

LANDER VALLEY SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its power in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. U.S. Declaration of Independence, 1776.

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.
2nd Amendment to U.S. Constitution, 1789.

The right of citizens to bear Arms in defense of themselves and of the state shall not be denied. Article 1, Sec. 24, Wyoming Constitution.

The militia of the state shall consist of all able-bodied male citizens of the state, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years; Article 17, Sec. 1, Wyoming Constitution.

“The people never give their rights but under some delusion.” Edmund Burke, 1784 speech.

“The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword, because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops...”, Noah Webster, An Examination into the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution Proposed by the Late Convention 1787.

“Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect every one who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give that force, you are ruined.” Patrick Henry, during Virginia’s ratification convention 1788.

“If I were an American, as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop landed in my country, I never would lay down my arms- never- never- never! You cannot conquer America.” William Pitt, 1777 speech.

“They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.” Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania 1759.

“In a civilized and cultivated country, wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsman.” Theodore Roosevelt.

“Arms in the hands of individual citizens may be used at individual discretion ... in private self-defense.”, John Adams, A Defense of the Constitution of Government of the United States of America (1787-88).

The constitution preserves “the advantage of being armed which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation ... (where) the governments are afraid to trust people with arms.” John Madison, the Federalist #46.

“...arms discourage and keep the invader and plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property ... Horrid mischief would ensue were the law-abiding deprived the use of them.”, Thomas Paine, Thoughts on Defensive War (1775).

“A militia when properly formed are in fact the people themselves ... and include all the men capable of bearing arms ... To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms....”, Richard Henry Lee, Additional Letters From the Federal Farmer 53 (1788).

“The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.” Samuel Adams, during Massachusetts’s U.S. Constitution ratification convention (1788).

“I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole person... To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them.” George Mason, during Virginia’s ratification convention (1788).

“Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself.

They are the American people’s liberty teeth and keystone under independence.

The church, the plow, the prairie wagon and citizens’ firearms are indelibly related.

From the hour the pilgrims landed, to the present day, events, occurrences, and tendencies prove that to insure peace, security, and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable.

Every corner of this land knows firearms, and more than 99 99/100 percent of them by their silence indicate that they are in safe and sane hands.

The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains interference – they deserve a place of honor with all that’s good.

When firearms go, all goes – we need them every hour.”

President George Washington in an address to the 2nd session, of the 1st U.S. Congress.

“No freeman shall be debarred the use of arms.”, Thomas Jefferson, Jefferson Papers (Boyd ed., 1950), vol. 1, p. 344.

“...to disarm the people, that is the best and most effectual way to enslave them...”, George Mason, 3 Elliot Debates 380.

“... to preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them...”, Richard Henry Lee, Additional Letters From the Federal Farmer 170, (1788).

The U.S. Supreme Court in **Dred Scott vs. Sanford (1856)** said Negroes couldn't be citizens because if citizens, they would be entitled to enjoy all the rights inherent in citizenship, rights the “courts would be bound to maintain and enforce,” including (unthinkable for slaves), the right “to assemble..., to speak out on all political subjects, ... and to keep and carry arms wherever they went.” The ruling on Negro citizenship (now recognized as wrong) in no way alters the court's fundamental view as to basic rights inherent in citizenship.

In **U.S. vs. Cruickshank (1876)** the court said the people's fight to arms, like the rights of assembly and petition, existed long before the Constitution, and is not “in any manner dependent on that instrument for its existence.”

“All citizens capable of bearing arms constitute the reserve militia,” said the court in **Presser vs. Illinois (1865)**, and “the states cannot prohibit the people from keeping and bearing arms so as to ... disable the people from performing the (militia) duty to the general government.”

In **U.S. vs. Miller (1939)** the court said the militia comprised all able bodied males, adding that “ordinarily when called these men were expected to appear bearing arms supplied by themselves and of a kind in common use at the time.” It also said that absent evidence that a sawed-off shotgun is an appropriate militia weapon, there is no constitutional right to possess “such an instrument” (with the clear implication that arms appropriate for the military are protected by the Second Amendment.

The term “the people”, explicitly as used in the Second Amendment and elsewhere in the Constitution and Bill of Rights, said the ruling in **U.S. vs. Verdugo Urquidez (1990)**, is a term chosen by the Founding Fathers to mean all individuals who make up our national community.

In **Haynes vs. U.S. (1968)**, the court said the Fifth Amendment exempts convicted felons from having to obey gun registration laws. “A proper claim of the Constitutional privilege against self-incrimination provides a full defense to prosecutions either for failure to register a firearm ... or for possession of an unregistered firearm.”

“If cowardly and dishonorable men sometimes shoot unarmed men with army pistols or guns, the evil must be prevented by the penitentiary and gallows, and not by a general deprivation of constitutional privilege.” **Wilson vs. State, 33 Ark. 557, at 560, 34 Am. Rep 52 (1878).**

In a First Amendment case on religion and press, the court said in **Murdock vs. Pennsylvania (1943)** that the power to impose a license fee on a constitutional right amounts to a prior restraint and the power to restrict or deny the right. The court ruled it unconstitutional to require a license tax for exercise of a right guaranteed by the Federal Constitution. The court called the license fee a “flat tax”, and said, “a tax laid specifically on the exercise of these freedoms would be unconstitutional.”

Since **South vs. Maryland (1855)**, courts have repeatedly held that police have no duty to protect any individual, but only a general duty to protect society, and cannot be held personally liable for failure to protect any individual. (See also **Warren vs. District of Columbia (1981)**). Clearly, each individual must assume responsibility for his own protection, with all that implies about one’s right to arms.

A state that prohibits a resident from hunting a state’s wild game, ruled Justice Holmes in **Patson vs. Pennsylvania (1914)**, may also prohibit the alien from possessing a firearm for hunting. In the very next sentence, Holmes added: “The prohibition does not extend to arms such as pistols that may be supposed to be needed occasionally for self defense.” The court implicitly recognized even a resident alien’s right to arms.

“And what country can preserve its liberties, if its rulers are not warned from time to time, that the people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms ... The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of patriots and tyrants.”
Thomas Jefferson, letter to William S. Smith, 1787, in Jefferson, **on Democracy 20**, S. Padover ed., 1939.

“The great object is that every man be armed ... Everyone who is able may have a gun.”
Patrick Henry, in the Virginia Convention on the ratification of the Constitution.

“Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure.” Helen Keller

“In the long run, we’ll all be dead.” John Maynard Keynes

“When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace.” Luke 11: 21.

“... and he that hath no sword let him sell his garment, and buy one.” Luke 22: 36.

“In free governments, the rulers are the servants, and the people their superiors and sovereigns.” Benjamin Franklin

Wouldn’t it be a strange system where only the servant had arms, and not the masters? In the United States “**We the People**” are supposed to be the masters, and the government the servant.

“I would rather belong to a poor nation that was free than to a rich nation that had ceased to be in love with liberty.” Woodrow Wilson.

“Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!” Patrick Henry, speech to the Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775.

When should an oppressive government be resisted? If you wait until you are disarmed, then it is probably too late.

“The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.” Thomas Jefferson.

In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control in England.

In 1649, one vote caused Charles I to be executed.

In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.

In 1839, one vote elected Marcus Norton governor of Massachusetts.

In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the union.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

In 1875, one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.

In 1876, one vote made Rutherford B. Hayes president of the United States.

In 1920, one vote gave Tennessee ratification of the 19th Amendment.

In 1923, one vote gave Adolph Hitler control of the Nazi Party.

In 1941, one vote saved Selective Service – just weeks before Pearl Harbor was Attacked.

In 1976, one vote, derailed HR-1193, and saved America from a handgun ban.

John F Kennedy’s margin of victory over Richard Nixon in 1960 was less than one Vote per precinct.

Loretta Sanchez was elected to Congress from California by less than 4 votes per Precinct in 1996.

Donald Sherwood was elected to Congress from Pennsylvania in 1998 by 515 votes Less than one vote per precinct.

In 1999, Leslie Byrne was elected to the Virginia Senate by 37 votes, less than one Vote per precinct.

No sniveling. The only people who get to complain are the ones who do something about it. If you don’t vote don’t complain!

“When the government fears the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.” Thomas Jefferson

“... there is no constitutional right to be protected by the state against being murdered by criminals or madmen. It is monstrous if the state fails to protect its residents, but it does not violate the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment or, we suppose, any other provision of the Constitution. The Constitution is a charter of negative liberties: it tells the state to let the people alone; it does not require the government or the state to provide services, even so elementary service as maintaining law and order.”

Bowers vs. DeVito, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, 686 F. 2nd 616 (1982).

“Self-defense, therefore, as it is justly called the primary law of nature, is not; neither can it be in fact, taken away by the law of society.” William Blackstone.

“There exist (sic) a law, not written down anywhere but inborn in our hearts; a law that comes to us not by training or custom or reading but from nature itself ...that if our lives are endangered, any and every method of protecting ourselves is morally right.” Cicero.

“Self-defense is nature’s oldest law.” John Dryden.

“To take from one, because it is thought his own industry and that of his fathers had acquired too much, in order to spare to others who, or whose fathers have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the principle of association, the guarantee to everyone a free exercise of his industry and the fruits acquired by it.”

Thomas Jefferson.

Guns cause crime like flies cause garbage.

Is it not a terrible irony that 200 years ago our founding fathers referred to God as the authority by which they claimed the right to throw off the shackles of oppression and declared our right to personal liberty; now, today, those who would presumptuously claim to be our spiritual fathers refer to God as the authority by which they declare the right to chain us to their oppressive beliefs and deny us our personal liberty?

All laws which are repugnant to the Constitution are null and void.” **Marbury vs. Madison, 1803.**

“Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.” William Pitt, 1783, in a speech to the House of Commons.

“Still if you will not fight for the right when you can easily win without bloodshed, if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not so costly, you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance for survival. There may be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no chance of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves.”

Winston Churchill

“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”

There is a word for those who would impose rules on others, without the consent and knowledge of those others, through edicts to which those who are to come under the rule cannot have input. That word is tyrant.

The strong have no right to take from the weak by force, nor do the weak have any right to take from the strong by force.

“This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.”
Abraham Lincoln, 4 April 1861.

It stands to reason that where there's sacrifice, there's someone collecting the sacrificial offerings. Where there is service, there is someone being served. The man that speaks to you of sacrifice speaks of slaves and masters, and intends to be the master.

Fascism, an ideology, largely the work of neoidealist philosopher Giovanni Gentile, emphasized the subordination of the individual to the state, which was to control all aspects of national life.

The difference between a handgun and a rifle is five minutes and a hacksaw. After handguns are banned do you think the government will want your hacksaw next?

“Do not give in to evil, but proceed ever more boldly against it.” Virgil.

“There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” Shakespeare.

Chairman Mao reminds us that politics is the art of deciding things through “the barrel of a gun.”

Thomas Jefferson warned that people who rely on government for food “will soon want for bread.”

“Law, without force, is impotent.” Pascal

Politics is the way violence is organized and used in a society. When people practice “politics” they are, essentially, jockeying for the control of the machinery of violence.

“For Freedom cannot be maintained without power; and men who are not in a capacity to defend their Liberties, will certainly lose them.” Treatise on the Militia in Four Sections, 1753.

The U.S. Supreme Court stated, in **Lefkowitz vs. Turley (414 US 70, 1973)**, that a significant infringement of constitutional rights cannot be justified by the speculative ability of those affected to cover the damage.”

“The essence of all slavery consists in taking the produce of another’s labor by force. It is immaterial whether this force be founded on ownership of the slave or ownership of the money that he must get to live on.” Leo Tolstoy

“Our main agenda is to have all guns banned. We must use whatever means possible. It doesn’t matter if you have to distort facts or even lie. Our task of creating a Socialist America can only succeed when those who would resist us have been totally disarmed.” Sarah Brady, *The National Educator*, January, 1994, pg 3.

Socially, capitalism is neither fair nor just. It doesn’t reward citizens according to needs. It rewards them according to their contribution to capitalism.

Every tax has its supposed justification, just as every bank robber has his excuse.

“Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the act of depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest.” Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi, an Autobiography.

“And that said constitution be never construed to authorize congress ... to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms ...” Sam Adams, *Philadelphia Independent Gazetteer*, August 20, 1789.

“Congress has no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birth-right of an American ... The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people.” Trench Coxe, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, February 20, 1788.

Gun control is not about guns, it is about control.

Guns cause crimes like pencils cause misspelled words.

The Second Amendment is in place in case they ignore the others.

Assault is a behavior, not a device.

You don’t shoot to kill, you shoot to stay alive.

Know guns; know peace and safety, no guns; no peace or safety.

Guns cause crime like matches cause arson.

There is a faction in the United States which is trying to change it from a nation of free citizens to one of subjects, controlled by the elite. Free men don’t ask permission to bear arms. An armed man is a citizen, but an unarmed man is a subject. You must know your

rights if you wish to preserve them, and you will only have those rights you are willing to fight for. The American Revolution would never have happened with gun control.

“War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to be to the majority of the people. Only a small inside group knows what it is all about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses. I believe in an adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we’ll fight ... I wouldn’t go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers. There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is just a racket.” Gen Smedley Butler, USMC (two-time Medal of Honor winner, 1933.

“If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating content of freedom, go home from us in peace. We ask neither your council nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen.” Samuel Adams

“Good people do not need laws telling them to act responsibly, while bad people will simply seek ways around the laws.” Plata (420 B. C.)

No representation without taxation?

The redistribution of wealth through tax credits, deductions, etc. leads to the abuse of power by a few large special interest groups.

Stop the tyranny of authority. The federal bureaucratic “empires” require ever increasing standards (water, air, etc) in order to justify their existence.

“Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men, in all ages, who mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they intend to be masters.” Senator Daniel Webster (1782-1852)

“As nightfall does not come all at once, neither does oppression. In both instances, there is a twilight when everything remains seemingly unchanged. And it is in such twilight that we must be most aware of change in the air – however slight – lest we become unwitting victims of the darkness.” The Douglas Letters: Selections from the Private Letters of Justice William O Douglas.

“Americans used to roar like lions for liberty, now they bleat like sheep for safety.” Norman Vincent Peale.

“A gun is a tool, like any other tool. A gun is only as good, or as bad, as the man using it.” Shane

“Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well armed lamb contesting the vote.” Benjamin Franklin

“The right to be let alone is indeed the beginning of all freedom.” Justice William O. Douglas

“Nothing will ruin the country if the people themselves will undertake its safety; and nothing can save it if they leave that safety in any hands but their own.” Daniel Webster, 1834.

“Whenever you hear about bans of this or that weapon, remember that no word on paper ever changed human nature. There are bad people out there who will prey on good people. They will not be deterred by words on paper in Albany or Washington, D.C. Good people, however, wishing to obey the law, will be deterred. That is why muggers, rapists and murderers know that in gun control havens like New York City and Washington D.C., citizens are virtually helpless against them.” James Otowski in the Mises Report 5-9-03

Imagine there's a war and no one shows up
- then war will come to you.
Whoever stays home when the battle begins
and lets others fight for his cause
ought to watch out:
because whoever has not shared in the fight
will share in defeat.
He who wants to avoid fighting
will not once avoid the fight:
because he will fight for the cause of the enemy
who hasn't fought for his own. Berthold Brecht

“A government big enough to give you all you want is a government big enough to take away all you've got.” Gerald Ford

Free people always live with insecurity and inequality.

“Any statistic, if tortured long enough, will eventually confess.” Al Simpson

“If, before undertaking some action, you must obtain the permission of society – you are not free, whether such permission is granted to you or not. Only a slave acts upon permission. Permission is not a right.” Ayn Rand

"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8

"A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well." Proverbs 25:26

Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built." Nehemiah 4:17-18

In United States law, martial law is limited by several court decisions handed down between the American Civil War and World War II. In *Ex Parte Milligan* 71 US 2 1866, the Supreme Court of the United States held that martial law could not be instituted within the United States when its civilian courts are in operation. In 1878, Congress passed the Posse Comitatus Act, which forbids military involvement in domestic law enforcement without congressional approval. The National Guard is an exception, since unless federalized, they are under the control of state governors.

"The right of a citizen to bear arms, in lawful defense of himself or the State, is absolute. He does not derive it from the State government. It is one of the 'High Powers' delegated directly to the citizen by the United States Constitution, Amendment II....A law cannot be passed to infringe upon it or impair it, because it is above the law, and independent of the law-making power." - Texas Supreme Court Decision, *Cockrum vs State of Texas*, ---- 1859

"Oh how far we have fallen! Is there any hope of turning from this, "Protect me from anything and everything and let me suckle at the government teat as long as possible" attitude that now so prevails? Probably not, for we reap what we sow."- Patrick Henry

Let me be a free man, free to travel, free to stop, free to work, free to trade where I choose, free to choose my own teachers, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to talk, think and act for myself...Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

"Hokey religions and ancient weapons are no match for a good blaster at your side, kid."
- Han Solo

War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.
John Stuart Mill (1806 - 1873)

"Tolerance becomes a crime when applied to evil"
--Thomas Mann

"When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle."
-Edmund Burke,

"Quemadmodum gladius neminem occidit, occidentis telum est."
Latin: "A sword never kills anybody; it is a tool in the killer's hand."
-Seneca,

"There are many things more horrible than bloodshed; and slavery is one of them."
Padraig Pearse, 1913

"The Second Amendment isn't about protecting ourselves against criminals. It's about all of us protecting ourselves from all of you." ---Dr. Suzanne Gratia Hupp to Congressman Charles Schumer (D-NY), 1994

I have been repeating over and over again that he who cannot protect himself or his nearest and dearest or their honor by non-violently facing death may and ought to do so by violently dealing with the oppressor. He who can do neither of the two is a burden. He has no business to be the head of a family. He must either hide himself, or must rest content to live for ever in helplessness and be prepared to crawl like a worm at the bidding of a bully.

- Mahatma Gandhi (Young India, 11-10-1928, p342)

The exact text of what Martin Niemoller said,
and which appears in the Congressional Record,
October 14, 1968, page 31636 is:

"When Hitler attacked the Jews
I was not a Jew, therefore I was not concerned.
And when Hitler attacked the Catholics,
I was not a Catholic, and therefore, I was not concerned.
And when Hitler attacked the unions and the industrialists,
I was not a member of the unions and I was not concerned.
Then Hitler attacked me and the Protestant church --
and there was nobody left to be concerned."

"Man is often defined as the tool-bearing animal. Weapons are the tools of power. In the hands of the state, they can be the tools of decency or the tools of oppression, depending on the righteousness of that state. In the hands of criminals, they are the tools of evil. In the hands of the free and decent citizen, they should be the tools of liberty. Weapons compound man's power to achieve whatever purpose he may have. They amplify the capabilities of both the good man and the bad, and to exactly the same degree, having no will of their own. Thus we must regard them as servants, not masters – and good servants of good men. Without them, man is diminished, and his opportunities to fulfill his destiny are lessened. An unarmed man can only flee from evil, and evil is not overcome by fleeing from it." Jeff Cooper, Cooper on Handguns, 1974.

"Waiting periods are only a step. Registration is only a step. The prohibition of private firearms is the goal." ~
Former Attorney General Janet Reno.

"But the right of citizens to bear arms is just one more guarantee against arbitrary government, and one more safeguard against a tyranny which now appears remote in America, but which historically has proved to be always possible." ~ Hubert Humphrey.

"By calling attention to 'a well regulated militia', the 'security' of the nation, and the right of each citizen 'to keep and bear arms', our founding fathers recognized the essentially civilian nature of our economy. Although it is extremely unlikely that the fears of governmental tyranny which gave rise to the Second Amendment will ever be a major danger to our nation, the Amendment still remains an important declaration of our basic civilian-military relationships, in which every citizen must be ready to participate in the defense of his country. For that reason, I believe the Second Amendment will always be important." ~ John F. Kennedy.