OPEN THREAD: A MOURNFUL VALENTINE [UPDATE]

[NB: Check the byline. UPDATE at the bottom. /~Rayne]

A year ago today, fourteen students and three staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida were killed by a lone 19-year-old gunman armed with an AR-15 rifle. More were injured.

Since then nearly 1,200 more children have died due to gun violence.

It's an American problem, to have so much freedom and an inability to responsibly selfregulate it even though our Constitution clearly calls for a "well regulated Militia."

The problem is as much money as it is guns. Money has been used to poison Americans' attitudes toward guns; money has been used to capture legislators to prevent regulation.

The vulnerability of our society to corporate influence and control in pursuit of money has now created an opportunity for asymmetric warfare. Information assaults were launched last year by foreign-controlled bot swarms to propel pro-gun messages and suffocate gun control messages.

And the GOP-led 115th Congress did nothing in response because they were bought by NRA money, infused by Russia.

Oh, pardon me — members of Congress who received much of the \$50 million in NRA campaign contributions in 2016 offered thoughts and prayers for the survivors and victims' loved ones last year as the blood of innocents coagulated and dried on the floor of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Stuff your thoughts and prayers sideways, you

useful idiots with your mouths flapping platitudes, you fifth columnists with your grasping hands out, greedy for more blood money for your next campaign. They are as helpful today as they were a year ago.

Don't think for a moment we can't see how you've obstructed the ability of Americans to defend themselves with adequate and timely gun control this past year. It's past time to fix your disloyalty to this country and its children and pass effective gun control legislation beginning with the House bills H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019.

This is an open thread. Keep all gun talk in this thread; if it drifts into other threads I will bin it. If such a threat bothers you, have some thoughts and prayers.

UPDATE - 2:45 P.M. ET -

This is a list of the members of Congress SplinterNews listed as offering up thoughts and prayers via Twitter a year ago after MSD-Parkland's mass shooting and who also received campaign contributions for 2016 from the NRA. I was looking patterns and I don't see one readily except for political party affiliation. The lone Democratic Party member to receive funds and offer platitudes was Tim Walz, now governor of Minnesota instead of a House rep.

Do you see a pattern in this besides a preference toward Class II and III senators — up for re-election in 2018 and 2020? Are there committee memberships relevant to these donations?

Senate:

Mitch McConnell (R-KY) - \$9,900 -II <-Majority Leader Marco Rubio (R-FL) - \$9,900 -III Rob Portman (R-OH) - \$9,900 -III Joni Ernst (R-IA) - \$9,900 -II Thom Tillis (R-NC) - \$9,900 -II

Dean Heller (R-NV) - \$9,900 -I $Jim\ Inhofe\ (R-OK)\ -\ \$9,450\ -II$ John Hoeven (R-ND) - \$8,450 -III Steve Daines (R-MT) - \$7,700 -II Ron Johnson (R-WI) - \$7,450 -III John Boozman (R-AR) - \$5,950 -III Todd Young (R-IN) - \$5,950 -III Mike Rounds (R-SD) - \$5,450 - IIJames Lankford (R-OK) - \$5,000 -III Bill Cassidy (R-LA) - \$4,950 -II Richard Shelby (R-AL) - \$4,950 -III David Perdue (R-GA) - \$4,950 -II Tim Scott (R-SC) - \$4,500 -III Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) - \$2,500 -II Ted Cruz (R-TX) - \$350 -I John McCain (R-AZ) - \$300 (RIP)

House:

Barbara Comstock (R-VA) - \$10,400 Mike Coffman (R-CO) - \$9,900Will Hurt (R-TX) - \$9,900 John Katko (R-NY) - \$9,900 Bruce Poliquin (R-ME) -\$9,900 Lee Zeldin (R-NY) - \$9,900Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) - \$7,450 Martha McSally (R-AZ) - \$6,500 <-Running for McCain's seat in 2020 Bill Schuster (R-PA) - \$5,950 Richard Hudson (R-NC) - \$4,950 Steve Scalise (R-LA) - \$4,950 Lamar Smith (R-TX) - \$4,950Ken Calvert (R-CA) - \$4,500 Barry Loudermilk (R-GA) - \$4,000 Robert Aderholt (R-AL) - \$3,500 Michael McCaul (R-TX) - \$3,500 Darin LaHood (R-IL) - \$3,000 Erik Paulson (R-MN) - \$3,000 Tom Reed (R-NY) - \$3,000Diane Black (R-TN) - \$2,500Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) - \$2,500 Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) - \$2,500 Rodney Davis (R-IL) \$2,500 John Ratcliff (R-TX) - \$2,500 Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) - \$2,500 Pete Sessions (R-TX) - \$2,500 Roger Williams (R-TX) - \$2,500 Mike Bishop (R-MI) - \$2,000

Bradley Byrne (R-AL) - \$2,000

Buddy Carter (R-GA) - \$2,000

Chris Collins (R-NY) - \$2,000

Mario Diaz Balart (R-FL) - \$2,000

Sean Duffy (R-WI) - \$2,000

Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN) - \$2,000

Tim Walz (D-MN) - \$2,000 <- Now MN governor

Bob Gibbs (R-OH) - \$2,000

Paul Gossar (R-AZ) - \$2,000

Sam Graves (R-M0) - \$2,000

Glenn Grothman (R-WI) \$2,000

Vicky Hartzler (R-M0) - \$2,000

Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) - \$2,000

French Hill (R-AR) - \$2,000

Bill Huizenga (R-MI) - \$2,000

Darrell Issa (R-CA) - \$2,000

Bill Johnson (R-OH) - \$2,000

Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) - \$2,000

Doug Lamborn (R-CO) - \$2,000

Luke Messer (R-IN) - \$2,000

Kristi Noem (R-SD) - \$2,000

Scott Perry (R-PA) - \$2,000

Robert Pittenger (R-NC) - \$2,000

Ted Poe (R-TX) - \$2,000

Tom Rice (R-SC) - \$2,000

Martha Roby (R-AL) - \$2,000

Mike Rogers (R-AL) - \$2,000

Todd Rokita (R-IN) - \$2,000

Peter Roskam (R-IL) - \$2,000

Dennis Ross (R-FL) - \$2,000

Austin Scott (R-GA) - \$2,000

Jason Smith (R-M0) - \$2,000

Elise Stefanik (R-NY) - \$2,000

Steve Stivers (R-OH) - \$2,000

Mark Walker (R-NC) - \$2,000

Jackie Walorski (R-IN) - \$2,000

Mimi Walters (R-CA) — \$2,000

Joe Wilson (R-SC) - \$2,000

Rob Wittman (R-VA) - \$2,000

Steven Palazzo (R-MS) — \$1,750

Mike Kelly (R-PA) - \$1,500

Steve Womack (R-AR) - \$1,500

Ralph Abraham (R-LA) - \$1,000

Lou Barlettea (R-PA) - \$1,000

Susan Brooks (R-IN) - \$1,000

Warren Davidson (R-OH) - \$1,000

Ron DeSantis (R-FL) - \$1,000 Louie Gohmert (R-TX) - \$1,000 Kenny Marchant (R-TX) - \$1,000 Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) - \$1,000 David McKinley (R-WV) - \$1,000 Dave Reichert (R-WA) - \$1,000 Tom Rooney (R-FL) - \$1,000 Daniel Webster (R-FL) - \$1,000