

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT
A New Face For An Historic Community
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The tragedy of Newtown's families is a tragedy we weep for collectively. It is an attack on our collective future, for these bright, innocent youngsters had the potential for new discoveries, new inventions, new thoughts and theories, leadership, happiness, joy, parenthood. Newtown's loss is our very own loss to a future requiring inventive spirit, joy of learning, friendship and growth.

Newtown. As we've come to understand through the confusing news articles in these days immediately following the murder of these children, we have had occasion to think of our own children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors. We once again find the Columbine's of our heritage to bring renewed focus on the fragility of these children, our lives, our purpose in living.

Newtown. Where George Washington camped following the Battle of Trenton and his famous Delaware Crossing in order to help craft a future, where, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." These are the entitlements granted from our forefathers, many of whom shed their blood, lost their property, their fortunes so that the generations here would know only opportunity.

Newtown. As Newtown reverberates throughout the country, bringing shock and sadness to those learning of the tragic mass shootings, "Newtown" should now be the final battle cry for recognizing that our children, all our children, deserve the safety of all our social institutions. That our children deserve the respect and focus of all our families.

Does it take a village? I believe that clearly, it does. Until gun laws secure the control, the limitations, the elimination of assault weapons and other weapons, I suggest we demand the installation of safety measures in our schools just as we do in the courts. To look at statistical chances of risk as these events appear on the rise, we cannot look askance. We must look realistically at the dangers inherent in our society as they remain today.

Newtown. Let us act to demand our legislators immediately ban the sale and distribution of assault weapons. Let us demand our policymakers craft legislation to limit, to prevent the sale of these weapons and to punish those who will seek to possess them.

Let us be that village which serves to preserve its posterity through its young generations. Let us be that generation, guarding our birthright to bring our children into the world, a world of love, of kindness, of protection from those who would do us all harm.

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