

POINT BLANK

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



**November
2003**

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CDC STUDY SHOWS GUN LAW FAILURE

CCRKBA officials said a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "proves what we have been saying for years" that gun control laws simply do not work.

In a lengthy presentation, the CDC analyzed scientific evidence regarding "bans on specified firearms and ammunition, restrictions on firearm acquisition (including waiting periods), firearm registration and licensing, concealed-carry laws, child-access-prevention laws, zero-tolerance laws for firearms in schools and combinations of firearm laws."

A CDC task force "found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearm laws or combinations of laws reviewed on violent outcomes."

It also found that "firearms-related injuries in the United States have declined since 1993" despite the fact that "approximately 4.5 million new firearms are sold each year."

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron pointed out that, "for years, anti-gun groups, often citing the CDC's earlier biased research, had claimed more gun laws will reduce violent crime and suicide. CDC stopped conducting advocacy research in 1996 by order of Congress. Now, according to more balanced research, the CDC basically is acknowledging that its earlier efforts, and those of extremist gun grabbers, have been all wet."

Yet the CDC, evidently unhappy with the available research, wants to study the issue more, arguing that there is "insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearm laws reviewed for preventing violence."

The report brought an incredulous comment from Peter Hamm with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, known formerly as Handgun Control, Inc. "It's hard to study whether gun control laws work in this country because we have so few of them," he said.

"Hamm is half-baked," blistered CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "Gun control in this country is heavily regulated by a Pandora's Box of federal, state and local gun laws, many which often conflict with one another to the point that private citizens cannot know whether they are obeying a law while breaking another. The CDC report seems to confirm what we've been saying all along. Gun control laws have no impact on criminals, only law-abiding citizens who don't commit crimes. To suggest we need more laws when the ones already passed as successive panaceas apparently haven't worked is ludicrous.

"The CDC's suggestion for additional studies, simply because they don't like the results of their own research, is like treating a patient with drugs that you know aren't working, and then giving him more of the same drugs."

AIRLINE PILOT RAPS TSA DURING HOUSTON GRPC

An outspoken and well-spoken United States private airline pilot ripped into bureaucratic foot-dragging on the part of the Transportation Security Administration during the recent Gun Rights Policy Conference in Houston, Texas.

First Officer Rob Davie, a Board Member of the Airline Pilots' Security Alliance (APSA), criticized the TSA for its failure to implement the armed pilots program, a public policy advocated initially by CCRKBA immediately following the September 11, 2001 militant islamist airline terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

In a dramatic presentation, Davie demonstrated how terrorists can take over an aircraft in flight when neither the pilot nor the co-pilot is armed.

He noted that, late last year, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation directing the TSA to arm America's airline pilots to allow them to protect their passengers and aircraft against terrorist hijackings. The TSA, admittedly opposed to the program, responded with antipathy toward Congress and our nation's pilots, designing a program so rife with roadblocks and nonsensical practices, it is doomed to failure.

In an attempt to discourage volunteers, and disqualify pilots, according to APSA, TSA requires psychiatric interviews, tests and observations, and onerous redundant background investigations of pilots who have already passed the required layers of screening repeatedly to fly multimillion-dollar airliners. Our own government admits these same aircraft in the wrong hands are weapons of mass destruction. The psychiatric screening is in excess of that given to air marshals. One of the pilots TSA

judged unfit was a former 10-year DEA/Customs agent. Other disqualified candidates are current or former military pilots who carry missiles and in some cases a firearm when flying for the National Guard, but are judged incompetent to carry a firearm when flying airliners.

The TSA also requires pilots to carry their guns in lockboxes, anytime they leave the cockpit. One of the most valuable times for an airliner, according to Davie, is exactly then. Deadheading pilots must carry their weapons in lockboxes in the cargo hold, dramatically increasing the odds of loss, theft and accidents as the firearm is moved about. No other law enforcement agency even allows its officers to carry firearms "off-body" for safety/security reasons. While armed employees of 26 agencies like the Library of Congress and the U.S. Printing Office are permitted to carry concealed firearms on their persons in the aircraft cabin, Federal Flight Deck Officers must pack them away in a box.

When Congress told TSA to hire bag screeners, APSA notes, TSA spent \$700 million, and hired 60,000 in about a year. Almost a year after Congress told TSA to arm airline pilots, there is only one small training facility, and only about a hundred FFDOs have been authorized.

Davie and APSA believe "it is time to treat arming our nation's pilots as the national emergency it is. No more than a fraction of flights will ever carry air marshals; no screening system will ever keep a terrorist from getting weapons through. Commercial airliners remain, for the most part, defenseless against attack. The government has announced the threat of more hijackings in the near future. Arming pilots is by no means

a panacea for terrorist hijackings, just a vital layer of defense. A cockpit armed with lethal force is the first line of deterrence and the final line of defense.

"It is time to start treating airline pilots as the responsible professionals they are and to take advantage of this critical and inexpensive resource. The pilots that volunteer for this do so on their own time and do not even get paid for this vital service. It's time to get serious about airline security."



POINT BLANK

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

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DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL COURTING GUN OWNERS WITH FRAUD

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) called the Democratic Leadership Council's joint conference in Atlanta with the anti-gun Americans for Gun Safety "a fraud designed to fool gun owners into thinking that Democrats are truly interested in gun rights, when they are really pushing gun control disguised as gun safety."

The DLC and AGS conference was entitled "God, Guns and Guts: Seizing the Cultural Center." It was an effort, according to published reports, to portray the Democratic Party as more pro-gun. CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb's response was blunt: "Dream on."

AGS released a "7-Step Blueprint

for Democrats to Promote Responsibility and Win the Gun Vote."

"Without inviting any true gun rights organizations to the table," Gottlieb stated, "the DLC continues to wrap itself in rhetoric. It's camouflage, and hunters know about camouflage. Camo is designed to conceal something from view, and in this case, what Democrats are trying to conceal is the same old gun control agenda they've had all along, by repackaging it as something else."

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron added, "Their own pollster, Mark Penn, who worked for Bill Clinton, has advised Democrats to change their message from 'gun control' to 'gun safety.' It may sound more appealing, but it's got the same

old smell.

"By meeting with AGS," Waldron continued, "Democrats are trying to convince voters, and especially gun owners, that they are pro-gun. Look at the AGS record, and you find this organization has supported every gun control measure to come down the legislative pike since it was founded. They're not a gun rights organization. They're not even a gun safety organization. They're a gun control group."

"Until the Democrats sit down with true gun rights organizations and leaders," Gottlieb said, "their pronouncements about being pro-gun rights carry as much weight with gun owners as trying to establish what the definition of 'is' is."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

For a variety of reasons, 2004 will be a critical year for gun owners. A vote is right around the corner (and already may have occurred by the time you read this) on S. 659, the bill that would protect gun manufacturers from nuisance lawsuits. Pressure is building on Congress to reenact some form of so-called assault weapon and high capacity magazine ban. And 2004 will end with the presidential and congressional elections.

Your active involvement in the fight to protect our rights is more important than ever before. We need to keep a sharp eye on Congress and provide positive reinforcement and encouragement to ensure they do the right thing. We need to follow that up with campaign support for pro-gun officials, and support for the opponents of anti-gun officials, as they seek reelection a year from now.

We need to help educate our fellow citizens regarding the truth about guns and various aspects of the gun control issue via letters to the editor and talks with our family members and co-workers. An incredible amount of misinformation about guns is floating around out there, and the media have no interest in reporting the true facts unless we encourage them. A good example here is the Centers for Disease Control study (discussed elsewhere in this issue of *Point Blank*) that shows there is no evidence to support the claim that gun control laws reduce crime.

In the coming weeks, Congress will take its Thanksgiving recess, and then adjourn for the year just before Christmas. Our Representatives and Senators will be back in the home district, conducting town hall meetings and accepting office appointments with individual citizens or groups.

Now is the time to start the 2004 campaign season. Check with the district office of these officials to determine when and where town hall meetings will take place. Gather a couple of your hunting orange buddies to have a sit-down meeting with your Representative or Senators. Discuss the issue of gun owner rights in general, but also bring up the gun manufacturer lawsuit and assault weapons issues as well. There is no credible study that shows the so-called assault weapon ban has had any impact on crime whatsoever. And that comes straight from the historically anti-gun Centers for Disease Control. It's time to stop "symbolic" actions by Congress and focus on where the real problems are.

Telephone numbers for your elected officials may be found in the "blue pages" of your telephone directory under "U.S. Government." You also can visit the Library of Congress web site at <http://thomas.loc.gov> to find your officials' telephone numbers and district office addresses. If all else fails, call 1 (800) GUN-OWNER (1-800-486-6963) for this information.

CONGRESSMAN RON PAUL KEYNOTES HUNDREDS OF PARTICIPANTS ATTE

Highlighting the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC) this year was a comprehensive keynote address by Congressman Ron Paul, M.D. of Texas.

GRPC, a national gathering of leading gun rights activists, has been held every year for the last 18 years. CCRKBA co-sponsors it with the Second Amendment

Foundation (SAF). It is held in a different location each year, usually during the last weekend of September. This year, it was held in Houston, Texas, September 26-28, and included over 400 participants.

Congressman Paul addressed a Friday night reception sponsored by the National Rifle Association of America. He stipulated that the right to keep and bear arms is one of the pillars of our free American society. He directed the attention of GRPC to United Nations gun grabbers who are seeking to galvanize segments of the international community against traditional American rights and freedoms, including the right to keep and bear arms.

Rep. Paul mentioned that he has introduced the proposed Right to Keep and Bear Arms Act of 2002, H.R. 3135, with 10 original cosponsors, to provide that, "no funds appropriated pursuant to any provision of law may be used for the promotion of any agreement, treaty, conference, document or other action by the United Nations, or any instrumentality thereof, which advocates the taxation of firearms or any

other measure which would constitute any abrogation of rights under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution." It has been referred to the House Committee on International Relations.

Following his speech, Paul, who previously had received a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the

Month Award, accepted a special Bill of Rights Award from CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, SAF President Joseph P. Tartaro, and CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron.

Gottlieb and Tartaro also were featured speakers at GRPC, along with NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre.

Conference moderators were Julianne Versnel Gottlieb, Publisher of *Women & Guns* and *Journal on Firearms & Public Policy* and Peggy Tartaro, Editor of *Women & Guns* and a CCRKBA Director.



Alan Gottlieb and Joe Tartaro present Lt Gen Jim Chambers of National Shooting Sports Foundation with Defender of the year Award.

Texas Army Cols. Jim Peddy, John Baker, Kris Minefree, Chester Kern and John Martin kicked off the daytime sessions of the conference with the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

A federal and UN affairs briefing was conducted by John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director and SAF Treasurer, Charles H. Cunningham, Director of Federal Affairs for the NRA Institute for Legislative Action, Lt. Gen. James Chambers, USAF (ret.), Vice President of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), and John Miller, Executive Vice President of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA).

Slated for a state legislative affairs briefing were Waldron and State Sen. Sam Slom of Hawaii, a SAF Trustee, Chuck Michel, Esq., Counsel to the California Rifle & Pistol Association, James Dark, Executive Director of the Texas State Rifle Association, and John Burt, Chairman of the Fifty Caliber Institute.

Cunningham, and Gary Mehalik, NSSF Vice President for Communications, and Michael Marks, Executive Director of the Fifty Caliber Institute, discussed whether or not the court backdoor had been slammed on the anti-gunners.

Jerry Patterson, Land Commissioner of Texas, and Robert Glock, Managing Director of Glock, Inc., addressed the annual GRPC awards luncheon. At the luncheon, Patterson received a



GRPC



Congressman Ron Paul

S GUN RIGHTS POLICY CONFERENCE; ND NATIONAL GATHERING IN TEXAS



Attendees during one of the sessions.

CCRKBA Lifetime Achievement Award and Glocka SAF Global Leadership Award.

Other award recipients at GRPC included Chambers, who received the CCRKBA Defender of the Year Award, Alaska State Rep. Eric Croft, who received the CCRKBA Legislator of the Year Award, Officer Russ Hamilton of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, who received the CCRKBA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, John Lott, who received the CCRKBA Scholar of the Year Award, Minnesotans David Gross and Joe Olson, who received the CCRKBA Gun Rights Activists of the Year Award, the Houston Gun Collectors Association, which received the CCRKBA Affiliate of the Year Award, Students for the Second Amendment, who received the CCRKBA Gun Rights Organization of the Year Award, and Julie Gottlieb, who received a specially engraved St. Gabriel Possenti Society silver medallion.

Lott, the author of *More Guns, Less Crime*, and a Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, spoke on the bias in the media against guns.

A criticism of the ballistic imaging proposals was presented by Mehalik, Dave Workman, Senior Editor of *The New Gun Week*, and Neal Knox,

Executive Director of the Firearms Coalition.

Gottlieb, Cunningham, Chambers and Tom Gresham, host of the "Gun Talk" syndicated radio show, discussed the part that the gun issue most likely will play in next year's presidential and congressional election contests.

Tartaro, and David T. Hardy, Esq., author of *Origins and Development of the Second Amendment* and *This Is Not an Assault*, and David Young, author of *Origins of the Second Amendment*, discussed the history and modern meaning and applications of the Second Amendment.

Glen Voorhees, a SAF Trustee and a Texas firearms instructor, moderated a panel on right to carry laws and reciprocity which included Croft, Gross and Dan West, President of the Texas Concealed Carry Association, Chris Bird, author of *The Concealed Carry Handbook*, Kevin L. Jamison, Esq., President of the Western Missouri Shooters Alliance, Phil Journey, Esq., President of the Kansas State Rifle Association, and Jim March, CCRKBA California Field Rep.

NRA Director Sue King, Maria Heil, National Spokeswoman for the Second Amendment Sisters, and Tim Wheeler, M.D., Director of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership, a project of the Claremont Institute, held a panel discussion on the gun rights battle in public arenas.

Waldron and Frank Sawberger, Past President of the Houston Gun

Collectors Association, and Charles Murray, Contributing Editor of the *International Ammunition Journal*, set up a discussion on the future of gun shows and gun collecting.

John Hosford, a former CCRKBA Executive Director and now a Wyoming gun rights activist, chaired a resolutions committee, which included Heil, Robert Wiest, a SAF Trustee and Tennessee activist, Alice Tripp, Legislative Liaison of the Texas State Rifle Association, Dennis Walker, President of the Ohio Constitution Defense Council, John Krull, a Director of the Shooters Committee on Political Education, Francis G. Winters, a Texas activist and former NRA Director, Susan Laws, Contributing Editor of *Women & Guns*, and Richard Pearson, President of the Illinois State Rifle Association.

Among the organizations helping to fund this year's GRPC were NSSF, NRA, the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute, Charter Arms, Inc., the Houston Gun Collectors

Association, the Libertarian Party, Marathon USA, the Microsoft Gun Club, the Texas Concealed Handgun Association, *The New Gun Week*, Whitetails Unlimited, the Fifty Caliber Shooters Association, the International Ammunition Association, MBNA America, Merrill Press, the New Mexico Gun Collectors Association, *Texas Fish & Game Magazine*, Washington Arms Collectors, Wolfe Publishing Company, and *Women & Guns Magazine*.



Gottlieb and LaPierre

CONGRESSMAN SOUDER THE CCRKBA AWARDEE

U. S. Rep. Mark Souder of Indiana is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee for November.

In nominating the Hoosier Congressman for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "Congressman Souder, throughout his public career, has been a consistent defender and promoter of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms. He demonstrated this most particularly in mid-September when he took the lead in the House of Representatives in proposing and introducing the District of Columbia Personal Protection Act. If enacted, this measure, H.R. 3193, with five dozen original cosponsors, would restore to citizens of the District of Columbia the right to own and possess firearms in their homes and businesses. Rep. Souder certainly is most deserving of the Award."

In seeking support for H.R. 3193, which has been referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, Souder noted that, "the District of Columbia has the most strict gun control laws in the country. Even though law-abiding citizens are prohibited from possessing firearms, the District of Columbia continues to suffer from sky-rocketing violent crime rates. Just this year, our Nation's Capital regained its unfortunate status as the 'Murder Capital of the United States.' Not only are these ill-advised gun control laws an affront to the Second Amendment of the Constitution, they are completely ineffective. My legislation will go a long way toward rectifying this deplorable state of affairs."

Souder's bill is identical to S. 1414, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor and CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee.

Souder said the legislation would: (1) permit law-abiding Washington, D. C. citizens to possess handguns and rifles in their homes and businesses; (2) repeal the registration requirements for firearms and ammunition; and (3) eliminate criminal penalties for possession and carrying of firearms in homes and businesses.

Congressman Souder was first elected to Congress in 1994 after working for U.S. Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana for 10 years during Coats' tenure in the House and Senate.

Souder serves on the House Government Reform Committee, the Resources Committee, and the Homeland Security Committee. Since 2001, he has served as Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. This subcommittee has jurisdiction over the domestic and international anti-drug efforts throughout the federal government, and is the authorizing subcommittee for the Office of Drug Control Policy.

Born July 18, 1950 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Souder graduated from Leo High School in 1968 and from Indiana University at Fort Wayne in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He received an MBA from the University of Notre Dame in 1974.

Mark's family founded Souder's of Grabill in 1907. He currently is man-

aging partner of Historic Souder's of Grabill, which owns the land and buildings of Souder's General Store, the County Shops of Grabill and is the home of Elias Ruff Restaurant.

Mark married the former Diane Zimmer of South Bend, Indiana in 1974. They have two grown children – Brooke and Nathan – and one teenage son, Zachary. The Souders reside in Fort Wayne where they attend Emmanuel Community Church.

"I do not believe that guns are responsible for violent crime problems or that more gun control would reduce violence and criminal activity," Souder told *Point Blank*. "Most of the weapons used in criminal activities are purchased illegally on the street. Furthermore, the folly of gun control is shown time and again in cities that have strict gun control laws. For example, Washington, D. C. has the most restrictive gun control laws in the country, yet it is known foremost for its violent criminal activity. I am a strong supporter of our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. Many Americans choose to own firearms for sport, hunting, collecting, and protection. In my opinion, all of these reasons justify the ownership of firearms.

"I believe that we can take significant steps toward ensuring the security of our citizens without trampling the Second Amendment to the Constitution. I do appreciate the concern surrounding the rate of gun-related crimes. However, I would ask those in favor of more gun control to consider that those who commit crimes with firearms tend to have little respect for human life, and even less for the law."



QUICK SHOTS

In Missouri, Gov. Bob Holden has lost the support of Anheuser-Busch because he vetoed a CCW bill, which the state legislature enacted by overriding the veto. Holden said top executives at the company wanted him to sign the bill but he refused. Holden announced he was banning concealed firearms in state office buildings, even before the state's concealed carry statute takes effect. "Gov. Holden is showing his vindictive nature with this ban," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "He knows, yet refuses to admit, that law-abiding citizens who legally carry firearms do not shoot up government buildings. He also should realize that by announcing this ban, which needs to be challenged legally, he is virtually declaring government buildings to be 'free fire zones' for criminals."



In Washington, D.C., Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York introduced S. 1706, a bill to "improve" the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. It was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Original cosponsors are Sens. Lincoln D. Chafee of Rhode Island, Larry E. Craig of Idaho, Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Blanche L. Lincoln of Arkansas, and John McCain of Arizona.



In Minnesota, a group of more than two dozen churches filed suit to have the state's CCW law overturned,

contending the law infringes on religious freedom. "It undermines our ability to create a safe place of sanctuary for women, children and men, those who we serve," said Sister Susan Oeffling. She and former U.S. Attorney for Minnesota David Lillehaug complain the concealed carry law denies them the ability to choose the wording of signs posted on church property informing the public that guns are banned there. They also say the law illegally prohibits the churches from banning guns from their parking lots and from church-owned property that is leased to others.



Armi, a prestigious Italian gun magazine, says a new book by CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder is "brilliant" and is a "must have" volume for those who believe owning and using guns is compatible with religious principles. The book, *Gun Saint*, tells the heroic story of an 1860 handgun rescue of villagers from terrorists by St. Gabriel Possenti. It describes the author's campaign for the saint's designation as Patron of Handgunners, as well as controversy surrounding the proposal. It is available for \$12.95 plus \$2.00 by check or money order from Telum Associates, P.O. Box 2844, Arlington VA 22202, or by credit card from Amazon.com zShops, ID: 1006K165667.



A federally licensed firearms dealer in Connecticut is upset the Google search engine will accept

ads for pornographic websites that illegally show their materials to underage children but will not accept ads from licensed gun dealers selling a legal product to adults. A spokesman for Google said last month that the policy is "part of our terms and conditions." Rich Millo, owner of Valley Firearms in Shelton, Connecticut, told the Cybercast News Service that he is "sick and tired of having the good guys be discriminated against." Millo had subscribed to the Google Ad Words service to promote his online gun sales and auctions but then received an e-mail telling him that it had been suspended. Millo complained, "They'll let porn sites advertise but not gun sites?"



The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) urged passage of S. 659, the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act which would protect America's firearm manufacturers and dealers from malicious, predatory third party lawsuits. An identical measure already has passed the U.S. House of Representatives by an overwhelming margin. In a letter to U.S. Senators, UMWA President Cecil E. Roberts encouraged lawmakers to "cosponsor and strongly support" the proposal. His letter emphasized the potential negative impact of these reckless lawsuits against the gun industry and the resultant adverse effects they would inflict on workers and their communities. Enactment of S. 659 would protect the industry and, subsequently, jobs.

