



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOOTING

Over 800 Sheriffs from across the Western United States that make up the Western States Sheriffs' Association grieve with the citizens of Roseburg Oregon. The horrific tragedy that unfolded in that small community reinforces our position that all law abiding citizens should be prepared at all times to defend their lives and the lives of others. It is unfathomable that the President of the United States can presume to feel our feelings or assess our response to such an event. To suggest that our country has become "numb" to this type of tragedy and that our response has become "routine" is both irresponsible and presumptuous.

Our membership has consistently held a firm position in support of the 2nd amendment of the United States Constitution. Our Supreme Court has clearly defined the intent of the framers. As with each one of these tragedies, there is a renewed commitment by the anti-gun groups and legislators who seek to carve away at our fundamental human right of self protection.

The membership of WSSA stands firm with Douglas County Oregon Sheriff John Hanlon. There is a time for debate and there is a place for politics. That time is not now and that place is not in the community of Roseburg Oregon. Now is a time to grieve and a time to mourn. Now is a time to stand together in our own communities and seek avenues to support the families of the victims and their community as a whole.

We must commit to productive conversations to address the proliferation and glorification of violence in our nation and initiate action to curb the widespread use of video violence among our youth. We must stop talking about the problems of mental health in our nation and begin allocating appropriate services and other resources to our local communities to effectively address the issue.

The membership of the Western States Sheriffs' Association stands beside the people of Roseburg Oregon. We remain committed to defending the rights guaranteed by our Constitution and the Sheriffs across the west remain committed to promoting strong leadership in an effort to avert similar tragedies.

Sheriff Dave Brown, President

Skamania County, WA

7 October 2015