

Good evening, my name is Michael Collins. As with all present tonight, my thoughts and prayers go out to the families and victims of Dec. 14, 2012.

I am a Sandy Hook resident, I am a CT AEMT, working in Danbury and Brookfield. I also volunteer at Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Corps. My thoughts here are my own and do not represent any of my employers.

I have a CT permit to carry a pistol, I am a NRA Pistol Instructor and a NRA Range Safety Officer. I am a member of Fairfield County Fish and Game Protective Association. I hunt both in and out of state. I consider myself a very responsible gun owner.

CT, by all admissions, have some of the strongest firearm laws in the country. Some of the proposals being put forth by lawmakers recently involve outright banning of semi-automatic weapons and magazines over 10 rounds. In my mind, this is the wrong approach.

The person responsible for this outrage was the person who planned it and carried it out. Yes, he got the weapon by killing his mother. I have not yet heard an official reply to her weapon storage situation. We must give the blame for this to Adam Lanza, not the Connecticut firearm owners who have done nothing illegal or responsible. By cutting down on the number of cartridges in a magazine, you are putting people in a dangerous position. Just as has been said, when you have to reload, you are vulnerable. This applies to a person defending himself as well as a criminal. Only the criminal is not going to observe these mag capacity laws, the ordinary licensed person will. I do not want to be "outgunned" in a situation I cannot walk or run away from.

As for the so called "assault weapons", there are literally millions of these across the country legally owned and responsibly used. They are involved in a minuscule amount of total deaths.

I have been through quite a few of "gun control" political pushes in my time. All that usually happens is that more restrictions are put on the law abiding citizens, and the people who are responsible for the outrage to begin with, totally ignore the new rules.

That is what criminals do.

Michael Collins