



## **The Pro-Gun Statistics and Personal Stories from TIME Magazine November 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Statistics show stricter controls on who can buy guns will not prevent the majority of gun crimes by criminals that do not follow the laws anyway and get guns by theft or on the black market.**

**Also, people so inclined with no criminal history would not be deterred no matter how much tracking and background investigation is done to them and to otherwise infringe upon all Citizens Rights.**

**Statistics further show, more guns in the hands of good people is a deterrent to violent crime.**

**Note: So called "Assault" rifles like AR-15 are used in very few homicides overall but are sensationalized and wrongly vilified by the Anti-Gun lobby.**

## stop bad guys with guns

Estimates on how often guns are used defensively range from fewer than 100,000 to more than a million times a year.

There were **235,700** violent crime incidents from 2007 to 2011 in which victims used a firearm to threaten or attack the offender.

In **32%** of those cases, the offender was also armed

SOURCE: DOJ, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

## may deter criminal activity

The number of civilian firearms has grown.



Yet both murder and violent crime rates have generally fallen.

### Gun homicides PER 1 MILLION PEOPLE



### Violent crime PER 100,000 PEOPLE



SOURCES: RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION; CDC; FBI

## are wrongly vilified

Rifles—including the popular AR-15—are used in far fewer homicides than other weapons such as handguns and knives.

### Weapons used IN 66,231 HOMICIDES, 2012-16

**48%** Handguns

**12%** Knives

**5%** Hands/feet

**3%** Blunt objects

**2%** Rifles

**2%** Shotguns

17% UNKNOWN GUN  
9% OTHER (NON-GUN)

SOURCE: FBI

## won't stop gangs and outlaws

Gangs are responsible for much of the country's violent crime. In general, criminals don't follow gun laws. Convicted prison inmates who had a gun at the time of their offense had acquired it through back channels.

### Source of firearm 2004

**40%** Street or illegal source

**37%** Family or friend

**11%** Retail/pawnshop/gun show

11% OTHER

SOURCES: FBI; DOJ, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

25 PEOPLE SHARE THEIR VIEWS—AND THE EXPERIENCES THAT SHAPED THEM

## THE WRONGLY ACCUSED

With an AR-15 slung across his shoulder, **Mark Hughes**, an activist and tax preparer, joined hundreds of protesters at a Black Lives Matter rally in downtown Dallas on July 7, 2016. Hughes openly carried his rifle—a legal act under Texas law—for the first time. It was a symbolic response, he says, to fatal police shootings of black men including Philando Castile, who was killed during a traffic stop in Minnesota after disclosing to an officer that he was armed but licensed. The rally turned into tragedy when a sniper killed five police officers in what is considered the worst attack on U.S. law enforcement since Sept. 11. Before the real gunman was identified, the Dallas police department wrongly labeled Hughes a suspect, tweeting out his photo in a plea to the public to “please help us find him.” He was questioned for hours before being released. Now Hughes, 36, is suing the city and the department for what he says were civil rights violations. (The city and police department declined to comment.) Hughes is still a proud gun owner but says he thinks twice about exercising his legal right to carry in public.

**‘It’s dangerous being a black man in America with a gun.’**



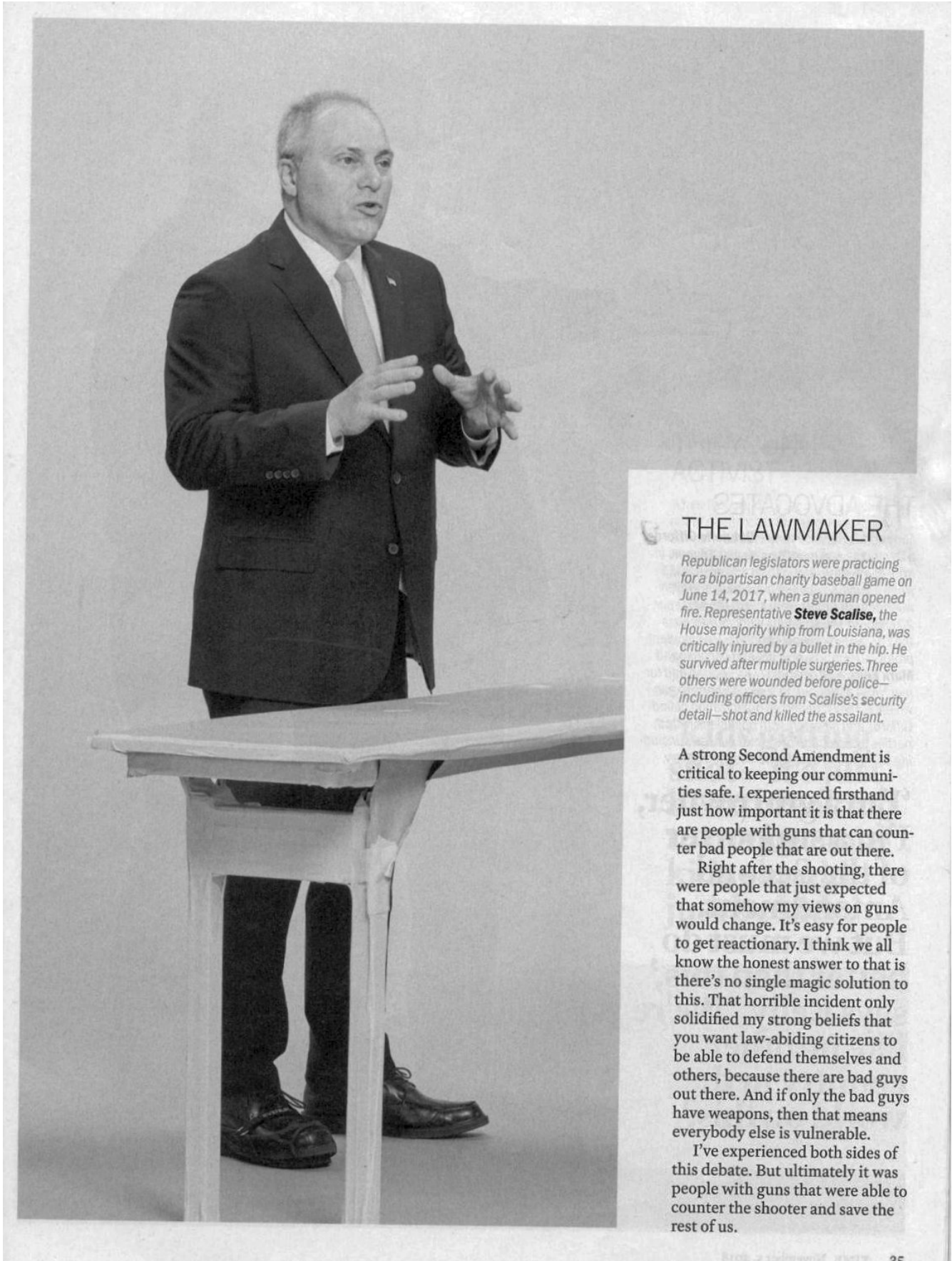
## THE PROTECTOR

Frustrated by police killings of black men, **Shetamia Taylor** took her four young sons to the 2016 Dallas protest. When gunfire erupted, the retail worker threw her body over one of her sons while the others fled. One of the sniper's bullets struck her in the calf. Now Taylor, 40, has a metal plate and a dozen screws in her leg. She continues to struggle with the shooting's aftermath and has become more politically active: she found a new job as a campaign canvass manager and is planning a run for city council in her hometown of Mesquite, Texas, next year.

I was nervous everywhere I went. I felt like something at any time could happen. I'm sitting in my home, and people are still setting fireworks around my house, and I'm freaking out. I'm sitting on my couch because I can't move. I'm paralyzed in fear some nights. I'm crying. I'm thinking, What can I do in this situation that I'm in right now to protect my family? It felt like breakdown after breakdown. And it was like, How much more weak can I be? How much more crumpled up can I become?

I changed my mind-set and became a gun owner. Because I did feel helpless and because I felt weak and because I felt like I was not protecting my children, I decided to become a gun owner. It was just something that I knew I had to do for me. It kind of helped me feel as though I would be able to protect myself and my children if need be.

And I know that sounds strange, but unless you went through or been through what I have, you wouldn't understand.



## THE LAWMAKER

*Republican legislators were practicing for a bipartisan charity baseball game on June 14, 2017, when a gunman opened fire. Representative **Steve Scalise**, the House majority whip from Louisiana, was critically injured by a bullet in the hip. He survived after multiple surgeries. Three others were wounded before police—including officers from Scalise's security detail—shot and killed the assailant.*

A strong Second Amendment is critical to keeping our communities safe. I experienced firsthand just how important it is that there are people with guns that can counter bad people that are out there.

Right after the shooting, there were people that just expected that somehow my views on guns would change. It's easy for people to get reactionary. I think we all know the honest answer to that is there's no single magic solution to this. That horrible incident only solidified my strong beliefs that you want law-abiding citizens to be able to defend themselves and others, because there are bad guys out there. And if only the bad guys have weapons, then that means everybody else is vulnerable.

I've experienced both sides of this debate. But ultimately it was people with guns that were able to counter the shooter and save the rest of us.

## THE VETERAN

*As a teenager in Texas, **Sung Song** hated guns so much he once delivered an impassioned speech opposing the Second Amendment for a high school competition. Then he joined the U.S. Army. Song, 42, is now a respiratory therapist and remains an avid marksman.*

Back in high school, I was vehemently against guns. I was in this thing called Academic Decathlon, and we had to do a five-minute speech in front of judges. That was my topic: gun control. It was about how the Second Amendment was outdated. I thought it didn't apply since the environment had changed. I believed it 100%. I didn't have an understanding of guns back then. I never used them. My parents never owned guns. I never really got exposed to guns growing up. Guns were scary because we didn't know anything about them.

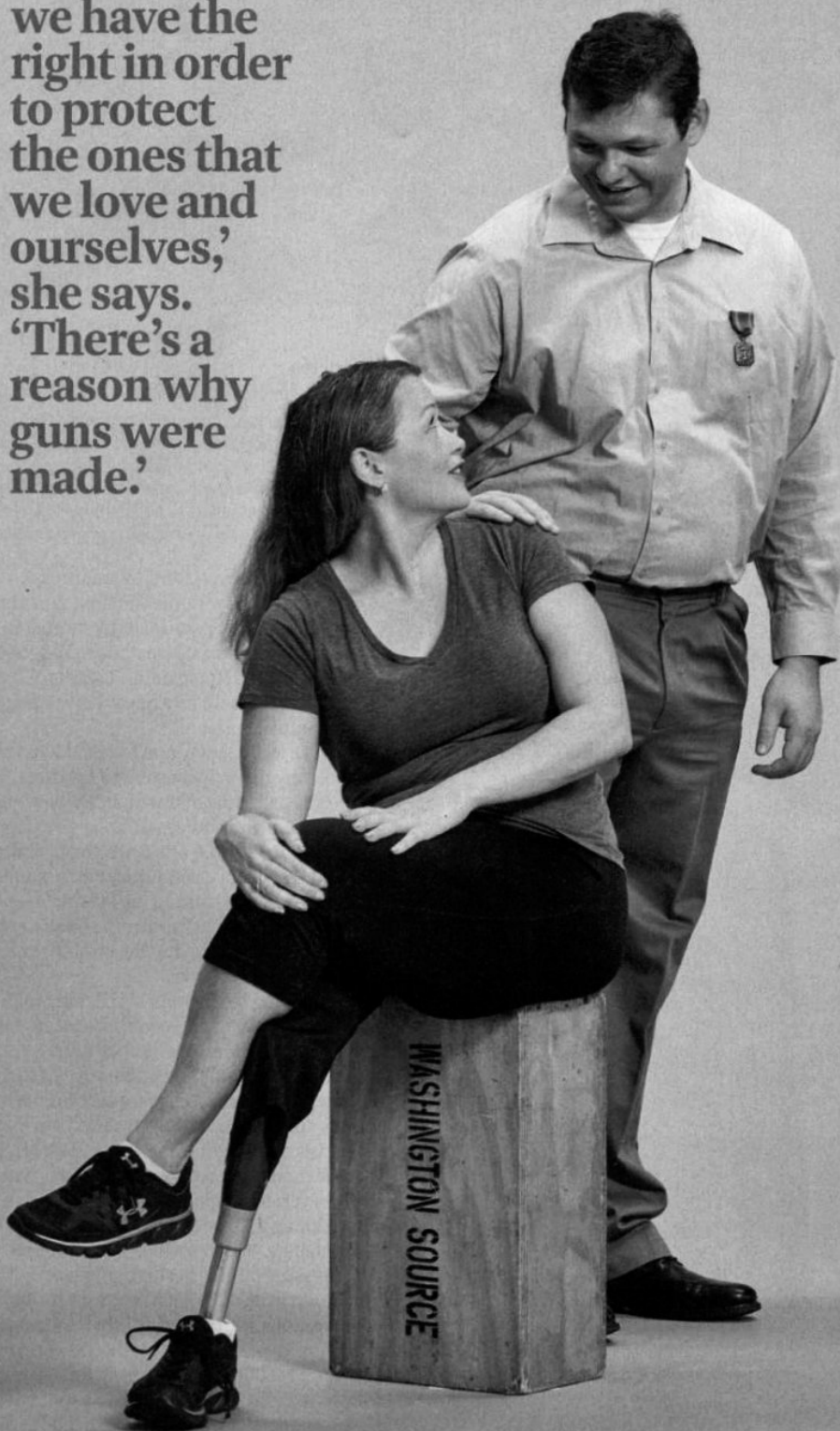
But as I started to learn more and get trained in its usage and its safety, I saw the benefits of gun ownership. In the military, you take an oath to the Constitution. You are automatically supposed to support everything in there and defend everything in there, including the Second Amendment. I feel like I learned more about the world, about guns, about gun safety and gun violence. I became comfortable with it.

It is a dangerous weapon, but it can be very safe when you know how to use it and take the proper precautions. It's like a car. If you're a kid, you're scared of a car when you don't know how to drive. But once you get familiar with it and you know how to use it responsibly, it shouldn't be a problem. There are irresponsible people, but it doesn't change the fact that the car itself is within the responsibility of the person.

I would tell my younger self that you don't actually know that much. You'll keep on learning. Try to explore all sides before you make a decision.



**'I believe that we have the right in order to protect the ones that we love and ourselves,' she says. 'There's a reason why guns were made.'**



## THE SELF-DEFENSE ADVOCATE

*Growing up in a military family, **Cindy Chester** had guns in her childhood home and learned from an early age that firearms needed to be handled safely. But she says she wasn't prepared for the moment 10 years ago when her then boyfriend pointed a gun at her right leg and fired. Her wounds ended her 4½-month pregnancy and required amputation. At the time, her brother **Sean Chester** was serving in the Marine Corps in Iraq. The traumatic incident brought the siblings closer together, and years later they still share a faith in the protection provided by firearms. Now Cindy, 31, is a new mother who advocates for amputees and more broadly for women to be prepared to defend themselves. If she had owned a gun when she was attacked, she says, "maybe my story would have changed."*

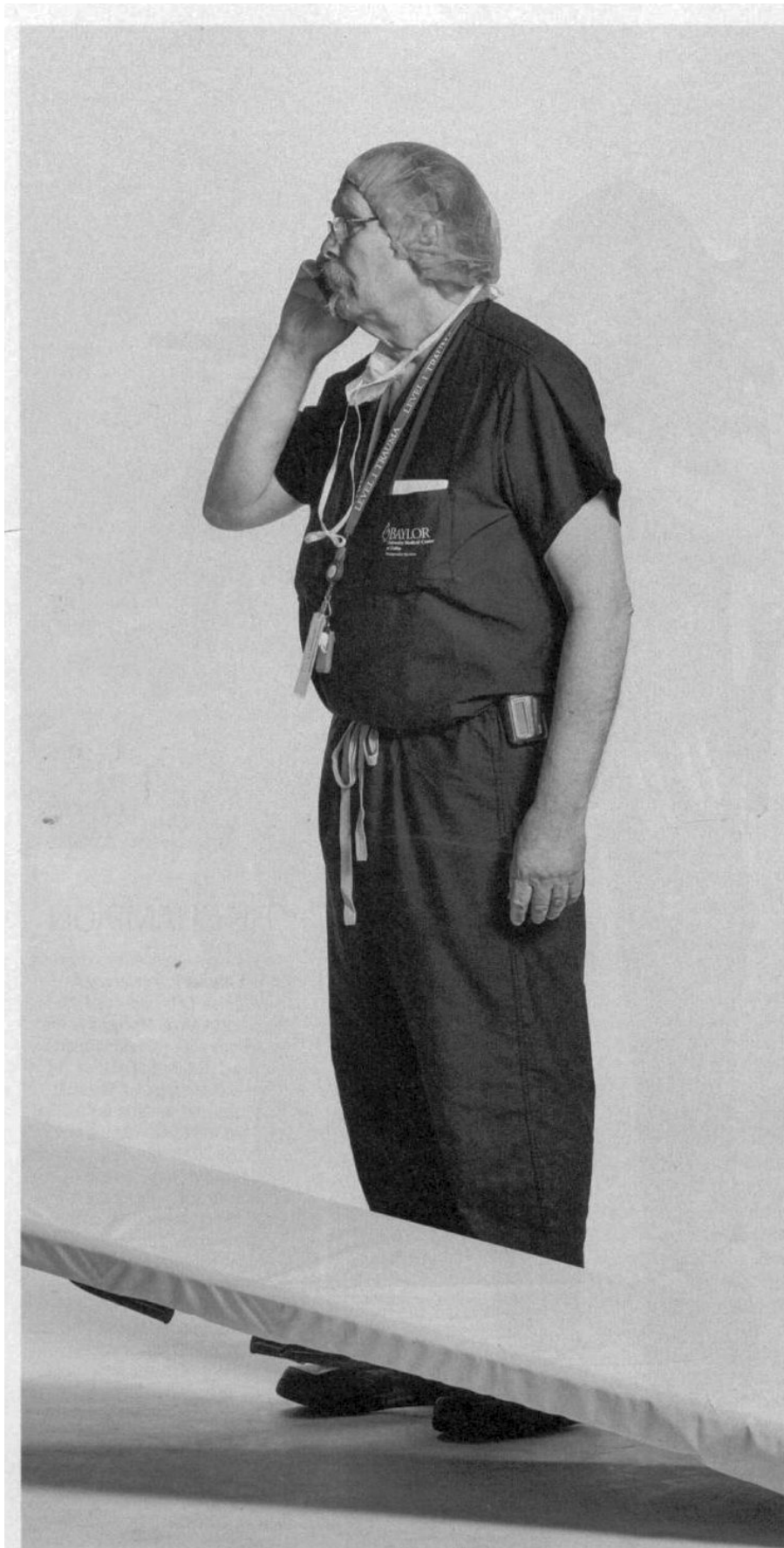
'It's disheartening as a gun owner and as an NRA member to continually get beat down and continually to get bullied.'



## THE CHAMPION

In the world of competitive shooting, **Dianna Muller** is a celebrity. A former Tulsa, Okla., police officer and rodeo horse racer, Muller says she got serious about shooting sports in the mid-2000s and quickly "fell in love with the people." She sold her horses and her farm to focus on guns and went on to win the women's title at the 2015 NRA World Shooting Championship. Now she's using her fame to advocate for the rights of gun owners around the country. "People who don't understand, who don't have the education, are making the decisions," she says. "That's the scary part." So Muller, 48, founded the D.C. Project, a nonpartisan group of women from all 50 states who travel to the capital each year to talk with their elected representatives about the Second Amendment. She says she carries this goal of understanding into all her interactions. "If we don't communicate with the other side, then we're definitely on the losing platform," Muller says.





## THE TRAUMA SURGEON

As director of trauma at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Dr. **Michael Foreman**, 65, sees a steady flow of shooting victims in his emergency room. On the night of July 7, 2016, police cars arrived carrying wounded from the mass shooting at the Black Lives Matter rally.

I'm probably the controversy in many ways. I take care of people with gunshot wounds. I've also been a lifetime shooter. I'm what most people would refer to as a gun nut. I grew up with guns. I've shot guns all of my life. I enjoy them very much. What I don't enjoy is what they do to people. I love guns, and I hate gunshot wounds.

When I go shooting, I tell people it's really no different than golf. A lot of people go out and they cause an object to go from one place to another place in an accurate fashion, and that's what I do when I go shooting. It gives me great enjoyment, and I don't want to give up what is rightfully mine.

My biggest concern is that we're focusing on the wrong thing. What we need to be focusing on is violence. I can tell you as a trauma surgeon, I have seen people killed with any variety of objects. Guns make it a little easier perhaps. But I will tell you that a brick or a bat or a fist or a knife makes you just as dead as the bullet does. Everyone talks about commonsense gun control. I'm all in favor of that. I just don't have any idea what it is.



## THE PASTOR

*As pastor of New Exodus church in Cahokia, Ill., just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, **Bryan Moore** always considered the Bible to be his protection. But when one of his congregants became the victim of a brutal attack, Moore says, he had an epiphany: he decided he needed another way to defend his flock. So he headed to a shooting range and spent the next two years training to become a certified firearms instructor. Now Moore, 38, teaches regular concealed-carry classes in addition to giving sermons.*

**'I was raised that God was a magician, he was a protector. In the black community there was a time where we needed to hope and pray that way ... Well, that was me before this experience, and now this is me.'**

## THE COMPETITOR

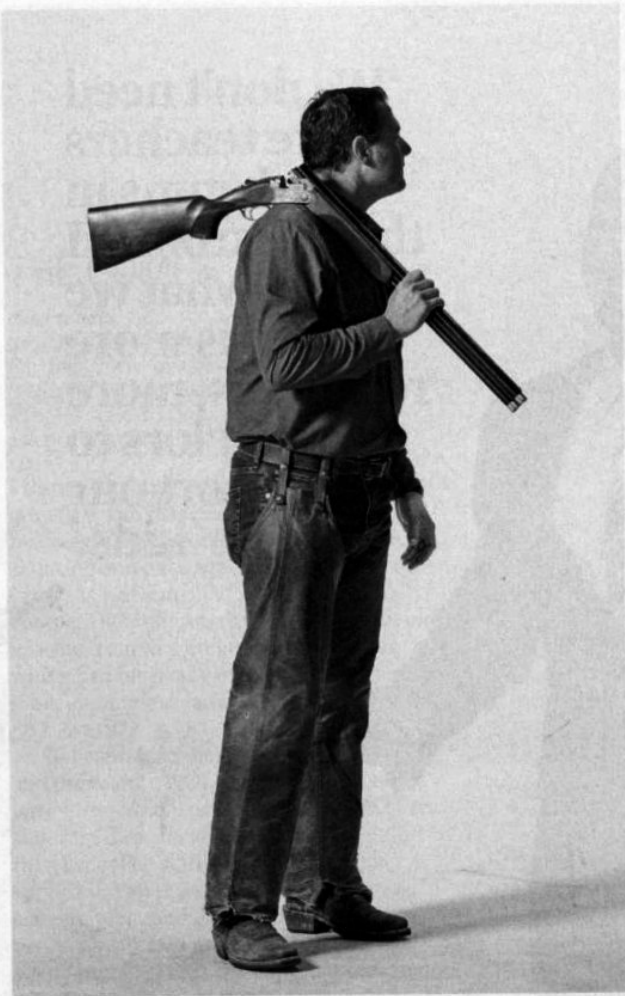
**Mia Farinelli**, 14, travels many weekends during the school year to compete in shooting matches. The ninth-grader from Alexandria, Va., participates in a variety of events, but her main focus is 3-Gun, which involves shooting a pistol, a rifle and a shotgun while navigating an obstacle course.

I started shooting with my dad when I was around 7, and I started shooting a lot of bull's-eyes. And so a few years later, I went shooting and once again, I did really good. This was when my dad was getting into competitive shooting, and he was receiving a jersey from this range. He got this box which had his jersey in it, and he opened it up, and underneath his was one labeled MIA FARINELLI.

So I went into the range the next day and they said, "Well, now that you have a jersey, you have to shoot a match." So I kept shooting these local matches near us. And then I shot the state match and I did very, very well, and so I started shooting these state matches and now I'm the champion of my divisions in multiple states. I travel pretty much all over the United States to do my competitive shooting.

I want people to know that I'm doing this because it's my passion. I'm doing it because this is a sport. The community is so nice. Not like it's portrayed to be in movies. Safety is the priority when you're shooting. When I would tell some kids about it at school, they'd come up to me in the hallway and be like, "Oh, you're going to be the next school shooter." It makes me feel really bad because it's something I put a lot of passion into, and I put a lot of effort into. I try to work on teaching everybody about how safe it is. It's just like they're not really listening to me. They're not really hearing what I have to say. They're kind of just painting an image in their mind about what they want me to be, or what they think I am.





## THE HUNTERS

Like many families in Texas, the Bucks have hunted for generations. **Michelle Buck**, above with husband **Austin Buck**, says her father taught her to hunt when she was a young girl, and now her 10-year-old daughter **Cooper Buck**, right, enjoys the family tradition. The Bucks take their two children on frequent hunting trips, which offer an escape from the hectic pace of work and school—and a chance to bring back meat for homemade quail and pheasant dumplings.

**‘[Hunting] has made all the difference in the very strong woman that I am today,’ Michelle Buck says. ‘Here I am with a degree and a good job and a great family and husband who shares the same values and morals and ethics and ... we deposit those things into our kids.’**

'People can debate that any way they want to,' he says, 'but the guns don't kill people, the people kill people.'



## THE PARENTS

As **Sam and Paulette Thompson** were watching coverage of the July 7, 2016, Black Lives Matter protest in Dallas, their son Brent was shot and killed. The Dallas Area Rapid Transit officer was among the five police officers gunned down that day. The family's tragedy was compounded more than a year later: William Thompson, Brent Thompson's 19-year-old son, took his own life with a gun. Despite their losses, the Thompsons say they support the Second Amendment, though Paulette adds, "There should be stricter controls over who can buy guns."