

My brother and his family have lived in Newtown for nearly 30 years. Since I only live a couple of towns away, I've spent a lot of time there. I've gotten to know many of its residents at my niece's soccer/basketball/lacrosse games, birthday parties and dance recitals. My niece's best friend's mother was Anne Marie Murphy who died protecting her students. My niece spent that Friday in lockdown in her high school. This is not how a teenager's senior year is meant to be spent.

While Newtown remains a great town to live in and raise a family, it is unimaginable that it will go down in history and everyone's memory as the place where a disturbed young man did the unthinkable.

We need more serious background checks. They should extend to everyone in the household of the person buying the gun and receiving the permit. The fact that the mother had a permit meant everyone in her house had access to those guns. There is no need for civilians to carry assault weapons. There is no need for hunters or homeowners to possess multiple clips.

Let's strive for some sanity. Let's help the afflicted. Let's take a lesson from England and Australia and limit access to these kinds of weapons.

For the sake of these poor children, please, let's do whatever is in our power to see that it doesn't happen again.

Thank you,

Karen Kingsley