

Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition Statement on Las Vegas
Scott Jackson, President

Evil exists. There is no doubt of that. Horrific events such as the meaningless mass murders that recently took place in Las Vegas are a stark, cold, and shocking reminder, of this. We can, and do, pray for the souls of the lost, for the injured survivors, and for all the suffering family and friends. We can mourn the losses. And, we can look for ways to prevent reoccurrences. These are all natural reactions. But, in this necessary quest for prevention, we must be mindful not to misplace blame.

There will always be people with evil in their hearts, both sane and insane, who are Hell bent on ill intent. And, the gun may become a tool of choice to act out violence. But, the gun isn't the source of the evil, any more than a truck used to mow down a crowd of people is. Virtually any inanimate object can become a weapon if used as such.

So, where does the problem stem from? Does it stem from a society that accepts ever increasing gratuitous violence in its games and entertainment, as normal? Does it stem from our apparent need to continually raise the shock factor bar, in order to be shocked? Does it stem from a society that, in an effort to connect with everybody and everything via smartphones and television screens, ends up connecting with almost nobody, resulting in isolation of the individual? How about the idea that we tend to ignore mental illness in our citizenry? Is this sort of behavior encouraged by a media with an insatiable appetite for ever increasing ratings and market share that promotes division within society as a means to feed that need? Does it stem from a breakdown of the traditional nuclear family? How about the modern desire for individual fame? More likely, it is a combination of all these factors, and many more.

So, what do we do, then? I don't know the answer to that. There are a lot of societal ills out there that frankly are outside the purview of this coalition. We each need to look inside our own hearts and do what we believe to be good and right, when it comes to all that.

What I do know is that limiting our abilities towards self-protection is not the answer. Taking guns away from law abiding citizens will leave those same law abiding citizens without a means to protect themselves from the very evils we are fighting. A chief argument against firearms out there is that firearms make it too easy to kill people. What that argument fails to account for is that firearms make it easier for weaker people to defend themselves against stronger menacing attackers. So, long as there remains a disparity in size and strength between people, a form of equalization is necessary for self-protection. To loosely quote Wayne La Pierre, the best way to fight bad guys with guns is with good guys with guns. There is a lot of truth to that.

Now is a time for us to stand together and fight for what we believe in. The onslaught of attacks against our Natural right to self-protection as guaranteed by the Second Amendment, have only begun. The opponents of private firearms ownership, through and with the willing media, will pull out all the stops, and prey on the naivety of an emotionally wounded society with their misinformation. Their obvious media slant is in full force. Moreover, many who normally speak out against gun control have been silent on the issue, due to fear of being labeled insensitive, uncompassionate, or far worse. This is a time to be compassionate, yes. But, it is not a time to quietly stand by while our rights are under attack and at high risk of permanent abolition. Make no mistake, our foe are masters of, in their own words, not letting a crisis go to waste. They will take full advantage of the shock and emotion resulting from the Las Vegas shootings.

Remember, **you** are the best antidote to their offense. Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors. Make sure they know the truth. Take time to write to your elected representatives. Help us to ensure that we remain able to protect ourselves, our families, and those around us, and that we are able to fight the horrific effects of evil.