



Written by [Steve Bonta](#) on July 23, 2024

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A Day We Will Never Forget

July 13, 2024, was a day none of us will ever forget.

On that day, at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, what many of us had been expecting for years finally happened: They tried to assassinate Donald Trump. In a brazen assault carried out under the incredulous gaze of countless rally attendees and stupefied law-enforcement officials, an unknown 20-year-old, Thomas Matthew Crooks from nearby Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, climbed atop a nearby roof carrying an AR-15-style rifle. Frantic attempts to alert authorities went unheeded as Crooks crawled into position on the roof over the next several minutes and took careful aim at Trump, who was standing behind an unprotected podium a little over 400 feet away. Even when the would-be assassin began firing, it took several seconds to dawn on everyone, including Trump, what was happening. In what will live forever in the canon of unforgettable live news events, millions of aghast viewers saw Trump clutch at his ear as shots rang out and duck out of sight behind the podium, to be dogpiled seconds later by Secret Service agents. Behind him on the stands, chaos reigned; one man, a local fireman named Corey Comperatore, lay dead, killed as he shielded family members from incoming fire.

After more anxious moments, while the world watched the now-empty podium, Trump suddenly got to his feet, blood streaming across his face, surrounded by Secret Service agents. Before being hustled off to a waiting vehicle, he raised his fist defiantly, exhorting the crowd to fight on. A roar of approval and relief erupted from the crowd, and Trump was escorted away to deafening cries of “U-S-A! U-S-A!”

In the hours that followed, we all learned more details about the attack. Thomas Crooks had gotten off eight shots, one of which had grazed Trump’s ear. One fortuitous photo taken a fraction of a second before the impact caught the incoming projectile on film. But for Trump turning his head just before the shot, the bullet would have struck his skull and probably ended his candidacy and his life. It had been that close.

In hindsight, the only surprise on July 13 was that it had taken so long for something like this to happen. Concerns for Trump’s safety had been running high for years. His many enemies in politics, in the media, and in the so-called entertainment industry had been stoking the flames of hatred and violence since Trump’s first iconic escalator ride nearly a decade ago. Lurid images of Trump being stabbed and decapitated were proudly displayed by leftist hate-mongers, while Democratic politicians, from Biden on down, have made the association of Trump and MAGA with Hitler and Nazism almost cliché. The ever-incisive Babylon Bee, in a satirical headline, deftly encapsulated what all of us were thinking: “Party That Called Trump ‘Hitler’ For 8 Years Shocked As Someone Tries To Assassinate Him.”

Indeed, the years of coordinated hate rhetoric emanating from the Left have sown the seeds of violence, as we witnessed on June 14, 2017, at a congressional baseball game, and now have seen again on what is already being called “J13.” Regardless of the motives of Thomas Crooks, it is already becoming evident that more sinister agendas might have been at play. For one thing, Trump’s security detail on J13 appears to have been woefully, even willfully, inadequate. The supposedly zealous Secret Service inexplicably left the largest and most exposed roof in the immediate vicinity completely uncovered, while local law enforcement appeared to ignore repeated frantic attempts to call their attention to the man on the roof. Moreover, the assassination — had it succeeded — could not have come at a better time politically for Biden and beleaguered Democrats. Owing to his obvious decrepitude and the equally obvious coverup of his deteriorating mental state, Biden was under pressure from his own party to drop



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out of the race.

But the assassin failed, and Trump appears stronger than ever. Following the classical radical-left playbook, they first tried to destroy his reputation. Then they tried to take his assets and liberty. Now they have tried to take his life. Trump has emerged bloodied but unbowed, and his MAGA patriot movement along with him.



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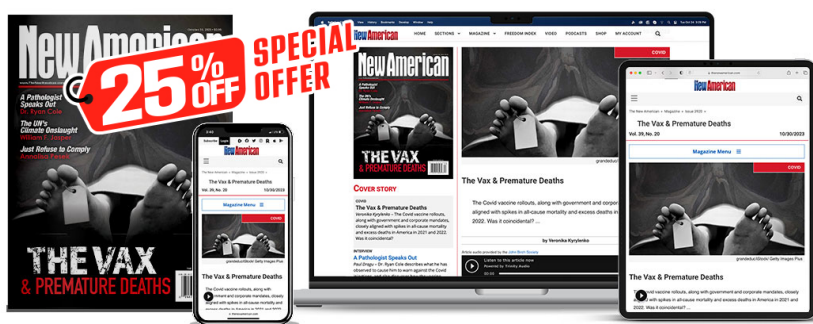
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