

*A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed. --Amendment II, US Constitution*



*The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called to question; . . . --Article II, § 13, Colorado Constitution*

### *The Voice for Firearm Rights in the Pikes Peak Region*

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## **What we can learn from the New Life Church shooting**

On Sunday, December 9th, a lone gunman, carrying a semi-automatic rifle, two handguns, and about a 1,000 rounds of ammunition, went on a killing spree at New Life Church in northern Colorado Springs. The madman, Matthew Murray, had already killed two people at a missionary school in Arvada earlier that day and had posted messages on the Internet that he was going to kill as many Christians as possible.

What better place to carry out his deadly plot than a mega-church where he thought there would be 1,000s of unarmed Christians participating in a worship service—like shooting fish in a barrel.

After kill two young girls in the New Life parking lot and setting off smoke bombs, Murray entered the church to continue his rampage. This is where his plan went terribly wrong when he encountered an armed, private citizen, a member of the church's volunteer security team, Jeanne Assam. Jeanne ordered the gunman to drop his weapon and when he did not comply, she shot him five times causing him to take his own life before another single person in the church was harmed.

While the media, including the national media, referred to Ms Assam as a "security guard", the truth is she was a volunteer member of the church's security staff who had obtained a concealed handgun permit and was willing to put herself in the line of fire to protect the members of New Life. Due to her actions, she prevented 100s of deaths in what could have been the worst mass shooting in US history. Had armed citizens not been present that day, it truly would have been like shooting fish in a barrel, until law enforcement arrived on the scene.

The average response time in Colorado Springs for a priority one call (life threatening), is about 11 minutes. Amazingly, CSPD officers arrived in about four minutes since they were already on scene to help with traffic as the service let out. Even with this fast response, in the time that it would take them to arrive, assess the situation, work out a plan, and execute that plan, Murray could have killed a lot of innocent people.

Jeanne Assam is, in every sense of the word, a hero. Her quick action and willingness to get involved clearly demonstrates what can happen when an armed person is present. Contrast the results at New Life with those at the shopping mall in Omaha and at Virginia Tech, which ban concealed carry, where innocent people had no choice but to become victims.

Already, some anti-gun people, including Democrat State Senator John Morse,

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **January 10, 2008:**  
**PPFC Membership Meeting**
- **January 17, 2008:**  
**PPFC Board Meeting**
- **February 5, 2008:**  
**Republican Caucus Night**

### **PPFC Officers**

President..... Dane Nowels  
V President. Bob Heinrich  
Secretary ...Amy Mullaney  
Treasurer... Bernie Herpin  
Membership Dan Wandell  
Programs Leigh Ann Shriver  
Legislative..... Doug Davis  
Publicity ..... Harry Dierks  
Fund Raising.. Bob Balink  
Social ..... Pat Smelser  
Chaplain ..... Rich Hilton  
Sgt-at-Arms... Doug Davis  
Gun Shows. Marc Hament  
PPFC PAC ... Paul Paradis

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**WWW.PPFC.ORG**

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**Next PPFC Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 10, 2008**  
**VFW Post 4051**  
**430 E Pikes Peak Ave**  
**Colorado Springs CO**  
**7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

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are calling for more gun control. They point to the fact that Murray had bought five guns over a 13-month period. Even the most restrictive purchase laws allow a one-gun-a-month purchase; so, Murray could have purchased 13 guns! Each of the firearms he bought were through legal purchases from FFL dealers and he passed the background checks.

There is a new COSTCO coming to Colorado Springs on Powers. According to their corporate policy, concealed carry will not be permitted in their store (certainly their right on their private property). Apparently, they consider lawfully armed citizens more of a threat than the Matthew Murrays of the world. COSTCO doesn't accept e-mail comments, but you can submit a comment on their website, [www.costco.com](http://www.costco.com), under Customer Service, if you'd like to explain why you won't be buying a membership to their store.

## **PPFC Elections**

We will hold PPFC elections at our January 2008 meeting. The Nominations Committee is recommending the following persons. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

President: Dane Nowels  
Publicity: Harry Dierks

Treasurer: Bernie Herpin  
Fund Raising: Richard Gandolf

Programs: Teri Goodall  
Social: Pat Smelser

## **Caucuses Are Coming!**

The 2008 election season is already underway. There will be several important local, state, and national elections this year that can have a definite impact on our right to keep and bear arms. In Colorado, the path to an election really does begin at the grassroots level with neighborhood (precinct) meetings called a caucus. Registered voters in each party meet to elect delegates to the various nominating assemblies. These delegates will then select those candidate who will be on the primary ballot for their party. (There is also a petition process that can be used to bypass the caucus-assembly process.) Kyle Fisk will give a presentation on the caucus process at our January 10th meeting.

It is very important for you to attend you caucus and get elected as a delegate. You will have a say in who represents us and our rights!

## **PPFC Small Donor Committee**

Thanks to our members, we raised \$2,212 in 2007 for the PPFC Small Donor Committee and have also received \$610 for 2008! We will be putting this money to good use this campaign season. Also, it is time to renew your PPFC membership. You should have received a renewal notice in the mail in early December. Please send it in or bring to the January meeting. Thanks!!