

Conservative Action Project

The Conservative Action Project (CAP), founded in 2008 by many conservative leaders with former **Attorney General Edwin Meese III** serving as the Founding Chairman. CAP is currently chaired by **The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop** and is designed to facilitate conservative leaders working together on behalf of common goals. Participants include the CEOs of over 100 organizations representing all major elements of the conservative movement-economic, social and national security.

Memo for the Movement

“Conservatives Must Defend the Second Amendment”

March 5, 2018
Washington, DC

The recent school shooting in Parkland, FL was a tragedy. 17 students and teachers lost their lives at the hands of a mentally unstable gunman. The bravery and selflessness shown by those who sacrificed their lives to help others to safety is a humbling example of the best of American virtues.

What adds to the tragedy in Parkland was the fact that it could have been prevented. The shooter was known to local Parkland law enforcement, which responded to calls at his house more than thirty times. The Federal Bureau of Investigation failed to forward a chillingly specific tip about the shooter—one in which he self-identified as someone who intended to [become](#) “a professional school shooter.” Moreover, the Broward County sheriff’s deputy tasked with protecting the students at Parkland heard the shots but remained outside the school.

Laws and procedures that might have prevented the shooting in Parkland were not followed or enforced, and those charged to “protect and serve” failed. A thorough investigation needs to be conducted to determine what actually happened and why. All of this makes concerted efforts by liberal activists and the media to infringe upon Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens misguided.

The Supreme Court has affirmed the plain text of the Second Amendment, which states that “the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” The language of the amendment—confirmed by the Supreme Court in the seminal case of *District of Columbia vs Heller*—clearly indicates this is a pre-existing individual liberty, one that is referenced in the 1689 English Bill of Rights. The language “shall not be infringed” indicates recognition, not creation. In addition, every state constitution includes language similar to the Second Amendment, most of which have been upheld by state supreme courts.

Taking away the rights of law-abiding citizens to possess firearms will not prevent future tragedies like Parkland. Neither will the creation of massive databases of lawful gun owners.

Evil cannot be regulated. However, measures can be taken to diminish the frequency and scope of mass shootings. As a Florida Teacher of the Year Kelly Guthrie Raley [said](#) recently, parents

must be more involved in regulating bad behavior. Gun-free school zones should be done away with, and teachers who want to be trained to possess firearms in the classroom should be given the support to do so.

Finally, enforcing existing laws as they relate to addressing troubled individuals might have prevented the Parkland tragedy, and can likely prevent others. When law enforcement fails, as it did in Parkland, there must be accountability.

As conservatives, we affirm our commitment to the Second Amendment and oppose any legislation that would infringe upon the Constitutional rights of law-abiding Americans to defend themselves and their families.

The Honorable Edwin Meese III

Former Attorney General
President Ronald Reagan

The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop

Chairman, Conservative Action Project
Former White House Advisor, President
Ronald Reagan

Alfred S. Regnery

Chairman
Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund

The Honorable David McIntosh

U.S. House of Representatives
Former Member, Indiana

Jenny Beth Martin

Chairman
Tea Party Patriots Citizen Fund

The Honorable Colin A. Hanna

President
Let Freedom Ring, Inc.

The Honorable T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr.

Former Chief Domestic Advisor
President Ronald Reagan

The Honorable Jim DeMint

Former Member (SC)
United States Senate

Ed Corrigan

Former Executive Director
Senate Steering Committee

Rachel Bovard

Former Policy Director
Senate Steering Committee

Wesley Denton

Former Communications Director
Senator Jim DeMint (SC)

The Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell

Chairman
Constitutional Congress, Inc.

Cleta Mitchell, Esq.

David Bozell

President
ForAmerica

William L. Walton

Chairman
CNP Action, Inc.

Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin (Ret.)

Executive Vice President
Family Research Council

Sandra S. Froman

Treasurer
Council for National Policy

The Honorable Ken Cuccinelli

President
Senate Conservatives Fund

Ron Robinson

President
Young America's Foundation

The Honorable Morton C. Blackwell

Chairman
The Weyrich Lunch

The Honorable Gary Bauer

President
American Values

Sherri R. Martin

Executive Vice President
The Martin Organization, Inc.

Shawn A. Mitchell

Former National Chaplain
National Federation of Republican
Assemblies

Evelio Silvera

Campaign for the American Future

Mitchell Morgan

Chief Financial Officer
Martin Imaging

Rick Manning

President
Americans for Limited Government

James L. Martin

Founder/Chairman
60 Plus Association

Dr. Janice Shaw Crouse

Board Chairman
The Institute on Religion and Democracy

L. Brent Bozell, III

Founder & President
Media Research Center

Floyd Brown

Chairman
Western Center for Journalism

Tim Macy

Chairman
Gun Owners of America

The Honorable James C. Miller III

Director Office of Management & Budget
President Ronald Reagan, 1985-1988

Rod D. Martin

Founder and CEO
The Martin Organization, Inc.

Haley E. Martin

President
The Martin Foundation

Jerry Melvin

Former Dean
Florida House of Representatives

Nicholas Stehle

Campaign for the American Future

Sean Noble

President
American Encore

Christopher Malagisi

Editor in Chief
Conservative Book Club

C. Preston Noell III

President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

William Mills

President
Mills Energy

Rod Vandenbos

CEO

Buzzbox Beverages, Inc.

The Honorable Penny Pullen

Former Assistant Republican Leader

Illinois House of Representatives (Ret.)

Peter J. Thomas

Chairman

The Conservative Caucus

Michelle Easton

President

Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute

Melvin Adams

Former President

Renewation

Richard Wright

CEO

AAndrews Consulting

The Honorable Mike Hill

Florida State House

Former Member

Roxanne Phillips

Member, Executive Committee

Council for National Policy

Joe R. Calvert

President

Rabon-Calvert Interest

Willes K. Lee

President

National Federation of Republican
Assemblies**Lee A Beaman**

CEO

Beaman Automotive Group

The Honorable Mike Spence

Founding President

Conservative Republicans of California

Mark Fitzgibbons

President of Corporate Affairs

American Target Advertising

Chad Connelly

President

Faith Wins

Allen Hebert

Chairman

American-Chinese Fellowship

Matt Mackowiak

Executive Director

Fight for Tomorrow

Martha Boneta

President

VCS

Dr. Virginia Armstrong

Nat'l. Court Watch Chrm.

National Eagle Forum

The Honorable Terrence Scanlon

Retired Chairman and President

Capital Research.Org

Jeremy Cerone

CEO

EliteSafe Inc.

Mario H. Lopez

President

Hispanic Leadership Fund

Tim LeFever

Chairman

Capitol Resource Institute

Robert K. Fischer

Meeting Coordinator

Conservatives of Faith

Dr. Everett Piper

President

Oklahoma Wesleyan University

Elaine Donnelly
President
Center for Military Readiness

The Honorable Belden Bell
CoChair Legacy Society
The Heritage Foundation

Ralph A. Rebandt, II
Lead Pastor/Police Chaplain
Oakland Hills Community Church/Michigan
Association of Police Chiefs

Judson Phillips
Founder
Tea Party Nation

Donna Hearne
Chief Executive Officer
The Constitutional Coalition

Norm Singleton
President
Campaign for Liberty

John Tate
President
America's Liberty PAC

The Honorable Michael R. Long
State Chairman
NYS Conservative Party

All organizations listed for IDENTIFICATION purposes only)

Please feel free to reproduce, publish, or quote from this memo, or any part thereof. No attribution to the Conservative Action Project or any of the signers is necessary.