

2ND AMENDMENT - GIFT, DUTY OR BOTH?

By Alan Myers

How vitally important is the 2nd Amendment? Let's have a look, shall we? The first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution were ratified effective December 15, 1791. Only the 8th and 9th Amendments contain fewer words than the 2nd Amendment. The 2nd Amendment states - "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." Do note the three common nouns that begin with a capital letter. Capitalizing the first letter of a common noun that does not begin a sentence was the way to note the significance or importance of that word.

Let us go back in time and remember that your new country had recently and successfully completed a War of Independence against England. At that time, England was the world's biggest military power. England had an overreaching and tyrannical central government sometimes called the King of England. At this time, you and your neighbors are very "State" oriented and do not have a strong "national" identity. Therefore, when you all think of Freedom, you are thinking about your State being Free and secure from a new federal government that would be created as a result of the U.S. Constitution being ratified.

Let's begin our study of the 2nd Amendment. The 2nd Amendment begins with "A well regulated Militia". The writers knew that the word Militia is so important that Militia begins with a capital letter. What did well regulated mean to the Signers of the Constitution? Check out the definition of "regulated" in your 1828 copy of Webster's Dictionary and you will find that "regulated" means to put in good order. Therefore, a well regulated Militia is a Militia that is put in very good order. The Militia is well trained, well equipment and ready to take care of business.

To know what Militia means I turn to a George Mason quote, which is, "I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for few public officials." Therefore, the Militia is the People. I conclude then, that a "A well regulated Militia" means a group of well trained, well armed Citizens that are ready, willing and able to protect their State. For what purpose? To help secure that all important free "State" condition, each State must have a Militia so it can protect itself and its people from an overreaching tyrannical central government.

Next, "being necessary to the security of a free State". The writers knew that the word State is so important that State begins with a capital letter. What does this section mean? Definitions for necessary include required to be done, needed and essential. What I learn from this section is that the well regulated Militia is required, needed and essential. But why? Apparently, this is how the Citizens would keep and protect the security of their Free State. As stated above, this is to keep their State Free from encroachments by the new federal government.

Next, "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms". The writers knew that the word

Arms is so important that Arms begins with a capital letter. This part of the 2nd Amendment is now speaking to and about the “right of the people”. The Right of the People, this is a personal, individual and natural Right. It’s yours.

A “right” being a moral or legal entitlement. This leads me to understand that the People have the legal and moral Right to keep and bear Arms. To keep means to have or to retain possession of. To bear means to hold, carry, have on your body, even under one’s coat. This now leads me to understand that, We The People, have a legal and moral Right to have or retain possession of Arms, including on our person. Arms, what does this mean? Arms is the plural of Arm and means weapons. Weapons means any instrument or device used in fighting. Arms includes guns, swords, spears, arrows, clubs, axes and shields that would be used in defense or attack. Also note that the word arms comes from the Latin word arma which means weapons.

What kind of Militia are ya gonna have if ya can’t have weapons? This means people get to own and keep fire Arms so they can be part of a State’s Militia and be able to help protect and defend their State’s freedom from being infringed upon by an overreaching tyrannical central government.

Now to “shall not be infringed”. Shall not was understood to mean something that must not happen or that the action is prohibited. Shall not was not used as a substitute for kind of, sort of, or maybe. Shall not is mandatory. To infringe would mean to take away someone’s rights or limit their freedoms. Therefore, I understand this section to mean that the new federal government is not Constitutionally granted the power and must not in any way shape or form even try to limit any Citizen’s Right to keep and bear Arms

What the above tells me is that the 2nd Amendment, which allows practically all of us “to keep and bear Arms” is not about hunting, target practice or self defense, though you could do those thing with the firearms. No, the 2nd Amendment is about being able to have the capacity and ability to Protect and Defend YOUR State’s Freedom from being infringed upon by anyone or thing.

The 2nd Amendment is one hell of a gift that enables practically all of us to be able to Protect and Defend our State’s Freedom from an evil, overreaching central government. However, the 2nd Amendment is more than just a gift. It speaks of a Duty that we owe to each other and the Constitution! What did Jefferson say, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

In order to accomplish this 2nd Amendment Duty and knowing the firepower a central government can bring into your neighborhood, aren’t you going to want and need the biggest, fastest, most powerful and highest capacity arms you can get your hands? Of course, because what do you think the central government will be using when it comes to take your FREEDOM by enforcing their Un-Constitutional rules and laws of oppression?

To blame and punish all the law abiding citizens and Patriots of America for the criminal misuse of a tool by such a small group of individuals is not only wrong and misguided it is also just plain stupid. Cause if it's the tool's fault, then as soon as I find the correct clubs, I will become the sub-par golfer that I should be. Or do you believe that if all the real useful tools are taken away from all the law abiding citizens, gun violence and related deaths will practically disappear? Not happening.

The 2nd Amendment was written to inform the Citizen Owners that they have a duty to protect and defend the security of THEIR Free State. Therefore, the Right to own, keep and bear arms is to be able to help yourself, family, friends and neighbors protect and defend your State's Freedom from that evil overreaching central government. Therefore, this Right shall not be infringed.

It's not just about Arms, it's about the Duty we owe to our State and Country. This just may be a little heavy for the entitled class. Always remember, Tyrants want the people disarmed and unprotected. Just in case you need a bit more, what follows are quotes from our Founders. Enjoy.

“That no man should scruple, or hesitate a moment, to use arms in defence of so valuable a blessing, on which all the good and evil of life depends, is clearly my opinion.” -George Washington, letter to George Mason April 5th 1769

“A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined...” George Washington. First Annual Address, to both House of Congress, January 8, 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, letter to John Cartwright, 5 June 1824

“No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.”
– Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Constitution, Draft 1, 1776

“I prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery.”
– Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Madison, January 30, 1787

“What country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance. Let them take arms.”
– Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Madison, December 20, 1787

“The people are not to be disarmed of their weapons. They are left in full possession of them.” -Zachariah Johnson, Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 25, 1788

To all you Lovers and Defenders of Liberty, Freedom, Rights, Individuality and Equality of Opportunity, to all you Patriots out there, yeah, you know who you are, until next time, may you be and stay safe and well. Patriot out.