

Mayor's Report on Violence in Our Culture

It seems like every time you turn on the television or open a newspaper, you see a report about some shooting in a school, a theater, or a mall- last week being a good example. I keep hoping that we will have a month or two without another tragedy so that we can heal as a nation- but with human nature being what it is, it appears that we will always have predators who will take advantage of the weak and helpless.

Some folks say that the answer is to remove all the weapons, but experience has shown us that even in the most controlled environments those who wish to obtain a weapon can do so with minimal effort. Our prison systems are an excellent case in point: even the most secure facilities have stabbings on a regular basis. Unfortunately, controlled environments such as gun-free zones simply allow a shooter to calmly reload and continue to massacre innocents while they hide under their desks. Any experienced combat veteran can tell you that reloading becomes far more difficult when your intended quarry is shooting back. This is why a quick study of all the mass killings over the last twenty years will show that a preponderance of the incidents took place in environments where firearms were prohibited. Even nature itself teaches us that a hawk would much rather attack a dove than a bobcat.

In my grandfather's day, virtually every young person had access to a firearm, and most farm sheds in the Midwest had at least a few sticks of dynamite in them. Strangely enough, mass shootings and blowing up crowds of spectators were simply not what Americans did in the early 1900's. They were too busy working to support their families and they placed a high value on human life. Now there's a strange thought... a culture where hard work and morals were valued. Who would have ever thought of that?

The problems in our culture are numerous and deeply rooted, and they will not be resolved with the passing of a law or the prohibition of firearms. As a nation, we have a lot of work to do; and most of it needs to begin in the home, not the legislature.

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley