

POINT BLANK

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

CCRKBA BLASTS PROPOSAL TO TAKE GUNS AFTER OWNERS' DEATHS



**December
2014**
Volume XXXIV No. 12

IN THIS ISSUE

Gun Confiscation After Death	1
Mental Health Screening	2
Missourians Embrace RKBA	2
People Favor Guns in Homes	3
California Carry Cases	3
Jay Leno Reneges on NSSF	4
Tasteless Innocent Target	5
Citizen Action Project	4-5
Defender of the Month	6
Nevada Battle Ahead	6
Quick Shots	7

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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When Buffalo, N.Y. Police Commissioner was quoted by a Fox News story commenting that officers in his agency would be “collecting” handguns whose owners had died so that the firearms would not “fall into the wrong hands,” the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms stepped immediately into the fray, calling it “unconscionable.”

“From now on,” Gottlieb said, “no gun control zealot will be able to dismiss and ridicule the concerns of law-abiding firearms owners that there is no reason to fear gun registration, no matter what form it takes. This explains why gun owners are opposed to registration and other forms of record-keeping and permit laws.”

Under the law in New York, survivors of licensed gun owners have 15 days to determine what they will do with the licensed handguns of a deceased loved one. The firearm can be disposed of (i.e. selling to a gun dealer or transferring ownership to someone with a license), or surrendered to the authorities. People wanting to keep inherited firearms can apply for licenses, and police can keep guns up to two years.

But that’s not the point, according to Gottlieb, who said, “The idea that police would peruse the obituaries and compare the names of recently deceased persons with their pistol permit records, and then send officers to take those guns while a family is still grieving their loss is simply unconscionable.

“This is the most disgusting and disrespectful thing that someone could do to people who have just suffered the heartbreaking loss of a loved one,” Gottlieb observed.

He said it was “is tantamount to dancing on someone’s grave and it amounts to taking property without due process or probable cause.”

Of considerable concern to Gottlieb and CCRKBA staff was the possibility that someone might have a gun that heirs did not know existed. It is unusual for people go be going through the belongings and effects of a dead family member only to discover a gun. But that might not happen for weeks, or even months, after someone has passed away.

“The final insult,” Gottlieb said, “is that 16 days after someone dies, his or her survivors could become criminals simply because they didn’t report a firearm, or maybe didn’t even know it existed.”

He also noted that this kind of program “could forever drive a wedge between police and honest citizens whose only crime is that they exercised their Second Amendment rights.”

CALL FOR LICENSING, MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING ON GUN OWNERS

A self-described Navy veteran has written an alarming proposal in *The Daily Beast* in which he has proposed strict gun control measures including licensing, 80 hours of training for a concealed carry permit, and mandatory mental health screenings for gun owners every five years when their licenses are renewed.

To pay for the added bureaucracy, author Shawn VanDiver proposed an ammunition tax of ten cents per cartridge. The idea elicited outrage from people visiting the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms' Facebook page.

VanDiver, identified as "a 12-year navy veteran and adjunct faculty at three universities teaching military studies, national security, homeland security and international security and trade," also wrote about gun control in May. At that time, VanDiver proposed, "We should consider

putting a cap on the number of firearms purchased for personal use. Allowances could be made for licensed gun dealers, but home protection and hunting require don't require individuals to keep an arsenal."

He also suggested that some misdemeanor convictions "should be added to the list of crimes that preclude offenders from owning firearms."

The idea of limiting the number of guns someone can own drew immediate negative reactions from collectors, including one Facebook reader who said that is an immaterial issue, since a person can only shoot one or maybe two guns at a time.

But there is a broader issue. If a person owns dozens of firearms, and he/she is not breaking any laws, what difference does it make? Many gun collectors occasionally loan their

firearms to museums for historical exhibits. Others simply enjoy shooting, or privately displaying, different firearms.

CCRKBA believes that laws should be aimed at punishing criminals, not treating responsible, law-abiding citizens as if they were criminals. Five-year licensing schemes with mental health screenings, taxes on ammunition and limits on the number of firearms one can own, plus safe storage requirements that careless people will ignore and careful people already do voluntarily are not going to stop crimes or tragedies

MISSOURIANS 'FALL BACK ON 2A,' ANTICIPATING FERGUSON

Published news reports leading up to the decision by a grand jury on the investigation of the controversial Michael Brown shooting revealed that in anticipation of trouble in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, a lot of people fell back to the comfort of the Second Amendment.

According to various published reports, some gun shops experienced heavy traffic in the weeks before the Ferguson decision. One shop reportedly saw a 300 percent sales increase over the same period in 2013, and of that, about 60 percent of the sales were to first-time gun buyers.

This was even before Gov. Jay Nixon

activated the Missouri National Guard in anticipation of trouble; the kind of thing that frequently sends people rushing to gun stores. It was also before ABC News reported that the FBI had issued warnings to local law enforcement agencies in several areas to expect trouble from so-called "extremist protesters."

The fact that more people bought guns for the first time suggests that, when faced with what could be an emergency, people who may never before even liked guns suddenly want one within reach.

CNN quoted a Ferguson insurance salesman who noted that he would be "bringing an extra gun to the office."



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

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NEW SURVEY SHOWS PEOPLE FAVOR GUNS IN HOMES

A new Gallup poll shows a majority of Americans support the idea of having a firearm in the home for protection, indicating a continued shift toward the Second Amendment.

The poll, released in early November, shows that 63 percent of Americans who responded believe that having a gun in the home makes that home safer. This, according to Gallup, is a record-high percentage and one that has nearly doubled since 2000. Only 30 percent of the respondents believed having a gun in the home made it more dangerous to live in, with the remainder, about 6 percent, being unsure.

Overall, among those who felt having a gun in the house made it safer to live in, 67 percent of men and 58 percent of women – both

solid majorities – agreed with that premise. Further, people all over the country felt this way, with as high as 68 percent of respondents agreeing with that in the South.

Gallup also broke responses down by political party, and while they noted 81 percent of Republicans supported the notion of having a gun in the home making it safer, a strong 64 percent of those classifying themselves as “independents,” always a key electoral bloc, also agreed with the premise. In both cases, those percentages, according to the poll, have steadily climbed every year they’ve taken this poll, and while just 41 percent of Democrats agreed with this statement, compared to 53 percent who felt otherwise. That 41 percent number is also the highest

the poll has seen on this question amongst that group.

Gallup reported that 42 percent of respondents stated they had a gun in the house, with Republicans and people living in the South making up a fair number of those folks. According to Gallup, this number follows a trend that has been seen over the past ten years, but has fluctuated significantly during that time frame; their most recent survey asking this question showed just 37 percent of participants reporting they had a gun in the home.

This poll was taken during the middle of October, with a sample size of slightly over 1,000 respondents, all adults age 18 and over, across the United States, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

ANTIS PONDER NEXT MOVE IN CAL. CARRY CASE

Gun prohibitionists and anti-gun California Attorney General Kamala Harris were considering their next moves at press time after a divided federal appeals court panel let stand its earlier ruling that requires the San Diego County Sheriff to issue concealed carry permits, and turned thumbs down on an effort by Harris and the Brady Campaign to intervene in the case.

Earlier this year, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the sheriff’s requirement that CCW permit applicants had to show “good cause” to have a permit, beyond simply saying it was for self-defense. It’s a case that the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, and particularly its California

members and supporters, have been watching since the original case was filed in 2009.

According to the Associated Press, it was “another big legal victory” for gun owners and Second Amendment advocates.

This is one of a couple of cases challenging what is alleged to be an arbitrary way that carry permits are issued. Another case, involving CCRKBA’s sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, along with the Calguns Foundation, is challenging the sheriff’s policy in Yolo County.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb has noted that, “California officials have been put on notice that they can no longer treat the Second

Amendment as a heavily-regulated government privilege.”

The issue of carry outside the home has been at the heart of several cases over the past four years, following the 2010 McDonald ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that the Second Amendment applies to state and local governments, and protects the rights of citizens everywhere in the country. Cases brought against arbitrary laws in New Jersey, New York and Maryland were not accepted for review by the Supreme Court.

Prof. Joyce Malcolm, who teaches law at George Mason University, told the Associated Press that “A right to bear arms is no right at all if you need to demonstrate a need to carry that firearm which satisfies the police.”

CCRKBA BLASTS LENO'S SHOT SHOW CANCELLATION

The anti-gun movement knows no boundaries, so when they recently learned that comedian Jay Leno had been booked to appear at the annual State of the Industry dinner at the 2015 Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show in Las Vegas, they apparently pressured Leno to withdraw.

Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, and an annual attendee of the SHOT Show along with CCRKBA's sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, was blunt.

"It doesn't say much about Jay Leno's character," Gottlieb observed. "He knew what the SHOT Show was when he made the commitment."

Human Events called the former Tonight Show host a "coward" and accused him of caving in to "liberal activists."

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, which sponsors the SHOT Show, also issued a statement, reporting that Leno "unilaterally cancelled his promised appearance due to pressure from the anti-gun lobby, which included false statements about our industry and its commitment to genuine firearms safety, which we attempted to personally correct with him, but to no avail."

"We are not deterred by their publicity seeking nor are we unfamiliar with the bullying political tactics of the gun control groups," NSSF said, "that seem to have as little respect for the First Amendment as they continually demonstrate with regard to the Second Amendment."

Gottlieb said this is just another demonstration of the increasingly

heavy-handed tactics now being used by the gun control lobby. And once again, anti-gunners exhibited something of a double standard when they went after Leno only a day after several entertainers had appeared at a fund raising event in California to raise money for the Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety.

Leno's appearance would not have been as a fund-raiser, anyway. He would have provided the main entertainment at the annual industry dinner, which is heavily attended, and for which hundreds of tickets had already been sold because he was the headliner.

Leno's cancellation will not stop the annual industry gala, NSSF vowed. "Despite Mr. Leno's cancellation," the statement noted with a pointed remark, "we look forward to having our biggest and best State of the Industry Dinner to date with a performer that respects the contributions of our industry and the customers it supports."

NSSF has been a leader in promoting firearms safety and the lawful use of firearms for hunting, competition, recreation and personal protection. In 1999, NSSF created Project ChildSafe to educate gun owners of all ages about firearms safety in the home. NSSF is responsible for the First Shots program, which introduces new shooters to safe and enjoyable firearms use.

Recently, the industry group came out in opposition to Washington State's anti-gun Initiative 594, an 18-page gun control measure promoted as a "universal background check" proposal. CCRKBA had been involved in the opposition to that measure, as well as promoting an alternative, Initiative 591.

NSSF has also become a leader

in setting the record straight on firearms ownership and crime. The accompanying video was released in early June, and essentially puts the lie to long standing predictions by the gun prohibition lobby that more guns in private hands leads to more violent crime.

Overall, the firearms industry and American gun owners have contributed billions of dollars to wildlife conservation and enhancement programs, through the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act, passed in 1937. NSSF is responsible for education programs that help retailers comply with federal and state firearms laws.

Most of the focus on the recent
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CCRKBA CHIEF RIPS ANTI-GUN 'INNOCENT TARGET' PROJECT

When a British firm began marketing a series of poster-targets to benefit the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms quickly weighed in, telling Guns.com, "Considering that good guys with guns stop more bad guys who target innocent victims and save many more lives than are lost to so-called gun violence, I bet they don't sell many of those offensive targets. None of the more than 80 million law abiding gun owners will buy them."

Each poster carries the message that proceeds from the sale of these offensive targets will benefit CSGV.

When the CSGV posted a story about the target posters on its Face-

book page, reaction was probably not what they expected. One man said the target idea "strikes me as a horrible execution of a worthwhile cause." A woman whose son was apparently a murder victim called it a "Stupid, Stupid idea...and believe me this does NOTHING to help with gun violence."

The target posters include pictures of a housewife, bride, pizza delivery guy and a woman with her back turned toward the camera. All have targets superimposed on the images..

Each poster carries this message: Banana & Associates supports the CSGV. The website for Innocent Targets says there are approximately 18,000 gun ranges in America, that

various targets depicting zombies and thugs are available, but "The painfully ironic truth is that the real targets of gun violence aren't these fictional 'bad guys' but rather our real-life friends, neighbors, co-workers and children.

"Innocent Targets is a reminder of the thousands of lives lost to the deadly gun culture in America and a call-to-action to help us put an end to it," the website message adds. "The posters in this series are available for purchase below, with proceeds going to The Coalition To Stop Gun Violence."

Gottlieb was not the only person who saw the target images as an exercise in very poor taste.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

mid-term elections has been on the changes in the U.S. Senate. But far more than that happened on Nov.

ere also on the ballot. Most gun laws are passed and enforced at the state level, not federal. We must be
ederal level, but the state capitols are where most of the action is.

UR employees. You elected them, they work for you. And they need to hear from you. They need to know
expect of them.

l, all of these elected officials are at home, and frequently conducting meetings with constituents. This is
them. Just a short 10 or 15 minute meeting -- shake hands, let them know who you are, so that when you
ck in session, they know your name and maybe recall your face.

most Americans support more gun control laws, and believe guns in the home make homes more danger-
merica's premier polling organization, recently asked Americans for their view of guns in the home. A record
make homes safer. Only 30 percent believed they made homes more dangerous, and 6 percent weren't
be found at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/179213/six-americans-say-guns-homes-safer.aspx>)

his. They need to know the true effects of the gun control legislation that will be placed before them in the
it is your job to help guide them as they decide how to vote on a given bill.

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TEXAS GOVERNOR-ELECT MAKES IT CLEAR ON RKBA

Texas Governor-elect Greg Abbott wasted no time in making it clear how he feels about the right to keep and bear arms when he affirmed that he would support and sign legislation legalizing the open carry of firearms by law-abiding gun owners following his landslide victory.

The incoming governor, who replaces pro-gunner Rick Perry, noted at a news conference that if open carry is “good enough for Massachusetts, it’s good enough for the state of Texas.”

The declaration may have ignited some political disagreement about who should be allowed to carry a sidearm openly, everyone or just those who have a license to carry concealed. But in an *Amarillo Globe-News* story quoting C.J. Grisham, president of Open Carry Texas, he expressed confidence that in 2015, Texas will allow the legal open carry of handguns.

When it comes to understanding Texas law, perhaps nobody who has been in the governor’s office has a better feel for it than Abbot. He has

served as a justice on the Texas State Supreme Court and also as the state’s attorney general.

Cementing Abbott’s reputation as a defender of gun rights, no sooner had he promised to sign an open carry bill than did the anti-gun Moms Demand Action lobbying organization have a fit. The Michael Bloomberg-backed gun prohibition group has promised to fight open carry in Texas, but they may find that a difficult battle to win.

Abbott is no stranger to the pro-gun spotlight. In 2013, as recalled by Newsmax, he purchased advertising in New York newspapers to encourage Empire State gun owners to move to the Lone Star State. He promised them “lower taxes and greater opportunity.”

The incoming Republican has earned a reputation for something other than gun rights. He has sued the Obama administration repeatedly. Most recently, Abbott has targeted the president’s executive action on illegal immigration, suggesting that the new First Texan thinks there’s something illegal about the Obama plan. He has a lot of company, as many critics have

asserted that the president may not have the constitutional authority to take such an action. Texas is a state that stands to be greatly impacted by the president’s policy.

If Obama can make this kind of decision about illegal immigration, what’s to stop him from making executive decisions about Second Amendment rights?

Perhaps it will be Greg Abbott.

Abbott is the rare governor who uses a wheelchair, but that obviously doesn’t interfere with his thinking about gun rights. Disabled in a 1984 accident when a tree fell on him following a storm, the new governor has earned his reputation as a staunch gun rights supporter, and the next four years will likely be pretty much the same as the previous eight where gun control extremists are concerned.

His promise to sign an open carry bill if it lands on his desk is a pretty strong indication that anti-gunners will have their hands full trying to gain any traction with his administration.

NEVADA ACTIVISTS PREPARING TO FIGHT BLOOMBERG

Gun rights activists in Nevada are preparing to put up a fight against another Michael Bloomberg-backed gun control initiative aimed at so-called “universal background checks.”

Bloomberg backed a similar measure in Washington State that passed, and now activists are working on strategies that may include both legal challenges and legislative fixes.

The Nevada effort comes after the gun prohibition lobby tried to pass a complicated and unenforceable

bill through the state legislature. The bill passed along party lines, and was vetoed by Gov. Brian Sandoval.

Nevadans for State Gun Rights has established a headquarters in Reno, where they are preparing for a legislative battle in 2015 when the initiative – which garnered some 250,000 signatures – for expanded checks will be debated. If the legislature does nothing, and refers the measure to the people, it will be in the 2016 ballot.

By no small coincidence, that’s when the presidential election will be held,

and liberals want a heavy turnout.

The Nevada gun rights group is already soliciting contributions, as Washington taught them that they will need huge amounts of cash to fight the millions that can be pumped into the election by Bloomberg’s Everytown for Gun Safety and other anti-gun lobbying groups.

CCRKBA was involved in the Washington effort, and Protect Our Gun Rights – the umbrella group for gun rights activists, collectors, law enforcement and hunters – was outspent ten-to-one.



QUICK SHOTS

Texas Gov.-elect Greg Abbott, who won the gubernatorial race Nov. 4 in the Lone Star State to replace outgoing pro-gun Gov. Rick Perry, told a Houston TV station that he thinks residents should be allowed the right to openly carry handguns. "Texas, as I understand it, is one of only seven states in the United States of America that does not have open carry. If open carry is good enough for Massachusetts, it's good enough for Texas," the soon-to-be governor told KRIV-TV.

According to the TV station, lawmakers have already begun pre-filing proposals to be considered in the next legislative session, so it will be interesting to see what happens.



Voters in a legislative district in West Virginia voted for Republican Saira Blair to represent them in the state's House of Delegates, and according to the Associated Press, Blair, who's only eighteen, will be the youngest lawmaker in state history. One of the positions she campaigned on during her race against her Democrat challenger, reports the AP, was her support of the Second Amendment. Blair is attending college at the moment, but will be able to serve during the upcoming session of the state Legislature.



In light of new pro-gun laws passed in Pennsylvania, one town is in the process of repealing a gun ban in their community.

According to the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, the council in the town of White Oak voted to authorize a repeal an ordinance that barred firearms on public property within the city limits. A second vote will be needed to make that repeal official.

The new law helped strengthen state pre-emption by exposing local cities and towns to possible legal action for anti-gun laws on the books.



Phones have been quite busy as of late in one Iowa town, as pro-gunners made their voices heard regarding that town's proposal to bar guns from public spaces.

According to KCCI-TV, officials in Nevada were besieged by over 100 phone calls and emails protesting the proposed ban, after state gun rights activists alerted folks about it through social media.

The TV station reports the proposed ban came about as a recommendation from a city committee dealing with public safety after city workers expressed concern over interactions with some citizens.



There's good news on gun rights coming out of Russia.

According to *Russia Today*, the Russian government, known for having very strict gun regulations, has added self-defense to the list of reasons that citizens can obtain licenses from the government in order to possess firearms. Previously, those reasons were only for hunting and/or target shooting.

All of this comes although the most recent poll on the subject found many Russians opposed any changes to their country's existing gun laws. It is also a reaction to a couple of mass shootings in the country in recent years.



The federal government is expanding its instant gun background check system onto Indian reservations.

So reports *The Hill* which reported that the new regulations, that will allow tribal police access to the NICS system before they issue members of their tribes permits to carry firearms. It, however, will not be a requirement, meaning that decisions for using the system will be left to local tribal councils to make on their own.



Sheriff's officials in a suburban Nashville, TN, county are looking into whether one of their elected officials violated the law by carrying a gun on school property.

According to the *Tennessean*, police in Williamson County are reviewing the matter based on information that the councilmember in question, who was at a school board meeting, was allegedly carrying a purse that she had previously noted on social media had a gun inside it. School officials, according to the sheriff's office, called police to inform them of that possibility, and when cops showed up to investigate and discovered a weapon in the purse.

