

Episode 147-- Honoring Coach Beigel with Action -- and Camp

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SPEAKERS

Linda Beigle Schulman, JJ Janflone, Kelly Sampson



JJ Janflone 00:08

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Kelly Sampson 00:37

Hey everybody. I'm JJ and I'm Kelly. And together we host Red, Blue and Brady which is this podcast.



JJ Janflone 00:43

Yes. Welcome, everyone.



Kelly Sampson 00:45

Yeah. Welcome and we want to give it extra special welcome to today's guest, Linda Beigle, Schulman who is making her podcast debut. This is her first ever podcast interview.

But I have to say you wouldn't be able to tell because she did amazingly.



JJ Janflone 00:59

I mean, yeah, she Linda was a pro from start to finish, I think especially maybe because she was talking about something really personal, which was the life and legacy of her son Scott, who was killed in the Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018.



Kelly Sampson 01:13

Yeah. And it was really an honor to get to know Scott and his character through Linda, and I really think listeners will be motivated to get involved in work to prevent gun violence after hearing her speak about what she's doing to honor her son. She motivated me.



JJ Janflone 01:28

Me too.



Kelly Sampson 01:31

Linda, can you please introduce yourself?



Linda Beigle Schulman 01:34

Sure. Hi, I'm Linda Beigle Schulman. I'm the mother of Scott Beigle, who was the teacher and cross country coach who was murdered in the Parkland massacre on February 14 2018. I can tell you a little bit about Scott, if you'd like.



JJ Janflone 01:49

Yeah, please do.



Linda Beigle Schulman 01:50

Scott was Scott was humble. Scott was super private. Scott was sarcastic with amazing dry humor. And you know, when I think about Scott, I really have to tell you that Scott was

the really the epitome of the golden rule. Scott treated others as he wanted to be treated. And he taught his classes as he would have liked to be taught. I just say it really makes me so proud. When I when I think about the fact that he really against all odds, did life the way he wanted to be treated taught the way he wants it to be taught. You know, a story that just shows some of this. I asked Scott to go to the pet store and buy some pet food for us. I had two dogs at the time. And Scott was living at home. He wasn't off to college yet. And I asked him to go to the pet store to buy some dog food. He calls me up from the pet store and he said, Mom, there's a five and a half month old dog here. Okay. He said, The dog is here. The dog is beautiful. And you know what happens Mom, the dog is five and a half months old. We really need to buy this dog. I'm like no way. I have two dogs. Okay, I have two dogs in the house already. We're not getting another dog. There's no way it's not happening. Okay. So he goes back a week later to the same pet store. He bought the pet food for me that I asked him for. He goes back a week later. And he calls me on the phone. He goes, Mom, that dog is still here. Now the dog is five months and one week old. And you know, nobody's gonna buy this dog. We need to get this dog. Scott, I said, No, it's not happening. I have two dogs. I don't need another dog. He goes back the third week. And he calls me again. I said, I'll tell you what, this is what I'm going to do. I'm going to send Dad I'm going to send Dad I'm going to send Dad, let dad see the dog knowing full well that Michael will never say yes. There's no way. Okay? I get a call from Mike. Lynn, you really have to come down here. I'm like, Mike- no, no, you really have to come down. And long story short, because we do have limited time. Baxter is now 13 years old. He's the most loving gentle dog in the whole world, that Scott and I still have Baxter and he better be immortal.



JJ Janflone 04:06

You know, it just it seems like he's the sort of person who everybody would have wanted to have as a teacher would have wanted to have as a coach would have wanted to have as a friend. So I really appreciate you like sharing your son with all of us. It's it's, we really appreciate it. Even getting to know him, you know, through you.



Linda Beigle Schulman 04:25

I love sharing about Scott, you know, it's it keeps me going. It keeps me going being able to share about him. You know it when people say, Oh, I'm so sorry. And you know, when you're on the other side, when your you're on your side and you're you're talking to someone like me who's lost my son, especially to a murder, you know, and you you don't know what to say I find that people on that side just don't know what to say. And I say oh no, it's really okay. Because I don't mourn Scott's death I celebrate his life. So talking about Scott for me, is really just another way of celebrating his life.



Kelly Sampson 05:01

I was also wondering to that end if you wouldn't mind sharing a little bit about what Scott was like as a coach, and kind of what we're his messages there?



Linda Beigle Schulman 05:09

Well, it's easy. The first days that Matt is cross country team, he was very honest. And he told them that he had never poached cross country runners before. He said, I'll make a pact with you. And I know this from the team, the team shared with me, he said, I'll make a pact with you. He said, If you teach me all about cross country running, I'll teach you about life and those cross country boys and girls loved coach Beigle, they called him coach Beigle. And the just run faster story is, is a little bit I mean, it's Scott, the team had just finished a race. And they had lost it just by a couple of seconds. And they were they were really, they were devastated. It was a really big race, something they really, really wanted to win. And the boys went up to Scott, and they said, Coach, you know, we've done everything you've asked us to do, we've done it all, what more can we do to win the next race? They said, he looked at them. And he said, "Just run faster." And it just broke everybody up. And to this day, on the team apparel, whether it's a shirt, or whatever it is, they always have "just run faster." Whether they say coach Beigle says, it's always just run faster. Even when we do the run for Beigle that we've continued to do, which I'll tell you about in a moment. On the side of the sleeve, we always say it always says just run faster. That's kind of the motto that they've taken away. You know, five days after the massacre, the team themselves held their first run for Beigle. And I don't know what they were expecting, but they definitely weren't expecting over 1000 people to show up, I just can't begin to tell you how overwhelming that was for me. You know, they said you want to speak? And I really, it was just finding the words was unbelievable. But you know, I told them, you know, I thanked them and, and thanked them over and over and I was totally showered with their love and support. And to this day, I still receive letters from Scott's students from Scotts team players, I keep in contact with them. And you know, they've just become a part of, you know, a part of my life. Maybe they, they still get pieces of Scott through me. But I wonder if it would be okay. If I actually read an excerpt from one of the letters that I got, if that's okay with you. It was a long letter, I just have two paragraphs that I think really sum it up. Is that okay?



JJ Janflone 07:45

Yeah, of course,



Linda Beigle Schulman 07:46

It says, "To whomever is reading this letter, my name is Diego Viera, I am writing this letter because I've been assigned a homework assignment to express our gratitude to a past teacher that affected us positively. When I read the instructions, the only teacher that came to mind was Scott Beigle. I can't explain how much having him as a teacher has affected me. But with this letter, I'll try my best to do just that. I hope that this letter doesn't sadden you in any way. And if that's the case, then I hope you can forgive me for bringing up these difficult emotions. From this point forward, I'm going to be writing as if I was directing towards Mr. Beagle, because of you now I'm a senior that's about to graduate with good grades and wants to study video game programming so that I can make something that will make others happy, something that can be there for people that might not have someone in their lives to be there. When things get difficult. I want to change the world for the better. And all of that is thanks to you. To be honest, this whole letter was just an excuse to tell you one thing. I will never forget the vast impacts you've had on my life, you became a hero for me and for 1000s of other students and parents. Because of you. There are many parents that didn't have to say goodbye to their children. And that's something I can only describe as legendary. So with every cell I have in my body, I just want to thank you for everything." That Scott, that's what Scott, that's part of the legacy that Scott's left. And that's just one of the letters, I can't begin to tell you all the letters I get from the parents who say I want to share this with you. My son wrote his essay for college about Coach Beigle...



Kelly Sampson 09:36

I mean, again, thank you for sharing that with us. Because it's important to know, you know, not just reduce people and not just reduce cut to how he passed but also how he lived and I think you get a real sense of that from what you shared. For sure.



Linda Beigle Schulman 09:51

Yeah, we have we have to celebrate his life. We don't have to mourn his death because he's not coming back, but we're going to keep him alive.



Kelly Sampson 09:58

And this is the part that JJ and I really, really hate part of why you're here. And part of why we're talking about this is because we're trying to prevent gun violence. And you kind of alluded to it a little bit about how, you know, a lot of parents did not have to say goodbye to their children, because of your son, and because of what he did on February 14. And to

the extent you're comfortable, I'm wondering if you could tell us a little bit about what happened and what Scott did on that day.



Linda Beigle Schulman 10:29

So Scott was in it was February 14, actually 1300 days ago, and Scott was in his classroom, and the fire alarm went off. And so when the fire alarm goes off protocol is all the students get up and get out of the classroom. And they know that there are two ends of the hall, there are stairwells. So all the kids from the entire school Scott was on the third floor, went got up and got up and went out to go to the stairwells to get down to get out because there was a fire alarm. And they probably all thought it was a fire drill. And as a matter of fact, they had had a fire drill that morning. So it was a little weird that they were having another one in the afternoon. Pretty soon, they realized that it wasn't a fire drill, there was an active shooter. So at that point, if you could imagine you have all of the students in the hallways trying to get down the stairwell, and then all of a sudden, they're hearing active shooter, active shooter, and they had to get back up, they weren't going out, they had to get back into the classrooms. protocol would have it that and Scott was in his classroom that he locked the door and not go out. It didn't matter. Just lock the door. He went against protocol, he opened his door, he got in as many students as he could. I was told 31, we just don't know for sure, but he got in as many students as he could. And when he went to close the door to keep them safe, he actually came face to face with the active shooter and he was shot six times within three seconds from five feet away. And that's actually what happened that day. And I happen to know that for a fact, because I did see the video. After begging and begging, I did get to see the video. So, you know, when people say, you know, Scott was a hero, he was a hero. He was a hero that day. But I honestly believe that I didn't even realize Scott's really been a hero for a good part of his life, a good part of his adult life. And, you know, I don't think if he did it any different, he would ever be able to look in the mirror at himself. That was Scott, he that was something that you just had to do. And he did.



JJ Janflone 12:53

I can't imagine seeing the video and having to go through that. So you know,



Linda Beigle Schulman 13:00

JJ, I had to see the video because there are so many different stories. And you know, the students also one of the students, I won't mention names, but I mean, one of the students said, you know, they close Scott's eyes, another student said, you know, Scott said this in

his last breath, you know, another student. And you know, it's not that they made it up. I believe under that duress. That's really what they believe that that is really, you know, so you can't say, Oh, they didn't tell the truth. That's really what they believe. So, and I, I spoke many times with actually the officer who when I went down to Florida, when this was happening, we got down to Florida, and we were put in a Marriott and it was like a holding room. And one of the police officers that I met, his name was Zack. I mean, he will forever be in my heart and vice versa. And he promised me that he and I still you have to understand, I didn't know what was going on. And I was convinced because I'm the perfect person for denial. I was convinced Scott was okay. He was just someplace and he didn't have his ID. And he always left his, you know, his wallet in the car. I know that for a fact. And so he was someplace but Zack promised me he would always tell me the truth. And to this day, he has always told me the truth. And I told him I begged him I said that the only thing I want to do is I wanted to see the video and he couldn't show me the video. He could not. I mean, and there was no way and there was no way that I was going to you know, ask him to do something that he could lose his job. But, you know, I continuously asked and asked and asked, and I was given permission at one point to see it. And I wanted to know so I do know, you know, I never really got to say goodbye to Scott I did not. And so that was really I needed to see what happened. I needed to see what was real?



JJ Janflone 15:00

Well, you're very tough.



Linda Beigle Schulman 15:02

Yeah on the outside. So tough on the outside, you have no idea.



JJ Janflone 15:06

Well, I think that that leads into one of the things that I really wanted to talk to you about, which is because unfortunately, as part of our work, we do talk to a lot of parents who have had their children taken from them. And there's no there's no like roadmap for that grief after and, and so if you're comfortable, you know, I would love if you could sort of share how just like living and surviving is after something like this?



Linda Beigle Schulman 15:32

Well, for me, I had choices. I really, you know, I had to make choices. And I think the

choices were made pretty much I would say, maybe even the night or two before Scott's funeral, I knew I had to speak. And I knew everybody was totally devastated. And, and I was, and probably still am the most devastated, and the one person who doesn't show it in the same way other people do. So I had to make a decision. And I decided that I was going to get up there at Scott's funeral. And I was going to do something that would be something that Scott would super appreciate. So if I may just backtrack a little I'll explain to you how I get through this. When I say I could mourn Scott's death or celebrate his life. So I'm going to share a story. When Scott was seven, and he wanted to go to summer, sleepaway camp because his sister had gone there the summer prior and everybody made such a fuss over it. He said, Mom, I really want to go, but I can't. What do you think you can't? He said, Well, they said that I have to write letters, five days a week home, and I don't want to do that. So what do you mean? He said, I'm not going to go to camp if I have to write letters. So I said, Scott, I said, I tell you what, I have an idea. And so what I did was I went out and I bought now you have to remember this was years ago. Okay, Scott was murdered. He was 35. And we're now going back to when he was 7. I went out and bought one of those plastic. It was a plastic blue lunchbox. Okay. And I had Scott written on it. You know, you know what I'm talking about, they have them today. I'm sure they're more modern, but it was a plastic one. I said, Scott, this is what we're going to do. I went and I got stationery that was literally Bubble Bubble in. How is camp? It would say great. Not so good. I want to come home, you know what I mean? And he all he had to do was check them off. It would say, you know, how is the food? Good, bad. I love it. You know, and it was you know it, things like that. So I said to him, I said this is what we're going to do. I'm going to give you the stationery, you can mark off the bubbles if you want to. I'm going to give you envelopes. I'm going to address the envelope. All you have to do is put this stamp on it. And you must write Scott. And then you fold it this way you put it in the envelope. Look what I'm teaching my son at seven. And so it looks like that you wrote a letter. And all you have to do is lick the envelope and send it to me. Now there's a reason for this story. So Scott said, that's great. I can do that. It was pretty much pre done. All he had to do was sign his name.



JJ Janflone 18:15

It's Mad Libs.



Linda Beigle Schulman 18:16

Right? Exactly. Exactly. even easier. Okay? So two weeks before the massacre my husband and I were going down to Florida to visit the family because my whole family lived in Florida except for us at the time. And right before I went down, I was going to get you know, suitcases or whatever I was going to get and I actually found Scott's lunchbox. I

actually found his lunchbox okay, so I opened the lunch box. And inside the lunch box was still the stationery with the bubble letters, the return address labels and a roll of those actually the stamp from them. We don't even want to know how much a stamp was at that time. And on that on the envelope mom and my name. Now, I went down I brought it I gave it to Scott because he came up to have brunch with us. I gave him his lunchbox and we cracked up and of course I made fun of him and started with so much fun to do. On February 13, the day before Valentine's Days, I got a letter in the mail. I actually got I thought it was a Valentine's card. Okay, I got this. I thought it was a Valentine's card. I opened it up. And sure enough, it was that stationery, but instead of checking off the bubble letters, it said dear and he wrote mother, it said the food is what I eat when I'm hungry. He was very sarcastic. He said the kids are a smaller version of adults. Okay. And then he wrote something like you know the thing I like best about camp he wrote the fact that no one in this family can make fun of me for two whole months. And he wrote a little bit more and he signed it Love, Scott. So of course I called him up right you know I again, this is February 13. I called him up. I said You got to be kidding me. You wrote more in this letter than you did in all of that, you know all of the letters you ever wrote, yada yada, we spoke we laughed. And you know, we always ended a phone call always with you know, I love you to talk to you tomorrow, I love you to talk to you, tomorrow. This one was I love you. I'll talk to you tomorrow after school. And the reason for the story is at Scott's funeral, I decided to answer his letter. So instead of getting up there and talking about all the stuff that I'm gonna miss, and that I love, and so on, and so forth. I wrote him a letter, I actually wrote Scott back a letter. And at that time, when I wrote the letter, and I stood up in front of all of those people, because there were so many people, we actually streamed it live, because he knows people all over the world from Camp counseling, I decided I was going to celebrate Scott's life and never mourn his death. And so that's really how I get through it. You know, don't get me wrong, because I miss Scott every single day, I miss Scott every single day, there's something that will always trigger something, okay, but, and there are days that it's hard to get out of bed. Because you think about it, those are the times you have really a lot of time to think. But my way of coping is by doing something to make a positive impact on others. So actually, hopefully, no other mother or parent or guardian ever has to have the pain I have, or I've had, or I will always have. And really, if you think about it, I mean, there's three words that I tried to live by, and I am no saint, believe me. And that accomplishment eases pain. When you accomplish something when I accomplish something, okay. It eases the pain. It really does. And really, that's how you do it. You know, I hear so many people, I have two friends who have friends who have said to me, I really need you to help me Can you maybe talk to this mother or this mother? Because she's just she can't get out of bed. You know, you have to you have to find something that you can do that will make you you know, take the pain away for that moment and make you feel good about yourself. You know, I mean, when when when Pittsburgh happened if you remember the shooting in Pittsburgh, I think it was maybe six,

six or seven months after the Parkland shooting. I turned to my to my husband. And I said to him, You know what, we need to go down there. We need to go down there. Because if you think about it, Mike, I said to him, when we went through this, if somebody could have been there to tell us, you know, we've been through it, this is this is what happens. This is how you do this, this is this is how you feel it's okay to feel like this, whatever it is, I said maybe maybe we could help some people down there, I actually have a very good friend from Pittsburgh, who will be a friend of mine forever, who lost her two brothers. And that's how, and that's how it works. And and if you can help someone you know, or help someone get past this, or talk to somebody and figure out something that you can do. That's how you do it, you have to do because if you don't, it'll consume you.

K

Kelly Sampson 23:26

And one of the things that you know, you've done to kind of celebrate Scott's life, and we talked about it already is camp and how a big part that was in his life. And one of the things that you've done is start a fund to send kids to camp so they can have those experiences too. And so I was wondering if you could share with listeners a little bit about how you did that?

L

Linda Beigle Schulman 23:47

Yes, for sure. It was probably right after Scott's death. I said to Mike, we decided that we wanted to do some sort of a fund in Scott's memory. So there's two passions of Scott's and one was camp children, children of course, and camp, and the other was animals. So what we did was we started the Scott J Beigle Memorial Fund to send disadvantaged at risk children touched by gun violence, not necessarily shot themselves but touched by gun violence in some way. And we all know everybody unfortunately, in some way or another has been touched by gun violence these days, but touched by gun violence to summer sleepaway camp Scott's love with summer sleepaway camp. I mean Scott went into teaching because he needed I remember having the conversation with him. You need a job where you can have off on the summer you can't have a job quit it and then get another job at the beginning you know, after after camp. And we started it. We started the fund right after Scott's murder, and the first year what we did was we sent 54 children to sleepaway camp. We were so excited. We sent these kids to camp we followed, you know, we followed them we went up to visit the camps. At that time, it was only three camps. And then what happened was that we had the pandemic. And so during the pandemic, camps were closed. But one of the camps that we send children to, we helped them have a virtual camp. So we actually donated 400 packets we gave them \$25,000 from the fund, and donated 400 packets, so they could have virtual sleepaway camp. And it was it was unbelievable. This past year, what we did was we, we sent 165 children to

sleepaway camp, it's pretty amazing, because these children that we send to camp, you know, they're very, they're very vulnerable. And we want them to see the positive alternatives to guns and gangs, that's just what we want them to do, and gun violence. So you know, what we want to do, our goal is to get the children who are susceptible to gun violence to get them before it's too late. We want to show them the positive alternatives to guns and gangs, it's very important, we want to show them that they can just be kids like Scott, did. They, we want them to literally leave the world behind, like Scott did when he was seven, we want them to make new friends. We want them to learn to socialize, and to trust, that's very important. And we want them to feel safe and have no fear, you know, my motto, we all have the right to be safe. And we all have the right to live without fear. And these kids especially, they need to be able to get away from their environment, that's who we send, and to go to camp, to be kids to be themselves. And really, to learn how to be children and to live without that fear. And they know, they know, that when they go home, when they go back home, that we will send them back a year after year after year. Okay. And until they can pay it forward. And until they can actually, you know, take that role of counselor and training and counselor and and really give back to what they got. And I have to tell you, I go to visit the camps. I go to visit the camp. It is so amazing. It's probably the most selfish thing that we do that the fund does, because what I get out of visiting these camps is so unbelievable.



JJ Janflone 27:55

I mean, that's just amazing. I love this like army of little Scotts.



Linda Beigle Schulman 28:00

I don't know I it's probably I mean, it's wonderful. And it's so selfish because I can't begin to tell you what I get out of it. It's all in Scott's name. But I know that this is what he would want us to do. I can't mourn Scott's death, I have to celebrate his life, because his life was cut so short and he had so much to give. And you know what, we are all the recipients on the other end.



JJ Janflone 28:35

If we can dig down on that motto, you know that everyone deserves to be safe. Linda, can you tell us more about some of the activism that you've done as well to sort of make that come true.



Linda Beigle Schulman 28:46

I really started a month after the shooting. I went to Tallahassee, okay. I can tell you, you know about gun violence prevention, because that's really what I would like to preach, you know, if given the opportunity to speak, gun violence is it is an epidemic. Okay. And and it really we need to take we really need to not only curb it, we need to do something more about it. You know, it started like a month after the shooting. I went to I went to Tallahassee, and you know, I spoke in front of the Florida Senate Appropriations Committee and the Florida House Appropriations Committee. They wanted to propose legislation that teachers were going to be armed. Okay. I mean, to me and and that they could opt out. Okay. We're talking about gun violence, okay. For me, it was just ridiculous. And you have to understand that up until that point up until Scott's murder I had my opinions and Scott and I would share opinion about things all the time. But at that point, I literally was thrown in, okay. And everything Scott and I had ever talked about a shadow so on and so forth, really came totally bubbling to the top. Because now I had to do something about it, I mean, my son was murdered, okay, from gun violence and now instead of talking about it and talking about it, I had to get out there, you know, instead of talking to Scott and do something. So, again, I went down to Tallahassee, and I pleaded, I pleaded and, and I explained why, I pleaded, you cannot have teachers armed, you just can't, you can't arm teachers, I couldn't believe this is what they were going to do. And then the other thing was, you know, the red flag law that was also being considered. And, you know, I testified why it needed to be passed, it needed to be passed the red flag, if the red flag law would have been passed prior to February 14, okay, this massacre would not have taken place because the armed shooter, okay, would have not been able to do what he did. The red flag, well, they would have been able to go in to take out the weapons, I mean, and to make sure that that this could not happen. So, you know, I guess gun violence preventative activism is something that's become part of my life, you know, the same successes that we had in Florida. You know, I was basically at that point determined to bring to New York. If Scott could see me now. I mean, he'd be laughing his head off, because here's his mom, who's a gun safety activist, you know, Mom, where did that come from? I mean, I can hear you know, I think, at the time, you know, could have probably heard him, you know, people who believe in gun safety, also have to vote, you know, what I mean? Elections have consequences. We all know this. I mean, you guys are shaking your heads, I see you, you know. In the 2018 elections in New York, the New York State was flipped. And that opened the door for the passage and enactment of some of the most far reaching that safety legislation and that's what we're all we need safety legislation. There's so many people that somebody is on this side. How can you take a side for when it comes to safety? Safety is not Democrat or Republican safety is safety for everybody. You know, the in New York I'll brag, the red flag law was passed, the banning of bumpstocks was passed, prohibiting teachers from being armed was passed, expanding the timeframe for background checks. These are all really important things. And that's just to name a

few. And and I don't know how we do it. Do we shake everybody to wake them up? I mean, what do we do today? Yeah, people are just so dug in. And I'll tell you something, I'll share that I'm really, really proud. I'm really proud. In New York, there's they passed a ghost gun law I don't know if you know about the ghost gun law, you probably do look where you are you know, all that stuff. But I mean, they passed the ghost gun law. And so we're just waiting now for Governor Hochul to sign it. But think, can you think of anything else that that gun wise is so detrimental to people? And I'm going to tell you in brag that the Scott J Beigle Unfinished Receiver Act, passed in New York. And again, like I said, Governor Hochul is just we're just waiting for her to sign it. This is unbelievable. And not because it's named after Scott. Because this is a common, this is common sense. I mean, gun safety, I just, I just I eat sleep and drink it. Because I so believe in it. And Scott and I used to have conversations about it. But I will continue to speak forever whether it's at a university or college high school, a classroom. I don't it doesn't matter. They don't need to know who I am, my name. They just need to know that's the gun safety lady. Oh, God, that's that gun safety lady. Oh, she just doesn't shut up. That's that gun safety lady. Because that's what my it's totally my life. That's really a big part of my life right now. Because I believe everybody has the right to be safe. And I'm sorry. I went on and on. I apologize.



JJ Janflone 34:31

No, I, I want the gun safety lady to talk.



Linda Beigle Schulman 34:34

I believe that if I could speak in front of a crowd of people in the NRA. And I told them to erase their minds. And just to listen, I used to say to my kids, when I want them to say something to them, I would say would you do me a favor, erase your mind and just listen to my words. I'm convinced that if I could go to an NRA meeting, and I could say to everybody, I'm begging you just to erase your minds and hear what I have to say, Okay, I don't want to take away your guns. I just want you to be a responsible gun owner and I know that these people at the NRA really don't need to have a black mark against them that they wouldn't. I would assume that responsible gun ownership is something that they would want as well.



Kelly Sampson 35:13

And to JJ's point that is why we love hearing you talk I think you have a lot of important things to say.



JJ Janflone 35:18

Yes, please, please, please come back. And please keep fighting.



Linda Beigle Schulman 35:22

I love you guys. I thank you so much for for sharing and letting me be part of your world because it really means a lot.



Kelly Sampson 35:34

Quite a bit happened in gun violence prevention news this week. But to begin with, I'm honestly really angry because the White House has withdrawn the nomination of David Chipman as director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, more commonly known as the ATF. And really there's only one reason. At least 51 members of the US Senate just refuse to move the nomination of David Chipman forward since the National Rifle Association or as we all know it the NRA pushed Congress in 2006 to add a provision to the Patriot Act, requiring a Senate confirmation for ATF director. Only a single nominee has been confirmed to head the agency in the last 15 years. This includes nominees from President George W. Bush, President Donald Trump, and now President Joe Biden. The ATF needs a leader and it's honestly indefensible that some senators have allowed this to happen, and in doing so let their constituents down. A confirmed director for the ATF is a vital element to reducing gun violence. And it's shameful that misinformation and gun industry influence has played such a big role here.



JJ Janflone 36:46

Meanwhile, this week was the deadline for public comments to the ATF to show support or opposition for President Biden's executive order for the ATF to stop misbranded stabilizing braces. Now, this new rule would ensure that certain stabilizing braces saying stabilizing braces and air quotes here, when attached to a pistol are properly classified as changing that firearm to a short barreled rifle, and therefore subject to regulations on guns of that type. So for those of you who aren't aware of what these braces are, a stabilizing brace is a device that can be attached to a pistol to help a shooter stabilize their arm, while stabilizing braces are intended to aid shooters with disabilities, similar devices marketed as stabilizing braces have been used to turn pistols into illegal short barreled rifles, and enable easy, accurate and really, incredibly fast, rapid fire that makes the firearm significantly more deadly. This enhanced lethality makes them appealing to people like mass shooters, who knowingly take advantage of the legal loophole to obtain them. Now, I do want to be super clear, though, that this proposed rule in no way will

affect those individuals with disabilities who do use a stabilizing brace for its intended purpose.



Kelly Sampson 37:56

Yeah, and I'm really glad that you're able to sort of explain that because it's really devious, what's going on there. Finally, I just really want to highlight that it's September, which is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Nationwide, nearly 23,000 people die from gun suicide each year, while an estimated 63 people die from gun suicide every day. Suicide by gun accounts for the majority of gun deaths in the United States, as well as the majority of suicide fatalities, period. We'll be talking more about suicide prevention in forthcoming episodes. But please, if you or someone you know is contemplating suicide or in crisis, please call the free and confidential National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Or you can text the Crisis Text Line by texting home, H o m e to 741741.



JJ Janflone 38:58

Hey, want to share with the podcast? Listeners can now get in touch with us here at Red, Blue, and Brady via phone or text message! Simply call or text us at (480) 744-3452 with your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas, whatever! Kelly and I are standing by.



Kelly Sampson 39:12

Thanks for listening. As always, Brady's lifesaving work in congress, the courts, and communities across the country is made possible thanks to you. For more information on Brady, or how to get involved in the fight against gun violence, please like and subscribe to the podcast, get in touch with us at bradyunited.org, or on social @bradybuzz. Be brave, and remember: take action, not sides.