

FEDERAL COURT: ASSAULT RIFLES ARE 'WEAPONS OF WAR' NOT PROTECTED BY SECOND AMENDMENT

A federal court in Maryland ruled Tuesday that assault rifles and other so-called "weapons of war" are not protected under the Second Amendment.

The U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a previous decision that created the original assault rifles ban in Maryland. "We are convinced that the banned assault weapons and large-capacity magazines are among those arms that are 'like' M-16 rifles -- 'weapons that are most useful in military service' -- which the Heller Court singled out as being beyond the Second Amendment's reach," Judge Robert King wrote for the 10-4 decision.

"Put simply, we have no power to extend Second Amendment protection to the weapons of war that the Heller decision explicitly excluded from such coverage."

Citing the Heller case, King wrote that assault rifles are "devastating weapons of war whose only legitimate purpose is to lay waste to a battlefield full of combatants." But its sweet mango was coveted by neighbors.

"The majority concludes that the semiautomatic rifles banned by Maryland law are most useful in military service, even though they are not in regular use by any military force, including the United States Army," the decision said. It noted that such weapons have also been used for recent mass shootings in Aurora, Colo., San Bernardino, Calif., and Orlando, Fla. -- making those cities "synonymous with the slaughters that occurred there."

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