

THE Gun Owners

SPECIAL EDITION

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Gun Owners of America Fighting Against Calls for Gun Control on Capitol Hill and in the Media

GOA to USA Today: Stop Demonizing Firearms, Guns Save Lives Every Day

OPINION ● USA TODAY

Erich Pratt, Opinion contributor

A father uses his concealed handgun to stop a mass shooting in a McDonald's in Alabama. A man uses his gun to stop a racist gunman outside a Kentucky Kroger.

Guns are being used to save lives every day. But sadly, the only time the national news media wants to spend several days covering a firearms story is when the guns are used in a negative way.

The well-publicized shootings over the past week are heart-wrenching. But just as we should not punish sober drivers for the actions of a reckless drunk, neither should we demonize firearms or their owners when they are misused by an evil terrorist.

We know, because of research directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that guns are used 16 to 100 times more often to protect life than to take life. That means there are a whole lot more “guns save lives stories” not being reported by USA TODAY.

We celebrate the brave police officers who stopped three active shooters over the past week.

But as much as the USA TODAY Editorial Board wants to discount the idea of the “good guy with a gun,” let’s not forget that almost 90% of police agree that mass shootings would be “reduced” or “avoided altogether” by the presence of legally armed citizens.

There are multiple examples of good guys or gals stopping mass shooters from all over the country, and the FBI has documented some of them. But it’s worth noting that the very types of firearms the Editorial Board wants to restrict are extremely popular — and are frequently used in the defense of life:

- ▶ A Houston man fired several rounds while fighting off five home invaders this year, using his AK-47 as his primary means of defense.



GOA's Erich Pratt (left) debated a gun controller on Fox News in August. Pratt showed how gun control proposals — like red flag laws and government-mandated background checks — infringe Second Amendment rights and can even result in the death of honest gun owners. He also warned Republican politicians of the “read my lips” electoral disaster that awaits them for breaking their promises and voting for gun control.

- ▶ A Florida man utilized his AR-15 to fire 30 rounds while fighting off seven intruders last year.
- ▶ A petite Maryland mom chased three burglars out of her home simply by loading a round into the chamber of her AR-15.

All these victims were facing multiple attackers, which necessitated having firearms that held multiple rounds.

Finally, to borrow a phrase from the Editorial Board, we have been hit by a series of terror attacks. But terrorists — whether they're a “lone wolf” or organized — don't care about our gun laws, any more than the terrorists who ignored France's draconian gun control laws in 2015 and used fully automatic firearms to murder 90 people at the Bataclan theater.

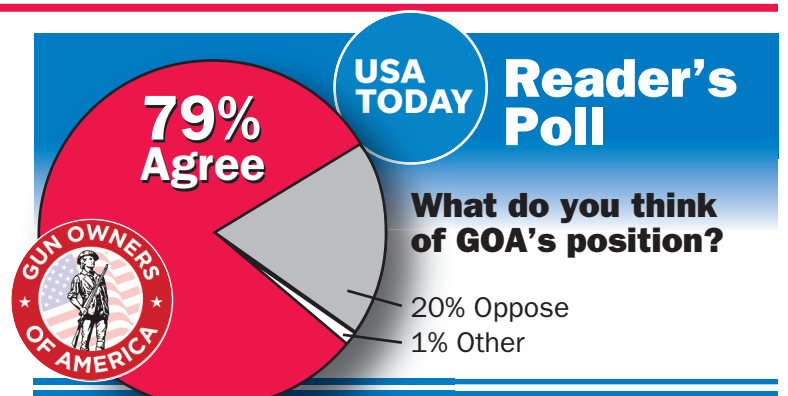
No, if terrorists were to strike into our malls and neighborhoods, we should hope and pray there will be people like Stephen Willeford — a retired plumber who used his AR-15-style rifle to mortally wound a *de facto* terrorist in Texas two years ago. ■

Erich Pratt is the senior vice president of Gun Owners of America. This article appeared in USA Today on Aug. 5, 2019.



Speaking Up for the Second Amendment

GOA spokespeople took to the media waves to reject calls for gun control following the mass killings in Texas and Ohio. From radio and television ... to print media and YouTube ... GOA representatives appeared on hundreds of interviews and news segments nationwide — sending a clear, no compromise message for the right to keep and bear arms.



Guns Are Used to Save Life Everyday

GOA's Erich Pratt penned the “Opposing View” in USA Today, in response to the El Paso and Dayton shootings. Pratt's article demonstrated how firearms are used overwhelmingly for good — a message that resonated with readers of USA Today, with almost 80% agreeing with GOA's position.

PRATT: The Killers In El Paso And Dayton Targeted Unarmed Citizens — But The Media Won't Admit It



In the days following the tragic attacks in El Paso and Dayton, **GOA's Erich Pratt** went live on social media to give a response to attacks on the Second Amendment. The message answered the cry from anti-gunners to “do” something to prevent these shootings. As a solution, Pratt prodded Congress to pass legislation to expand concealed carry and end gun-free zones — and urged states to pass Constitutional Carry. The message resonated with gun owners, as one commentator said, “Now those solutions are the REAL ‘Common Sense’ gun laws. Keep up the good work and good fight, Erich!”

ERICH PRATT | GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA

National talk show host Chris Plante, frequently opines, “The most insidious power that the news media has is the power to ignore.” Those words have never been truer in recent days as the media has covered the latest mass murders. The media has ignored the fact that killers targeted unarmed citizens — including in El Paso, Texas and in Dayton, Ohio.

- So what we see are politicians making false claims out of ignorance. For example:
- Cory Booker claimed that mass shootings are a “uniquely American problem.” But this is false. The United States is not even in the top 50 countries when one compares mass shootings per capita among nations.
 - Countless Democratic presidential hopefuls are bashing firearms like AR-15s, claiming that Americans have no use for owning such weapons. Again, this is grossly false. Several men and women have used these guns in self-defense, including a Houston man who used his AK-47 to fend off five home invaders this year.
 - Even the president weighed in on Monday, arguing that Congress should encourage states to pass “red flag” Gun Confiscation Orders. But these gun grabs allow for the confiscation of firearms from innocent Americans — which often turn out badly, as seen by the police killing of an African-American Maryland man last year.
- What was missing from the lips of these politicians — and from media coverage in general — is the role that unarmed citizens in gun-free zones play in mass shootings.
- Within a week's time, there have been three well-publicized shootings, all of them demonstrating the intention of killers to

seek out disarmed victims.

The Garlic Festival in Gilroy was a gun-free zone. This is not unique since over 90 percent of public mass shootings occur in defense-free areas. Criminals may be evil, but they're not stupid. They want to be the only ones with a gun.

California has some of the most draconian gun laws in the nation, yet they have experienced the greatest number of mass shootings. This is not surprising.

In El Paso, the racist gunman stated in his manifesto that he would be going for a soft target. So he left his home in the Dallas suburbs and drove over 600 miles to find his soft target in El Paso.

Mexican nationals cross the border in droves every weekend to go shopping in El Paso. For this hate-filled monster, these shoppers would be the perfect targets since they would not be able to carry guns from Mexico into the United States. Hence, the majority of his victims would be disarmed.

In Dayton, Ohio, the Elizabeth Warren-supporting shooter who went on a killing spree chose a location and time (1:00 a.m. on a Sunday) when his targets would be especially disarmed — as Ohio law prohibits citizens from carrying concealed while drinking. So again, the killer chose victims who were almost guaranteed to be disarmed.

What's also missing from the national dialogue is how guns are saving more lives than they take. In fact, they are used 16-100 times more often to save life every day.

But one will rarely find one of these stories in the national media. Some of them have been mentioned in the *Daily Caller*. And the FBI has documented several cases as well. But the national media only seems to want to harp on the negative uses of firearms.

Imagine if the national media were to focus 24/7 on the medical “crisis,” doing in depth stories on the 685 patients who are negligently killed by doctors each day.

Two hundred and fifty thousand medical mistakes result in death every year — or 685 per day. The daily medical “carnage” is the equivalent of several months' worth of mass shootings!

If the media covered negligent medical mistakes in the same way they cover guns, Americans would be scared to visit a doctor. Of course, we know that such fear is foolish because doctors are saving far more lives.

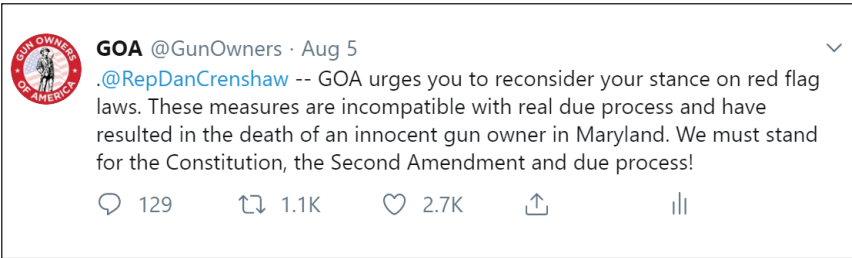
Obviously, there is risk in everything we do. We live in a dangerous world, where 16 pedestrians are killed by vehicles every day. One study showed that Americans are 159 times more likely to be struck and killed by a car than to be shot in a mass shooting.

But which story are we most likely to see on the news? Given that almost 80 percent of journalists favor stricter gun control, the question should answer itself. ■

Erich Pratt is the senior vice president of Gun Owners of America, a gun rights organization representing more than 2 million gun owners. This article appeared in the Daily Caller on Aug. 7, 2019.

GOA Calling Out Turncoat Republicans

GOA publicly castigated Rep. Dan Crenshaw (among others) on Twitter for supporting Gun Confiscation Orders. Rep. Crenshaw tweeted that Congress should “implement state ‘red flag’ laws, or gun violence restraining orders.” GOA generated more than a million grassroots letters opposing gun control into Senate Republican offices during the first week alone after the mass killings in August. As for the next elections, GOA will not support any elected official — Republican or Democrat — who votes for any type of gun control legislation.



Rebuking Red Flag Gun Confiscation on Capitol Hill

Gun Owners of America's Texas Director, Rachel Malone, recently went to Capitol Hill to explain to Congressional offices the dangers of Red Flag Gun Confiscation legislation, and especially how it can be dangerous to women. Malone explained that these so-called “protective orders” can be used by ex-lovers and stalkers to confiscate a woman's firearms.

