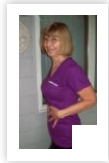


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## The Day After

Thursday, August 27, 2015

Thank you friends for your expressions of concern regarding yesterday's shooting in my little town. If it had not been reporters killed live on camera during an interview, 2 more violent deaths would not have made the national news.

It was so strange to see the overhead maps projected to show viewers where the tragedy occurred. I could almost see my house!

I remember when "going postal" made its way into our vocabulary as a term to describe a "disgruntled former employee" killing co-workers. That's reportedly the case in this incident. You're mad about something, so grab a weapon and take lives.

Once the killer was cornered and took his own life, I ventured out. The road to the bridge was still closed. I did my errands in the other direction. The Post Office was empty, only 1 employee, no customers, even the flag pole was bare – very eerie.

This area made national news for a tragedy once before. We are about an hour away from Virginia Tech. Remember that massacre? One of the reporters was a 2011 graduate. All 3 of my children are graduates also.

When I met my newly discovered relatives in Europe for the first time, I was explaining where in the USA I lived. I mentioned Virginia Tech. Did they hear about the shooting at the school?

They replied "which one?"

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## Member Comments About This Blog Post



**JANET552**

So many tragedies and yet we do nothing.  
2112 days ago



**MJZHERE**

I am glad you are ok and ran away from the sound. How can one's heart not go out to all those





affected? America needs God.  
2113 days ago



**MARYJEANSL**  
Such a horrible tragedy! I pray for all concerned. I didn't realize from your blog yesterday that you were in Roanoke. Sometimes it takes me a while...  
2114 days ago



**CD15641307**  
I'm glad you're ok and safe. To be honest, as someone living in the UK, "which one" would be my response too. More worryingly, when the Sandy Hook incident happened, a year 10 class I taught seemed to think that mass shootings were part of life in America.  
2114 days ago



Comment edited on: 8/28/2015 1:39:20 AM



**PHEBESS**  
People in other countries often ask us about the guns in the USA - we don't know how to respond, neither one of us has every owned a gun, nor do we plan to do so. It's just a whole different mindset. Or something.  
2114 days ago



**MJREIMERS**  
All this violence makes me sad! I'm glad that you are safe and have more a sense of security due to the outcome. Hugs!  
2114 days ago



**CD4114015**  
This WOULD truly be an experience for me that would make ME feel 'eerie, weird, I-don't-



know-what.' but it's a life-changer for sure! You are brave and **AWESOME** to share them with us....who knows when one of us will need to remember your blogs about the time...



2114 days ago



**ONEKIDSMOM**  
These episodes always put me on high alert. Too close to home... few of us are not connected to one or another. And yes, I remember the Virginia Tech one. And many, many others. Glad YOU are safe, sorry for your community.  
2114 days ago



**FORZACHANDMATT**  
So, so sad that they said "which one?"  
2114 days ago



**WALLAHALLA**  
So much senseless violence in our country.  
2114 days ago



**DOVESEYES**  
It raises a lot of questions, but I am sure unstable people will find a way to get guns no matter the laws.  
2114 days ago



**LIVEDAILY**  
Prayers for everyone involved.  
2114 days ago



**GINIEMIE**  
Yesterday when I saw the news, I prayed for the families of the victims and the shooter. I also prayed for the safety and well being of the community. I am pro background searches for anyone buying a gun. I know that we had to "get rid of" all of Erik's guns because as a victim of a traumatic brain injury he's considered unstable and not having right judgement so he can no longer have his collection of guns.  
There is really is no safety net for those suffering from mental issues nor is there a good way to identify them to protect others.



Unfortunately your family in Europe as in the rest of the world will here of all "our sins".





2114 days ago



**NUMD97**

The father of the deceased reporter said today that he "will not rest" until pressure is made to bear on the legislators to allow appropriate background checks to go forward OVER TIME as necessary, to delay the purchase of these weapons by unstable individuals.



I wholeheartedly agree. It's a first step. Second step: Mental health individuals, and others who work closely with these individuals who see signs of instability need to report it up the food chain.

This has GOT to change. And now. Before the next tragic event.  
2114 days ago



**SYLPHINPROGRESS**

"They replied 'which one?'"



An agonizing response.  
2114 days ago



**PHOENIX1949**



on

seems more and more elusive.



Sad when a location becomes known for tragedies. In 1966 a sniper at the Univ of Texas tower (main building) killed 14 people and wounded 32 others before being killed himself. A year later I worked in one of the quad buildings below the tower and professors in our department pointed out all the bullet holes on the exterior of the historic building and the Graduate Advisor I was secretary to spoke of pulling victims into the building. Another secretary in the building had been the one pinned behind a flagpole base during the entire incident.

When I was being introduced at my new workplace in 1972 in NC, many people immediately made comments about that incident and asked if I was there and/or did I know any of the people. I listened to a live radio broadcast and when it was over, knew 3 of the 14 killed (high school classmates who were visiting the campus) and 2 of those wounded (friends of my parents).

2114 days ago



**PRNCSCUP1-2FULL**

Which one. That breaks my heart. The national all day all the time coverage bothered me the most yesterday! I mean, of course the killings were horrific, but I can't help but feel for the families and loved ones having to hear the same news over and over. I think this super media coverage spurs other people to repeat horrible crimes too. The media was trying to interview any person they possibly could. I was wondering if you would be stopped by reporters as you took your run today!! Peace be with you and all of your neighbors!!



2114 days ago



**MISCHAKEO**

I am so sorry about that horrible event in your town. It is so sad.



2114 days ago



**WUMPASTAR**

So glad that you're safe, but those news, like all news of that kind, are breaking my heart.



2114 days ago



**NUMD97**

I am shocked, and feeling helpless as I always do after reading the latest senseless events that were yesterday's tragedy. This man with the "manifesto": If he were so sure he was correct, and he already registered a complaint to the EEOC claiming discrimination, why did he kill himself? But trying to make sense of a tragedy in and of itself is senseless.



I just wonder if all this publicity in general, not your specific event, is not fueling copycats. Before the age of instant media, this was not the norm apparently.

I do so worry for the fabric of our society, at home and abroad.  
2114 days ago



**GRACED777**

I am praying for you and your town. I am also praying for the gunman's relatives. Anger is an age-old way to deal with frustration and disappointment, but it's as wrong now as it was when Cain killed his brother Abel. I pray we learn to master it before it masters us again!



2114 days ago



**50YEARSAWIFE**

Such a tragic thing. My heart goes out to everyone affected.  
2115 days ago



**WATERMELLEN**

I can well understand that you're feeling the after shocks today.

It's so very tragic that so many people have access to guns. Actions taken in a moment of emotional turbulence that can never be remedied.  
2115 days ago



**DMEYER4**

I also grew up where a little boy was murdered by his cousin. It is really sad what the world is becoming. We can only pray and hope God keeps us safe. My heart goes out to the victim's families.  
2115 days ago



**CD15040802**

thank you for sharing these reflections. Life is precious and the willful killing of another shakes our world. I hope today brings some peace to you and town.  
2115 days ago



**SWEDE\_SU**

i know what you mean about living in a small place that no one has ever heard of, and suddenly it is in the news all over the world - think twisp WA, where we lost three firefighters last week; i live in the neighboring town, which was also under threat of fire at the time.

i still meet people who know where i grew up in queens because they had heard of kitty genovese and kew gardens.

and that is indeed a chilling answer: which one....so sad.  
2115 days ago



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