

# POINT BLANK

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



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

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## **CELEBRITY GUN DISCONNECT CONFLICTS WITH U.S. CULTURE**

One of the most unfortunate characteristics of current American life is the extent to which a number of the supposed exemplars of American culture are so far out of touch with the actual characteristics of our culture. This is especially true with regard to the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

It should be understood by anyone capable of analyzing factual material that firearms ownership and use is part and parcel of American history, tradition and culture, including contemporary culture.

Firearms ownership and use is a mainstream activity.

Just think of it. More people in the United States own rifles, shotguns and handguns than vote every four years for the successful presidential candidate. There are even more handguns in private hands in the United States than there are votes for the winning presidential candidate.

At the same time, though, some American celebrities truly are out of step with the American public on the matter of firearms ownership.

Just consider the names of some of the celebrities from the entertainment world whose roles in movies have been interrelated with the beneficial use of firearms but who have supported restrictive firearms legislation and gun grabbing candidates for public office.

Included in this list are Alec Baldwin, Kevin Bacon, Beau Bridges, George Clooney, Kevin Kostner, Sean Connery, Matt Damon, Michael Douglas, Sally Field, Paul Newman, Jack Nicholson, Robert Redford, Renee Russo, Martin Sheen, Sylvester Stallone – to designate just a few of them.

In a recent example of this disconnect, two-time Academy Award winner Jodie Foster, who plays a gun-toting woman in *The Brave One*, told an *Entertainment Weekly* reporter: "I don't believe that any gun should be in the hand of a thinking, feeling, breathing human being."

In the movie, which topped box office receipts the weekend it was released last month, Foster's character ironically was a thinking, feeling, breathing human being who determined she needed a gun to stay that way after she had been beaten severely and whose fiancé had been beaten to death by a gang of thugs during an evening stroll in New York City.

Like other admittedly capable and possibly supremely talented members of her profession, Foster simply does not understand the world in which real people really live. For her and for her fellow professionals, that's a real shame. For candidates for public office, though, it's a warning to not necessarily take too seriously the big names whose support they seek.

This lesson is especially important as Americans begin to consider the 2008 campaign for President, for all U.S. Representative and for one-third of the U.S. Senate seats which now is already in progress.

# BATFE REPORT UNDERCUTS BLOOMBERG DATA CLAIMS

Early last month, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) released aggregate gun trace data in the New York City region that undercuts perennial claims by gun-grabbing New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg that this data is not available to law enforcement.

BATFE's Special Agent in Charge of BATFE's New York field division, William G. McMahon, released the data for 2006.

Bloomberg uses the false claim that data is not available as an argument for eliminating the Tiahrt Amendment, which prohibits confidential gun trace data from being used in harassing third-party civil lawsuits against the firearms industry.

"No matter what the data shows – and it contains no surprises for anyone who understands the firearms black market – the most significant fact of all is that BATFE once again has demonstrated that this data is available for on-going, legitimate criminal investigations," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "Of course, that probably went right over the heads of anti-gunners, including Mayor Bloomberg, who probably do not realize that the BATFE just exploded their big lie.

"Special Agent McMahon struck a huge blow for truth, because the release of this 2006 trace activity shows that police in New York City are asking for, and getting, critical gun trace data. But to hear Bloomberg and his cronies in the anti-gun Mayors Coalition, local police are stymied by a federal law that protects this sensitive trace data from being exploited for political aggrandizement."

Gottlieb said, "One other thing to keep in perspective about this data is that it proves beyond doubt that

restrictive gun control laws in New York and elsewhere do not prevent criminals from getting guns. These laws, and other gun control measures, only restrict the rights of honest citizens.

"Perhaps equally important is that harassment lawsuits against the firearms industry and individual firearms retailers also do not stop determined criminals from committing crimes with guns they obtain illegally. Neither do vigilante sting operations, conducted by anti-gun mayors and their rogue private investigators."

Earlier, another BATFE report also undercut Bloomberg's claim. The August report revealed that only about a third of the nation's estimated 17,000 local law enforcement agencies regularly request federal assistance for "trace information" identifying the source of firearms used in crimes.

"There may be law enforcement agencies out there not asking for it because they don't think they have access to it," said Michael Sullivan, Acting Director of BATFE.

"For investigators," reported *USA Today*, "the trace information is often key to tracking suspects in gun-related crimes. Using serial numbers and other descriptive information from recovered weapons, federal authorities can compel firearms manufacturers and dealers to provide information about who first bought the weapon and when."

"Federal authorities," the newspaper continued, "say they tend to receive repeated requests for help every year from the same 6,000 law enforcement agencies – and rarely hear from the other 11,000. They worry that the ongoing public debate – fueled by advocacy groups and a national coalition of mayors – over

access to the critical background information may be discouraging police departments from requesting it.

"The ATF is permitted to share trace information with agencies that request it as part of ongoing criminal investigations. The bureau, however, is restricted from sharing results of individual requests with departments other than the requesting agencies. Federal law also shields the data from use in civil suits."



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

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# WE'VE GOT THE GUNS, SAYS CCRKBA'S SNYDER

"Hip! Hip! Hooray! We've got the guns, and we intend to keep them," CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder noted last month in Washington, D.C. after reviewing a news report on the Small Arms Survey 2007 by the Geneva based Graduate Institute of International Studies.

According to the survey, for every 100 citizens in the United States, there are 90 firearms. This makes the American society the most heavily armed in the world. American citizens possess 270 million of the 875 million firearms known to those conducting the survey. People in the United States purchase more than half—4.5 million - of the eight million new guns manufactured each year.

"There is roughly one firearm for every seven people worldwide," the report noted. "Without the United States, though, this drops to about one firearm per 10 people."

"There is no doubt about it," said Snyder. "The USA is gun country – and gun grabbing extremists in politics, media, churches, courts, professions and education ought to take note. Basically, these people psychologically are out of touch with America. It would be in keeping with the nature of our society if they were cast out en masse from the positions of authority, influence and respect which they now hold. It would be in keeping with the character of America if they were told simply to GO!"

"One of the bases of our nation is the individual, Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. Some recent domestic public opinion survey data demonstrate and confirm that Americans believe firmly in this proposition. A Zogby International

poll earlier this month indicated that two-thirds of the American voting public rejects the notion that new gun control laws are needed. When the *Express*, a give-a-way publication of the anti-gun *Washington Post*, asked respondents in an Internet survey if college students who have permits be allowed to carry guns on campus, 85 percent said yes and only 15 percent said no." Another *Express* survey found that 89 percent of the respondents said that the tough Washington, D.C. ban on handguns is unconstitutional.

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*...two-thirds of the American voting public rejects the notion that new gun control laws are needed.*

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Snyder said, "The time has come for the law-abiding American gun owner to take back our society from the gun-grabbing extremists in our midst. It is time to assert firmly the truth that, contrary to hype, more guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens correlate with decreases in rates of violent crime. It is time to tell the politicians who would saddle the people with more restrictive gun control laws to go take a hike. It is time to allow students and professors who have state issued permits to carry concealed firearms to carry guns on campus. It is time to slash public funding of colleges and universities that refuse to allow such professors and students to carry their guns on campus for self-defense. It is time to stand up for freedom as in days of yore!"

According to the international report, India had the world's second-largest civilian gun arsenal, with an

estimated 46 million firearms outside law enforcement and the military, though this represented just four guns per 100 people there. China, ranked third with 40 million privately held guns, had three firearms per 100 people.

Germany, France, Pakistan, Mexico, Brazil and Russia were next in the ranking of countries' overall civilian gun arsenals.

On a per capita basis, Yemen had the second most heavily armed citizenry behind the United States, with 61 per 100 people, followed by Finland with 56, Switzerland with 46, Iraq with 39 and Serbia with 38.

France, Canada, Sweden, Austria and Germany were next, each with about 30 guns per 100 people, while many poorer countries often associated with violence ranked much lower. Nigeria, for instance, had just one gun per 100 people.

"Firearms are very unevenly distributed around the world," said Small Arms Survey director Keith Krause. "The image we have of certain regions such as Africa or Latin America being awash with weapons – these images are certainly misleading."

He told a Geneva news conference that, "Weapons ownership may be correlated with rising levels of wealth, and that means we need to think about future demand in parts of the world where economic growth is giving people larger disposable income."

The report, which relied on government data, surveys and media reports to estimate the size of world arsenals, estimated there were 650 million civilian firearms worldwide, and 225 million held by law enforcement and military forces.

# CCRKBA CHAIRMAN HITS DC HYPOCRISY

When Attorney General Linda Singer of Washington, D.C. early last month attempted to justify the District's handgun ban as it announced its appeal of the Parker case to the U.S. Supreme Court, she revealed the depth of hypocrisy that lies at the core of this case, said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb.

Singer reportedly said that, "Whatever the Second Amendment guarantees, it does not require the District to stand by while its citizens die."

Responding, Gottlieb said that, "The District, and the people who are elected to run it, have been standing by for years while citizens have been dying. A string of administrations dating back 30 years have callously allowed residents of our Nation's Capital to die, to be assaulted, robbed and raped because they have been disarmed legally and left defenseless by this insidious gun ban."

Gottlieb cited language in the District's petition to appeal as further evidence of the outrageous insensitivity for the harm that this unconstitutional ban has wrought. The petition notes—as quoted by The Washington Post—that "No other provision of the Bill of Rights even arguably requires a government to tolerate serious physical harm on anything like the scale of the devastation worked by handguns."

Gottlieb said that, "The District of Columbia has been tolerating murder and mayhem on a horrendous scale for three decades in the stubborn defense of an insane ban that statistics show has been a public safety disaster. Singer and Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty can try to spin the history of this travesty any way they want, but the fact remains that the continued defense of this ban

represents a flagrant disregard for the personal safety of every law-abiding citizen in the city.

"How dare the city contend that this ban has improved public safety? It is now clear that the Fenty Administration is far less interested in the safety of its citizens than it is in the defense of a clearly failed, 30-year-old liberal anti-gun philosophy that epitomizes the moral bankruptcy of gun control."

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*...the appeals court said the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects a person's right to own a gun.*

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The D.C. petition asks the Supreme Court to overturn an appeals court ruling from earlier this year that struck down the city's handgun ban.

The overturned statute, which went into effect in 1976, banned residents from owning a handgun unless they already had a permit. In 2003 six D.C. residents challenged that law, arguing that the city violated their Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms."

On March 9 of this year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia agreed. In a two-to-one ruling in the case of Parker v. District of Columbia, the appeals court said the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects a person's right to own a gun.

If the Supreme Court agrees to hear the case, the District of Columbia is expected to argue that the Second Amendment does not prevent the city from enacting reasonable regulations to limit gun possession in order to protect residents.

The D.C. petition raises one question, "whether the Second Amendment forbids the District of Columbia from banning private possession of handguns while allowing possession of rifles and shotguns."

Lawyers for the District, according to ABC News, say that question could allow the Supreme Court justices to decide the case narrowly by stating that D.C. law gives residents the ability to protect themselves with other types of weapons.

In an attack on the appellate court's March decision, Fenty and Singer wrote in The Washington Post that, "The handgun ban has saved countless lives, but this fundamental part of the District's public safety laws will be no more if the Supreme Court does not review and overturn this year's decision by the D.C. Circuit. Departing from the consensus of the courts, the court (in a 2-1 vote) decided that the Second Amendment is not about state militias after all but about personal gun rights. We think that ruling is extraordinary and wrong. Indeed, it is the first time a federal appellate court has used such a view of the Second Amendment to strike down any gun control law."

Robert E. Brand of Frederick, Maryland, commenting on the District action, wrote in The Washington Times that, "Should the Supreme Court decide this case on the side of freedom, then the residents of the District would be free to protect themselves, something the government and police can't do." Presently, he added, "the people are defenseless and live in a victim-rich environment created by the politically elite."

# TAFF SUCCEEDS WALDRON AS CCRKBA EXEC DIRECTOR

Veteran gun rights activist Joe Waldron has resigned as CCRKBA Executive Director in order to move from the Seattle area, where CCRKBA National Headquarters is located, to his new home in Florida, where he will work as CCRKBA Special Activities Director.

Mark A. Taff, who has been with CCRKBA and its sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, for the past two and a half years, succeeds Waldron.

"Joe Waldron is one of the nation's most effective gun rights leaders," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "We're fortunate that, despite his move CCRKBA will continue to have his knowledge and experience working for us. His work as Executive Director for more than 10 years has

been critical to the advancement of gun rights.

"Mark Taff brings considerable skills to the job, particularly in the area of internet communication, which is becoming paramount to the cause of firearm civil rights. He served on the Colville, Washington City Council, and before joining our team at Liberty Park, he worked in mortgage financing. He is a disabled combat veteran of the 1991 Gulf War, and at age 35, brings a youthful zest to the job."

Recently, Gottlieb and Taff joined in agreeing with U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma that there is a serious flaw in H.R. 327, the proposed Joshua Omvig Veterans' Suicide Prevention Act that ultimately could prevent military veterans from exercising the

Second Amendment rights they have fought hard to defend.

The problem, notes Sen. Coburn, a medical doctor by profession, is that "it preconditions health care for veterans on mental health screening." A veteran seeking treatment for any condition, including a common cold or flu, first must undergo a comprehensive mental health screening.

Sen. Coburn indicated that the sharing of veterans' health records in connection with supposed efforts to "improve" NICS records and get veterans relief from gun rights disability in reality was "an effort to prohibit the purchasing of firearms by veterans who had been diagnosed as having mental health problems at one point in their lives."

Gottlieb and Taff agreed.

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Let's try to educate the media with the truth about guns and gun rights.

We can do this with brief, cordial and factual letters, mailed, emailed or both, to the editors of local newspapers, especially when these papers run supposed "news" articles which demonstrate an obvious bias. We can do the same with local radio and television stations when their biased coverage shows they need to be straightened out and told to fly right.

The media really needs to be straightened out. Perhaps lawful picketing by firearm rights activist individuals and groups would help straighten them out.

Gun rights activists could acquaint newspaper editors and TV and radio directors with a study released this past summer by David Neidrauer from the Culture and Media Institute. If the media honchos come to realize that their credibility is on the line and that a large segment of the public is questioning their objectivity, they perhaps at least could be shamed into turning over a bit of a new leaf on gun-related issues.

As Neidrauer's report noted, during the week following the Virginia Tech campus multiple murders in April, the major broadcast networks ran nearly 30 total stories promoting gun control, with another 24 from CNN, nine in The New York Times and 20 in The Washington Post. The oft-repeated "message" was that lack of gun control led to the horrid crime, so more gun control laws might prevent another massacre.

These media ignored the fact that there are many documented cases of guns being used each year in the United States by law-abiding citizens to thwart criminals. According to a survey by the *U.S. Journal of Criminal Law*, more than two and a half million people annually use a gun in self-defense.

It's time to bring these and similar facts to the attention of responsible personnel in the media. Try the letters. Try the pickets.

# CAMPUS GUN ADVOCATE THE CCRKBA DEFENDER

Ever since the multiple murders early this year by a crazed gunman at Virginia Tech, professional do-gooders have been proposing ways to strengthen gun control laws in a supposed effort to reduce the possibility of violence on campus.

Most of these proposals, however, ignore a real underlying cause of the carnage. Virginia Tech prohibits professors and students from carrying guns on campus even if they have state issued permits to carry handguns. So do a number of other colleges and universities throughout the United States. At the time of the Virginia Tech murders, university policy prevented the victims from protecting themselves from the insane murderous violence perpetrated on the university campus.

For some time now, CCRKBA has been proposing that Congress eliminate federal funding of colleges and universities that prohibit professors and students from carrying guns on campus when they have state issued permits to carry handguns.

"Fortunately," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, "this idea resonates with Jeff Knox, the Director of Operations and chief lobbyist for The Firearms Coalition, a group of thousands of clubs, grassroots organizations, and individual activists working to preserve, restore and defend the basic human right of self-defense.

"A long-time supporter of the individual Second Amendment

civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, Jeff even has drafted a bill which would restrict any federal funds from going to any college or university which prohibits employees and students who may lawfully possess and carry defensive weapons off campus from possessing and carrying those weapons on campus. He calls the proposal the Higher Education Lawful Personal Security Act (HELPS). He deserves a lot of credit for his dedication to this cause and I am happy to nominate him as CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for October."

Jeff is no stranger to the gun rights movement. He is the primary writer for *The Knox Report*, which appears regularly in *Shotgun News* magazine and elsewhere. He also is the lead researcher and writer for The Firearms Coalition's semi-monthly newsletter, the *Hard Corps Report* and maintains a blog at [www.FirearmsCoalition.org](http://www.FirearmsCoalition.org). Jeff writes freelance articles for magazines and online publications including a recent feature article in *Handguns* magazine.

Jeff is a son of the late Neal Knox, founder of The Firearms Coalition, a well-known gun rights activist and CCRKBA honoree. Jeff was raised in the midst of the gun rights movement and has been an active participant in it from an early age. In 2003, after a decade in the radio industry and a failed campaign for a seat in the Washington State House, Jeff moved back to Virginia to assist his father in the family gun rights business. Since Neal's death from colon cancer, Jeff and his mother, Jay, along with brother Chris and other family members have continued the work of The Firearms Coalition.

In discussing the proposed HELPS Act, Jeff writes, "There is absolutely no way to keep armed and dangerous criminals and lunatics from bringing weapons onto a college campus. The forced disarmament of employees and adult students does nothing but reduce the likelihood that there might be someone with a gun in the right place at the right time to stop criminal violence and save lives. Disarming law-abiding adults, who happen to be employed by, or attend a college and who lawfully and safely carry defensive firearms when not on campus, is not just irrational – it's downright criminal.

"After Virginia Tech, many Americans recognized the futility and stupidity of 'gun free zones.' They recognize the fact that criminals and lunatics do not follow orders on window decals and wall signs. The mainstream media and politicians have been successful at suppressing and muting this sentiment, but a loud, broad-based national campaign to pass the proposed HELPS Act would revive those attitudes and generate a groundswell of support."

Born in Abilene, Texas in 1960, Jeff graduated from Prescott High School in Prescott, Arizona in 1978. He was attached to the US Army Intelligence and Security Command from 1978 to 1981 and was stationed primarily at Field Station Berlin. He attended Yavapai College in Prescott, Arizona in 1982 and 1983. He has worked in various technical areas and as a radio station manager and host and was a candidate for the NRA Board of Directors in 1998.

Jeff was married in 1992 to Janet (Dagger) Knox, and has two step-sons and one grandson.

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# QUICK SHOTS

A Brady Campaign news release headline claiming that “huge” crowds turned out across America for anti-gun protests in late August was both false and misleading, CCRKBA said last month. “Careful analysis of news coverage, or the lack of it in the 24 hours following the protests, confirm that these events were pretty much a bust,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. “The biggest crowds reported were ‘about 200’ people bused to an event in Lake Barrington, Illinois, and another in Philadelphia. A Maryland protest outside a District Heights gun shop drew about 60 demonstrators, and one at Seattle’s Green Lake Park attracted two people who spent 32 seconds lying on the grass. And this was supposed to be a ‘huge’ event? That gives a whole new definition of the term ‘lie-in’ that was used to describe this protest.”



In Washington, D.C., the Parker v. District of Columbia case regarding a move to overturn the D.C. handgun ban has a new case name. It now will be known as District of Columbia v. Heller. The reason for this is that Dick Heller now is considered the only plaintiff who has legal standing. He is a D.C. police officer who is licensed to carry a firearm in Washington, D.C. because of his employment at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building. In March, an appellate court declared the ban unconstitutional. The D.C. government has asked the Supreme Court to review the appellate court decision.



The arrests last month in New Jersey of 11 public officials, including state lawmakers, mayors and city councilmen, in communities across the state shows why anti-gun politicians in the Garden State don’t want citizens to have gun rights, said CCRKBA. These arrests are just the latest developments in a deeply-rooted culture of corruption that has seen more than 100 New Jersey public officials convicted on federal charges. The FBI made the latest arrests, according to the Associated Press. “The people of New Jersey can’t even trust their own state government to root out corruption,” said CCRKBA Executive Director Mark A. Taff. “The Feds have to come in and do it. This is the kind of thing one expects from a government that works so feverishly at all levels to strip its citizens of their firearm rights.”



The U.S. Senate last month approved a proposal by Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana to prevent any funding of foreign organizations that infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of lawful American citizens. Vitter offered his amendment to the foreign operations appropriations bill, which the Senate passed. CCRKBA opposes attempts by United Nations bureaucrats to impose international restrictions on gun rights of law-abiding citizens of the United States and other countries. CCRKBA believes that the global registration and tracking of firearms promoted by UN gun grabbers would lead to the disarmament on a world-wide scale of freedom-loving, law-abiding individuals.

A proposal by anti-gun Mayor Frank Johnson of Cleveland, Ohio to make firearms possession illegal by anyone under age 21 is a non-solution to a genuine problem of violent crime and, like all gun control laws, it targets the wrong people, CCRKBA noted last week. Mayor Jackson’s suggestion came after the killing of a 12-year-old girl caught in a cross-fire near her home early last month. However, one of the suspects in that gun battle, Eric Romel Wilson, would not have been affected by such a law because he is 35 years old and, due to his criminal history, cannot legally own a gun. “Mayor Jackson’s call for more gun restrictions was nearly as predictable as the sunrise,” commented CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. “What happened to the proposition that individuals be held accountable for their misconduct? Instead, politicians like Jackson want to blame the firearm, and punish everyone who owns one, or may want to own one...the armed thugs on Cleveland’s streets aren’t going to pay attention to some new gun law.”



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# 4

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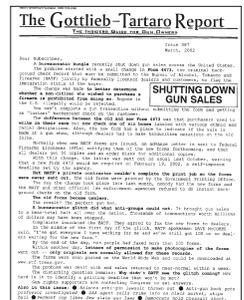
At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America's Constitutional heritage to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



## The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report:

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

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