

MARKSMEN' ⁶⁵

you for some marksmanship. The nation will benefit from more decent Marksmen. Just ask al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Meanwhile, let's not bother with the people totally opposed to preserving innocent life by ballistic means. They think with their glands and are never going to be receptive to history, facts or logic. Instead, we should focus on those citizens who retain some measure of objectivity and are willing to consider another perspective. Teach them the basic, time-honored skills of marksmanship.

Now, granted, not all shooters are really *good* marksmen, but that's beside the point. In fact, you needn't even be an active shooter to be a gun nut – er, Marksman – just someone who admires firearms. But we need to drop the “nut” aspect – the “N word” in the gun-rights debate, which tends to make non-gun people nervous, as in post office nervous.

So, the designation “Marksman” has a number of advantages, to wit:

- Marksman: it refers to precision, one who hits the mark.
- Marksman: it connotes competence, professionalism, and prestige.
- Marksman: it's generic. And it's respectable sounding.

“So, are you one of those gun nuts?”

“Well, I'm a Marksman. How about you?”

The high moral ground is carried upon the simple phrase.

Alan Korwin makes the same point: “We Marksmen have to hang together and support one another.... We're all in a struggle for our civil rights, and those who would disarm America's decent, law-abiding, honorable Marksmen have no honor and should be resisted as the threat to freedom that they are.”

The fact that you're reading *The Blue Press* means you're a gun owner (well, OK, maybe you just like the pictures). But far more likely you're a conscientious shooter and should not tolerate being called a gun nut. So you can do yourself and the rest of us Dillonites a load of good by changing your mindset and phraseology.

The next time a civil servant goes postal, or the next time a criminal commits a firearms felony, Action News will likely report, “A crazed shooter went on a rampage this afternoon.”

But we *might* hear, “A civilian marksman ended a deadly shooting spree this afternoon... film at 11:00.”

The next time you're debating an antigunner who slings “gun nut” your way, you can quietly respond, “America's Marksmen are decent people who do not appreciate intolerance from people like you who CLAIM to be peaceful.” Let that sink in a moment, just before you invite the anti to the range to learn first-hand about Marksmen. 



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