

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “TEXAS BRAVE?”



As an alternative to another horrible mass slaughter of school children, let us imagine a more joyful future in which the People of Texas have more clearly defined their concept of bravery and their relationship with guns.

“Texas Brave” says that while you have a right to responsibly own a firearm, you are also brave enough to go about your daily life without bearing the burden of its responsibility, leaving it safely secured at home, where it’s most needed. And, Brave Texans have an equal right to avoid the responsibility of holding surplus weapons by destroying them, symbolically, in a public place. Along with offering up thoughts and prayers to the spirits of the children who were brutally murdered by such weapons, these surrendered guns are welded with other ugly killing machines into magnificent artistic sculptures of tolerance and remembrance. The monuments become grim, rusting reminders of the intolerant gun violence once suffered by children.

Seeking to create “Gun-Safe & Sane Zones” as a local exercise of communal civic courage, an all-Texas competition allowed the young people in each community and county to design and display their own expressions of creative art in sculptures made from “stacking the arms” of useless weapons. By expressing their self confidence in the abilities of their own generation, young Texans were given a physical way to confront their fears and to release their grief at every civic crossroad in Texas. Arising from despair and connecting with others, these young people will find unity of purpose in an alternate tomorrow, one of their own imagination, creation, and choice. Our children will demonstrate the leadership ability to peacefully self-govern, and they will provide a more joyful life for their children, for such is the ultimate labor of all parents, everywhere.

Texas Brave. Just as one Texan must trust that the driver of the approaching truck on the other side of the endless double yellow lines that narrowly divide thousands of miles of long and lonesome rural highways (while closing at 150 miles an hour within one degree and one second of head-on certain death) is legally responsible, licensed, registered, and insured, brave Texans must also be able to equally trust that the person bearing a firearm in their presence and that of their children is not a danger to the community.

A gun doesn’t grow a boy into a man, nor does it make a Texan Brave. When used by boys as destructive toys in make-believe games of violence, guns allow cowards to become bullies and troubled kids to become crazed killers, who act out make believe games without hope or future. Labeled as “evil” and prosecuted for capital murder, these lost children cause unaccountable carnage that cannot be compensated for, and they inflict unimaginable terror on other children. Checking out with their own personally designed signature blaze of glory, these young people can now live stream their escape from the insanity of the culture of gun consumerism they were born into. This insanity results from purposeful corporate advertising and political corruption that promotes a senseless culture of fear, intolerance, hatred, and retribution to generate profits by selling more guns, which produces less security. To repeat this cycle, endlessly, is the very definition of insanity.

Brave Texans acknowledge their constitutional responsibilities by voluntarily paying an insurance premium when purchasing guns, ammunition, weapon accessories, training, violent gun entertainment, etc., to fund statewide no-fault liability coverage for the licensed owners of registered weapons. Naturally becoming the only “Well Regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State” required in Texas, these brave, trained, and tested volunteers can be digitally requested to aid local and state authorities during emergencies. Unregistered weapons and unlicensed owners do not have no-fault protection, and they are subject to personal liability and legal presumptions of negligence in civil and criminal proceedings.

Texas Brave personifies an earned self-confidence of character and training, as an essential element of the mutual trust and responsibility that courageous and capable gun owners recognize and respect in each other. This personal and collective bravery unifies the rights and responsibilities of the Second Amendment right to bear firearms with the Ninth Amendment reserved Rights of Liberty, to ensure that the Due Process and Equal Protection of the Law of the Fourteenth Amendment extends to all the People of the United States of America, in every state (2nd+9th=14th). The unifying strength of common bravery signifies that the People Preserve their Consent to be Governed, as they assert the ultimate power of the People over the State, as expressed in the Tenth Amendment.

William John (Billy Jack) Cox, a native Texan, served 50 years in the U.S. justice system, helping to establish the first Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission in California, writing the Policy Manual of the Los Angeles Police Department, and writing the Role of the Police in America for President Nixon’s National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals. As a public interest lawyer, he prosecuted The Holocaust Case against the deniers, represented a “secret client” in publishing the suppressed Dead Sea Scrolls, and he sued the United States government alleging that it no longer represents the people that elect it. He retired as a supervising trial counsel for the State Bar of California to write books about history, philosophy, political, and mathematical matters. His professional biography <https://williamjohncox.com/Biography.pdf>, and a brief history of his family, The Coxes of Texas <https://williamjohncox.com/TheCoxes.pdf>.