19th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division and was issued a Model 1911 45 caliber pistol. The first time on the qualification range I noticed the targets are human silhouettes on 2" x 2" posts at 25 meters. To qualify you had to hit the target X number many times. I chose to shot the 2 x 2 about where the bottom of the silhouette met; thus cutting the target down with the first round. Of course there was a fuss by the I got picked up for the Division pistol team right away.

I spent most of my career in hunter friendly states like Texas, California (at the time), and South Carolina; when I was not overseas or at war. In season, finishing a day at the office while wearing BDUs usually lead to switching to an orange hat and putting on an orange vest to join the evening hunt. Harvesting deer and turkey for food was as common as visiting the Winn-Dixie. In fact with a bag limit of one per day in South Carolina, it was not uncommon to share with friends, relatives and local food banks when God blessed me with a bountiful harvest.

After retiring and moving to Connecticut, I continue to practice my marksmanship skills on almost a weekly basis and enjoy deer hunting despite the bitter cold and anti-hunting environment. I attended both the Connecticut hunter safety and archery safety courses, even though I have a valid DD 214. I figured I had better be familiar with local laws, regulations and customs; if I wanted to stay in the good graces of the DEP/DEEP. I have bought a hunting and fishing license every year I have live up here. I even attend the annual DEP/DEEP gathers at Sessions Woods WMA to stay familiar with the regulations, trends, and customs.

As you may have ascertained, I am a pro Second Amendment person. My only experience of living in a community without the possibility of hunting, shooting or even defending my home

without firearm has been in the overseas assignments, where the people are treated as subjects rather than citizens. It really does take living in a foreign country for any length of time to appreciate the gifts our forefather gave us in our Constitution. I ask you to understand and consider carefully the heritage that is at stake in limiting and aspect of the 2nd Amendment. Thank you.

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*"I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific." - Lily Tomlin*