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 **GUN VIOLENCE:
ALL THINGS
MUST BE
CONSIDERED!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  October 17, 2017



Here's what provoked me:

It's imperative that all things be considered when making important policy decisions. It's easy to let emotion and "easy," obvious answers rule the day - especially when dealing with the issue of gun control.

Here's my response:

Gun Violence: All Things Must Be Considered!

On October 17 a reader sounded off against Republicans and the NRA. The outrage was based on this premise: "...in the last 50 years, more people have died due to gun violence in the United States than in all the wars our country has fought dating back to the Revolutionary War.

Before I criticize I should point out that I'm not opposed to the right kind of gun control. Embedded in all of what the Founders said and wrote seems to be a presumption of order and competence, achieved through rules, regulations, training and limited controls.

Readers shouldn't accept this writer's facts as telling the whole story, however. Consider:

- Including homicides and unintentional deaths, the results are far different. Those deaths would add up to approximately 40% to 45% of wartime deaths. Of course, that's too many!
- During that same 50 years, the per capita deaths by firearms is about 30% lower in recent years compared to the period 1970 through 1995.
- This reduction corresponds to a significant growth in ownership of firearms.

Be careful with partial facts, and remember, "cause and effect" relationships are usually evasive. Let's be smart and attack this problem with wisdom, not emotion.