



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

# **RKBA NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER!**



**August  
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We need the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms now more than ever! At least two recent developments have brought home once again the truth of this message.

One was the attack last month on innocent Londoners in the United Kingdom by fanatic, militant Islamist suicide bombers.

The other was a U.S. Supreme Court finding that an American citizen does not have a constitutional right to police protection even in the presence of a restraining order.

In the London attacks, Islamist suicide killer thugs murdered over 50 bus and subway rush hour passengers and wounded over 700 others.

The United Kingdom event reminded us all of the September 11, 2001 Islamist attack on the United States in which thousands of innocent victims died in New York City and at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

It served to remind us that we are at war with an enemy within our midst and that we must be ready, willing and able to protect ourselves and our loved ones. What better way to do this than with the use of personal arms, including handguns personally carried?

If law-abiding American citizens could have carried personal firearms on board aircraft in 2001, the 9-11 events possibly could have been averted.

At the very least, the U.S. government should stop dragging its feet now and let commercial airline pilots carry guns in the cockpit.

When the U.S. Supreme Court, on our side of the Atlantic, rendered its decision in *Castle Rock v. Gonzales*, it reiterated a principle accepted for years by the courts. That is that a police department does not have a constitutional obligation to protect individuals from private individuals.

As Wendy McElroy, a Research Fellow for The Independent Institute, noted: "In 1856, the U.S. Supreme Court (*South v. Maryland*) found that law enforcement officers had no affirmative duty to provide such protection. In 1982 (*Bowers v. DeVito*), the Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit held, '... there is no Constitutional right to be protected by the state against being murdered by criminals or madmen.' Later court decisions have concurred."

Since it is the Supreme Court's position that the police are not obliged to protect law-abiding citizens, who else but citizens themselves can provide such protection? Citizens need the ability to defend themselves and their loved ones. As Ms. McElroy puts it, "no law or policy should impede the access to gun ownership. Responsible adults – both male and female -have both a right and a need to defend themselves and their families, with lethal force if necessary."

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# CHECKS FOR GUN BUYERS BUT NOT ILLEGAL ALIENS?

According to an incisive special report filed by Jeff Johnson of the Cybercast News Service (cnsnews.com), dozens of United States Representatives who sponsored the nationwide instant criminal background check system for prospective firearm purchasers in 1993 or backed the expansion of the system in 2002 have shown no support for a similar database intended to identify illegal aliens in the U.S.A.

"This is outrageous," commented John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director. "Some of these politicians favor gun control for law-abiding American citizens but don't want to do anything to track down illegal aliens."

Johnson notes that at least one Representative who supported the gun control measure is challenging the proposal to crack down on illegal immigrants.

"A database this large is likely to contain many errors," said Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas at a hearing on the proposed Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Social Security Protection Act, H. R. 98. "Any one of (the errors) could render someone unemployable and possibly much worse until they can get their file straightened out," she added.

In 2002, however, Congresswoman Jackson Lee argued for the proposed Our Lady of Peace Act, which would have expanded the National Instant Check System (NICS) for handgun purchases.

"I strongly support this legislation," Rep. Jackson Lee said during consideration of the proposed Act. "A major problem with the instant check system has been the incomplete records of state and local governments," she stated at the time.

The legislation to expand NICS would have provided "incentives for states to provide more complete records for the federal government," she argued. "This will result in faster and smarter background checks."

Rep. Jackson Lee was not in Congress in 1993 when the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, which eventually evolved into the NICS tracking system, was passed. However, 83 of the 155 House members who did cosponsor the Brady Bill are still serving in the House, and only one, Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, is a cosponsor of H.R. 98, the proposed Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Social Security Protection Act.

As *Point Blank* readers realize, NICS allows gun dealers to electronically check the identities of prospective gun buyers against a database containing information on convicted felons, the mentally ill, and others legally prohibited from owning firearms.

A little more than a year after the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, the House of Representatives moved to expand the NICS database by taking up the proposed Our Lady of Peace Act. It would have added the names of foreign visitors and students, patients with serious mental illness and known illegal aliens to the list. It passed the House on a voice vote, but the Senate never considered it.

According to Johnson, "the most recent research available indicates that more than one-quarter of the immigrants living in the United States are doing so illegally. Of the 37.5 million foreign-born individuals currently living in the U.S., demographer

Jeffrey Passell of the Pew Hispanic Center has determined that 10.3 million, or 29 percent, either entered or remain in the country illegally."

Rep. John N. Hostettler of Indiana, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, said we must "turn off the job magnet that draws most illegal aliens to our country."



## POINT BLANK

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

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# CCRKBA BLASTS DC OFFICIALS AS HOUSE VOTES ON GUN LAW

CCRKBA spokesmen blasted Washington, D.C. public officials for their continuing support of local draconian anti-gun laws as the U.S. House of Representatives voted to weaken somewhat the anti-gun laws in the Nation's Capital.

The House vote came on an amendment by Rep. Mark Souder of Indiana.

The amendment would repeal one of the city's gun restrictions, prohibiting the city from spending funds to enforce a law that requires any firearms kept at home to be unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock.

It passed by a whopping 259 to 161 vote in the House as part of the D.C. budget bill.

The budget bill passed by a 405-18 vote and was sent to the Senate for action there.

Souder's office informed *Point Blank* that his ultimate objective is repeal generally of D.C.'s anti-gun laws, which is what his bill H.R. 1288, the proposed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act, and also S. 1082, by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, would accomplish.

Last year, the House passed overwhelmingly the Souder measure but the Senate failed to act on it.

Since it is incumbent on both Houses to enact budget measures, Souder believes that by attaching his limited pro-gun amendment to the D.C. budget bill, the House establishes a means for more likely ensuring Senate consideration of the Souder-Hutchison measure, or a large part of it.

District of Columbia officials were upset with even this limited House action against the D.C. gun laws.

Mayor Anthony Williams, for instance, said "it's discouraging when

Members of Congress who don't represent our city try to shove their laws down our throats."

Earlier, Williams had called Souder's bill H.R. 1288 "an indignity to the democratic process" and "a slap in the face to me and to the people who live in this city."

Reacting to that, Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, said that, "a far greater indignity is suffered by victims of violent crime every day in the capital of the free world. How dare Mayor Williams suggest that saving his political face is more important than restoring the right of self-defense to the citizens of the city?"

"This is just one more example of an anti-gun politician worrying more about his political skin than about the lives of the citizens he serves; citizens who, every day, must worry about being robbed, raped, assaulted or murdered by thugs emboldened by a 30-year-old gun ban that has only led to higher crime rates."

John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, suggested that if District of Columbia officials persist in their attempt to thwart revision of D.C. gun laws, Congress ought to consider rescission of D.C. home rule.

Snyder submitted his statement to the House Committee on Government Reform as part of the House Committee's oversight hearing on D.C. gun laws.

"Under current D.C. law," Snyder pointed out, "decent people can't get a handgun for defense of themselves and their families, even in their own homes. In addition, they can't keep rifles or shotguns loaded or even fully assembled. The whole D.C. system has allowed criminals

to run rampant, knowing they can't be stopped by law-abiding citizens. The contention that such matters are best handled by government entities is a joke, as experience and crime statistics in the District of Columbia attest. How many high-profile unsolved homicides of young women such as those of Joyce Chang and Chandra Levy do we have to cite to show that local government just does not have what it takes to provide a secure environment?"

The proposed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act, he continued, "would permit law-abiding citizens to possess handguns and rifles in their homes and businesses, repeal the registration requirements for firearms and ammunition and eliminate criminal penalties for the possession and carrying of firearms by people in their homes and businesses.

"The bill also would correct an erroneous provision that treats some firearms as if they are machine guns."

Snyder said that, "while a number of local officials argue that adoption of the proposed Act would be an infringement on local home rule, this ignores the fact that the District of Columbia is a special constitutional entity. It is the Capital of the United States of America. As such, it is the city of the country, not just the political playground of officials so incompetent that proliferating potholes in District streets make the city resemble more the burg of a third-world country than the capital of the free world."

# TIME TO SEND STORES A PRO-GUN MESSAGE!

"It's time to send the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) a pro-gun, pro-right to self-defense message," John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said.

Over the 4th of July holiday weekend, reports of convenience store managers defending themselves and their stores with the use of firearms from robbers came over the wires. Along with these reports came the statement that, "the National Association of Convenience Stores recommends against clerks with guns," as WSOC-TV.com noted from Charlotte, North Carolina.

Snyder checked with Jeff Lenard, NACS Director of Public Affairs, and verified the news report regarding the recommendation.

Snyder thinks NACS ought at least to reconsider its recommendation. "The actual incidents show that people who work in these stores who have guns and know how to use them are able to protect themselves as well as the stores," he said. "The current NACS policy recommendation sends the wrong message. It tells robbers that NACS thinks it's better if people who work in stores are not able to defend themselves and the stores. This attitude in effect encourages the criminal activity, it seems to me. It's time for NACS to get real and see the world as it actually is."

The controversy developed as a convenience store clerk in Charlotte shot a robber three times. The store manager said the shooting sends a message to thieves to stay out.

Business got back to normal at a BP station on Ashley Road near Interstate 85 in west Charlotte after

an early morning robbery attempt.

Store manager Rebecca Williamson is hoping that what happened early on the last Monday morning in June sends a loud message out to criminals.

"It's 2005," said Williamson, and "people are not playing around anymore. There's a lot of stores getting robbed around here and there's a lot of people taking action."

Police said seconds after getting cash and a cell phone from an employee, the employee pulled a gun of his own. He shot one of the suspects three times. Then, the clerk jumped into the robbers' getaway car and tried chasing down the second gunman who took off running.

Customer Tommie Martin is glad the clerk took action, according to WSOC-TV.com.

"You run into a store and rob it. Ain't no guarantee it's going to go your way," said Martin.

WSOC-TV.com reported that many of the employees in the Ashley Road BP store have concealed weapons permits and bring their guns to work each shift.

"I feel more comfortable knowing I work with people with them," said Williamson.

Williamson just got a gun license and after the late June morning robbery, she said she's now going to be getting a concealed weapons permit so she can start carrying a gun at work.

When media contacted NACS after the incident, a spokesperson said clerks should not resist a robber because that could lead to violence. NACS also said in defense of its recommendation that many times workers aren't trained properly on how to use guns.

Then, right around the same time as the reports were coming out of Charlotte, North Carolina, ABC13.com of Houston, Texas reported that a convenience store owner there turned the tables on a would-be armed robber, "leading to some deadly consequences."

The incident occurred at the Sunny's food store on Synott near High Star in southwest Houston just after nine in the evening on the day before the Fourth of July. Police say the suspect walked into the store, jumped the counter, and demanded money while pointing a gun at the owner and another customer in the store. The owner, reported ABC13.com, "was able to produce a gun to protect himself."

Officer Philip Yochum with the Houston Police Department said, "the store owner fired two shots and the suspect was later found dead behind the store."

Police say the owner has not been charged, and that the case will be turned over to the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

"The powers that be within the National Association of Convenience Stores really need to take another look at the NACS no gun to defend yourself and your store and your customers policy," said Snyder.

Readers of Point Blank, especially any who may be store owners or managers or clerks could make their views known to NACS by writing the group's President and CEO, Kerley LeBoeuf at NACS Headquarters, 1600 Duke Street, Alexandria VA 22314, by calling (703) 518-4218, or at kerleyl@earthlink.net by email.

# CCRKBA CHALLENGES SENATE DEMS TO PROVE RKBA SUPPORT

President Bush's nomination of Judge John G. Roberts of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. to succeed retiring Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court will give Senate Democrats an opportunity to demonstrate their long-claimed support for the Second Amendment.

There have been no clear-cut rulings by Judge Roberts to suggest one way or the other how he looks at the Amendment, but his history shows a strict constructionist view of the Constitution.

Alan M. Gottlieb, Chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, suggested that during the confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the nominee be quizzed on

his interpretation of this important individual civil right.

"Senate Democrats have talked the talk, and now they can walk the walk," said Gottlieb. "Someone on that panel needs to ask whether the nominee believes the Second Amendment affirms an individual right to keep and bear arms, as originally envisioned by the Framers.

"If Judge Roberts supports the individual right interpretation, then Senate Democrats have a clear obligation to vote for confirmation," Gottlieb observed.

"On the other hand, if Judge Roberts adheres to the fantasy that the Amendment is only written to protect some sort of 'collective right' of the states to organize militias, then those same Democrats have a duty to reject

this nomination.

"For too long," he continued, "lower court judges whose nominations were supported by Democrats have gotten away with wrongly suggesting that the Second Amendment – unlike any of the other Amendments in the Bill of Rights – does not mean what it says.

"It is time for Democrats, who claim to believe the Second Amendment protects an individual civil right, to step up to the plate and prove it. The day is looming when the high court will rule on a Second Amendment case. When that day arrives, this country will need a majority on the court that has read and understands the Amendment as it was written," Gottlieb finished.

# PENN & TELLER THE CCRKBA DEFENDERS

Master illusionists and Emmy-nominated Showtime television stars Penn & Teller are the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defenders of the Month for August.

In nominating the libertarian-leaning duo for the award, CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron noted that, "In these days when most performing artists are jumping on the pro-gun control bandwagon, Penn Jillette and Teller used their monthly Showtime cable television program to air an irreverent look at the impact of misguided gun control laws, concluding that the Second Amendment was written for a reason. Theirs is a revolutionary idea and one that is not likely to endear them with their Hollywood brethren."

Penn & Teller, in addition to their Las Vegas show, host a one hour program with its unprintable name on Showtime, an irreverent look at many of the hottest current events.

In the show on Gun Control, the duo first allowed gun control advocates their say – and some interesting comments surfaced.

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York expounded: "We have to do more about guns and weapons." Filmmaker Michael Moore of Bowling for Columbine and Fahrenheit 9-1-1 fame opined that, "reducing the number of handguns means fewer deaths."

Former Time Magazine columnist Roger Rosenblatt was given several sound bites throughout the program to suggest banning all handguns, if not all guns altogether, with the exception of police officers of course. Rosenblatt said: "Get an alarm system, call a cop." (Apparently Rosenblatt was not aware of the recent U.S.

Supreme Court ruling that there is no individual right to police protection.)

Michael Beard, co-founder of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, known at one time as the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, and Jim Kessler, policy director for Americans for Gun Safety, both had the opportunity to promote their views, while street gang members were interviewed – in silhouette to protect their identities – about the ease with which guns can be obtained on the streets.

Having given the other side ample opportunity to state their case, Penn & Teller turn to gun rights advocates to offer a counter, beginning with Founding Father George Washington (OK, it was a Revolutionary War reenactor, not the REAL George Washington) who correctly observed that the Revolutionary War started over an attempt by the government of the time to disarm Colonials.

Texas lawmaker Susanna Hupp, who tragically lost her parents in the 1991 shooting at Luby's Café in Killeen, TX, before that state passed its concealed carry law, wisely stated that, "even people who choose not to get a concealed carry license benefit from the law because of the deterrent effect."

American Enterprise Institute scholar John Lott, author of More Guns, Less Crime and The Bias Against Guns, chimed in with the results of his research: "You see more drops in violent crime when people are allowed to carry concealed handguns." Lott goes on to reinforce Hupp's statement about the deterrent effect of concealed carry.

Penn then questions the effectiveness of gun control laws like the

Brady Act, noting that criminals somehow always manage to obtain guns, as clearly stated by the gangsta interviewed earlier. Asking Susanna Hupp about gun free zone laws, she responds: "Gun free zones are the preferred location for mass shootings, where the shooter knows he has nothing to fear from an armed citizen."

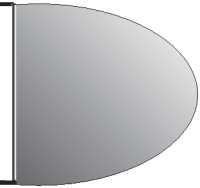
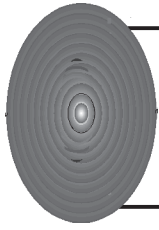
CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb cut to the bottom line: "Punish the person who commits the crime. Don't punish me, don't punish the gun." He also called attention to the original intent of the Second Amendment: to ensure the people retain the balance of power.

Following up on Gottlieb's comments, Penn brings out the most important point, "The Second Amendment is there for a reason. It's the one that protects all the others."

With both sides of the argument aired, in their earthy and direct way, Penn & Teller conclude that gun control laws are... bovine scatology!

Through their cable television outlet, Penn & Teller have the potential to reach millions of viewers. Their focus on the truth about gun control and the real import of the Second Amendment offers the viewing public an important lesson in history and civics.

For those who have not had the opportunity to see the broadcast version of the program on Showtime, we will try and show the episode during the 2005 Gun Rights Policy Conference, to be conducted in Los Angeles, September 23-25, 2005.



In Virginia, two leading federal officials have taken opposite positions on congressional efforts to repeal the draconian anti-gun laws in the District of Columbia, notes Peter Hardin, of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Sen. George Allen is a leading cosponsor of the proposed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act but Rep. Thomas M. Davis III opposes it. Allen, a potential Republican presidential candidate in 2008, says, "D.C. is not a state. It's under the legal purview of Congress. It's time to give law-abiding citizens of the Capital their constitutional right to protect themselves again. People ought to be able to protect themselves and their families in their homes." Davis, Chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, says, "I personally believe that federal legislation seeking to overturn D.C.'s gun laws is an unnecessary and potentially dangerous assault on home rule."

In Seguin, Texas, a burglar terrorized a mother home alone with her two young children until she fought back – with a gun. When Jennifer Cooper, whose husband was out, heard the intruder, she said she "got up as quickly as I could, locked my door and then someone was trying to get in. I just told the boys, 'I'm going to get the gun. Hopefully, he's going to leave or I'll have to shoot him.'" Cooper and her children hid in a bedroom while the intruder roamed through her house for more than two hours. That was when she had enough, reported WOAI.com. "I was not able to talk him away, so I just shot the gun," Cooper said.

a career criminal like Orozco has been recycled repeatedly through the criminal justice system at the same time that California Attorney General Bill Lockyer and anti-gun state legislators have pushed every kind of gun control they could imagine, from outright bans on some firearms, to cockamamie schemes like bullet serialization. While they've been working overtime to disarm law-abiding Californians, Orozco and people like him seem to get an abundance of 'second chance' opportunities to victimize people."

In Thailand, school teachers in the country's troubled southern border provinces will be allowed to carry guns, reports The Electric New Paper, published by Singapore Press Holdings Ltd. The Education Ministry will buy 2,000 pistols to arm teachers, Deputy Education Minister Rung Kaewdaeng told reporters last month. The ministry had surveyed teachers in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat and found that some 2,000 of them wanted to be issued guns to protect themselves against extremist Islamist militants. The minister said the purchase would be carried out through the welfare system of the Interior Ministry and the teachers would be charged 45,000 baht (\$1,836) each for the guns. They can borrow from teachers' cooperatives to pay for the guns.

"I warned him." The bullet went through the door and landed in the ceiling. The intruder finally left.

In Texas, Gov. Rick Perry signed legislation aimed at clarifying existing firearm laws, enhancing protections for law-abiding gun owners and reducing barriers for gun ownership. "The right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right of every law-abiding citizen of our country," Gov. Perry said. The bills include measures to extend the renewal period for a concealed handgun license from four to five years without an increase in renewal fee; to reduce all fees for a concealed handgun license for military members and veterans by 50 percent and lower the age from 21 to 18 for members of the military or veterans to obtain a concealed handgun license; and to exempt military members and veterans from taking the range portion of the concealed handgun licensing process if they had been firearms certified in the military within the past five years prior to application for the license.

Held as a suspect in the June 24 slaying of a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy, Jose Luis Orozco should not have been on the streets at all considering his criminal background, CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said. Orozco was arrested for the murder of Deputy Jerry Ortiz, a crime committed while Orozco was out of prison on parole. "It is sheer lunacy," said Gottlieb, "that

# 4

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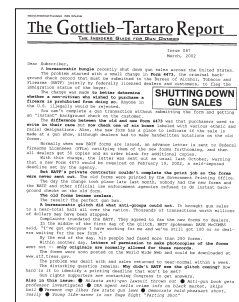
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