

POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**



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CCRKBA: NICS BILL NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

A bill the House of Representatives passed last month that supposedly would update and strengthen the National Instant Check System (NICS) may not go far enough to protect the rights of American gun owners while apparently making it easier to prevent mentally ill persons from legally buying guns at retail outlets, according to CCRKBA. The proposed bipartisan NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 passed on a voice vote with support from both the NRA and the anti-gun lobby, and then went to the Senate for consideration there.

The objective of the measure is to expedite state reporting to NICS of criminals and also persons adjudicated to be a risk to themselves or the community because of mental health problems. The proposal would increase federal funds of up to \$250 million a year to help states update their record systems, and impose penalties on those states which fail to provide the required information. The bill also would set up a system under which would be gun purchasers who have received mental health treatment can appeal and clear their records.

One provision of the bill, noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, supposedly would allow persons whose names are in the NICS database for minor infractions that should not be disqualifiers to petition the states to have those entries removed.

"It should be up to the government to remove those persons from the NICS database automatically, at no cost to the affected person," Gottlieb stated. "Likewise, the Department of Veterans Affairs should be required to remove the names of some 83,000 veterans that it entered into the system seven years ago, for what the media have identified as 'alleged mental health reasons.' Soldiers should not have to petition or pay for that.

"More importantly, this proposal should fully restore the process through which citizens can get relief from disabilities (RFD) that prevent them from owning and buying firearms. Though the process remains on the books, there has been no implementing funding since 1991. People who have made a mistake in their past, but since have been good citizens cannot get their rights restored. There should be a mechanism in place to allow funding of RFD investigations, even if the petitioner pays the cost himself."

CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder noted that the proposed Act comes at least partially in reaction to the recent massacre at Virginia Tech, which prohibits students and professors from carrying firearms on campus even if they have state-issued permits to carry concealed firearms. He said that in the proposed Act federal funding should be denied colleges and universities that prohibit students and professors from carrying firearms if the students and professors have such state-issued permits.

GUN-FREE ZONES FATAL MISTAKES

Dave Workman, Managing Editor, *Point Blank*

Reacting to questions from reporters about how to prevent future outrages like the murders of 32 students and teachers at Virginia Tech this past April, Texas Gov. Rick Perry dispelled any notion that common sense has been eradicated by political correctness in the United States.

Perry's sensible solution: Allow legally armed citizens to carry their defensive firearms anywhere—schools, restaurants, churches. Perry correctly asserted that so long as such areas are legislated as “gun-free zones,” killers who don't care about the law will enjoy risk-free opportunities in which people cannot fight back.

Perry's remarks were in stark contrast to comments made by U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. He's against guns on campuses, yet he admits the nanny state approach is no panacea to violence.

“We can't guarantee complete security,” he said. “We need to see what we can do as a government – on the federal level, on the state level – to ensure the safety of our students.”

Gonzales is wrong and Perry is right. Government should get out of the way and let people take care of themselves.

Perry's remarks brought wails of anguish from the anti-gun mob, a political lobby more adept at dancing in the blood of murder victims to advance its agenda than it is in offering common-sense solutions that would help people keep from being murdered.

Perhaps self-styled “progressives,” especially those in Texas, have forgotten the lunatic who drove into Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen on October 16, 1991, and opened fire, killing 23 people, all of them disarmed by

a then-existing state prohibition on concealed carry. Survivors haven't forgotten. One of them, former State Rep. Suzanna Gratia-Hupp, ran successfully to change the law, enabling Texans to fight back.

Those who lobbied in state after state against concealed-carry statutes predicted that such laws would lead to bloodbaths. In a sense, they guaranteed such mayhem by demanding that some areas be gun-free zones, where law-abiding citizens may not carry their firearms. Armed citizens have gone through background checks and in many states have taken mandatory gun-safety courses. How many anti-gun liberals would tolerate such scrutiny and red tape just to exercise a constitutional right? If there is blood on anyone's hands, it is on theirs. The common denominator in all of this country's mass shootings in recent memory is that they happened in gun-free zones.

Don't blame these monstrous crimes on firearm rights organizations. Blame them on the anti-gun lobby for pushing limitations on the public's right to self-defense.

This country has tried it their way – the way Gonzales would have it – and all we have to show for it is a body count.

It's time for a different approach. Perry's idea is simply a reminder of an earlier, simpler time, when everyone thought with the logic of a Boy Scout: Always be prepared.

Why is it easy for Perry to understand that criminals and madmen do not make appointments to commit violent acts, but this fact eludes college presidents, liberal politicians, an attorney general and far too many pundits?

Nobody is advocating anarchy. This is a matter of personal and community defense because the police are not our shepherds. We should abolish the concept of gun-free zones. Criminals don't obey it, and they shouldn't make the rules or benefit from them.

Nobody can stop every determined criminal or madman, but we might stop most of them, and save innocent lives in the process.



POINT BLANK

“Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms.”

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CCRKBA Observation:**BLOOMBERG PUSHES POLICE INTO ARMS OF GUN OWNERS**

"The cantankerous, arrogant and obstreperous attitude and behavior of gun-grabbing New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg towards law enforcement personnel who disagree with him regarding his campaign to eliminate the pro-gun Tiahrt Amendment is driving police officers and organizations towards de facto unity with law-abiding gun owners and pro-gun organizations on this issue," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, observed last month in Washington, D.C.

Snyder's comment came after anti-gun Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee, said she would remove the Tiahrt Amendment from this year's spending bill.

"CCRKBA," Snyder said, "continues to support the Tiahrt Amendment, by Rep. Todd Tiahrt of Kansas. We oppose the Bloomberg attempt to use secure law enforcement data in third-party harassing civil lawsuits against the firearms industry.

"Anti-gun individuals and organizations have been trying to drive a wedge between the law enforcement and the law-abiding, law-enforcement supporting firearms communities. Bloomberg and his gang are demonstrating that there is a natural affinity between the gun-owning and law enforcement communities. We hope to see this commonality of interest strengthened."

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), is so upset and angry with Bloomberg's behavior that this spring he addressed a memorandum on the issue to FOP's Executive Board, Board of National Trustees, State Lodge Presidents, Secretaries and

Officers.

FOP, stated Canterbury, "has been on the receiving end of numerous politically-oriented attacks by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his 'law enforcement spokesperson,' John Feinblatt, because of the FOP's support of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) on the issue of disclosure of firearms trace data.

"Mayor Bloomberg has assembled a coalition of his colleagues and is engaged in an effort to repeal what is known as the 'Tiahrt Amendment' from the annual appropriations measure to be considered by Congress later this year. The amendment was first enacted by Congress several years ago at the request of BATFE, which had been repeatedly forced to go to court to protect the firearms data when it was sought by municipal governments to use in civil lawsuits against firearms manufacturers. The FOP supported that language then and we continue to do so because the release of such data to non-law enforcement entities - namely civil litigants - could compromise the safety of law enforcement officers and the integrity of law enforcement investigations."

Canterbury charged that "the campaign to repeal the 'Tiahrt Amendment' has enlisted police chiefs and organizations which represent them and used them to complain that the prohibitions on the use of firearms trace data is hampering local and state efforts to combat illegal firearms and several have gone so far as to say that BATFE refuses to share the firearms trace data with law enforcement agencies pursuing a criminal investigation. **Neither of these claims is true**, but chiefs have little choice but

to support the political position of their mayors at whose pleasure they serve.

"Further, it is important to note that at no time prior to the attacks made on the FOP did Mayor Bloomberg or any member of his administration reach out to the FOP to hear our perspective. Given the Mayor's comments and his general attitude, we can only assume this is because the FOP is a labor organization."

A few days after Canterbury's statement, Bloomberg called FOP "one fringe organization" during a breakfast sponsored by the *Ladies Home Journal*, reported the *New York Post*.

Responding, James Pasco, FOP Executive Director, noted that "within the Fraternal Order of Police is far more expertise with the administration of justice than Mayor Bloomberg's limited experience in that area."

In his memo, Canterbury pointed out that firearms trace data is "law enforcement sensitive" and is collected by BATFE specifically to assist in criminal investigations; the prohibitions on the disclosure of firearms trace data has been part of every BATFE appropriations since 2003; there is nothing in the law, in regulation, or in BATFE's internal procedures which would prohibit disclosure of firearms trace data to a law enforcement agency or prosecutor which certifies that the data will be used to further a criminal investigation or prosecution; once a law enforcement agency or prosecutor has received this data, they are free to share it with whomever they wish; and the law prohibits the use of BATFE data as testimony or evidence in third-party civil actions.

CCRKBA HITS ATTACKS ON CHICAGO GUN SHOP

CCRKBA spokesmen last month blasted attacks on a suburban Chicago gun shop reportedly led by anti-gun activist clergymen of various denominations, including one of the most vocal ministers in the United States.

In Washington, D.C., John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, noted that, "apparently, some clergymen, using the cover of the cloth, are trying to focus public concern with violent crime on a law-abiding gun store, Chuck's Gun Shop in Riverdale, as part of a general anti-gun agenda. They obviously ignore the fact that law-abiding citizens often look to gun shops as a legal source from which they may obtain the firearms they need to defend themselves against violent criminal attack.

"Such clergymen could spend more time and energy facilitating the ability of law-abiding citizens to obtain the arms they need to defend themselves and their families against violent criminals. Perhaps pro-gun parishioners could protest these professional gun-grabbing protesters by withholding church contributions."

A swath of protesters led by Rev. Jesse Jackson descended on the shop the last weekend in May, according to an NBC5.com report.

Anti-gun activists argue that Chuck's Gun Shop is one of a group of firearm stores just outside Chicago that contribute to firearm deaths and thus contribute to the inefficiency of gun control laws. "This is a state of madness," Jackson told a crowd of

about 1,000. "These laws create open season on innocent people."

Jackson talked outside the store after marching from a nearby school. His group, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, organized the march and protest. "For too long, we have mourned and not marched," he said.

He said also that the store sold the "majority of guns connected with recent shooting deaths in Chicago" but later admitted that he does not have statistics on the store. "The police know – everyone knows – they get guns from here," he said.

Jackson is lobbying for stricter firearm sales laws and wants to ban certain semiautomatic firearms.

This was not the first time Jackson's group had targeted the gun shop, according to reports. Rainbow/PUSH and another group, United Power for Action and Justice, previously have targeted Chuck's Gun Shop.

Chuck's store manager, John Riggio, said he strictly follows state laws when he sells guns. He also noted that any firearms that are stolen or resold on the black market are out of his control.

In Bellevue, Washington, CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, Founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), said SAF is asking the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate a Chicago priest for threatening to "snuff" Riggio during the anti-gun protest rally near Chuck's Gun Shop.

Gottlieb is sending a letter to Assistant U.S. Attorney General Wan Kim, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, asking that the agency also investigate the Rev. Michael Pfleger for essentially encouraging a crowd of protesters to drive Riggio out of business. The gun shop has been in business for more than 30 years, and

Riggio is the second-generation owner.

In a stunning audio recording of Pfleger's remarks, the pastor of St. Sabina's Church can clearly be heard stating, "John Riggio...we're going to find you and snuff you out." Moments later, Pfleger added, "We're going to snuff out John Riggio, we're going to snuff out legislators that are voting...against our gun laws and we're coming for you because we are not going to sit idly."

Gottlieb said after hearing the recording, "It is common knowledge that the term 'snuff' is street slang, in Chicago and elsewhere, for killing someone. If John Riggio, or I, or any other gun owner were to make that kind of public statement in reference to Rev. Pfleger, you can bet the authorities in Chicago, and the local and national press, would want us behind bars.

"We're asking for a Justice Department investigation because Rev. Pfleger incited his audience to take whatever action is necessary to put Mr. Riggio out of business. Chuck's Gun Shop is a legal business, operating under both state and federal laws, and Mr. Riggio has a legal right to operate such a business."

Gottlieb stated that, "We simply can't rely on the notoriously anti-gun Cook County prosecutor's office for an unbiased inquiry. There is no doubt in my mind that Rev. Pfleger's threats should be investigated. You cannot hide behind the cloak of political rhetoric or a clergyman's robe when you declare publicly that someone ought to be harmed and deprived of his civil rights and livelihood."

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CCRKBA HITS JUNK SCIENCE AMMO BILL IN CALIFORNIA

In a recent urgent action alert, CCRKBA hit a handgun microstamping bill wending its way through the California state legislature.

The proposal, AB 1471, by Assemblyman Mike Feuer of West Hollywood, would amend the current handgun "safety" act by requiring the chambers of all semiautomatic pistols sold in California to have a unique serial number etched into the pistol's chamber. Upon firing, the number would be imprinted on the cartridge case, thus allowing police to track the case back to the firearm's registered owner.

In May, the State Assembly approved the bill by a vote of 44-31. Early last month, the State Senate Public Safety Committee scheduled a public hearing on the measure. If the Committee were to approve the measure, the Senate could vote on it.

If the Senate were to pass the bill, it would be headed to the desk of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who at that point could approve it or veto it.

CCRKBA urges gun-owning Californians to contact their State Senators to oppose AB 1471.

"Most firearms used by criminals are stolen," notes the CCRKBA alert, "and criminals don't bother to register stolen guns. In fact, criminals are exempt from firearm registration by a U.S. Supreme Court decision (U.S. v. Haynes, 1968). In addition to that, the technology is easily defeated in a number of ways: the etching can be marred or ground out; brass picked up at a firing range can be reloaded and used; steel-cased ammunition won't take the imprint; etc.

"This questionable and unproven technology is just another attempt to limit access to affordable hand-

guns by gun control extremists in the state legislature. Industry sources estimate this will add as much as \$150 to the cost of each handgun with microstamping. Where will it stop? Microstamping the chambers of ALL firearms next? A \$900 additional charge to stamp each separate chamber?"

Some opponents of the measure say the bill poses a risk to law-abiding people, who, if their gun were stolen, could be connected to a crime that they did not commit, reported the *Burbank Leader*.

"Ultimately, the proponents of this measure are the same people who desire to remove our Second Amendment right," said Assemblyman Anthony Adams of the La Crescenta area. "It's another example of a bill that's designed to inhibit our right to use that right."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Congress takes several formal recesses during the summer when they return to the home district to communicate with constituents. These communications take many forms, including "town hall" meetings where they address gatherings of a few dozen to a few hundred citizens, public appearances where the citizens they represent can at least see them if not talk with them, and private meetings with constituents.

Although the specific recess dates may not have been locked completely into place, they typically include a long Independence Day (Fourth of July) recess this month and another, longer recess next month, plus an extended Labor Day recess in early September.

One matter CCRKBA Members and others could impress upon their federal legislators is the importance of retaining the Tiahrt Amendment during the appropriations process. This amendment prohibits anti-gun mayors like Michael Bloomberg of New York City and others from acquiring access to firearms transaction information designated specifically for criminal investigative and prosecution purposes and then using that information in harassing lawsuits against law-abiding entities within the firearms industry.

Call your Representative's or Senators' district office, which may be found in the blue pages at the front of your telephone directory, and ask when he or she will be holding a town hall meeting in your area. Plan on attending the meeting and listening to what these officials have to say about firearms-related issues and our right to keep and bear arms. If they're silent on the gun issue, bring up the issue, and let them know that ongoing terrorist threats and continuing attempts by anti-gun politicians to undermine our gun rights generate perpetual interest in supporting the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms. Stand up and be counted!

ARMED MISSIONARY THE CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

"In this day and age, gun grabbers try to use international organizations such as the United Nations to promote their efforts to undermine Americans' Second Amendment rights at the same time that they try to channel emotional outrage generated by such horrendous domestic crimes as the recent Virginia Tech massacre into demands for more restrictive domestic gun control legislation," CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder noted recently in Washington, D.C.

"Faced with this situation," he continued, "we cannot help but be aware that the effort to disarm law-abiding American citizens has international as well as domestic components."

On the other hand, said Snyder, "there fortunately also are international champions of the right to self-defense and the right to keep and bear arms whose commitment to the cause of freedom serves to bolster our own dedication to preserve our rights as recognized by our Second Amendment. This is especially significant now as responsible public authorities continue to warn us regarding the perpetual threat of potential terrorist attacks.

"One of the most articulate of the international right to self-defense champions is Charl van Wyk of the Republic of South Africa whose words and actions over the years merits his designation as CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for July. I had the pleasure of meeting Charl and his wife Sophia during their recent visit to the Washington, D.C. area and I think he is most deserving of this Award."

In July, 1993, Charl was one of the worshippers during a St. James

Church service in Cape Town when a gang of Marxist-Leninist terrorists attacked the parishioners with grenades and AK-47's. In what became known as the St. James Church Massacre, the terrorists, members of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, murdered 11 members of the congregation and injured another 58.

"Grenades were exploding in flashes of light," Charl stated. "Pews shattered under the blasts, sending splinters flying through the air. An automatic assault rifle was being fired and was fast ripping the pews – and whoever, whatever was in the trajectory – to pieces. We were being attacked!"

Charl was the only member of the congregation who was armed. He fired five return rounds with his .38 Special revolver, wounding one of the terrorists, and then the gang fled.

"Instinctively," he recalled, "I knelt down behind the bench in front of me and pulled out my .38 Special snub-nosed revolver, which I always carried with me. I would have felt undressed without it. Many people could not understand why I would carry a firearm into a church service, but I argued that this was a particularly dangerous time in South Africa."

The incident led Charl to become an even more ardent defender of the right to self-defense and the right to keep and bear arms than he already had been.

He recounted his experiences and reflections in his book, *Shooting Back – The Right and Duty of Self-Defense*, and founded Gun Owners of South Africa.

A member of the Anglican Church

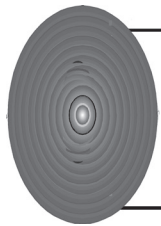
of South Africa, Charl is Assistant Director of Frontline Fellowship, which he describes as a trans-denominational Christian missionary organization.

In his book, he argues that Christians have not only the right but also the duty to defend themselves and other innocents from violent criminal aggression.

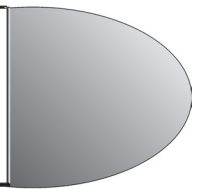
Recently, he decried the fact that one year before the "unprecedented shooting rampage at Virginia Tech, the state's General Assembly quashed a bill that would have given qualified college students the right to carry handguns on campus."

Charl van Wyk believes "there is a striking paradox associated with mass murders. They are far more likely to occur in areas that have been designated as gun-free zones. Worldwide, office buildings, hospitals, convenience stores, TV studios, chain restaurants and day-care centers have all been targets of homicidal maniacs. Mass shootings occur less often in areas where responsible citizens may carry weapons. Expecting a suicidal individual to honor a law prohibiting firearms is sheer utopian fantasy. Declaring gun-free zones risk leaving potential victims defenseless.

"In Israel, however, teachers and parents serving as school aids are armed at all times on school grounds with semiautomatic weapons. Since this policy was adopted in the 1970s, attacks by gunmen at schools in Israel have ceased. Government officials must be aware that if they create a gun-free zone, they are liable for any harm it causes. History and common sense prove that gun-free zones are dangerous."



QUICK SHOTS



In Washington, D.C., CCRBKA announced its support for H.R. 2424, the proposed Citizens Protection Act of 2007, by Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, to repeal the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 and Amendments to that Act. The Gun Free School Zones Act makes it unlawful for any individual to possess a firearm at a place that the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, is a school zone, but does not include possession of a firearm on private property that is not part of school grounds. H.R. 2424 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Congressman Paul, a candidate for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination, is a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor who has received several CCRKBA awards and has been a speaker at the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference, cosponsored by CCRKBA and the Second Amendment Foundation.



The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted the District of Columbia's motion for an injunction to prevent implementation of the Appellate Court's holding that the D.C. anti-gun law is unconstitutional pending an appeal to the United States Supreme Court. "Although the District's motion to stay only indicates it 'may' petition for certiorari," Senior Circuit Judge Laurence Silberman wrote, "I assume it is understood that the District intends to petition for review in the Supreme Court. If it did not so intend, in my

view, it would be inappropriate for it to have sought the stay."



"The indictment of Jacob Nickels, son of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, on charges relating to a conspiracy to cheat casinos is enough to suggest that the anti-gun mayor – who supports laws that would treat all gun owners like criminals – perhaps should look closer to home to find someone who really needs his character scrutinized," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "While Mayor Nickles, a member of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's anti-gun mayors' coalition, has been devoting so much energy looking for, or trying to create, criminals in the firearms community, he may have had one living right under his nose. But what can you expect from a man who looks the other way when Bloomberg mounts an illegal sting operation against gun dealers that has drawn the scorn of the United States Justice Department and the attorneys general in Virginia and Georgia? Evidently, Nickles looks the other way on a lot of criminal activity."



Movie star Kevin Costner is urging lawmakers to come up with a series of strict new gun control laws even if it limits his own shooting time, reports the World Entertainment News Network. Costner says he loves to hunt and often heads out with a shotgun passed down through

generations of his family, but then also says America's gun laws are too weak. He says legislators should get tough with firearm owners who he also says refuse to accept that their practices could harm others. "I'm a hunter," he says. "I hunt but I think there should be gun laws. I think there should be a lot of gun laws. I don't want to lose my shotgun but there's a real good reason why I use my shotgun. It came from my grandpa. His cheek was on it. My dad's cheek was on it and I go out and hunt with my dogs." Stick to acting, Kevin.



The British government wants more young people to take up competitive shooting, but gun control activists in the United Kingdom fear that it could lead to an easing of Britain's strict gun laws, reports the Cybercast News Service. Sports Minister Richard Caborn said in late May that more young adults should take up competitive shooting, noting that it teaches discipline and responsibility. The announcement drew a furious response from Gill Marshall-Andrews, chairwoman of the Gun Control Network, who said Caborn is "very stupid to be taking this view. We have good gun laws in this country, and we're going to be making them better."



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4

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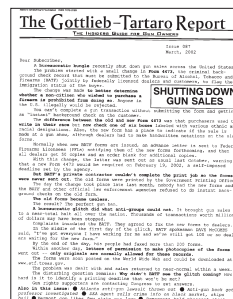
The Journal of Firearms and Public Policy:

At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America's Constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Edited by David B. Kopel – Research Director at the Independence Institute and renowned gun-rights scholar – and contributors include Randy E. Barnett, Glenn Harlan Reynolds, John R. Lott, Joseph P. Tartaro, Gary Kleck, and others.

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report:

Here's a monthly newsletter that gives you inside gun-rights information from the desks of active principals in the battle for the right to keep and bear arms. The GOTTLIEB-TARTARO REPORT is headed by Alan M. Gottlieb – chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms – and Joseph P. Tartaro – editor of Gun Week and president of the Second Amendment Foundation. This monthly newsletter is full of inside gun rights news straight from the desks of the experts. Not available on newsstands. Regular subscription \$60 per year.

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