

TERRORISM



& GUN CONTROL

By Rick Travis

Americans are rightfully outraged by the recent attack on The Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida in the early morning hours of June 12, 2016. The normal emotions of anger, shock, despair, bewilderment and disbelief were present in everyone. The media and politicians were quick to assert themselves into the event to pontificate on both the cause and prevention of these types of events. That public debate quickly turned on a single evil from their respective point of view that could only be dealt with through...Gun Control.

Every American has a right to be outraged, as our leaders refuse to acknowledge the bloody history of Radical Islam and refuse to confront it. Until this happens, attacks like Orlando will continue to occur.

Attacks by radical Islamists are not a new phenomenon that began with the attacks on America on Sept. 11th or even as early as the 1970's as media pundits and government officials so often assert. The fact is that Colonial merchant ships prior to the revolutionary war were frequently attacked by Islamists from four North African states of Algiers, Libya, Morocco and Tunis. Colonials were tortured and enslaved often to death. This practice abated for a short period of time when the French Navy protected American merchants during the Revolutionary War.

Upon winning our independence, the attacks by the North African Islamists known as the "Barbary States" resumed and resulted in Thomas Jefferson declaring the first of two Barbary Wars to secure American safety around the globe beginning in 1801. That was 200 years before the attacks of September 11, 2001. That war resulted in the US Marines becoming a permanent part of our military and the first lesson of dealing with these radical Islamists.

The lesson was that congress believed a peace treaty would be the answer and that the radical Islamist leadership could

be trusted. Just two years after the treaty was signed in 1805, the country of Algiers resumed the practice in 1807. Congress was focused on the growing tensions with Great Britain that would result in the War of 1812. This lack of attention and immediate response to the altercations set forth by Algiers led to an empowerment of the Barbary States that led to a second war which included Algeria, Tripoli and Tunis.

The second Barbary War was fought quickly and decisively. European countries seized control of the North African States and brought regional security to the area. During the next century there were small actions taken by various factions of radical Islamists. None of these were able to gain a foothold because the Colonial European powers acted decisively against them.

Americans watched with a distant naiveté as terrorism continued around the globe and especially in Europe and the Middle East. We grew accustomed to the idea that our oceans would protect us and that we were safe from this periodic issue that only affected others

In April of 1983, Americans were shocked to hear of the U.S. Embassy bombing in Beirut, Lebanon by a radical Islamist suicide bomber that killed 63 people (17 Americans) and injured another 120 people. The Islamic Jihad Organization took credit for the attack and linked the cause to the Iranian Revolution against Imperialism. In October of the same year the Marine and French Barracks in Lebanon were also hit by two separate suicide bombers.

For the next ten years, Americans would watch while radical Islamists spread their terror around the world. This threat would come to the U.S. in January 1993, when Pakistani radical Islamist Mir Qazi shot and killed 2 CIA employees and injured 3 others. A month later, the World Trade Center Bombing would take place and be cited by the media as the first terrorist attack on American soil.

The World Trade Center Bombing was financed by Khalid Shaikh Moham-

med who would go on to be the principle architect of the September 11 attacks on America. Even with this attack on American soil we as a country did relatively nothing to wake ourselves up. It was only when thousands were killed on September 11, 2001, that we began to respond after decades of indifference.

Our government has been slow to call out acts of terrorism by radical Islamists and to respond with any cohesive plan to deal with them effectively. This has been seen in our President's refusal to address the real cause of the Orlando attack and it is made worse by the Media's complacency.

Because of this inaction, 3,102 people have been killed for being American with an additional 7,312 been injured. That is a total of 10,414 Americans and their families that were attacked for simply being American. The overwhelming weapon of choice for terrorists is not guns, which account for just 2% of terrorist casualties on American soil. Explosives with account for 98% of American deaths on our soil, are the preferred method by an overwhelming 4900%! Despite the aforementioned fact, our leaders and the media continue to solely focus on guns, which will leave us unable to protect ourselves.

Globally from 1993 to 2013, terrorists chose explosives over firearms 600 times more often to commit their acts. This further demonstrates that using terrorism as a means to advance the anti-gun agenda is both fallacious and dangerous. Contact your elected officials and tell them to focus on the real issue of terrorism, not gun control.

This election cycle is not about any particular party or candidate. It is about the future of our country. All of us must unite and call for National Security to be our number one priority. Our Military & Law Enforcement work around the clock to protect us. Sadly in this day and age that is not enough to insure our safety. The Founding Fathers knew this when they drafted the constitution to grant us our foundation for personal protection in times like these, the Second Amendment. This election cycle, all of us are voting to protect that very right.

Rick serves as the Programs Director of the California Rifle & Pistol Association. He brings 30 years of public service to his position of working with organizations, businesses, government and most importantly our membership. Rick is a CRPA Life Member, NRA Benefactor Member and Scoutmaster.