

The 2nd Amendment & YOU!

Right now the 2nd Amendment and your right to keep and bear arms in the United States are under attack every day by our own government. It's up to you and I to know what the 2nd amendment says about our right to keep and bears arms and understand what some of our founding fathers said about this right. It's our responsibility to do all we can to stand up to our elected officials that work for us and tell them how we feel about our right to keep and bear arms.

I believe that all people whether they own a gun or not should know basic firearm safety so that when you come in contact with a gun you know how it should be handled. Listed below are some basic firearm safety rules.

1. Always treat all guns as loaded. No matter what, even if some one tells you that a gun is unloaded you should check it for your self and make sure that the gun is in fact unloaded.
2. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
3. Always keep your finger OFF the trigger until your target is in your sights and you are ready to fire.
4. Always know your target and what is beyond it. When going out shooting at a range or in the desert make sure you are shooting into a Burma or a mountain side. Know what is beyond your target, even a small 22. cal bullet can travel one and a half miles.

Following these four basic rules when coming in contact with a gun can help keep you from causing harm to yourself or those around you. In order to make sure that your 2nd Amendment rights are not taken away from you, you need to know some of the things that the founding fathers had to say about your right to own and use a gun.

"No free man shall be debarred the use of arms"
Thomas Jefferson

"The Constitution shall never be construed to authorize Congress to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceful citizens, from keeping their own arms"
Samuel Adams

"Little More can be reasonable aimed at with respect to the people at large than to have them properly armed."
Alexander Hamilton

"Americans have the right and advantage of being armed"
James Madison

"The great object is that every man be armed."
Patrick Henry

What can you do to help ensure your right to keep and bear arms? What can you do to keep our government from taking away our guns?

The first thing you can do is exercise your right to keep and bear arms by buying a gun. This is an important decision for you and your family to make but as long as you can legally own a gun you should strongly consider buying one. I have owned a gun since turning 18 and was legally able to buy a rifle. Listed below are your elected officials you can contact to tell them how you feel about your right to keep and bear arms.

Call, write, and email your governor, your senators, your representatives,

Arizona House of Representatives
Capitol Complex
1700 W Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2890
Info Desk 602-926-4221
Toll Free 1800-352-8404

Arizona State Senate
Capitol Complex
1700 W Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2890
Info Desk 602-926-3559
Fax 602-926-3429
Toll Free 1800-352-8404

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Telephone **(602) 542-4331**
Toll Free **1-(800) 253-0883**
Fax **(602) 542-1381**

When I turned 18 got my first shot gun and a quail hunting license. Before I went hunting I attended a hunter's safety course to educate myself on how to properly handle a weapon and hunt safely. The things I learned in that class are invaluable, they informed me on how to hunt safely and handle a gun properly. Oh and did I mention that when I went through this hunters safety course I was in the fifth grade? My parents didn't even own any guns at the time but they felt it was important for me to know how to handle a gun if I ever came in contact with one or if I was ever to go hunting. So at 18 years old I got my first shot gun and went hunting and I had a blast. Some of my best memories are shooting targets and hunting.

To build on my education on how to properly handle guns I recently decided to educate myself on how to defend myself and family with a gun if a situation ever required me to. For this I looked to my local gun dealer at Guns Plus in Surprise, AZ. They offer a full line of self defense classes and my wife and I decided to attend their CCW course held at Ben Avery Shooting Range. I felt this class was very informative and it educated me on the Arizona laws regarding my right to carry a concealed weapon.

The time spent with the guys from Gun's Plus in the class room and on the range helped me to better understand the kind of situations that may arise that would require me to exercise my right to defend myself. The course consisted of about four and a half hours class time and about three hours range time. At the end of the CCW class we were required to shoot at a silhouette with an accuracy of 80% and complete a written test with a score of 100%. I got a 100% on both the shooting and on the written test; my wife only got 90% on the shooting, but got 100% on the written. It was Awesome, and I haven't let my wife forget it, yet.

If you're not sure if you will be able to get a 100% on the written test or shoot with an accuracy of 80% that's ok. The guys from Guns Plus will work with you to ensure that when it comes to test time you are at the top of the class. When my wife and I attended the class there were about fifty of us there and we only had one person in the class that was not able to make the required score but it was due to some trouble he was having with the firearm he was using.

Exercise your right to keep and bear arms. Call your elected official, and talk with your family about buying a fire arm. You never know when your life may depend on it.

DUSTIN DRAPER
Surprise, AZ.