

## **Killings and Protests**

The past week or two has given me more than enough material for an article, I'm not sure which topic to address first. As we all know, there was a terrible shooting in Las Vegas with at least 58 people killed and 515 injured which attending a country music concert. I found the words "our thoughts and prayers are with you" as rather meaningless because that is what is said after all mass killings. Although I doubt it will happen, it is time for our country to address the issues related to mass killings. Apparently the killer had no religion, no beliefs and no political views, so it cannot be called a terrorist attack. And the NRA has recommended that bump stocks be banned. I find this a rather poor stance from the NRA. As they have said many times in the past "guns don't kill people, people kill people". Assuming that is valid, than why ban bump stocks because bump stocks don't kill people. Before you quit reading because you think I am against the Second Amendment, please read the exact text of that Amendment "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." While at the VFW last week, a friend and I discussed this Amendment and he indicated that it included the right to overthrow the Government. It does not, the closest in the Bill of Rights is in the First Amendment where we have the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. Speaking of mass killings, in the Ten Commandments which according to the Torah or Old Testament was given by God to Moses included "Thou shalt not kill".

Speaking of the First Amendment, other incidents compel me to address them, the protest of some NFL players and their issue as stated by Colin Kaepernick to protest police brutality and the inequality that people of color in the United States face. The players decided to kneel rather than sit because it is a respectful gesture, similar to a flag flown at half-staff to mark a tragedy. Our First Amendment guarantee that right. The same Amendment guarantees the Vice President the same right to protest by leaving a football game. I find it rather ironic that he chose the game where Peyton Manning was being inducted into the team's ring of honor. I believe the former Super Bowl winning quarterback is more well-liked in Indiana than the former governor Mike Pence. Just remember that forced respect is the same as no respect.