

Dear Committee Members,

I've followed the Committees meetings. I've listened to and read the State of the Union theatrical presentation. Romney as a Presidential candidate was a shape shifting chameleon. I expected more from President Obama. I was wrong and at 73 years of age, I'm usually more inclined to better judgment of Presidents.

Yes, the Newtown murders, any murders are evil. In my family two members have been murdered one, my wife's adopted grandfather, was beaten to death and robbed in a New York subway. The other was my favorite aunt whose second husband murdered her in a hideous sexually related way with a shotgun. And those are two of the many reasons I have had a CT pistol permit since we moved here in 1984. I've owned firearms since I was a young man, have taken advanced training supplemental to the tactics taught me as a youth by my father a career decorated WWII, Korean, & Vietnam veteran. I legally carry a concealed sidearm in CT where ever allowable. As a certified pistol, rifle and shotgun instructor and former hunter safety volunteer and range officer in CT, I have taught the basics to those seeking hunting licenses and/or state pistol permits and taught advanced skills only to those with permits or personally vetted by me. That plus the fact that I owned and operated a convenience store and learned first hand that while 99.99% of all people are good and kind that .01% means that in a state like CT with 3.6 million people where we live, there are likely about some 360 evildoers out there. Even if I'm incorrect by an order of magnitude that's at least 35-40 vicious people. Even one in a million means 3-4 in CT alone and 310 in the US, one of whom we know was a cop! A sobering thought and additional gun laws won't help any more than the assault ban in CT helped prevent the Newtown massacre. Action is what is needed not words on paper.

Lanza was not legally able to obtain a permit. He was underage for a handgun permit, and the weapon was apparently legally purchased by his mother whom he allegedly killed. He then apparently stole her weapons and for some sick twisted reason murdered 26 people, 20 of whom were defenseless children. Now everyone is jumping on the bandwagon to ban this and that in a race to hysterical extremes. It reminds me of the McCarthy hearings when I was younger, only this time it's on the left!

As I see it, we need to be rational, measured and effective. First, we need a final public police report not just innuendos. That is due in June. Next we need to analyze what is needed such as improved security. I'm astonished - how is it possible a person armed with a rifle and two pistols as alleged got into a school ostensibly buzzed in without a care in the world. Even worse the children were told to huddle not escape to safety through windows. It's almost as bad as sleeping with the doors unlocked without an alarm system as so unfortunately happened in the Petit incident. Is anyone awake in the school system or do teachers naively assume everyone is nice and sweet like little children are supposed to be? Do the math folks! Finally, why wasn't Lanza under treatment and if he was, and was considered a risk to himself and others, why wasn't he under observation and care in a proper environment?

Enough of Presidential theatrics, political grandstanding and media hysterics designed to sell newspapers and improve news ratings! Let's get the facts, analyze them and fix the problem! I suspect it isn't just guns, Lanza could have used a car, a bomb like Timothy McVeigh in Oklahoma, or even I suppose an airplane like 911. Sick minds are just that sick minds. Those dangerous to themselves and others need help, compassion and care. We need to ensure that those who slip through the cracks cannot enter sterile zones like airports and schools. As well we need to stop the drive by shootings by those who don't give a damn about laws. I'd be willing to volunteer as a school "guard" if you'd be willing to accept a cardiac disabled armed citizen which undoubtedly you won't any more than when I volunteered to be a plane marshal after the 9/11 incident which killed many of my friends and business acquaintances.

Let's not carry this rush to judgment and implement laws even before the report is made public. Do to do so smacks of hysteria at best and at worse a hidden agenda to subvert the needs of Americans to be sure their children and families are safe and secure as far as humanly possible. No law, no idea will provide 100% protection and we will all eventually die, some sooner as I know too well having "died" or flat-lined several times in an ambulance back in 2003. We need action, but most of all we need cold, hard facts and serious detailed thought as how best to solve the problem. Not grandstanding, stage dramatics, media-hyped violence commissions and silliness!

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Das ist die wahre Zeit der Liebe, wenn wir glauben, daß wir allein lieben kann, daß niemand jemals so vor uns geliebt habe, und daß niemand in der gleichen Weise nach uns zu lieben... Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

That is the true season of love, when we believe that we alone can love, that no one could ever have loved so before us, and that no one will love in the same way after us... Translation of above Goethe quote about Jacqueline and I