



2nd Amendment PATRIOTS OF NORTH CAROLINA



September 2024

WE DEFEND FREEDOM

Si vis Pacem, para bellum ("If you want peace, prepare for war")

by Frank Mollica

Words of wisdom uttered in the 4th century A.D. by the Roman patrician and author Publius Flavius Vegetius Renuatus.

If you want peace, prepare for war. Prior to the declaration of independence in the earlier part of the 1700's, shop keepers, farmers, lawyers, and all that strived for safety, prayed for peace but always prepared for war. The colonies were still relatively new, and homesteaders banded together for protection. Raids on villages and skirmishes with the local native population were common, and this gave rise to the necessity of a local militia out of which would come the Minutemen. The French and Indian War saw local militias expand and combine with provincial troops. American rangers also served on the front lines; elite warriors trained by native Americans experienced in frontier warfare. When the war ended, the militias again became a local volunteer fighting force. Citizens worked together to protect home and family. By proclamation, most able-bodied males between the ages of 16-60 were required to bear arms and train at various



times during the year. Training was a civic responsibility and failure to attend training was highly frowned upon. Failure to show up for shooting practice was punishable by public humiliation. Habitually failing to attend training could result in a fine or even jail.

The Minutemen, a name that denoted the expectation of fighting with a minute's notice, were a component of the colonial militia. Many of these men fought in the opening volleys of the revolution. No different than you or me, they were mostly the younger able-bodied members of the militia led by older veterans some of whom had been rangers. These minute men were paid a couple of shillings a week to train as a rapid strike force and prepare for war. When called upon, they did not hesitate to put themselves in harm's way to defend freedom.

It has been a long time, and people forget their sacrifice. Let us remember that they shed blood so that we could enjoy freedom 250 years later. They insured that we have a second amendment. We honor those who came before us by exercising our rights.



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Ronald Reagan said, "Peace through strength"! How does this maxim relate to the 2nd Amendment? Our strength depends on our level of preparedness.

Our second amendment freedom dictates that we are prepared and act with responsibility when we handle our firearms. Remember the basics:

- Treat every gun as loaded.
- Never point your firearm at anything that you do not intend to shoot.
- Do not put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Maintain your firearm in good operating condition.
- Safely store your firearm and ammunition.

Next, stock up on ammo! If you are anything like me , too many different caliber firearms, you may just want to focus on a couple. I stockpile 9mm for my pistols and .223 for rifle rounds.

And finally, get to the range and practice!

We the militia, and protecting freedom is our job now; a job that was passed down from those first people who answered the call for freedom The responsibility placed on us by the second amendment is that we are a decent shot. If we cannot hit the broad side of a barn, we are no use to ourselves or anyone else. When called upon, do not hesitate. If you want peace, prepare for war... unprepared shooters are merely cannon fodder.



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