

Forty-five years ago this week, I graduated from Ulysses S. Grant High School in Van Nuys (now Valley Glen). In that same year, 1977, the Canadian Parliament adopted a nationwide ban on automatic weapons and sawed-off shotguns and rifles. It is illegal in Canada for anyone except the police and military to possess one.

The Grant High School motto is “What we are to be we are now becoming.” What are we, and our children and grandchildren, to be? This past weekend, while we watched the funerals of the children and teachers in Uvalde, Texas, there were 13 more mass shootings in our country. Not including a shooting as school let out right outside Grant High School.

The Board of Directors of our great Alliance Strategic Partner the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) has voted to urge Congress to take immediate action to curb gun violence in America. You can personally do the same by phoning or emailing your representatives.

At the Valley Economic Alliance, we are in the quality of life and economic opportunity for all business. We cannot be successful if our communities are not safe from gun violence. Act now.

Congratulations to all of this year’s Valley graduates. To my fellow Lancers: “… with Brown, Orange and White, as the sign of our might, we are faithful to Grant’s glorious name.”

Fred Gaines
Chair