

## Why I Went to the March for Our Lives in Washington D.C.

Written by Nina Forsythe

Wednesday, 28 March 2018 12:05 -

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There was no question that I was going to a march to be counted among those who are calling for an end to the Wild West mentality regarding guns that has resulted in so much senseless slaughter in our nation. The only question was whether I would help swell the numbers locally or in our nation's capitol. I thought both the size of the crowd in D.C. and the number of sibling marches around the country were important to send a message to our elected officials. In the end, I thought the visibility of the D.C. march was marginally more important.

Am I glad I went! Not so much for the drop that I added to the crowd but for what I witnessed first hand and the effect it had on me. The first effect was due to the size and diversity of the crowd. There is nothing like being surrounded by hundreds of thousands of

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people from all over the nation streaming onto Pennsylvania Ave. with signs of all types focused on ending gun violence. Some signs were amusing and clever, such as “The Only Thing Easier to Buy Than a Gun is a Congressman” or “Thoughts and Prayers Are Not Bulletproof,” but the ones that moved me the most referred to victims of gun violence. Some of them listed the victims of Sandy Hook or Parkland; others were dedicated to a particular friend or family member. So many times, in the midst of the exhilaration of being in a huge crowd of people dedicated to change, I was brought up short by reminders of these innocent lives cut short while legislators gave nothing but excuses for their inaction and the NRA continued to push for ever laxer regulations. And I’m not ashamed to admit that I cried many times that day.

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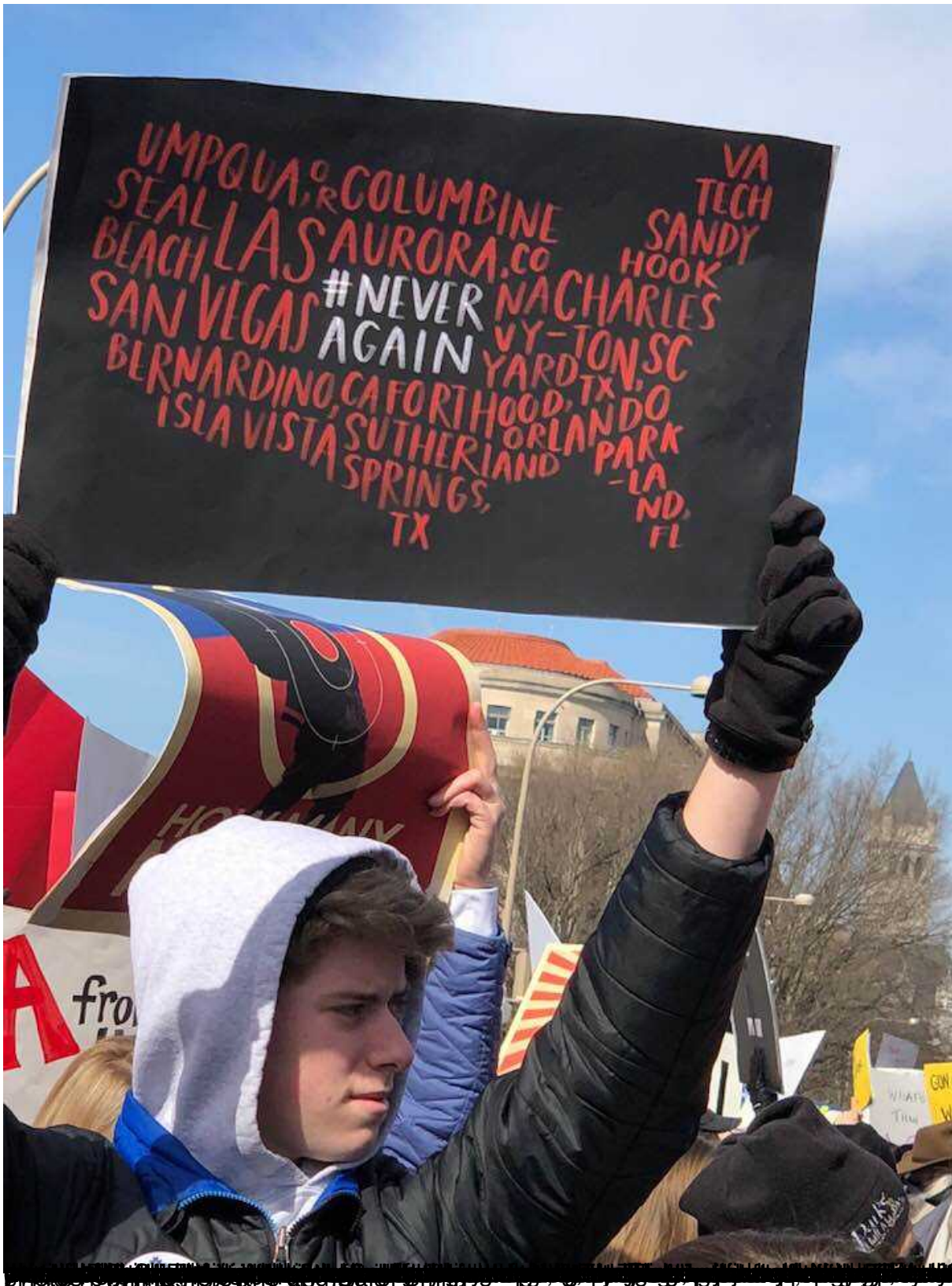


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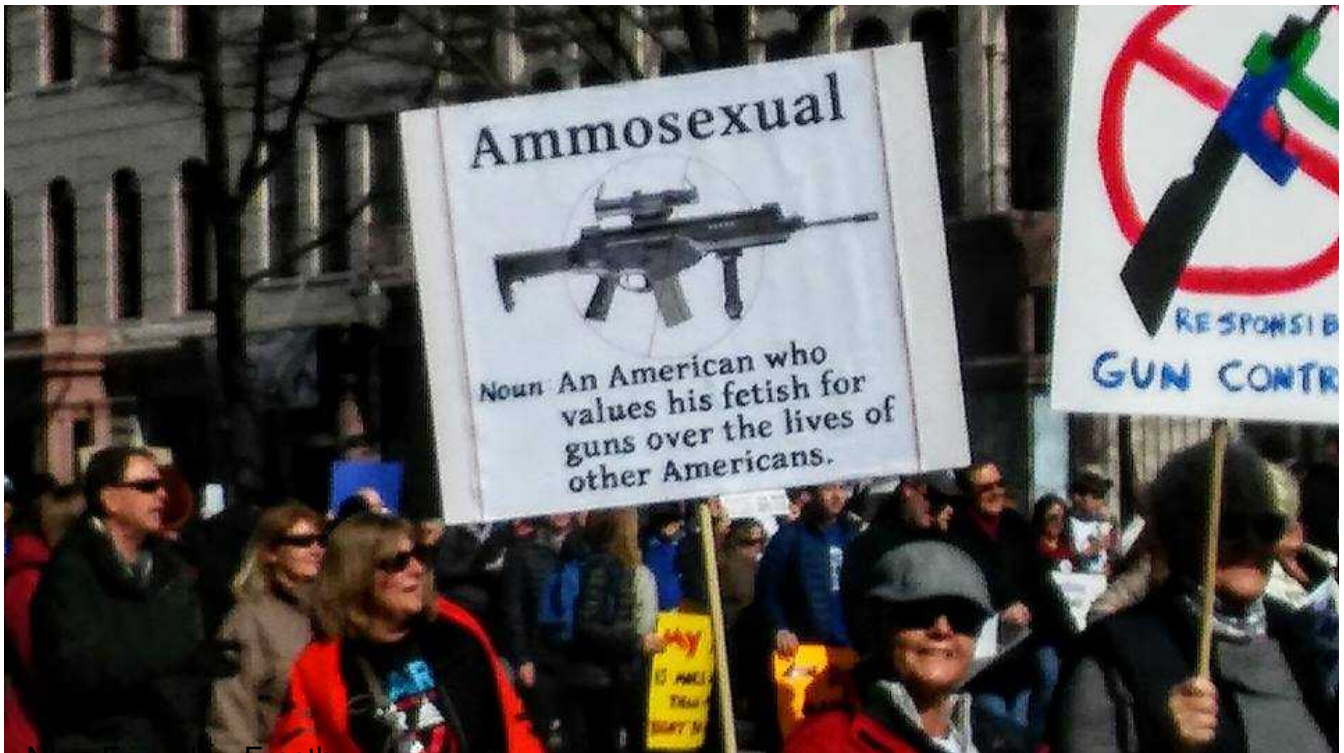


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--Nina Forsythe, Frostburg