

# The Delray Democrat\*

March-April 2018

## “America’s Greatest Citizen”

Fifty years ago today, the man aptly called “America’s Greatest Citizen” and the “moral leader of our nation” was struck down by an assassin’s bullet. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., knew that awful day was at hand; indeed, it became inevitable once he expanded his crusade from combatting racism to combatting the “twin evils of poverty and militarism.”

As we all know, he was in Memphis to stand in solidarity with striking sanitation workers. Many in the Movement questioned his decision to go to Memphis. He was tired, he was spreading himself too thin, he was exposing himself to unnecessary dangers.

In his final speech, given the night before he was murdered, he invoked the parable of the Good Samaritan to explain why he had come. He imagined that the passers-by who refused to help the man who had been robbed might have been afraid. Perhaps the robbers were still around. Perhaps it was a trap. “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” they asked.

The Good Samaritan reversed the question, Dr. King explained: “*If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?*” the Good Samaritan asked. And that was the question before Dr. King on his last night on

earth: “If I do not stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them?”

In the 50 years since Dr. King’s murder, the triple evils of racism, militarism, and poverty have become more entrenched. Although there is no MLK to lead us, and it is unlikely we will ever see his like in our lifetimes, he never lost hope, nor should we: “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” The only way to honor the man is to continue his work.

In the prophetic closing of his final speech, he acknowledged and accepted the fact that his life would be shortened, but added that it would not deter him. [That speech](#) is worth reading, and rereading, as is the speech he delivered at the Riverside Church exactly one year prior to his assassination, [Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence](#).

Taylor Branch’s magisterial trilogy (*Parting the Waters/Pillar of Fire/At Canaan’s Edge*) and Coretta Scott King’s autobiography, *My Life, My Loves, My Legacy*, are well worth reading.

MKC  
April 4, 2018

## No One Is Coming for Your Guns, But Republicans Have Already Come for Your Health Care

*Michael K. Cantwell*

One can count on Republicans to be sympathetic and “prayerful” after yet another senseless slaughter made possible by our failure as a nation to reasonably regulate gun sales.

But once the conversation turns from meaningless condolences to preventing future tragedies, the tone shifts. Then Republicans and their paymasters at the NRA pull out the oldest, ugliest, and most effective weapons in their arsenal, demonizing their opponents and attempting to terrify the public. “Be afraid, be

very afraid. The Socialist/Democratic/Liberal cabal is coming to take away the guns you are guaranteed under the Second Amendment.” As the articles on pages 4-6 make amply clear, this is vile nonsense:

No one is coming for your guns, but Republicans have already come for your healthcare. According to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation, the Orwellian-titled “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” will increase the number of unin-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Poetry by Flose Boursiquot\*

### Loudmouth

there is a place for loudmouth women who care about the world in  
the way that I do  
a space in which our thoughts and anxieties can live harmoniously  
i was born silent, you know  
my belly full of blood while my mother burst at the seams naked  
in a Jacmel, Haiti, hospital

### Belle Glade, why have *they* forgotten you pt. 1

You must never go there,  
*they* say of Belle Glade  
Unable to face the outside,  
*they* stay in Belle Glade  
Becoming everything fear copulates into existence.

### Belle Glade, why have *they* forgotten you pt. 2

A Greyhound runs thorough here  
but why do the young people stay?

*They* stay to preserve the neglect.

Why don't *they* leave?

\*From *Close Your Eyes, Now Breathe*, © 2017 by Flose Boursiquot

---

***The Delray Democrat*** is the official publication of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach.

The views and opinions expressed in the articles herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach or the Democratic Party. The copyrights in the articles are owned by the respective authors but the articles may be copied and redistributed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license](#).

**Editorial Board:** Michael K. Cantwell (Editor), Sandra Elaissen, David Kulick, Mariane Kulick, Alan M. Milner, Linda Rubenstein, and Hal Stern.

**Address for submissions and letters:** editor@thedelraydemocrat.com; letters@thedelraydemocrat.com or by snail mail to *The Delray Democrat*, 15127 Jog Road, Suite 101, Delray Beach, FL -1251.

# The Greatest Danger We Have Ever Faced

*Mariane Kulick*

Donald Trump is the greatest danger to our country that we have ever seen. Our forefathers who built the structure, formed the three branches of government with the clear determination that there would be no strong man ever taking over, that the branches of Congress, the Judicial and the Executive would be balanced, intending that if each do their job, we would come out right in the end.

Trump sees himself as lord and master of all. Everyone owes loyalty to him, including the Congress and the Judicial branches. This, perhaps, is how he ran his business, but the United States is not his personal business.

We have before us the picture of a special counsel of the Judicial branch investigating the meddling in our election process and whether there was any collusion. We are now finding out that their investigation is under attack by Donald Trump and his White House. It is obvious that Trump and his lackeys in Congress are trying to destroy the investigation by attacking the investigators.

Prior to his becoming president, very much based on his lies to working people that he will be their hero, many of the leading Republicans didn't want him. However, having the spines of jellyfish, the Ryans, McConnells and the rest have fallen in line. They

have become his supporters because he has been of great help in transferring the wealth of the country to their big donors, and nothing matters more than their big donors. The Republicans in Congress today are true representatives of their big donors and not of the people back home. They put up with Trump and are maybe a little scared of him, but in the meantime they collect their campaign money. No doubt there are Republicans who can't stomach this, and interestingly enough, there are many Republican congressmen opting not to run again.

Trump ran by saying that he would 'drain the swamp'. Well, he did. He brought the swamp right into the White House and into top positions in every important office. From the Departments of Energy, Education, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Home Security, he has brought in heads who never believed that there was a need for these departments at all. An example of the bias is that the words 'climate change' are not to be used in the Department of Agriculture.

He has put in many inadequate and biased judges in the local courts. Long after he is gone, and we hope he will be gone, these judges will remain.

We are in great danger.

---

## No One Is Coming for Your Guns, But Republicans Have Already Come for Your Health Care

*(Continued from page 1)*

sured by 4 million in 2019, rising to 13 million by 2027. In addition, Paul Ryan and our own little Marco Rubio have already announced plans to seek cuts in Medicare and Medicaid to pay for the \$1.5 trillion hole they blew in the budget to reward their wealthy donors. This will not only affect poor Americans but the elderly in nursing homes and Baby Boomers, a cohort that shamefully voted for Trump.

Add to that the fact that taxpayers with incomes under \$75,000 will actually experience a tax *increase*, making health insurance that much more unaffordable for tens of millions of Americans. In turn that will result in tens of thousands of premature and preventable deaths.

So don't worry about the bogeyman coming to take your guns. Worry about the fact that Republicans have come for your lives.

## Time for Wayne LaPierre to Go\*

*Robert Resnick*

Long time National Rifle Association (NRA) leader Wayne LaPierre is an annual featured speaker at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), an annual event sponsored by the American Conservative Union (ACU), a right wing political activist group.

Speaking less than a week following America's latest gun massacre, the senseless slaughter of 17 students and teachers at Stoneman Douglas High School, LaPierre characteristically clung to extreme positions that have no basis in law or fact. After a pro forma and empty expression of condolence for the victims, LaPierre launched into an inflammatory speech, laced with paranoia and the ludicrous claim of a Socialist effort to take over the American government.

This follows a tried-and-true right-wing tactic – when you are unable to debate, resort to demonizing, labeling anyone not in 100% agreement as subversive. And LaPierre and the gun manufacturers he represents have no logical, legal, or rational response to the overwhelming majority of Americans (including many NRA members) who support strengthening background checks and banning military grade assault weapons, “bump stocks” and high capacity magazines.

LaPierre and the NRA oppose these measures and prevent Congress and many states from even debating them. To the decent people in the NRA who support reasonable safety measures, the time has long passed for you to change leadership that knows only extremism and vitriol. If not, it is time to found another gun rights organization. Follow the lead of corporate America, which has finally realized that while they can support gun rights, they can no longer associate themselves with the NRA's horrible rhetoric and ideological intransigence.

LaPierre's answer to school shootings - to arm teachers - fails in its very inception. A shootout in a school will increase the number of casualties. Arguably, the same

could be true with law enforcement confronting the shooter, but at least they are better trained and benefit from reinforced and recurring training as part of their duties. While some teachers have experience with weapons (it is reported that fewer than 3% of teachers in the U.S. have such training), they certainly do not have the current or frequent training of law enforcement. When law enforcement responds, they need to know the only other people with guns are the bad guys. When an event like this occurs, be it in a school or any public place, it is pure pandemonium. Law enforcement personnel rush into a scene of chaos and confusion with many people panicking, trying to get out. As a veteran, I can safely say that no matter how good the training, it is never the same as when it is real. People react differently, and accidents will happen. Even the best trained law enforcement teams suffer a much lower accuracy rate in this type of situation. The risk of killing more students goes up, not down, by arming teachers. Most importantly, teachers oppose this plan.

President Trump called Wayne LaPierre a patriot. Neither man is a patriot. Patriots love their country, unite people, solve problems, and believe in the rule of law. Patriots do not use vitriolic speeches to demonize those who simply have political and policy disagreements. They respect debate rather than vilifying anyone who disagrees.

And the bottom line, as it so often is, involves the mighty dollar. Wayne LaPierre and the NRA are not worried about anyone coming to take away our guns. No, they are worried about gun sales falling. LaPierre does not believe in our freedom and democracy. He does not care about our children. It is time for him to go.

NRA members, if you love America and respect freedom and democracy, replace Wayne LaPierre or replace the NRA.

---

\*A longer version of this article originally appeared on [The Booth](#).

# Lives vs. Toys: What the Gun Debate is Really About\*

*Misha Nadel*

Despite what the NRA would have you believe, the scope of gun-ownership that is protected under the Second Amendment is surprisingly narrow. What is protected is based on three interpretations of the Second Amendment:

1. The strict “militia” interpretation: the right/necessity to own and “bear” a firearm to ensure the sovereignty of the United States or the freedom of the individual states. Originally, this was meant to be a military-grade firearm, kept somewhere safe for use in a militia, if necessary. This interpretation and its application have fallen out of favor over time.
2. The broad “militia” interpretation: that individuals were the militia and therefore had a right to own and bear arms, irrespective of their participation in a militia. This is the interpretation that took hold over time.
3. The personal safety interpretation: that individuals have a right to own guns in the home for personal protection. This simply did not exist prior to the Heller Supreme Court decision in 2008. Many people believe that it was a poorly argued and incorrect decision, but as of right now, it’s the law.

From a distance those three would seem to ensure a very broad range of gun-ownership rights, but they do not. America’s history is filled with highly-restrictive gun regulations, very few of which have been found to be unconstitutional. Many towns in the “old west” - where carrying a firearm was standard - were, in fact, gun-free zones where entrants were required to submit their weapons to the local authorities. Many states currently have substantial restrictions, including bans on assault-style rifles and large-capacity magazines, and these have been found to be constitutional. The Supreme Court just refused to hear an appeal challenging California’s 10-day waiting period for any new gun purchases, upholding its constitutionality. America’s gun-soaked culture is not a legal construct, but a political one.

In a different political environment, gun-ownership might be legally limited to nothing more than a rifle

for use in a state-sponsored militia and a handgun for home protection. Gun owners could be required to keep those guns in their homes at all times, unless unloaded and secured. Even if we expanded lawful gun-ownership in this scenario to account for hunting, the guns necessary for that are nothing more than bolt-action rifles and shotguns.

Everything beyond that is an unnecessary toy for a gun enthusiast or a fantasy weapon for a conspiracy theorist.

- You don’t need an assault-style rifle to hunt. It might make it easier and you might like it, but you don’t need it.
- You don’t need a high-capacity magazine to hunt. If you can’t kill a deer with 1 round, let alone 15, you’re a shitty hunter.
- You don’t even need a semi-automatic rifle to hunt. A bolt-action rifle was good enough for America’s deadliest sniper, Chris Kyle, to use in Iraq, so one is good enough for you to hunt with.
- You don’t need to own any of these things for target shooting either. If you want to shoot a military-style weapon, go to a specialized gun range and rent one. You can already do this.
- And for the conspiracy theorists who think guns are to protect you the day the government comes for you: if you seriously think that your AR-15 is going to protect you from a government that has tanks, helicopters, and warplanes, well...good luck with that.

The guns that people are defending are not protected under the Second Amendment and are not necessary for the uses which are protected or which are widely accepted as valid (ie, hunting). Gun-rights activists use invalid arguments about the Second Amendment and “freedom” to protect their toys at the expense of our lives. That’s the choice they are making: toys over lives. It’s time for that to end.

Our lives are more important than your toys.

---

\*A longer version of this article originally appeared on the [The Medium](#).

## Home Rule and Firearm Safety

*Robert Weinroth, Boca Raton Council Member*

Residents deserve to be heard by their local elected leaders who live in the same community with them and with whom they have easy access (as opposed to the representatives elected to the Florida legislature, ensconced in Tallahassee, a virtual day's travel away given the dearth of direct flights from South Florida to the capitol) or in our Nation's capital.

Under the principle of "Home Rule," embodied in the Florida Constitution, local governments (cities, towns, villages and counties) are empowered to address local issues, locally.

While there has been no outcry from residents or small business owners to ignore the mandate of the 1968 amendment to the Florida Constitution wherein the citizens of this state ratified the principle of Home Rule, the legislature has continued to chip away at the subjects locally elected leaders can address.

After the murder of 17 innocent students and faculty at Parkland's Marjory Stoneham Douglas High School, much attention has been directed at how our local leaders can protect our children from these horrors being visited on our own community. It is left to the county school boards and host communities to collaborate on a plan to keep our students safe.

While the argument can be made that the licensing of firearms is best left to the state to ensure a uniform system for their regulation from county to county and from town to town, when it comes to identifying areas within a city within which the locality believes it is best to be free of firearms (e.g. entertainment and/or recreational venues) locally elected leaders are powerless to act.

Fla. Stat. 790.33(3) states that if any county, city, town, or other local government attempts to regulate where firearms can be carried, the ordinance, rule, or regulation shall be declared null and void. The statute

goes on to state that if the violation in the statute is deemed to be "knowing and willful," the court shall assess a civil fine of up to \$5,000 against the elected or appointed local government official(s) or administrative agency head under whose jurisdiction the violation occurred.

As if this were not enough, the statute goes on to declare that a knowing and willful violation of thereof, by a person acting in an official capacity for any entity enacting or causing to be enforced a local ordinance or administrative rule or regulation to restrict the carrying of firearms under color of law shall be cause for removal from office by the Governor.

In the aftermath of the shooting, it is clear that municipalities, school boards and law enforcement agencies will need to collaborate in the development of plans to protect our residents and our children from harm. Legal impediments to that effort cannot be accepted.

The City of Weston has announced it will file a lawsuit to challenge the "gag law" on local firearm regulations. Cities and towns throughout the state are being invited to join the effort and it is anticipated many within Palm Beach County will accept that invitation.

Home Rule offers the best model for responding to the unique issues of each municipality. Residents need to communicate their disdain for the continuing attempts by the legislature to make municipalities dependent on the legislature for permission to address local issues or, as in the case of regulating where firearms can be lawfully carried, preempt the locally elected officials from any action aimed at protecting its residents.

## Republicans Declare War on the Middle Class

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Republicans are marketing the tax “reform” passed in December as a middle class tax cut. Shockingly, Democrats are silent, although they could and should be referring to it using the title of this article.

For starters, the tax cuts to billionaires and multi-national corporations are permanent while those for the middle class will expire in 2025. As a result, Americans earning under \$75,000 will actually see their taxes increase by 2027, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation. By 2027, 82.8% of the total cut will go to the top 1% of taxpayers and 59.8% will go to the top 0.1%.

But the most odious and insidious part of the bill is the \$1.5 trillion hole it blows in the budget. This is no accident, no unintended by-product of the Great American Stickup. Rather, it is what Republicans do whenever one is in the White House - they explode

the deficit by cutting taxes for the wealthiest Americans. After a Democrat is elected they don't shut up about the deficit, claiming that we can't afford the money spent on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

This time around, Republicans haven't even waited for the inevitable Democrat in the White House to begin warning that social spending is on the chopping block. And you can be sure that they won't shut up about it after 2020 when there *IS* a Democrat in the White House.

Here's the takeaway. The Republicans think their tax bill is the key to holding Congress in November, and they are right. And they will be right, unless we locally and Democrats nationally begin calling this tax bill for what it is - the nail in the coffin of the American middle class.

## Judge Mark Walker Steps Up to the Plate And Knocks Rick Scott Out of the Park

*Michael K. Cantwell*

When former felon Steven Warner appeared before the Florida Executive Clemency Board to plead to have his voting rights restored, he told Rick Scott, “I voted for you,” Scott laughed and added, “I probably shouldn't respond to that.” Moments later, the Board restored Warren's voting rights. At another hearing, Scott bragged that the Clemency Board “can do whatever we want.” *No longer, Rick.*

On February 1, 2018, U.S. District Judge Mark Walker held that Florida's procedure for restoring voting rights is unconstitutional under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Recognizing that he could not simply issue an order directing Scott and the other defendants to “act right,” he ordered them to submit papers describing how they will remedy the constitutional violation.

Finally, and powerfully, he observed:

*“This Court is not blind to nationwide trends in*

*which the spigot to access the United States' most “precious” and “fundamental” right, the right to vote, depends on who controls the levers of power. That spigot is turned on or off depending on whether politicians perceive they will benefit from the expansion or contraction of the electorate . . . More than one-tenth of Florida's voting population—nearly 1.7 million as of 2016—cannot vote because they have been decimated from the body politic. More than one in five of Florida's African American voting-age population cannot vote.*

*If any one of these citizens wishes to earn back their fundamental right to vote, they must plod through a gauntlet of constitutionally infirm hurdles. No more. When the risk of state-sanctioned viewpoint discrimination skulks near the franchise, it is the province and duty of this Court to excise such potential bias from infecting the clemency process.”*

## **“IF YOU DON’T VOTE, YOU DON’T COUNT”**

**“If you don’t vote, you don’t count”** was both the creed and the epitaph of Vernon Ferdinand Dahmer, Sr., president of the Hattiesburg, Mississippi, NAACP, who was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan on January 10, 1966.

Democrats outnumber Republicans both locally and nationally, but we lose elections we should be winning easily because Republicans turn out in greater numbers. This is especially true in midterm elections.

If you don’t vote, you dishonor the graves of the thousands who have died fighting for the franchise. Get registered if you’re not already, make sure your friends are registered, and get out and get them out to vote.

Low turnout from Democrats last year gave Republicans the White House, but high turnout in Virginia gave Democrats the Governor’s Mansion. And high turnout in Alabama prevented the election of Roy Moore in Alabama, a man as vile and bigoted as Donald Trump.

If we don’t vote, we don’t count, and when we don’t get the vote out, we lose. But when we get the vote out, we win. It’s as simple as that.

### **Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2018 Membership Application**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name/names of household members \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Condo Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here \_\_\_\_\_ and we will not share your E-mail address.).

Preferred method of contact: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send newsletter by: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I/we are in South Florida from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ each year or are a permanent resident \_\_\_\_\_.

Payment: Individual \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Democratic Club of Delray Beach and mail to 15127 Jog Road, Suite 101, Delray Beach, FL 33446-1251. Thank you and Welcome to our Club.