

WMSA notes

Thanks for the invitation to speak here. I guess I've been part of the so-called **gun culture** for most of my life – I have a picture in my cowboy outfit dating from Kindergarten days, got my first BB gun while in 1st grade. My mom taught me basic shooting w/ a Remington Model 33 well before high school. I used that gun to hunt water moccasins & armadillos in bayou bottoms of SW Louisiana throughout high school. I loaned that gun to a friend when I went off to USAFA, he managed to get it stolen & replaced with it a Remington 552

As a 2nd Lieutenant in '66, I could finally afford an autoloading 22 and a center fire rifle (Model 70 in 30-06). The England AFB base gun club was run by my boss and our top NCO. In early '67 they asked if I wanted be be Secretary of the gun club. I didn't attend the meeting, so you know what happened.. . This was an NRA club, so as Secretary, had to join NRA. I also found I had to run the registration desk at their registered skeet shoots – I met a lot of great people and decided I'd try their game – but not until I got to my next station.

Which was Incirlik AB Turkey, I was determined to find a life sport, either golf or maybe skeet – after I found out if I had any talent at the latter. For my first round on the base range, I was helped by the club's top shooter, who happened to be the Base Commander, my immediate superior. I broke 18x25, went immediately to the clubhouse to buy an 1100, and have only played golf twice since.

In '69 I was stationed at Whiteman AFB in missile ops. A couple of years later, a girl who had been dating my neighbor across the hall invited herself to accompany me to a skeet shoot at Springfield Rod & Gun Club. It took 6 years of convincing, but we've been married 39 years.

As the AF moved me, I continued shooting in downstate Illinois, Ohio & upstate New York. You know, the shooting community are just like folks here – they just talk a little differently. I retired in '86 and moved back to my wife's great-grandpa's farm at Warrensburg. Our local Walmart put out an ad that they'd have some CW reenactors putting on a display. Since I've always been interested in that part of history, we attended. So I was hooked on a new shooting sport, one in which you darn well better not hit what you're aiming at. I've been fighting Yankees ever since.

I was a Goldwater conservative, which, if you read his “Conscience of a Conservative,” you'll find was a pretty libertarian position. I gradually became more libertarian as some of the positions advocated by the Republicans seemed inimical to personal freedom. After working to defeat a rural zoning proposal in Johnson County (MO), I came out so to speak and ran for presiding commissioner on the LP ticket. Didn't win, but got a lot of votes and the Commission has never initiated a zoning proposal again.

The WMSA survey asks for one's understanding of the 2nd Amendment. I think it is intended to limit government's interference with a Natural Right, the right of self defense. Each of us has the natural right to use whatever means necessary to defend our person, our family and our home. We don't have teeth and claws like the grizzly, venom like the rattler, or speed like the antelope. We have a brain to create and the dexterity to use them.

Let's talk about issues: I have my own ideas, but I know WMSA has members who've done a lot more research and put a lot more thought into these issues than I have. If elected, I'd invite your counsel.

SB 656 is a nice step forward, but we need to press on toward full Constitutional Carry.

In addition, we need a means of nullifying any infringements that come out of Washington. To do this, we need a law forbidding our Missouri law enforcement from cooperating with the Feds on such actions.

We need to protect our gun, ammunition and component manufacturers, dealers, and users from secondary liability when the items they provide are misused, either criminally or with gross stupidity.

We do NOT need laws on 'safe storage.' They won't change the behavior of the idiots who leave guns around for little kids, and they could cost the life of someone who followed the law and was unable to respond to a home invasion.

I oppose background checks on sales/exchanges between individuals, controls on ammunition purchases, waiting periods,

Who knows if the post-election Supreme Court will sustain Heller? Just in case, let's define the Missouri Militia as every person not otherwise forbidden the right to own firearms.

As owners and as advocates, we need to be able to respond to attacks after mass shootings and to the slaughter in the inner cities. Mass shootings, even though they're rare, get lots of publicity. We know that they always seem to happen in gun-free zones and what the answer is. I don't know how we get that across in the face of the media.

The inner city problem has various roots – he mostly hear about economic and sociological ones - poverty (exacerbated by destruction of the nuclear family, i.e., no

fathers in the house), poor schools, etc. One we don't hear about is the reason for the rise in gang-related violence – the war on drugs. The war on drugs, just as did prohibition, elevates small-time thugs into rich gangs. It has destabilized neighboring countries, enriched our prison-industrial complex. It seems ironic – to save someone from possibly ruining his life by taking drugs, we ruin his life by making him a felon & throwing him in jail. When I finally realized that the cure does more damage to our society than the disease of drug use, I became a Libertarian.

I encourage you to consider Libertarian candidates especially at the state & local level. We are absolutely, positively, pro-gun. On the subject, The NRA does the pro-gun movement a disservice when they fail to list third party candidates. Two F-rated state senators are opposed only by a Libertarian, yet the NRA would have you believe they are unopposed.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak. I've donated a couple of door prizes.