

Virginia Tech Memorials Pay Silent Tribute, Raise Awareness

Remember the Victims -- Call for Solutions

More than 30,000 lives have been taken by gun violence in the U.S. since 32 people were shot to death at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007.

On the first anniversary of those killings, the worst school shooting in the nation's history, more than 100 Wisconsin residents joined thousands of others across the country to memorialize the victims and issue anew the call for solutions.

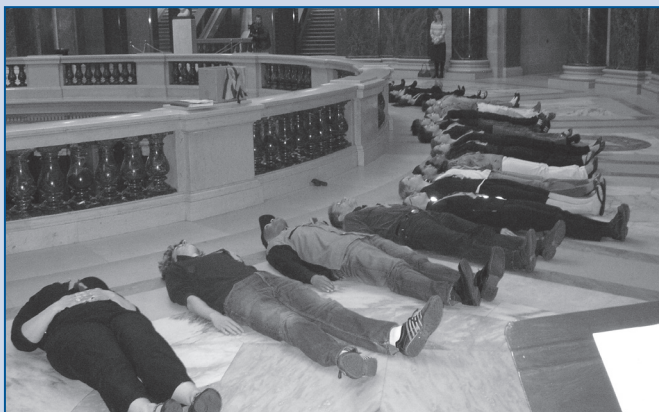
After policy makers and gun violence prevention activists spoke at news conferences in the rotundas of Milwaukee's City Hall and the Capitol in Madison, people of all ages and backgrounds spoke from their hearts by paying tribute in silence.

At each location, 32 persons laid down on the floor. They wore ribbons in the school's colors, made by the victims' families, survivors, and friends in the Virginia Tech community. Others looked on as the lie-in spoke for them: We remember the victims...now we must do what we can to stem the tide of gun violence in our communities.

Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort mobilized the local memorials and is deeply grateful to those who helped send the powerful message.



Milwaukee area residents memorialized the Virginia Tech shooting victims at City Hall on April 16



The lie-in at the Capitol in Madison

Many of the participants have been involved in the postcard campaign for background checks on all gun transactions in the state (see page two for an update about this campaign and for information about a new initiative for microstamped identification of gun cartridges.)

The events gained widespread media attention, including numerous radio and television news segments and print articles.

A stirring photo of the City Hall lie-in dominated the front page of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* the next day. Feature photos also appeared on the front pages of *The Badger Herald* and *The Daily Cardinal* in Madison.

**We remember the victims...
now we must do what we can to stem
the tide of gun violence.**

Proven Technology

Microstamping to ID Guns Moves Forward

It may be no surprise that “The Terminator” knows a good crime-solving tool when he sees one. Microstamping, a technology that imprints identifying information on bullet cartridges, was mandated in California when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed that state’s Crime Gun Identification Act in October 2007.

Starting in 2010, all new models of semiautomatic handguns sold in California must be microstamped by the manufacturer. That means internal mechanisms of the gun will be microstamped so that information identifying the make, model and serial number of the weapon is transferred to the cartridge when the gun is fired.

Having such precise information is a huge boost to law enforcement’s ability to trace guns used in crime. Instead of relying on the old methods of matching unintentional cartridge markings left by guns, microstamping immediately identifies the particular gun in much the same way a VIN number identifies a particular car. Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort supports microstamping and has begun work toward a similar law for Wisconsin. Legislators and law enforcement officials received background information at briefings WAVE held in Madison and Milwaukee in March. State Representative Leon Young has drafted legislation and expects to introduce it when the legislature reconvenes.



Example of a cartridge microstamped with specific information identifying the gun

Photo courtesy Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence.

Postcard Campaign Continues Support Background Checks on All Gun Transactions

Nearly half of all gun transactions in Wisconsin occur in the “secondary” gun market with no background check, no identification required, and no record of the sale. These unregulated sales are legal, even though they create a source of guns for young people, felons and others prohibited from purchasing a gun from a licensed seller in the “primary” market.



The vast majority of state residents agree that background checks should be required for all gun transactions. Hundreds of WAVE’s supporters are participating in our statewide postcard campaign to make sure legislators hear from the people on this issue, not just from the gun lobby. The cards urge support for a commonsense solution: applying uniform standards to all gun sales and transfers.

To join the campaign send an email to



*wave@WaveEdFund.org
or call (414) 351-WAVE*

“...a well-regulated militia...”

Upcoming Supreme Court Decision Will Address 2nd Amendment Issues

For the first time since 1939, when the Supreme Court held that the purpose of the 2nd Amendment is to “assure the continuation and render possible the effectiveness” of state militias, the justices this summer will decide on a case that is directly related to the 2nd Amendment.

Supporters of reasonable gun regulations argue that the 2nd Amendment’s “right of the people to keep and bear arms” does not trump a community’s right to exercise prudent public safety measures when it comes to firearms. That makes good sense...to most of us.

Extremists from the gun lobby, however, are hoping that this case will confirm their long-held belief that the 2nd Amendment allows just about anybody to possess or carry any gun, anywhere.

Local and national gun violence prevention organizations, including WAVE Educational Fund, closely monitored the oral arguments heard by the court in March.

“We can’t predict with certainty what the court will decide,” said WAVE Executive Director Jeri Bonavia. “Quite possibly, the outcome will be limited in scope, and we will maintain our right to have reasonable controls on firearms. Although there could be a symbolic shift in the interpretation of the 2nd Amendment, it doesn’t appear that this particular case will result in a sea change of any sort. Regardless of the court’s ruling, we will continue our efforts for commonsense solutions to gun violence.”

We’ll keep you posted. Visit www.WaveEdFund.org for updates.

With Great Appreciation to Those Who Support the Work to Prevent Gun Violence in Wisconsin

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\$10 Donation Benefits WAVE & the Brady Campaign

Get Involved... What You Can Do to Help

Host a Gathering to Benefit WAVE

- » Invite your friends and colleagues to learn more about commonsense solutions to gun violence and how they can support prevention efforts in your community

Join the Campaign for Background Checks

- » Details on page two; call or email for postcards

Donate

- » Make a donation to WAVE Educational Fund
- » Sign up at *Pick 'n Save* for the Advantage We Care Program and WAVE receives a donation equal to 1% of your purchases; our number is 921575



- » Call (414) 351-WAVE
- » Email wave@WaveEdFund.org
- » Visit www.WaveEdFund.org

Thanks to Everyone...



**WAVE'S
FREEDOM FROM
GUN VIOLENCE
DINNER & AWARDS**

Was a Great Success!

Our inaugural awards ceremony in November was a tremendous evening as supporters packed the room at the Hilton City Center in Milwaukee. Thanks to everyone who attended and to all the WAVE supporters who couldn't be there. Honored for their contributions to gun violence prevention were:

Creating a State of Peace Leadership Award
Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle

Gun Violence Prevention Partner Award
Milwaukee County D.A. John Chisholm

Rita Martinez Community Activism Award
Cynthia Martinez

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