

Kamala Is a Gun-grabber

On August 11, Joe Biden picked Senator Kamala Harris to be his running mate for the 2020 presidential election, and the mainstream media quickly went to work downplaying Harris’ left-wing views.

However, David Harsanyi, writing at *National Review* on August 17, warned readers that Kamala Harris is a particular threat to Second Amendment-protected rights despite the media’s best efforts to whitewash her past positions. Harris has stated on more than one occasion that she wants to institute a “gun buyback” program to get AR-15s “off the streets.” She said at a March for Our Lives anti-gun rally in October 2019, “We have to have a buyback program, and I support a mandatory gun buyback program. It’s got to be smart. We’ve got to do it the right way, but there are five million [assault weapons] at least, some estimate as many as 10 million, and we’re going to have to have smart public policy that’s about taking those off the streets but doing it the right way.” You’ll note that Harris here talks about “gun buybacks” instead of “gun confiscation,” because “buyback” doesn’t sound as tyrannical, but she’s just attempting to obfuscate her true intentions.

Harsanyi wrote, “Here’s a fact check: Police would almost certainly be sent to homes of Americans to take guns if a ‘mandatory buyback’ program were instituted. AR-15s aren’t ‘on the streets.’ They are hardly ever used in crimes at all. The vast majority of AR-15s are in homes — somewhere around 15-20 million of them, depending on what arbitrary designation Democrats use to define ‘assault weapon.’... The police, incidentally, are already coming to people’s doors in California, where the state’s evolving restrictions on gun ownership are impossible for citizens keep up with even when they make a good-faith effort. These are the restrictions Harris would like to implement nationally. By implement, I mean compel. A ‘mandatory buyback’ would mean the police coming to plenty of doors, because in the United States there will almost certainly be a great pushback against such authoritarianism, even if Harris could get away with it. Once the state is permitted to ban guns over their

aesthetics — since AR-15s share the mechanics of many other firearms — it will almost certainly be empowered to ban any semi-automatic gun. This is the ultimate goal of these incremental efforts to inhibit and eliminate gun ownership.”

Driver Shooting

Fox News reported on July 17 about a violent shooting that was halted by an armed bystander in Brownsburg, Indiana, involving a man later suspected to be suffering from mental-health issues. The situation began when a suspect armed with a handgun attacked two cemetery workers without any provocation. The suspect, 22-year-old Joshua Christopher Hayes, came charging at two men working at the Brownsburg Cemetery and threatened to shoot them with the firearm he was carrying. Hayes chased one of the workers into an intersection, where he shot and killed the man. Hayes then pursued the second worker and fired at him, with his shots hitting a nearby vehicle. Fortunately, the occupant of the vehicle that was hit by that errant bullet had a loaded handgun in his car. The armed driver, who was injured from the glass that shattered when his car was shot, exited his vehicle and fired at Hayes, fatally wounding him.

Brownsburg Police Captain Jennifer Barrett praised the driver, whom she referred to as “victim three,” and said that he saved numerous lives by putting an end to Hayes’ deadly rampage. Barrett told the local news affiliate, “This tragic event could have been much more disastrous.... Victim three not only saved victim two’s life, but he saved potentially the lives of many others. Victim three did exactly what anybody would have wanted him to do at that scene that day.”

Attorney Guy Relford, a prominent Second Amendment advocate, is providing legal representation to the driver. Relford gave interviews with local media, explaining that his client’s actions were completely justified under the law. He told news station WIBC, “One of those bullets actually went through my client’s vehicle window. He was actually injured with shrapnel.... My client looked at that and

realized there was one thing he could do and that was take action to save an innocent life.... The scenario was fairly clear to him in that one person was chasing another and the other was saying, ‘no no no, please don’t shoot me!’... The gunman stood up and was looking around and still had the gun in his hand, appeared to clearly intend to continue the attack, at which point my client fired another two or three shots and the gunman went down.... They very quickly, the Brownsburg Police Department did, determined my client acted completely lawfully and he was justified under Indiana law.”

California Ban on “High-capacity” Magazines Ruled Unconstitutional

President Donald Trump has repeatedly boasted about the number of judges that he has appointed to the federal court during his first term: As of June 1, 2020, Trump had appointed 197 federal judges. One of these appointments, who has proven to be a strong ally of the Second Amendment, is Judge Kenneth K. Lee on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Lee issued an opinion that struck down California’s ban on so-called high-capacity magazines. The California statute stipulated that any magazine that held more than 10 rounds was prohibited, but Judge Lee took issue with this law, which, he wrote in his 66-page opinion, “runs afoul of the Second Amendment.” Judge Lee explained, “California’s almost blanket ban on LCMs (large-capacity magazines) goes too far in substantially burdening the people’s right to self-defense.” Lee added that no matter what the goal of the people behind the law, the law “must comply with the Constitution.”

Supporters of the Second Amendment celebrated the ruling. Chuck Michel, president and general counsel of the California Rifle & Pistol Association, issued a statement praising the decision as “a major victory for the Second Amendment.... This is a huge win specifically for the right to possess these valuable self-defense tools.” ■

— PATRICK KREY