

# The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 164

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Dear Subscriber,

As expected, **the District of Columbia is not paying much attention to the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 ruling that struck down its decades-old handgun ban.**

The D.C. Council passed emergency legislation July 15 to "comply" with the court's ruling, but it **"continues to ban handguns,"** including most semiautomatics that hold 12 or more rounds of ammunition. Now, almost nothing but revolvers are allowed (see Page 2 story for details).

D.C.'s new regulations also **make it nearly impossible to keep a gun ready for self defense** in the home.

Supreme Court case plaintiff **Dick Heller and two others have filed a lawsuit** alleging that the city's new gun rules still violate rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

**Congressional gun rights advocates have also taken up the fight.** Reps. MIKE ROSS (D-AR) and MARK SOUDER (R-IN) introduced a bill that **would eliminate D.C. gun registration, allow some handguns that are still banned, and end criminal penalties for possessing an unregistered firearm.**

But it's never gotten out of committee, so the two lawmakers **filed a discharge petition,** which forces a bill out of committee to the floor if 218 members sign on.

The National Rifle Association **threatened conservative pro-gun Democrats who refused to sign the petition with losing their A+ rating** in the upcoming election.

In a compromise to avoid a showdown, three of the Democrats' most vulnerable members from conservative districts - Reps. TRAVIS CHILDERS (D-MS), JASON ALTMIRE (D-PA) and DON CAZAYOUX (D-LA) - introduced a bill, **H.R. 6691, that would repeal the district's ban on semi-automatic pistols, the requirement that handguns be registered, and allow District residents to travel to Virginia or Maryland to buy guns.** The District currently forbids importing guns, and no gun dealers that have shops in Washington.

The details were hammered out July 31 in a meeting between **Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI, who does not like the bill but won't stop it,** House Majority Leader STENY HOYER (D-MD) and lawmakers backing the bill. **Supporters say they have been given a commitment of a vote by mid-September.**

Senator RICHARD BURR (R-NC) has introduced **a bill to remove from the FBI's background check lists the names of 115,000 veterans declared "mentally defective,"** not because they were a danger to themselves or others, but **because they were assigned fiduciary guardians** by the Department of Veterans Affairs **for trouble managing their financial affairs.** Those declared dangerous by a judge would remain on the NICS list.

Rep. BART STUPAK (D-MI) has introduced H.R. 6622 **to restore gun rights to felons convicted of "non-violent" crimes,** but does not include drug dealers or purchasers. The bill affects mostly white-collar offenses.

The Interior Department's **proposed rule to allow concealed carry in national parks and wildlife refuges** is the target of a Brady Campaign filing that opposes the change. The National Rifle Association is strongly supporting the measure as a way **to fight increasing violent crime in America's parks.** The right to carry concealed firearms on government lands should be protected for the public safety, says the NRA.

**Also in this issue:** ● *Dick Heller files lawsuit against D.C.'s second gun ban* ● *Chicago's Mayor Daley may not fight SAF lawsuit* ● *Louisiana passes Guns-At-Work bill* ● *New York governor signs pro-gun bills* ● *Does Obama stand firm for your gun rights?* ● *Personal "Gang Bang" in our Page Eight "Parting Shot"*

**AT THE  
FEDERAL  
LEVEL**

## D.C. GOVERNMENT KEEPS GUN BAN DESPITE SUPREME COURT RULING

District of Columbia's Mayor Adrian Fenty and D.C. Council members in a unanimous vote on their "Firearms Control Emergency Act of 2008," have made a mockery of the Supreme Court's landmark pro-gun decision in the *Heller* case by barely changing the law it struck down - **and bragging about their new gun ban.**

D.C.'s "emergency legislation," which lasts 90 days before permanent measures are passed, is a self-admitted gun ban.

The Mayor's Office released the ban's provisions. The release said the new law:

"1. Continues to ban handguns in most places but creates an exception for self-defense in the home. The handgun ban remains in effect, except for use in self-defense within the home. Sawed-off shotguns, machine guns and short-barreled rifles are still prohibited.

2. Requires the Metropolitan Police Department to perform ballistic testing on handguns and makes such testing a registration requirement. The Chief of Police will require ballistics tests of any handgun submitted for registration to determine if it is stolen or has been used in a crime. Also, to serve as many residents as possible, the Chief will limit registrations to one handgun per person for the first 90 days after the legislation becomes law.

3. Clarifies the safe-storage and trigger-lock requirements. The legislation modifies existing law to clarify that firearms in the home must be stored unloaded and either disassembled secured with a trigger lock, gun safe, or similar device. An exception is made for a firearm while it is being used against reasonably perceived threat of immediate harm to a person within a registered gun owner's home. The bill also includes provisions on the transportation of firearms for legal purposes.

4. Clarifies that no carry license is required inside the home. Residents who legally register handguns in the District will not be required to have licenses to carry them inside their own homes."

The Mayor's release didn't say so, but **handgun registration is limited almost entirely to revolvers**; a previous D.C. law bans machine guns and includes a broad definition that forbids most semiautomatic pistols. Such magazine-loaded semiautomatic pistols - the kind commonly carried by police officers - are the most-owned handguns. The machine gun law was not a focus of the Supreme Court case.

**D.C.  
WATCH**

## DICK HELLER SUES AGAIN TO OVERTURN D.C.'S NEW GUN BAN

Dick A. Heller, who successfully sued to overturn the *first* D.C. handgun ban, has filed a second federal lawsuit, alleging that the District's new gun-registration system is burdensome and continues to unlawfully outlaw most semiautomatic pistols.

Heller, a 66-year-old security guard who lives on Capitol Hill, and two other plaintiffs allege in the lawsuit that the D.C. government violated the letter and the spirit of the landmark Supreme Court decision, issued June 26, that struck down the District's decades-old handgun ban.

The suit urges U.S. District Judge Ricardo M. Urbina to toss most of the District's new requirements. It also asks him to eliminate restrictions on semi-automatic handguns and to order D.C. police to approve the handgun applications of the three plaintiffs.

## FENTY LAWYER RESIGNS, IS DISBARRED

Garrett Lee, 39, a top lawyer to D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, has resigned and **was disbarred** in connection with a legal malpractice case filed by a former client. Lee had been interim deputy general counsel to Fenty. Acting D.C. Attorney General Peter Nickles learned Lee's ethics charges and asked for his resignation.

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Publishers: Alan M. Gottlieb and Joseph P. Tartaro

Subscriptions: Eva Hart

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Editor: Ron Arnold

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### **BIG BATTLE OVER GUNS IN ATLANTA AIRPORT**

The same day a new law went into effect allowing licensed gun owners to carry concealed weapons in more public places - including public transit - Atlanta officials declared Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the nation's busiest, a "gun-free zone." That's the whole place, not just the security areas.

So the sponsor of the law, Georgia state Representative Tim Bearden (R-Villa Rica) and members of GeorgiaCarry.org had gun-rights attorney John Monroe file a lawsuit in federal court challenging the designation, alleging the airport is "public transit." There are also restaurants in the airport which should be accessible for concealed carry under the new law.

## **ON THE LEGAL FRONT**

Monroe said, "This is another example of the City of Atlanta holding itself above state law."

Atlanta officials said anyone carrying a gun at the airport would be arrested and charged with a misdemeanor.

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue said that guns should be allowed in public areas of the Atlanta airport, adding that his own wife might want to take a firearm for the long walk between the parking lot and the terminal, "especially when picking up a grandchild or something like that."

### **CHICAGO'S MAYOR DALEY HINTS HE MAY DROP FIGHT TO KEEP HANDGUN BAN**

Mayor Daley may abandon his costly fight to uphold Chicago's 1982 handgun freeze - if he can pass a replacement ordinance that "protects the safety of first-responders in the fire department and police force."

Chicago's criminals are so out of control that they shoot at firefighters.

Daley earlier promised to defend Chicago's ordinance all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which on June 26 overturned a Washington, D.C., handgun ban, ruling that the Second Amendment guarantees the right to possess a handgun in your home for self-defense. Daley called that a "dangerous precedent."

The Second Amendment Foundation, Illinois State Rifle Association, and the NRA then filed lawsuits seeking to overturn handgun bans in Chicago, Morton Grove, Evanston and Oak Park. Wilmette and Morton Grove preemptively repealed their bans.

With both suburbs backing out, and newspaper editorials urging Daley not to spend millions in legal costs on a fight he can't win, he appears to be having second thoughts.

Daley told reporters that city attorneys would simultaneously contest the law and work on a possible replacement. He said if Chicagoans were allowed to have guns in their homes, they might be required to buy insurance to protect officials from what he called "frivolous lawsuits" demanding gun rights, which sounds to opponents like a gangland-style shakedown racket against gun owners.

Although Daley emphasized that, "We have to be able to fashion a law that truly protects first-responders," he fails to acknowledge that allowing the city's law-abiding citizens to arm themselves would more likely discourage Chicago's lawless element from taking potshots at cops and firefighters.

### **CONGRESSWOMAN SUED FOR ASKING COPS TO ILLEGALLY SEIZE MAN'S GUNS**

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, the loudest gun control mouth in Congress, has been sued for \$5 million by gun-owner Gabriel Razzano for getting Long Island police to seize his licensed guns - 15 handguns and 9 rifles - after Razzano came to her office to complain that a "deported" illegal immigrant was arrested near his home for the attempted murder of a cop. Police acknowledged all Razzano's guns were legal.

### **JUDGE UPHOLDS FLORIDA'S "TAKE YOUR GUN TO WORK" LAW**

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle has ruled that employers cannot ban employees from taking their gun to work, but **may ban customers and other visitors**. He also said the poorly worded law might not survive future challenges. The July 1 law gave workers, customers and invitees the right to bring concealed guns onto business property. Hinkle ruled against customers, but not employees, puzzling legal experts.

### **ARIZONA GOVERNOR VETOES GUNS UNDER CAR SEATS**

In a bizarre move, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano has vetoed legislation that would have made cars and trucks the same as someone's home, where you could have a gun anywhere, visible or not. She cited concerns for the safety of officers making traffic stops. The result is that Arizonans without state permits will not be able to carry loaded guns under the seats of their cars.

But state Rep. John Kavanagh (R-Fountain Hills), said existing law already allows people to carry holstered weapons in places not visible to someone outside the car, including the glove compartment and the map pocket, the slot in the door. He said his measure would just have simplified the law so as not to make criminals out of otherwise law-abiding citizens.

**IN THE STATES**

### **SOME ILLINOIS LOCALITIES DUMP GUN BANS, CONSIDER CONCEALED CARRY**

The Illinois Village of Morton Grove ducked a lawsuit, repealing its 27-year-old handgun ban by a 5-1 vote of the board. The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and others filed the suit, backed by June's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that struck down a similar ban. The high court ruled that the 2nd Amendment protects a person's right to own a firearm for self-defense.

Morton Grove adopted the nation's first ordinance banning the possession of handguns in 1981, triggering a storm of publicity and a nationwide debate over the merits of using local ordinances to control gun ownership. The ordinance was upheld in 1984 by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Fighting now in court to try to keep the law would cost money the village does not have, officials said.

But the Village of Wilmette beat Morton Grove by a week. The village's seven trustees voted unanimously to repeal the ban, saying alternate regulations for gun ownership would be studied while the court cases play out.

Other Chicago cities sued by SAF, including Evanston and Oak Park, said they would wait and see how the lawsuit played out before taking any repeal action.

Winnebago County Board members have voted 21-5 to put an advisory referendum on the Nov. 4 ballot that asks: Shall the General Assembly enact legislation to permit the carrying of concealed firearms?

### **MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR MAKES HIMSELF UNPOPULAR WITH GUN OWNERS**

Many hunters and gun owners were shocked to learn that Democrat Gov. Deval L. Patrick filed a supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008, which, if passed, would flatten their pocketbooks and infringe on their second amendment rights.

Four sections of the bill would drastically increase the cost of firearm licenses. Two sections would affect licensed firearm dealers by increasing their license fees from \$100 for three years to \$250. It also adds a \$100 inspection fee in years two and three of the license.

That turns a \$100 three-year dealer's license into a \$450 three-year license.

Another section would increase a resident License to Carry fee from \$100 for six years to \$200 for six years. Another section would increase a non-resident LTC fee from \$100 for one year to \$250 for one year. Patrick's popularity plummeted.

### **MICHIGAN GETS NEW PISTOL REGISTRATION LAW**

Democrat Gov. Jennifer Granholm has signed into law revised pistol registration rules. Sponsored by state Sen. Randy Richardville (R-Monroe), the new law gives pistol owners the option of mailing the registration within 10 days after the pistol was purchased or hand delivering it.

"The new registration process will be simpler and more convenient for law-abiding gun owners," said Sen. Richardville. "I heard from several residents in my district who felt the previous registration rules were burdensome and redundant. Although inspections were required, many times the pistols were not even inspected."

Previously, the law required the owner to take the pistol to a local law enforcement officer for an inspection and turn in a different registration form.

### **MONTANA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION ENDORSES TWO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

The Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA), the major political advocate for gun owners and hunters in Montana, has endorsed two Republican candidates for high office in the state.

For governor, MSSA has endorsed Roy Brown of Billings, educated as a petroleum engineer, elected state representative (1998), and past House Majority Leader in the state legislature.

**IN THE STATES**

MSSA President Gary Marbut praised Brown for his 100% voting record on pro-gun and pro-hunting bills since he began serving in the Montana Legislature.

For Attorney General, MSSA has endorsed Tim Fox, born in Montana, now living in Helena, with a law degree from the University of Montana, and broad Montana experience as a civil servant, criminal law practitioner, corporate counsel, and private practice lawyer.

MSSA's Marbut emphasized Fox's proven commitment to gun rights and his activism among gun owners.

### **NEW JERSEY DEMOCRAT THREATENS TO BE AN ANTI-GUN FORCE IN STATE SENATE**

Sen. Sandra Bolden Cunningham (D-Hudson) has emerged as an anti-gun voice in a state Senate that has never been interested in limiting gun purchases to one per month for law-abiding citizens.

Cunningham notes that New Jersey's Assembly has twice approved legislation limiting people to one handgun per month, but the Senate has never followed suit. New Jersey's bill passed the Assembly in June 2007 and June 2008, yet never received a Senate hearing.

Cunningham is pushing it with help from Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker and Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy. Jersey City in 2006 adopted its own law making it illegal to buy more than one handgun per month, but it was struck down by a judge who ruled it pre-empted state authority.

Cunningham wants a \$10,000 fine and 18 months in prison for anyone who buys more than one gun a month in New Jersey.

### **NEW YORK GOVERNOR SIGNS PRO-GUN BILLS**

Companion bills A-11033 and S-8228 have been signed by Governor David Patterson, legislation that creates a junior big game mentored hunting program for 14-15 year olds in which they can hunt with firearms while under the supervision of an experienced adult hunter. The New York State Rifle & Pistol Association has thanked Gov. Paterson for signing the bill.

New York's Governor also signed a law that will let hunters continue to rifle hunt in parts of the Southern Tier of counties. The new law will allow rifle hunting for deer and bear in Chemung, Steuben, and Yates counties for three more years.

A 2007 law established the localized rifle hunting season last fall on a one-year, trial basis. When the law expired last month, the new law extended it.

### **WASHINGTON ATTORNEY GENERAL ASKED FOR LEGAL OPINION ON GUN RESTRICTIONS**

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels signed an executive order in June to prohibit the possession of weapons, including firearms, on city property. His move was triggered by an incident in a popular civic center in which a man was shot but not seriously injured. It instantly divided Washington State's urban and rural Democrats, who have opposing views on gun rights.

Six Democrats from rural state legislative districts called on Washington Attorney General Rob McKenna to issue an opinion on a city's authority to ban people who legally possess firearms from city property and facilities.

"The statement from us is that our districts are just a totally different culture, and it's a big part of our culture, people hunt and they carry their gun rights on their sleeve," said House Majority Leader Lynn Kessler (D-Hoquiam). "We represent people who are adamant about the Second Amendment of our Constitution and we try to represent them."

## OBAMA'S SILLY PUTTY SECOND AMENDMENT

Barack Obama's real feelings about the rights of gun owners seem to be as gooey as Crayola's playroom favorite, Silly Putty.

*Washington Post* op-ed columnist Robert Novak called it the "Obama Second Amendment Dance," but that's much too definite - you can actually tell where dancers stand from moment to moment.

Not Obama. He says one thing about gun rights one minute, but something else the next.

Obama's noteworthy declaration that "the right to keep and bear arms" applies to "individual rights," not just to a "well-regulated militia," was followed instantly by a big *except for*: except for the right of government to impose restrictions on that individual right.

"Common sense" restrictions, of course. Whatever that means in Obama-speak.

It's time to subject candidate Obama to our own NICS background check to see if he's really qualified to stand firm for our gun rights as President of the United States.

The most obvious question is, "What's his voting record on gun issues?"

For that, we must begin on May 25, 2004, when Barack Obama was still a senator in the Illinois state legislature.

The gun issue was simple: if you live in a town with a gun ban, should they be able to prosecute you for shooting an attacker in a clear case of self-defense?

A man named Hale DeMar actually did that, and the town of Wilmette, which had a gun ban, prosecuted him *for self-defense*.

Illinois lawmakers were outraged, and wrote SB2165 to bar prosecutions on handgun ban grounds in cases of true self-defense.

The bill passed both houses in May of 2004. The senate voted for it 41-16. Barack Obama was one of the 16.

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich vetoed the bill, but the legislature overrode the veto. Silly Putty Obama didn't even vote on the override.

What are we to make of that? Obama voted against the right of self-defense, which was a vote for Wilmette's gun ban. Obama didn't speak up to override the veto of self-defense rights.

Well, that was a long time ago. Four years, or one presidential term, to be exact. Presidential hopefuls can learn a lot in that time.

Okay, we know what Obama did then. What does he say now?

"I have always believed that the Second Amendment protects the right of individuals to bear arms." He said that right *after* the Supreme Court's *Heller* ruling was announced.

Always? Maybe he had a brief lapse of belief in May of 2004?

In true Silly Putty Obama form, he immediately completed his sentence with: "But I also identify with the need for crime-ravaged communities to save their children from the violence that plagues our streets through common-sense, effective safety measures. The Supreme Court has now endorsed that view."

No, it didn't. The Court ruled that the D.C. gun law not only "bans handgun possession in the home," but it also "requires that any lawful firearm in the home be disassembled or bound by a trigger lock at all times, rendering it inoperable," which violates the Second Amendment because it effectively prohibits keeping guns for self-defense. Well, Senator Silly Putty voted against self-defense in 2004.

But what did Obama say about D.C.'s gun ban *before* the high court ruled? Last November, his campaign told the *Chicago Tribune*, "Obama believes the D.C. handgun law is constitutional."

Oops. But Obama corrected that little glitch - seven months later. Just before the Supreme Court struck down the D.C. gun ban, an Obama spokesman told ABC News his campaign's November statement to the contrary "was obviously an inartful attempt to explain the senator's consistent position."

Yes, Barack Obama stands firm for your gun rights. As firm as Silly Putty.

**OBAMA'S GUN  
BACKGROUND  
CHECK**

**GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS**

● **Oak Park, Illinois:** In an interview with National Public Radio shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Washington, D.C.'s gun ban, Oak Park Village Manager Tom Barwin said, "It's just completely befuddling that our Supreme Court would be in alliance with the gangbangers." The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms immediately demanded an apology in a release stating, "We find it appalling, and, quite frankly, that kind of rhetoric is insulting." Several groups, including the Second Amendment Foundation, filed lawsuits against Oak Park to throw out its 1984 handgun ban. Oak Park officials have decided to fight the lawsuit.

● **Vancouver, British Columbia:** Although Canada Border Services Agency officers regularly discover smuggled guns destined for Canada's criminal underworld, most firearms they turn up belong to law-abiding Americans, according to intelligence summaries. "Most of the firearms seized by CBSA at the land ports of entry are the personal firearms of legitimate U.S. travellers who neglected - intentionally or not - to declare their personal firearms," says the agency in a recent report.

● **Springfield, Massachusetts:** Smith & Wesson thinks the Supreme Court's recent Second Amendment ruling is a legal victory worth notching on a gun. The Springfield firearms manufacturer has said it will make an engraved version of its Model 442 revolver to commemorate the historic June 26 high court decision striking down the District of Columbia's strict handgun ban. S&W will give each of the *Heller* case plaintiffs one of the commemorative guns.

● **Orlando, Florida:** First, Disney claimed it was exempt. Now Universal Studios Theme Park says it too is exempt from the new state law allowing people to bring guns to work if the gun is locked in their car. Disney fired Edwin Sotomayer, a worker who brought a gun to work. The Florida Attorney General's Office is now looking into more than 200 complaints against several companies, including Universal and Disney.

● **New York City:** The American Civil Liberties Union blog began: "The ACLU interprets the Second Amendment as a collective right. Therefore, we disagree with the Supreme Court's decision in *D.C. v. Heller*." The proper response might be a flip, "Yeah, you and what army?" But ACLU members took it very seriously, and were furious. They immediately posted over 200 angry responses, most of them like SuperNaut's "Sorry ACLU you lost me. I just took the money I had slated to re-up my lapsed ACLU membership and used it to re-up my NRA membership." One sarcastic (former) member wrote, "Q: How does ACLU count to 10? A: 1,3,4,5..." But don't go away. The next Gun Rights Ticker item is even better.

● **Carson City, Nevada:** The American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada has declared its support for an individual's right to bear arms, making it the first state affiliate to buck the national ACLU's position on the Second Amendment. "The Nevada ACLU respects the individual's right to bear arms subject to constitutionally permissible regulations," their Web site said. "The ACLU of Nevada will defend this right as it defends other constitutional rights." Allen Lichtenstein, general counsel for ACLU of Nevada, said, "This was the consensus. There really wasn't a lot of dissent." Gary Peck, executive director of the ACLU of Nevada, said an individual's right to bear arms is in the Nevada Constitution, reflecting the state's "long, proud tradition of libertarian skepticism of government overreach."

● **Nashville, Tennessee:** In a joint statement, the United Methodist Board of Church and Society and the Commission on Religion and Race said they were "deeply disappointed by the U.S. Supreme Court decision to strip local municipalities of the right to enact sensible and necessary gun restriction laws." "The Supreme Court's decision stands in direct contrast to the stance of our denomination," the church agencies said. Their news release added, "The United Methodist Church is among those religious communities calling for social policies and personal lifestyles that bring an end to senseless gun violence." They don't seem to think the individual right to armed self-defense is one of them. Do they think the First Amendment right to religious freedom is an individual, not a collective, right?

# Parting Shot

## GIVING "GANG BANG" A MORE PERSONAL MEANING

Rudy Fleming, 23, a thug in the Bloods gang, robbed aspiring actress Nicole DuFresne in New York's Lower East Side in early 2005. The distraught young woman asked him, "You got what you wanted. What are you going to do now, shoot us?"

Fleming then shot her and her three companions dead. He is now serving life without parole.

A month ago, Rudy's brother, Bloods member Grant Fleming, 21, of Staten Island, sneaked up behind a man walking into his Jersey Street apartment with a bag of groceries, demanding money and brandishing a handgun.

The grocery-carrying apartment dweller did the right thing: he dropped his groceries, tore Grant's gun from his hands and shot him three times in the chest with his own gun.

Grant Fleming is now serving death without parole.

At 5:00 a.m. in Manheim, Pennsylvania, Kevin Lee Smith, 19, of Lancaster City, and another man followed Elder Sepulveda, the operations manager of Power Pro Battery into his office.

Sepulveda opened the store at the same time every day, and the two men obviously knew it. Sneaking up behind Sepulveda, Smith pulled out a TEC-9 semi-automatic handgun with a 30-round clip and demanded money.

Smith barked orders at Sepulveda, saying he would be shot if he didn't follow every instruction exactly. Sepulveda, still with his back to the robbers, pulled out his own handgun, turned, and fired two shots point blank into Smith's chest.

The other man fled and has not been apprehended.

Smith died of the bullet wounds hours later at a local hospital.

Ferdinando Abbondante, owner of Dominick's Pizza and Pasta in Virginia Beach, Virginia, was helping his employees and a professional cleanup crew scrub down his restaurant just after closing time.

Johnny Marocco Williams, 41, of Hampton, sneaked in with a gun and demanded that Abbondante open the safe, holding his gun on employee Ravyn Pearce, who was terrified. The store owner kept his gun in the safe and knew that if he opened it the robber would see it and start shooting.

Abbondante said there was no money in the safe and offered to open the cash register and give Williams all the money. Williams demanded he open the safe.

So, Abbondante opened it, and, as expected, Williams fired a shot, but missed.

Ferdinando Abbondante was a better shot. He fired back and killed Williams, saving his own life and that of his employees and the cleanup crew.

*Alan M. Gottlieb*

*Joseph D. Tartaro*

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