

POINT BLANK

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



**December
2005**

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**CITIZENS
COMMITTEE
FOR THE RIGHT
TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

(a non-profit corporation)

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THE BATTLE CONTINUES

With the recent enactment of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, there possibly could be a sense in some pro-gun quarters that problems with the gun grabbers soon will be over.

That, however, could be a dangerous sentiment for us to entertain. The anti-gun extremists are as committed as they ever have been to the destruction of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms.

Before the President's signature was dry on the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, the gun grabbers announced plans to challenge the Act in the courts.

In California, gun grabbers won a referendum in San Francisco calling for a ban on the lawful possession of handguns, and the manufacture and transfer of all firearms and ammunition within that city's limits.

At the United Nations, gun grabbers continue efforts to ban private firearms. Their proposed "small arms treaty" would abolish the right of citizens to own just about any kind of firearm.

The European Union backs the proposal. Manager Simon Gray of Oxfam, a notorious anti-gun outfit, says that action "brings the treaty much closer to being a reality." Although the United States dismissed the project during the UN Millennium Plus Five Summit this past September, gun grabbers in Russia, China and the Ukraine still are pushing it.

We who believe in the individual American Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms have a long, hard road to hoe.

The difficulties, though, and the committed opposition to the preservation of our rights should not deter us. Rather, we must accept the challenge to carry on in the face of this inane opposition.

A recent Gallup Poll showing the greatest decline of public confidence in law enforcement in 10 years indicates why so many Americans are arming themselves for protection against criminals.

The annual Crime Poll shows that confidence in the ability of police to protect people from violent crime slipped from 61 percent last year to 53 percent this year. The U.S. Justice Department reports over 60 million firearm transactions were approved between 1994 and 2004.

Despite the machinations of domestic and international anti-gun extremists, sensible law-abiding people realize that they themselves, ultimately, are responsible for the protection of their own lives and the lives of their loved ones. They know they have to be able to have access to firearms for the preservation of the right to life and property.

CCRKBA RIPS INTO BRADY HYPOCRISY

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence once again has "inserted foot firmly in mouth" in its reaction to a Florida state legislative proposal, charges CCRKBA. The proposal would allow citizens to keep firearms in their automobiles and places of employment.

Zach Ragbourn, a Brady Campaign spokesman, said that the Brady group opposes enactment of such a law because, "What's dangerous is having people in the state capital make that decision in advance about every kind of worker in every kind of situation."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb retorted that, "for years, the Brady Campaign has been working feverishly on one-size-fits-all gun control schemes at the state and national level. Now, they don't think it's a good idea for Florida lawmakers to pass a reform measure that protects the rights of gun owners."

The proposal in the Sunshine State, supported by CCRKBA and other groups of gun rights citizens, would prevent the firing of citizens from their jobs for having a firearm in their vehicle in a company parking lot. Proponents argue this is a sensible proposal that assures legally licensed citizens their right of self-protection while driving to and from work.

"The Brady Campaign never thought it was wrong to support nationwide bans on certain firearms, or 'dangerous' to promote concealed carry prohibitions, which leave citizens defenseless against attacks in public," said Gottlieb. "The gun control lobby has never opposed blanket restrictions on gun ownership, but now they're in hysterics about a blanket proposal that

strengthens the privacy rights of law-abiding citizens.

"Of course, hypocrisy and doublespeak are the cornerstones of the gun control lobby. When they can't push their agenda at the national level, they shift gears and claim that 'local control' is best. When they fail in the legislative arena, they ask the courts to legislate from the bench. They have tried to disguise their gun control and gun ban packages as 'gun safety' measures. Ultimately, the only thing they're selling is victim vulnerability and the surrender of civil rights, and the public isn't buying."

The Brady Campaign reacted positively to a development on the other side of the country, in San Francisco, California. They said last month's passage by voters of a ban on the possession, manufacture, distribution, sale and transfer of handguns and ammunition within the city "speaks volumes about the desire of urban residents to do something about the gun violence problem plaguing American cities."

Gottlieb, who also is Founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), announced right after the vote that SAF has filed a lawsuit to challenge the measure in court.

"If you ban firearms," he said, "criminals will not obey the law and only law-abiding citizens will be victimized, first by the ordinance, which we believe violates state statute, and then by the outlaws. In addition to all the gun rights organizations and various other groups, the San Francisco Police Officers Association opposed the ban and so did the media. Mayor Gavin Newsom, Senator Dianne Feinstein and others acknowledge that state

law preempts the measure.

"If this measure were to go unchallenged, San Francisco would become a magnet for criminals. That's a high price for law-abiding San Franciscans to pay, just so the city's social utopians who pushed the gun ban can feel good about themselves, because that's really all this ban amounts to—a feel good act of symbolism without substance...Enactment of this measure will leave guns in the hands of the criminal element while disarming the public."



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA SEEKS INTERNATIONAL COUNTERATTACK ON GUN CONTROL

"Recent pro-gun actions in the United States and in Brazil point to the beginning of an all-out international attack on unreasonably restrictive gun controls and on their proponents," John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said last month in Washington, D.C.

"It's about time," he added, and said that, "we will do everything legitimate we can to promote, encourage and facilitate this developing international counterattack. For too long, elitists of various stripes throughout the world have been working to undermine the right and ability of average, decent people to defend life and property against violent local, national and international criminal elements. Well, the tide is turning. The good people of the world are launching this counterattack on the local, national and international gun control proponents. For the freedom-loving people of the world, this is a most welcome and long-awaited development. We are telling the gun-grabbing elitists and hypocritical do-gooders of the world to go take a hike!"

In late October, President George W. Bush signed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act into law after both the House of Representatives and the Senate had passed it with overwhelming bipartisan votes, 283-144 in the House and 65-31 in the Senate.

This new law is intended to block any future lawsuits attempting to hold firearms industry companies liable for the actions of criminals who misuse the industry's lawful products.

Praising Congress for the measure's enactment, President

Bush said that, "our laws should punish criminals who use guns to commit crimes, not law-abiding manufacturers of lawful products. This legislation will further our efforts to stem frivolous lawsuits, which cause a logjam in America's courts, harm America's small businesses, and benefit a handful of lawyers at the expense of victims and consumers."

Also in late October, citizens of Brazil rejected soundly a proposal to ban the sale of guns. With more than 92 percent of the votes counted, the proposed ban lost in every one of Brazil's 26 states. Nationally, 64 percent of Brazilians opposed the proposed ban and 36 percent supported it. This means that gun grabbers of the largest country of South America themselves have suffered a staggering defeat.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb noted that the track record of Brazil's proposed gun ban was much the same as similar proposals here in the United States. Early on, polling suggested that the gun ban had the support of 80 percent of the population. As the election approached, though, that support began to evaporate, especially after both sides were given free air time on television to present their cases. "It never fails," said Gottlieb, "that when citizens are presented with facts instead of emotionalism and rhetoric, they choose firearms freedom every time. Brazilian citizens understand that you vote freedom away only once, and when you surrender it, through referendum or initiative, you never get it back.

"The Brazil vote should stand as a lesson to anti-gunners. The people they want to disarm through their

gun control efforts don't care to be left defenseless. Citizens who enjoy firearm freedom are not likely to give up that essential cornerstone of liberty. The vote in Brazil was a vote for freedom, and a strong message for those zealots who would take away that freedom."

As Diogo Waki, the Sao Paulo, Brazil state coordinator for the Campaign for Legitimate Self-Defense, reported, initially "the vast majority of Brazilians were unaware of the stakes. Five years ago, the Coalition for Legitimate Self-Defense, bringing together several hunting and sport shooting associations, started an intense effort, particularly on the Internet, to organize people to try and preserve the citizens' legal right to bear arms. Later, other organizations joined the Coalition.

"The referendum was a perfect occasion to wake up the public and show the government that the vast majority of Brazilians would not accept a ban on the sale of arms and munitions. For this end, the Coalition started holding debates and lectures for professional groups, universities, religious groups and parishes, and publishing articles in newspapers defending the right to own and bear arms for self-defense." Snyder said that, "internationally, the gun grabbers are on the run. Now, freedom-loving people of the world must press home the advantage. We must continue to smash into gun control proponents with additional efforts to preserve and promote the right and ability of law-abiding, freedom-loving citizens to defend life, liberty and property against nefarious elements of society."

2006 AND THE

By Alan M. Gottlieb,

Recently, we've seen the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act signed into law.

We all know, however, that power hungry elitists want our guns and our freedom.

Anyone who has supported a ban on .50-caliber rifles has helped their cause.

Anyone who has supported a ban on so-called "assault weapons" has helped their cause.

Anyone who has supported waiting periods, registration or licensing schemes for gun purchases, has helped their cause.

Anti-gunners believe gun control is the answer, and the more restrictive, the better. Their target is guns, their ultimate goal is control.

You, your family, your friends and neighbors are their intended victims.

A "caretaker government" that would leave its citizens disarmed, dependent entirely upon the government for their safety, is an oppressive government that controls its citizens rather than serves them.

We have a somewhat different perspective.

We believe that American citizens are perfectly capable of taking care of themselves.

Think back to August of 1991 and the crumbling of the Soviet Empire.

Recall that Russian citizens literally took back their government, and armed Russians stood around Boris Yeltsin holding up their Kalishnikov rifles.

Who can forget those photographs in Time and Newsweek?

Who can say they weren't inspired by the fact that those Russian citizens, tired from decades of oppression, finally arose to the challenge,

took up arms, and brought down the Communist regime that had enslaved their parents and grandparents?

Who can deny that the AK-47 became the symbol of freedom in a nation of slaves?

We are not a nation of slaves, but our freedoms and liberties are nonetheless under constant attack by people who would strip you first of your Constitutionally protected firearm rights, and then – finding it far easier – would go after your other individual civil rights.

For many years, those on the far left have worked diligently and deliberately to encroach on and erode your gun rights.

They have pushed for, and in many areas passed, laws to limit gun purchases to one a month.

They have required citizens in some states to acquire registration cards in order to legally purchase guns.

They have banned some firearms, based simply on appearance, caliber or low retail cost.

They have added, and then added more, legal hoops through which honest, law-abiding citizens must jump before they can exercise a fundamental Constitutional right.

They have done these things under the guise of public safety or child protection, but their real motive has been to make gun ownership so burdensome and onerous that increasing numbers of citizens have simply given up because they don't want the hassle.

We all believe and know it is time to take back our precious lost ground, and in the process, exercise our constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

President Bush has, perhaps, provided us all with a clue toward accomplishing that goal. He has campaigned on the theme of an "ownership society."

In an ownership society, people protect what they own.

They are not likely to join those who attack their ownership rights.

In an ownership society, people feel a greater responsibility to actively participate in the public policy arena.

What could be more fundamental than "owning" your own freedom?

How do you do that? Buy a firearm and Own a Piece of Freedom.

In an ownership society, a firearm is a tool with which you can defend everything else you own; your life, your family, your home and ultimately, your freedom.

Just ask those in New Orleans who had a firearm to protect their property and loved ones after the effects of hurricane Katrina.

We're launching the "Own A Piece of Freedom" campaign. We will encourage American citizens from Connecticut to California, from the Lone Star State to the Last Frontier, to buy a firearm.

Let's all join this "Own A Piece of Freedom" campaign.

If it's your first gun, take a gun safety course. If it's not your first gun, be sure to invite a non-shooting friend to join you at the range and teach him or her to shoot.

Let them experience firsthand the right of gun ownership, while driving home the responsibility that goes along with it.

We don't want you to just add to your gun collection, we want you to expand America's Gun Ownership Society.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Chairman, CCRKBA

You won't just be telling someone about the responsibility of gun safety, but the greater responsibility of defending gun ownership.

This may be the most important job you will ever tackle as an American citizen. It's up to each and every one of you to create at least one new, devoted shooter.

In the process, you'll be encouraging them to Own a Piece of Freedom.

Some estimates suggest there are 80 million gun owners in America.

If we can double that in one to three years, there will be upwards of 160 million law-abiding gun owners who will be far more eager to defend their gun rights ... against registration and licensing schemes, gun bans

that might arbitrarily take their valuable firearms, and laws designed just to make it harder for them to exercise their rights.

Owning a Piece of Freedom is a small gesture and yet it is a giant step toward the day when we can once again live in safe communities, and raise our families in a land of the free.

In a nation where the majority of our law-abiding citizens are gun owners, there would never be an opportunity for Charles Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, Dianne Feinstein, Hillary Clinton, Ted Kennedy or John Kerry and the like to legislate away your rights.

Gun haters like Sarah Brady and Michael Moore would pander their

lies and distortions to a shrinking minority of extremists.

Thugs and hardened criminals would think long and hard about committing crimes on your street, in your neighborhood, and even in your town.

The great science fiction writer Robert Heinlein perhaps put it best: "An armed society is a polite society."

An armed society is also a free society. In a free society, each citizen can Own a Piece of that Freedom.

The day has come, the time is now. This fundamental right is in our hands ... and if it's not, it will be with a short trip to the nearest gun shop.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

President Bush has nominated to the Supreme Court of the United States Federal Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr., who currently occupies a seat on the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, to replace retiring Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

As with the nominations of now Chief Justice John Roberts in July, the mainstream media are once again in a feeding frenzy, reporting every detail of Judge Alito's history both on and off the bench. Much of their "reporting" consists of second and third-hand accounts from Alito's friends and acquaintances, as well as some less than friendly comments.

Judge Alito's Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing is set for the week of 9 January 2006. Judiciary Committee members include Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA), chairman, Patrick Leahy (D-VT), ranking member, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Mike DeWine (R-OH), Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), John Cornyn (R-TX), Sam Brownback (R-KS), Tom Coburn (R-OK), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Joe Biden (D-DE), Herb Kohl (D-WI), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Russ Feingold (D-WI), Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Richard Durbin (D-IL).

During the Roberts hearing in September, Senator Feingold asked Chief Justice Roberts if he held any views about the Second Amendment. Roberts cited previous Appellate Court cases for and against the individual right interpretation of the Amendment, but stopped short of stating his opinion.

It is important that we try to identify Judge Alito's views of the Second Amendment. If you live in a state represented by one of the Senators listed above, we urge you to contact them and urge them to put the question to Judge Alito next month. ALL of the Senate Judiciary Committee members have an obligation to all Americans to assist in determining Judge Alito's fitness to serve on the Supreme Court.

A link to your Senator's office may be found in the left margin at the CCRKBA web site at <http://www.ccrkba.org> or the U.S. Senate's web site at <http://www.senate.gov>.

FLORIDA CONGRESSWOMAN THE CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite of Brooksville, Florida is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for December.

In nominating Rep. Brown-Waite for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "she is an outspoken legislative advocate of the individual, Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. Elected Republican Chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus for the current, 109th Congress, this Congresswoman already has taken the lead in cosponsoring a number of pro-gun legislative measures. These include a proposal to eliminate the draconian anti-gun laws in the District of Columbia, as well as the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which latter recently was signed into law by President George W. Bush. She certainly deserves this Award."

Ms. Brown-Waite recently was the subject of a Sarasota, Florida Herald Tribune article about her and other Floridians' pro-gun activities.

A few years ago, according to the article, the Congresswoman, at the time a Florida State Senator, pulled into a parking lot one night in Chiefland, Florida around midnight to take a rest from her drive to a state legislative session in Tallahassee.

She awoke as four or five young men began rocking her car and demanding that she open it.

She said, "No. I've got a gun in the glove compartment. You'd better leave."

At the time, Brown-Waite, now 62, was bluffing, but the men fled.

Then, after training on a .357 magnum, she got a concealed weapon permit. She now owns a .38 and a .45, and gets real upset when people complain about the right to keep and bear arms.

When the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, she lashed out at what she called an "out-of-touch dwindling minority of Congress" opposing gun ownership."

She stated that, "many of my liberal colleagues like to blame guns for perpetuating terrible crimes, but it is people who commit these violent acts. Gun manufacturers should not be responsible for the choices of others. S. 397 will stop greedy trial lawyers seeking to make their fortune on the backs of gun manufacturers. While today's debate clearly shows that an out-of-touch and dwindling minority is willing to shill for the agenda of anti-gun trial lawyers, I was proud to see that 282 of my colleagues understand that law-abiding firearm manufacturers should not be punished with reckless lawsuits for a crime that is not their fault.

"Furthermore, it seems as though Second Amendment supporters, like me, have been fighting to protect the right to own a gun since the beginning of time. There are some Members of Congress who claim to be the sole protectors of our civil liberties and who always manage to exclude one of the most important, our individual right to keep and bear arms. Members of Congress don't get to pick and choose which Amendments to the Constitution we have pledged to support and de-

fend. I know some Members have their own ideas about what parts of the Bill of Rights should and should not pertain in today's world, but who told them to skip from the First to the Third amendment when talking about fundamental rights?"

Rep. Brown-Waite is an active member of the Financial Services, Government Reform and Veterans' Affairs Committees in the 109th Congress. On the Veterans' Affairs Committee, she serves as Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Activity and also sits on the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. On the Financial Services Committee, Brown-Waite serves on the Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises, Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit and Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittees.

Now in her second term in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Brown-Waite is a new member of the Committee on Government Reform. She serves as Vice Chair of the Regulatory Reform Committee and also serves on the Criminal Justice Subcommittee. Ms. Brown-Waite returns home to Florida every weekend and on all extended breaks from Congress' normal legislative session, saying that, "I work in Washington, but my home is here in Florida."

A native of Albany, New York, and an alumna of the State College System, she received her Master's Degree in Public Administration. She is a mother to three adult daughters and a grandmother of four. Her husband, Harvey, is a retired New York State Trooper.



QUICK SHOTS

The gun-grabbers truly are upset with President George W. Bush for nominating Judge Samuel Alito for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. The Violence Policy Center (VPC) complained that Alito, as a member of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, voted in 1996 to strike down the 1986 federal machine gun ban in the case of *U.S. v. Rybar*, (103 F.3d 273). If his views on firearms and public safety, as expressed in his opinion in that case, said VPC, “became the law of the land, all Americans would be at greater risk from virtually uncontrollable firearms proliferation.” Another anti-gun outfit, the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, called the judge in frustration, “Machine Gun Sammy.”



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), during controversy following destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, in late October reversed a policy of prohibiting firearm possession in emergency evacuee trailer parks, known as “FEMA villages,” and other temporary housing provided by the agency. The reversal followed complaints by CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, Founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), that the original policy violated the Second Amendment civil rights of evacuees and that it was discriminatory as well. “Victims of natural disasters should not be victimized a second time by FEMA or other relief agencies,” Gottlieb

said. “A citizen doesn’t give up his or her civil rights simply because a disaster strikes.”



Some Illinois law enforcement officials apparently have succeeded in pressuring state lawmakers to oppose measures designed to make some gun control laws friendlier to gun owners. Illinois State Police Director Larry Trent urged legislators to uphold anti-gun Governor Rod Blagojevich’s vetoes of several proposals, such as one calling for the destruction of certain gun purchase records. The attempt to override the veto of a measure to void all local gun transportation laws more restrictive than those of the state failed last month. The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police fears that repealing local ordinances will make it easier for people to store guns in fanny packs.



CCRKBA expressed “cautious optimism” following Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff’s vow that his agency will increase efforts to expel illegal aliens from the United States. CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb has started a nationwide “Border Control, Not Gun Control” campaign following a Zogby poll indicating 70 percent of likely voters believe tightening security along the nation’s borders is far more important to national security than tightening the country’s gun laws. “We’re going to want to see just how serious this effort is,” Gottlieb

said, “but it certainly is a step in the right direction. Our members have responded overwhelmingly to our campaign to flood the White House with mail and telephone calls. Demand for our ‘Border Control, Not Gun Control’ bumper stickers has been phenomenal.”



Remember the gun grabbers’ hysterical concerns that, after the so-called ban on so-called “assault weapons” expired on September 13, 2004, there would be a surge in crimes committed with guns? “Well, what happened,” asks John R. Lott, Jr., of the American Enterprise Institute, a CCRKBA honoree and frequent speaker at the CCRKBA cosponsored annual Gun Rights Policy Conference. “On October 18, the FBI released the final data for 2004. It shows clearly that in the months after the law sunset, crime went down. During 2004 the murder rate nationwide fell by three percent, the first drop since 2000, with firearms deaths dropping by 4.4 percent...Curiously, the seven states that have their own assault weapons bans saw a smaller drop in murders last year than the 43 states without such laws. States with bans averaged a two percent decline in murders. States without bans saw murder rates fall by more than 3.4 percent. Indeed, that, too, suggests that doing away with the ban actually reduced crime...The real question is how much longer can the media take such hysteria seriously when it is so at odds with the facts.”



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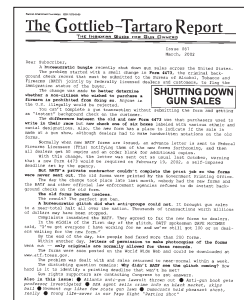
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Here's a monthly newsletter that gives you inside gun-rights information from the desks of active principals in the battle for the right to keep and bear arms. The GOTTLIEB-TARTARO REPORT is headed by Alan M. Gottlieb – chairman of the Citizens Committee 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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