

## The Second Amendment

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the threat to democracy; never has a Party sought the support of a popular base by spreading lies and false accusations against its critics, by manipulating the facts, by refusing to engage in true dialogue and by resorting to all sorts of antidemocratic politics. Since 2021, Republican legislators have proposed more than 360 vote-suppressing bills in 47 States, still insisting on the “Big Lie.”

The 733 Hate Groups listed above provide plenty of evidence that our society is contaminated by a large number of organizations and individuals who threaten its very soul. It is more than time that all responsible Americans form a united front to save the nation from a major, bloody confrontation with those who wish to destroy it. **At the bottom of it all lies a worship of violence that dominates even some sports.** American football, for example, is so dangerously violent that 95% of its retired quarterbacks end up suffering or dying from brain injuries. Then there are some forms of wrestling and of boxing that are basically an awful display of violence upon the human body. The televised program called “Monday Night Raw” stands as an example of the most violent, no-rules confrontations between males versus males and/or females versus females, projecting the ugliest of the spectacles which is wildly applauded by crowds.

The worship of violence has become quite widespread during this last decade, setting up a climate for evil, and terroristic acts that are facilitated by the lack of control of deadly weapons under the excuse that their possession is a legitimate constitutional right. Thus freedom is turned into a supreme value, making human life expendable. Hence the recently-voiced, ridiculous solution that we can deal with a person armed with a bad gun by having another person holding a good gun; or by militarizing our schools, hospitals, churches, synagogues, restaurants, marketplaces, etc. The majority of the Republican congressmen and governors, instead of emphasizing the sacredness of human life, exhibit a strong devotion for guns and a blind, ahistorical interpretation of the Second Amendment, as shown by the Republican congres-



Havoc wreaked at the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021 included: burned and stomped American flags, shattered windows, and vicious attacks on police officers. Photo by Marco Verch, Creative Commons License 2.0.

man who brought his own gun to a meeting of the House of Representatives. We must alert the American public by exposing the governors, congressmen, and major groups that have for too long prevented effective control of guns. Lobbyism, that is the control of Congressmen by billionaires and by powerful organizations with money and power **must be abolished** because it makes a mockery of the democratic system.

Finally, it was heartwarming to see the ongoing solidarity of thousands of Texans towards the families of the victims of the Robb Elementary tragedy in Uvalde. Among them has been San Antonio’s Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller who has become fully involved in the healing of the survivors and of the families of the victims. He went well beyond consoling the victims and standing by their grieving families and courageously denouncing the lack of preventive measures and the worship of killing weapons, noting that “guns are treated as idols.” Yes, peace and brotherhood will reign supreme only when the sacredness of every human life takes precedence over a selfish concept of individual freedom and as the central value of a truly Christian and democratic society.

BIO: *Tarcisio Beal is professor Emeritus of History at the University of the Incarnate Word. [Note: Sources used for this article can be obtained from [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org)]*

## What you going to do big boy

What you going to do big boy  
What you going to do today

Your mommas gone to Vegas  
With that keno player nick  
Daddy’s off to Nashville  
Gibson on his hip

Sister Susy left for Hollywood  
Gonna be a big screen star  
Brother Billie’s in Alaska  
Prepping for the end

The flames are getting hotter  
Your country’s gone to hell  
Extremist on the right side  
Gonna take our nation down

What you going to do big boy  
What you gonna do today  
What you going to do big boy  
What you gonna do today

Preacher Jacksons slamming Women  
Good book in his hand  
Mullah Omar cut a video  
Took the head right off that boy

Black people show your gratitude  
You were happily relocated  
Emmitt Till’s open coffin showed  
The white man’s righteousness

Supreme Courts lost its reverence  
Politics set the course  
Barrett Gorsuch Kavanaugh  
Unleashed the right wing Kraken

What you going to do big boy  
What you gonna do today  
No rapists here our Guvnor says  
Texas women need not worry  
That unexpected baby growing  
In your belly Gets to stay

Brown people at our open border  
Need to get their ass back home  
Predators, animals, invaders, killers  
Gonna take our jobs rape our women

The day you turned 18  
Locked and loaded AR’s waiting  
30 rounds per magazine  
You’ll need it for the school

What you going to do big boy  
What you gonna do today

There’s nothing I can tell you  
You gonna go ahead and kill today

—Edward Guadalupe Acuña Lucio  
Cody Jr

BIO: *Edward Cody Jr. is a Vietnam veteran and a member of Voces Cosmicas, a poet’s group in San Antonio.*