

Founders' plans

If a genie granted me three time travel opportunities, here's what I — a retired journalist — would do:

1. Interview Jesus.
2. Interview Adolf Hitler.
3. Interview the Founding Fathers about the Second Amendment.

I don't know what Jesus would say, but I know I'd be enthralled.

I have a general idea what Hitler would say, and I'd be appalled.

As for the Founding Fathers, I'd first have to brief them on:

- The nearly 40,000 gun deaths a year;
- The frequent mass

shootings, often involving schoolchildren;

- The modern high-powered, rapid-firing weapons and high-capacity magazines;
- Our limited gun regulations.

Here's what I know they would not say: "Yeah, that's pretty much how we hoped that'd go."

And yet deaths and injuries continue while the prevailing "wisdom" is that the only good gun law is a repealed gun law and that the Second Amendment was meant to prohibit any new action that might improve things.

Sadly, even if I returned with videotape of the Founders endorsing added regulation, it'd likely be a waste of time.

- Loren Stanton, *Prairie Village*

Words, not action

Shattered scene. Deadly rampage. Shooting spree. Mass shooting. Assault rifle. Victims. Huddled in hiding. Grieving families. Grief-stricken, Lifeless body. Slain (insert selection): children, coworkers, colleagues, family members, police officers, innocent bystanders. Our prayers go out to. Our hearts go out to. Numb. Tragedy. Anguish. Heartfelt support.

Do these words mean anything? Are we so deadened to what is happening over and over again that we are not howling in unending protest? How is it possible that people in a civilized society that views itself as God-fearing read these words over and over again as these senseless acts keep happening and yet do nothing?

After Columbine, after Sandy Hook, after count-

less others, why are we paralyzed when it comes to enacting fierce gun legislation? Does the right to bear arms mean assault rifles? Are the viciously protected gun rights worth the loss of even one child, one mother or father, one student, one police officer, one innocent bystander, one human being?

Where is the howling? Have we just given up and willingly accept this as just another day in the United States?

Exactly what does it take for Congress to act? It takes us.

- Barbara Rodts, *Leawood*

Minds made up

In retrospect, Sandy Hook marked the end of the U.S. gun control debate. Once Americans decided that killing children was bearable, it was all over. States can take action, but people can always travel across state lines. Without strong federal laws (see Australia) there will be too many loopholes. But, I'm not giving up.

- Bob Clark, *Prairie Village*

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Right to life

How many days do we have to fly the flag at half staff before we realize the right to live supersedes the right of an idiot to carry a gun?

- Joseph Gray, *Kansas City*