

## Standard online reader survey



**Q: Do you think firearms should be sold to only those who are 21 and older?**

**YES 53 percent**  
**NO 47 percent**

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Congress can, in fact, go against NRA wishes

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution declares the need for a "well-regulated militia." It also guarantees "the right of the people to keep and bear arms."

Does that mean citizens of each state have the right to form well-regulated and armed militias? Or does that mean individual American citizens have a right to bear arms?

Generations of lawyers, judges and politicians have disagreed about that. So has the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1939, in a case involving sawed-off shotguns, the court ruled unanimously that the Second Amendment's "obvious purpose" was to "assure the continuation and render possible the effectiveness of" the state militia. Therefore, the court "cannot say that the Second Amendment guarantees to the citizen the right to keep and bear such a weapon."

In 2008, however, in a case involving handguns, the court ruled 5-4 that "self-defense is a basic right" and the Second Amendment "protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home."

If the framers didn't intend to grant each citizen the right to bear a sawed-off shotgun, let's assume they also didn't intend to grant each citizen the right to bear "dangerous" military-style assault rifles capable of slaughtering dozens of school children or churchgoers in a few minutes. Someone tell the NRA.

In 2012, after 20 children and six adults in Newtown, Conn., were gunned down by a man bearing a legally obtained military-style assault rifle, Congress considered bills to mandate background checks for private sales at gun shows and to ban assault weapons and large capacity magazines.

The NRA opposed the bills. The Republican-led Congress rejected them.

In 2015, after nine

### Commercial Appeal Memphis

churchgoers in Charleston, S.C., were gunned down by a young man who was bearing a legally obtained semiautomatic pistol, Congress considered a bill to close the loophole that allowed the young man to obtain the gun without a background check that would have denied him the gun.

The NRA opposed the bill. The Republican-led Congress never brought it up for a vote.

Last year, after 58 concertgoers were gunned down in Las Vegas by a man bearing legally-purchased military-style assault rifles converted to automatic weapons with legally-purchased bump stocks; after 26 churchgoers were gunned down in Texas by a man convicted of domestic violence bearing a legally-purchased military-style assault rifle, Congress considered bills banning bump stocks and expanding background checks.

The NRA opposed both bills. Congress failed to act on either bill.

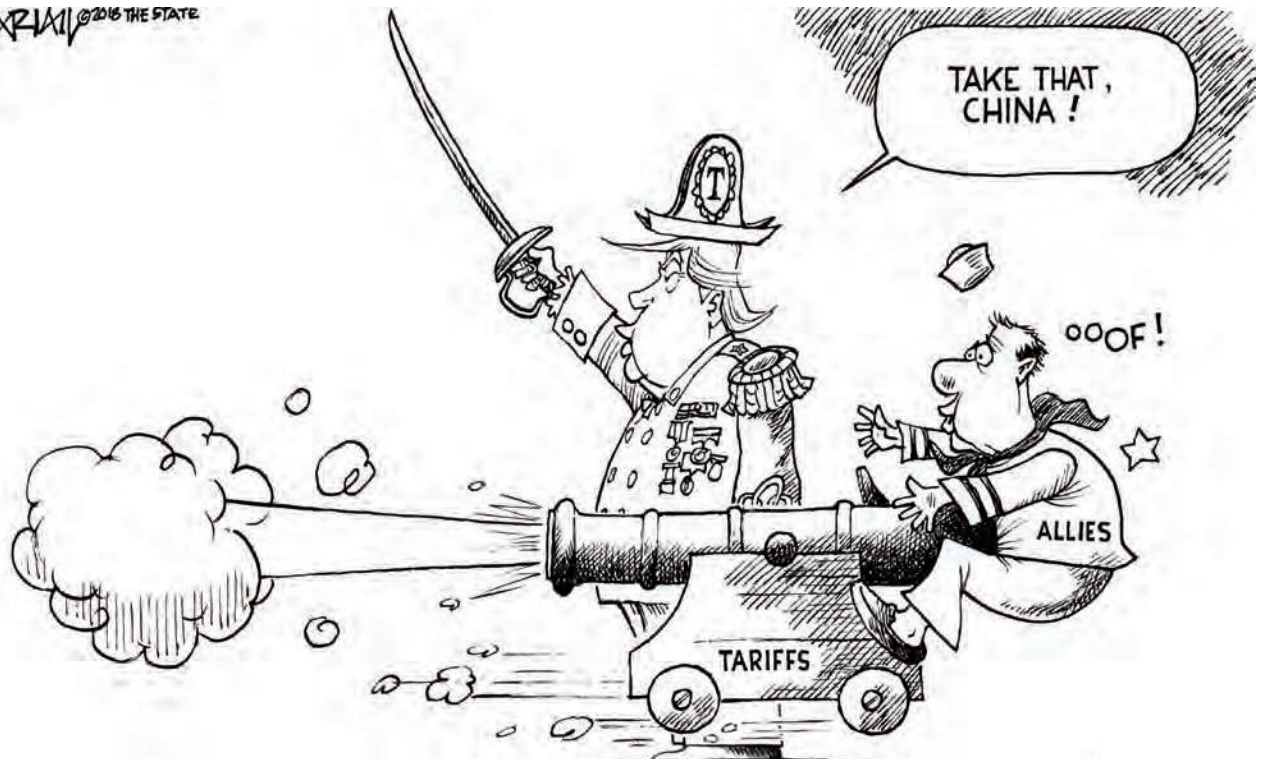
Last year, after 58 concertgoers were gunned down in Las Vegas by a man bearing legally-purchased military-style assault rifles converted to automatic weapons with legally-purchased bump stocks; after 26 churchgoers were gunned down in Texas by a man convicted of domestic violence bearing a legally-purchased military-style assault rifle, Congress considered bills banning bump stocks and expanding background checks.

The NRA opposed both bills. Congress failed to act on either bill.

Last week, President Trump ordered his Justice Department to ban bump stocks and he said he favors expanded background checks.

It's a start. Congress banned military-style assault rifles and large-capacity magazines from 1994-2004. It can and must do so again.

AP/WIDE WORLD



## A casually broken promise

Politicians break campaign promises all the time. Some are big promises; some are small. But few have been broken as completely, as brazenly, and as casually as Donald Trump's promise not to play golf, or at least not to play a lot of golf, as president.

Candidate Trump told campaign crowds many, many times that a President Trump would be so busy serving the American people that golf would be out of the question.

"I'm going to be working for you," he told a campaign rally crowd in August 2016. "I'm not going to have time to play golf."

It hasn't turned out that way. As president, Trump has not only found time to play the occasional round of golf — he has found time to play lots of golf.

The White House is not particularly forthcoming about what the president does when he visits one of his golf courses, so it is not possible to say with absolute certainty how many times he has played. But Trump has visited one or the other of his golf properties about 100 times so far, often on beautiful days.

It's a significantly faster clip than predecessor Barack Obama's golf numbers. By a count from CBS's Mark Knoller, a keeper of presidential records, Obama played 29 rounds in his first year in the White House. But Obama speeded up; according to Knoller, he played 64 rounds in 2016, his last full year in office. Obama's total for two terms was 333 rounds.

Although it's impossible to say for sure, Trump's first-year total could be in the ballpark of Obama's final-year total. The problem for Trump, of course, is that he slammed Obama

repeatedly for playing so much golf. "He played more golf last year than Tiger Woods," Trump said of Obama in December 2015.

Trump was not the only critic of Obama's golf habits. There were others — like me. During the Obama years I often tweeted, sometimes with an edge of snark, about Obama's trips to the course. In August 2011, I tweeted, "Obama motorcade leads reporters on winding drive to ... guess what? More golf."

In April 2012, I tweeted, "Obamacare in peril, hot-mic embarrassment, economy still terrible. For Obama, there's only one answer: golf."

At other times, I remarked that Obama did not cheat at golf; that he had avoided a golf embarrassment like Bush's; and that he mostly stayed away from fancy, exclusive clubs.

Obama mostly played with a small group of friends, rarely joining members of Congress or others with whom he might discuss work. Trump, on the other hand, seems to come from the world of business golf: Play golf, yes, but also do business.

Trump made that point in that November 2016 statement in which he noted Obama had played about 300 rounds. "Hey look, it's good," Trump said. "Golf is fine. But always play with leaders of countries and people that can help us. Don't play with your friends all the time."

Now that he is president, Trump's golf is under near-daily scrutiny. Given the broken promise of the campaign, how could it not?

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

### COLUMNIST

BYRON YORK



## Playing the shopping game

Some people love to shop. It makes them feel good; it gets their juices going. They don't think of it as work.

There was a survey taken a few years ago in Japan that asked people, "What is your favorite hobby?" And 85 percent of the respondents answered "shopping." Was it a scientific poll? No: If memory serves, they asked random people on the street. Well, what are most people doing on the street? Playing gin rummy?

Still, even for those people who don't list shopping as their favorite hobby, if you do the math ... As my dad used to say, "You can tell a lot about a person by how they spend their time and how they spend their money."

Me? I usually know what I want to buy, and I go get it. I'm not looking around the store to see what's new. It's not a chore, but it does get complicated on occasion.

Today, a clerk at Refrigerator Warehouse wanted to know if I had purchased my fridge online or at the store. I had looked at refrigerators in the store, but wait — did I come home and buy it online?

Refrigerator Warehouse seems chronically understaffed. Every minute, there's an announcement over the loudspeaker: "Jason to the loading dock. Jason, please report to the loading dock." Paging Jason interrupted the music being played on "Refrigerator Warehouse Radio" — baby boomer hits played in between commercials for, you guessed it, Refrigerator Warehouse.

While I'm waiting for my problem to be resolved, I'm thinking how much easier this would have been if I'd just ordered a refrigerator from

Amazon. They'd have a picture of every one I had looked at, along with everything else I had ever bought or searched for. Yes, it's annoying and a huge invasion of my privacy and it's putting retailers out of business left and right, but all I'm wondering is how long it would have taken them to deliver it — one day or two? Refrigerator Warehouse said they were going to deliver mine in a month. That was two months ago. Of course, at the store, in person, the clerk can't find my order at all.

I bought a treadmill from another brick-and-mortar retailer, who said they could deliver it in a month. After a month, they said next week. Yesterday, they called to say it would be another week. But to their credit, they rebokalled me twice a day — at 4:30 a.m. and 4:45 a.m. — to tell me the delivery would be delayed and to call another number to reschedule.

Now, Refrigerator Warehouse does have a "huge, huge inventory," as they boast on their frequent late-night TV commercials, and they are conveniently located in the world's oldest and emptiest strip mall.

It's amazing Amazon is still in business with big-box competitors like Refrigerator Warehouse on its tail. But it occurs to me that Amazon is still in business because it must be where the executives of places like Refrigerator Warehouse and their families shop.

On my way out, I passed a guy wearing a nametag that said "Jason." He was on his cell, looking for jobs online.

Contact Jim Mullen at mullen.jim@gmail.com.

### VILLAGE IDIOT

JIM MULLEN



### JUST A THOUGHT

LISA HOBBS



## It might be time for a vacation

I rarely take vacations, depending on your definition of the word. I've recently been considering taking a real vacation. Given my lack of, that's newsworthy.

Have you heard of Glamping? I saw an ad for Under Canvas Great Smoky Mountains, and I'd like to try it. It's a safari-inspired resort on a 200-acre camp that contains more than 70 canvas tents. However, unlike most tents, these include in-tent bathrooms and showers, king-sized beds, sleeper sofas and daily housekeeping. The area uses solar energy.

That is my kind of roughing it in the great outdoors.

I, occasionally, like to disconnect from the world and hide away. When I get in those moods, I go home, lock the door and rarely touch my cellphone. This place offers solitude, peace and quiet, and best of all, it is wifi-free. That sounds like paradise right now, because I'm definitely in the mood to disconnect.

Could you imagine: relaxation, breathing in fresh air, getting up in the morning to sip coffee and enjoy a view of the wilderness, and after breakfast, taking a hike through the forest.

Did I mention it had access to the Appalachian Trail? It is a 2,180-mile public footpath that traverses the scenic, wooded, pastoral, wild, and culturally resonant lands of the Appalachian Mountains. I've never been on the trail so that makes this glamping site even more attractive.

My definition of a real vacation: packing bags, leave the house and stay gone for at least a couple days. Then, when you get home, you have about four loads of laundry to do and you are too tired to do them. That's an actual vacation, in my opinion.

I can't remember the last time I went on an actual vacation. It was probably when my friend and I went to Gatlinburg for three days, but it was so long ago I can't remember which year it was. I'm relatively confident it was in the last 10 years. It was more than five years ago, but not more than 10.

My vacations: clock out and go home.

I rarely take more than a three-day weekend at home. I tried to take a week off work once. I came sneaking in part way through the week hoping that no one would notice. Too much time off work is too much. I had about as much of being at home as I could take. I "needed" to get back to work. I know the difference between want and need, which is why I used quotes. I think I wanted to get back to work, but I needed something to do other than house work. It's a fine line.

Now that I've discovered glamping, I really want to try it. This could be the year that I take a real vacation. Let's not hold our breaths. While I'm definitely considering going, it might be bumped to a bucket list.

Standard reporter Lisa Hobbs can be reached at 473-2191.

Established 1879

Southern Standard

Publication No. 506-840

Patricia Zechman, Publisher  
James Clark, Editor

Phyllis Vanatta, Business Manager  
Dale Stubbsfield, Circulation Director

Phone: 473-2191  
105 College St., McMinnville, TN 37110  
FAX: 473-6823

Email: standard@blomand.net  
Website: www.southernstandard.com

Copyright Standard Publishing Company,  
All Rights Reserved

