**Thank you for the opportunity to be here and speak on this important issue**.

On November 14th of 2016, according to NBC News, a “Good Samaritan” stepped in and saved the life of Lee County Deputy Dean Bardes. There didn’t seem to be any doubt in the mind of the deputy what was happening when he reportedly told the Good Samaritan to “shoot him” 3 times. The deputy feared for his life.

While most “passersby” took videos, pictures, or simply just drove by, this citizen chose to help. I didn’t see any record of anyone calling 911 and the deputy was unable to radio for help.

This may be a rare incident but to the deputy and his family that probably doesn’t mean much.

From ABC News

Thursday, January 12, 2017 01:03PM

Just last week an Arizona trooper trying to help a motorist in a rollover crash was shot in an ambush-style attack by a random suspect, who was then fatally shot by a “**Good Samaritan”** driving by.
The trooper with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) was at a traffic stop when he received a report about a driver whose car was shot at near a median at milepost 81 on Interstate 10, [reported ABC15](http://www.abc15.com/news/region-phoenix-metro/west-phoenix/i-10-closed-near-tonopah-for-police-incident), an ABC affiliate in Arizona.

The trooper had left the traffic stop to investigate call when he came across a rollover crash and saw that a woman had been ejected from the wreckage.
When the trooper began working to block lanes, a suspect came from an unknown direction and "ambushed" him, according to DPS.
The suspect shot him at least once in the chest-shoulder area and fought the trooper to the ground.
A passerby saw the fight unfolding and stopped to render aid to the trooper, who asked for help.
However, the suspect ignored the Good Samaritan's orders to stop attacking the trooper.
That's when the passerby went to his car, grabbed a gun and fatally shot the suspect, reported ABC15.

The woman who was ejected in the rollover crash died from her injuries, authorities said. The cause of the wreck was not known.

DPS Col. Frank Milstead said he has yet to speak to the passerby, but he had this message for him: **"Thank you because I don't know if my trooper would be alive today without your assistance."**

My question is. Is the life of Deputy Bardes or the Arizona State Trooper any more important than your life, my life or the lives of your loved ones to our friends and families?

ALL LIVES MATTER.

This is an especially important issue to me because my son is a Sheriff’s Deputy in Michigan, He’s a husband and the father of 6 adopted children. It’s my prayer that he never finds himself in a situation similar to Deputy Bardes and the Arizona State Trooper, but if that should happen I would hope a Good Samaritan would step forward to help him and won’t be committing a felony by doing that.

I think you would much rather have me sitting here than the widow or widower of a slain Law Enforcement Officer saying that if only you had honored your Oath and protected the 2nd Amendment my spouse might still be alive.

A friend in Law Enforcement once told me “when seconds count, the Police are only minutes away.

**What I am asking you is not allow the Federal Government or any other Governmental agency to make a felon out of a Good Samaritan or a Law Abiding Citizen who’s only wish is to defend his or her family and home.**

**Whether you call it a Second Amendment Preservation Act, or Firearms Freedom Act. Call it a State Sovereignty issue or assert the 10 Amendment I’m asking you, as our elected Representatives and Senators to stand against any and all efforts to infringe on our Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms.**

**History is a great teacher if we are willing to learn from it**

Regardless of how you feel about alcohol we can learn a lot from the 18th Amendment

With it the production, importation and distribution of alcoholic beverages became illegal.

Prohibition came into force at midnight on January 17, 1920, and the first documented infringement of the Volstead Act occurred in Chicago on January 17 at 12:59 a.m.

According to police reports, six armed men stole $100,000 worth of "medicinal" whiskey from two freight train cars. This trend in bootlegging liquor created a domino effect, with criminals across the United States. Some gang leaders were stashing liquor months before the Volstead Act was enforced. The ability to sustain a lucrative business in bootlegging liquor was largely helped by the minimal police surveillance at the time. There were only 134 agents designated by the Prohibition Unit to cover all of [Illinois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois), [Iowa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iowa), and parts of [Wisconsin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisconsin).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volstead_Act#cite_note-12) According to Charles C. Fitzmorris, Chicago's Chief of Police during the beginning of the Prohibition period: "Sixty percent of my police [were] in the bootleg business.

 In reality it turned otherwise law abiding citizens into criminals. But that’s not all it did. It created a huge market for bootlegged whiskey and other forms of alcoholic beverages, and made criminals very rich.

Banning or out lawing firearms will do nothing more than make law abiding citizens, who have committed no crime , felons and create a huge market for black market firearms.

# The War on Poverty After 50 Years

By [Robert Rector](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/r/robert-rector) and [Rachel Sheffield](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/s/rachel-sheffield)

In Hearitage.org.

In his January 1964 State of the Union address, President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed, “This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America.” In the 50 years since that time, U.S. taxpayers have spent over $22 trillion on anti-poverty programs. Adjusted for inflation, this spending (which does not include Social Security or Medicare) is three times the cost of all U.S. military wars since the American Revolution. Yet progress against poverty, as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau, has been minimal, and in terms of President Johnson’s main goal of reducing the “causes” rather than the mere “consequences” of poverty, the War on Poverty has failed completely. In fact, a significant portion of the population is now less capable of self-sufficiency than it was when the War on Poverty began.

***The War on Drugs: Is it a War Worth Fighting?***

*From www.stanford.edu*

 The United States has been engaged in a “war” for nearly 25 years. A war in which there is a great deal of confusion as to why we are engaged in it, and if we are in the war for the right reasons. The resolution of the war is curtailed by varying opinions and subjective statistical proof. The war which has been a continuing struggle, is the “war on drugs” At the heart of this war is a fundamental question: Is this a battle the United States can win? It is likely everyone will agree drugs are harmful, they have serious medical side-effects. Drugs are addictive; can ruin a family, a job, a life. I agree that drugs have very negative side effects, but is the solution to fight a very costly and ineffective battle to eradicate drugs entirely? Is this even a possibility? I am not so sure, and this paper will show that the war on drugs has likely caused much more harm than good. Further, it will explain why not all drugs are the same, explore some options, and look at the future of the United States, and of the world

 We spend $50 billion per year trying to eradicate drugs from this country. According to DEA estimates we capture less than 10 percent of all illicit drugs. In this regard, I have a two part question 1) How much do you think it will cost to stop the other ninety percent? Too much. 2) Does $50 billion a year for a 90% failure rate seem like a good investment to you? I am sure the answer is no. Has the cost of the War on Drugs in terms of billions of dollars, blighted lives, jammed prisons, intensified racism, needless deaths, loss of freedom etc., produced any significant change in drug availability or perceived patterns of drug use? Unfortunately not. Abraham Lincoln said "Prohibition goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and make crime out of things that are not crimes." It is estimated that 45 million U.S. citizens have tried an illicit drug at least once. How many of the 45 million drug users do you feel we must incarcerate in order to win the war on drugs?

These three failed and failing programs have cost the American taxpayer trillions of dollars and who knows how many lives. Over turning the 2nd Amendment, I believe, would dwarf these costs.

**There was no expiration date on my oath either**

**The Constitution of the United States of America**

**The Second Amendment**

Amendment 2

 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.***

**The Constitution of the Sovereign State of Florida**

**Article I**

SECTION 8. Right to bear arms.—

(a) **The right of the people** to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state **shall not be infringed,** except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.

The Constitution is very clear.

**T**he intent of the Founders and Patriots is clear and always has been.

“Arms in the hands of individual citizens may be used at individual discretion in private self-defense.”

***John Adams***

“The Second Amendment is not about duck hunting, and I know I’m not going to make very many friends saying this, but it’s about our right, all of our right to be able to protect ourselves from all of you guys up there.”

***Dr. Suzanna Gratia Hupp, appearing before Representative Charles Schumer’s committee hearings on the assault weapons ban***

“Americans have the right and advantage of being armed- unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.”

***James Madison***

“Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.”

***Plato***

"He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself."

**Thomas Paine**

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that the people preserve the spirit of resistance?”

***Thomas Jefferson, 1787***

"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***

"I sympathize with people who want to ban guns, but I can't agree with them. We have to be careful in our zeal to abolish guns that we don't wind up with counter-productive legislation that will leave armed only the people most likely to do harm with them."

***-Hugh Downs, veteran ABC newsman***

"I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials."

**--George Mason, 3 Elliot, Debates at 425-426.**

"One of the ordinary modes, by which tyrants accomplish their purposes without resistance, is, by disarming the people, and making it an offense to keep arms."

**-- Constitutional scholar and Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, 1840**

"The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed."

**-- Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist Papers at 184-188**

Americans have the right and advantage of being armed - unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.

**James Madison, The Federalist Papers**

"Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself! They are the American people's Liberty Teeth and keystone under Independence. 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. The very atmosphere of firearms everywhere, restrains evil interference -- they deserve a place of honor with all that's good!"

**--President George Washington, in a speech to Congress. 7 January, 1790**

"The Constitution of most of our states (and of the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed."

**--Thomas Jefferson**.

When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty.

**--Thomas Jefferson**

"A free people ought not only to be armed and disciplined but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government."

**--George Washington**

"Among the many misdeeds of British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest."

**-- Mohandas Gandhi, An Autobiography, pg 446**

**The beauty of the Second Amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it**.

-**-Thomas Jefferson**

"The world is filled with violence. Because criminals carry guns, we decent law-abiding citizens should also have guns. Otherwise they will win and the decent people will lose."

**-James Earl Jones**

"No Free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

**-Thomas Jefferson**

 "The great object is that every man be armed ... Everyone who is able may have a gun."

**-Patrick Henry**

Arms are the only true badge of liberty. The possession of arms is the distinction of a free man from a slave.

**- Andrew Fletcher 1698**

Even prominent Democrats used to support the 2nd Amendment

“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, April 1960**

"Certainly one of the chief guarantees of freedom under any government, no matter how popular and respected, is the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. This is not to say that firearms should not be very carefully used and that definite rules of precaution should not be taught and enforced. But the right of citizens to bear arms is just one guarantee against arbitrary government, one more safeguard against the tyranny which now appears remote in America but which historically has proven to be always possible."

**- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, MN, campaigning**

**for the 1960 Democratic Presidential Nomination**

**But the most ringing endorsement didn’t even come from Americans:**

The people of the various provinces are strictly forbidden to have in their possession any swords, short swords, bows, spears, firearms, or other types of arms. The possession of unnecessary implements makes difficult the collection of taxes and dues and tends to forment uprisings.

**-- Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Shogun, August 1588**

The most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to permit the conquered Eastern peoples to have arms. History teaches that all conquerors who have allowed their subject races to carry arms have prepared their own downfall by doing so.

**--Adolph Hitler, April 11 1942**

**David A. Doan**