



## The Second Amendment

*A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.*

### You Should Know...

- **The Right to Keep and Bear arms goes back much farther than 1776.**
  - In fact America's founders had their own Bill of Rights, The English Bill of Rights of 1689. King James II sparked the Glorious Revolution in part by attempting take away the people's guns.
- **The founders gave us the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment to protect us from tyranny, not for hunting and sport shooting.**
  - "Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretence (sic), raised in the United States... -Noah Webster,
- **Even the Supreme Court has ruled that individuals possess an inherent right to keep and bear arms.**
  - **U.S. v. Miller (1939)** "part of the ordinary military equipment or that its use could contribute to the common defense." If the military owns it, then the people have a right to own it.
  - **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)** The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes such as "the natural right of resistance and self-preservation."
- **Your rights are not GRANTED by the government. The government is simply charged with protecting them.**
  - "Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: first, a right to life; secondly, to liberty; thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can." –Samuel Adams
- **The founders viewed the "militia" as every able-bodied citizen who could be called upon to defend community.**
- **It makes little sense to ask the government permission to keep and bear arms when they are the "reason" we keep and bear arms. That would be like asking the thief if he would like you to lock you doors**