

January 28, 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Richard M. Giannettino and I live in Sandy Hook, CT.

In the interest of full disclosure my 4 sons were graduated from Sandy Hook elementary school and I am currently co-owner of Shooters Pistol Range in New Milford, CT.

I would like to speak on 3 points:

- I have read many of the bills pending and have seen nothing in any of them that would have stopped the Sandy Hook massacre or that would stop any future ones like it. If you are honest with yourselves and the public, you already know that. That being the case you should admit it and withdraw those bills.
- The gun that Lanza used is NOT an assault rifle. It is a semi-automatic rifle that functions just like every semi-automatic rifle ever made. It scares some people because it LOOKS like an assault rifle. They are scared because of cosmetics. So when another shooting takes place, and make no mistake about it, it will be tried again, will you then ban all semi-automatics. And then when they start using lever actions, pump actions and bolt actions, ban them? At that point you have given the gun grabbers what they want: a disarmed American public, unable to defend themselves against armed attackers and no more Second Amendment. The perfect conditions for a dictator government to take over. Look at every dictatorship that ever existed. Their first step was to disarm the people.
- The next point is about banning large capacity magazines. Limit them to ten rounds and all one needs to do is tape two of them together and you've got a twenty round magazine. You don't even need to do that. It would take a practiced shooter about 1.5 seconds to hit the button dropping the empty mag from the gun and inserting the fresh one. What have you accomplished? Nothing but depriving the honest citizen with enough rounds to defend his or her home and family when threatened by multiple attackers in a home invasion.
- Finally, "gun free zones": arguably the dumbest idea ever to come down the pike! Why don't you just hang a sign on every one saying "No guns here. Come on in and kill us!" I suspect that most of you are unaware that Holmes, the Aurora movie theater killer had seven movie theaters within 20 minutes of his home. He didn't choose the closest one or the furthest one; he chose the ONLY one with a sign on the door that read "NO GUNS ALLOWED." That has to tell you something!

- You may not like Wayne LaPierre or the NRA but he was right when he said the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun. That's why our police are armed.
- Our school administrators and staff are the first line of defense in our schools. They are there, on the spot as it's happening. My recommendation to you is to do away with all gun free zones, arm those teachers and staff that want to be armed and have been vetted and trained. If our principal had come out of her office with a gun in her hand she and the other teachers and students might be alive today. At the very least she could have minimized the carnage.
- To that end I am offering to teach any CT teacher or administrator the Basic Pistol Safety Course required to get a carry permit. FREE OF CHARGE. We will even absorb the cost of the teaching materials. All they need do is make an appointment and show up with a letter from their Superintendent of Schools or their Principal on their BOE letterhead authorizing them to be armed while on school property.

Thank you for your attention.