

POINT BLANK

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

CCRKBA PRAISES NEW CCW RECIPROCITY BILL



**May
2008
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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

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CCRKBA endorsed a new federal CCW reciprocity measure as soon as it was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"This bill, if passed, could open the doors to true national recognition of the right of a state's citizen to carry a concealed firearm," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, in Washington, D.C. "It counters New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's continuing brazen attempt to intimidate Congress into enacting more restrictive gun control legislation."

Introduced by Congressman John Boozman of Arkansas, the bill, H.R. 5782, the Secure Access to Firearms Enhancement (SAFE) Act, was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, under the chairmanship of extremist anti-gun Rep. John Conyers of Michigan.

Under the proposal, Americans with state-issued CCW permits could carry their guns in any state as long as they comply with the laws of the state in which the firearms are carried concerning specific types of locations in which firearms may not be carried. An individual who may carry legally a concealed firearm in his state of residence but whose state does not have a concealed carry permit provision, could carry elsewhere.

Rep. Boozman maintains H.R. 5782 would eliminate a mishmash of concealed firearms regulations that vary from state to state, and require that all states recognize concealed carry permits from other states.

"I've always felt you can have a gun, openly display it, and there not be a problem," he said. He said that when some states reject permits from other states, that "infringes on the Constitution."

Original bipartisan cosponsors are Reps. Robert Aderholt (AL), Ginny Brown-Waite (FL), Dan Burton (IN), Dave Camp (MI), Chris Cannon (UT), Barbara Cubin (WY), Nathan Deal (GA), Trent Franks (AZ), Scott Garrett (NJ), Phil Gingrey (GA), Ralph Hall (TX), Robin Hayes (NC), Jeb Hensarling (TX), Duncan Hunter (CA), Ric Keller (FL), Doug Lamborn (CO), Kenny Marchant (TX), Thaddeus McCotter (MI), Mike McIntyre (NC), Candice Miller (MI), Jeff Miller (FL), Alan Mollohan (WV), John Peterson (PA), Dennis Rehbert (MT), Harold Rogers (KY), Michael Rogers (AL), William Sali (ID), Pete Sessions (TX), Mark Souder (IN), Zach Wamp (TN), Lynn Westmoreland (GA), Joe Wilson (SC) and Don Young (AK).

Congressman Boozman hopes many more U.S. Representatives will sign on as cosponsors of his bill. "We urge *Point Blank* readers to contact their own Representatives and encourage them to call Rep. Boozman and offer to cosponsor H.R. 5782," said Snyder.

CCRKBA HITS MOVE TO DUMP TIAHRT AMENDMENT

For several years, anti-gun politicians in Congress and their supporters in the media and in gun control lobby organizations have been working assiduously to overturn the Tiahrt Amendment, named for Rep. Todd Tiahrt of Kansas.

In mid-March, Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey introduced a bill to gut the Tiahrt Amendment. He calls his bill, S. 2769, the Firearms Information Use Act of 2007.

John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "The Tiahrt Amendment is a hallmark of legislative efforts to maintain the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, and we cannot condemn too strongly the introduction of S. 2769 and other efforts to eliminate the Tiahrt Amendment."

Original cosponsors of S. 2769 are anti-gun Sens Hillary Clinton of New York, Dianne Feinstein of California, Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, Frank R. Lautenberg of New Jersey and Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

The Tiahrt Amendment is a legislative initiative included each year in the appropriations for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) within the U.S. Department of Justice.

This initiative restricts solely to law enforcement access and use gun trace data that it uses to track firearms from manufacturer to retail purchaser. The data is maintained by BATFE. The amendment prevents interference with ongoing criminal investigations since such interference could jeopardize the lives of law enforcement officers and witnesses.

As recently as last year, several attempts to delete the Tiahrt Amendment from the appropriations

measure were beaten back by pro-gun forces in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

Now the gun grabbers are back with this bill, S. 2769 which, if passed, would vitiate previous successful efforts to maintain the Tiahrt Amendment and delete it from the relevant appropriations measure.

Section 4 (a) would provide that, "Upon receipt of a request from a law enforcement agency, a federal agency, a Member of Congress, or the chief executive of a State, local or tribal government in connection with a law enforcement, national security, or intelligence purpose, for covered firearms information, the Attorney General shall provide all such information."

Snyder said that, "This provision would allow anti-gun mayors and governors to obtain the gun trace data maintained now by BATFE for strictly law enforcement purposes and use it for whatever purpose they had in mind. As matters stand now, under the Tiahrt Amendment, the data may be obtained by law enforcement on request for legitimate investigatory and prosecutorial purposes. So why should it be released on demand to various elected officials? Obviously, it should not be, and S. 2769 should be opposed.

"Gun grabbing mayors like Michael Bloomberg of New York City and others and the gun control lobby have been campaigning for an end to the Tiahrt Amendment. They would like to get access to the gun trace data so that they could use it in some way against the firearms industry."

Snyder said also that, "Bloomberg and the gun control lobby are looking to their lapdogs in Congress

to do their dirty work for them by eliminating the Tiahrt Amendment. This new attack, S. 2769, is an attack on the American firearms industry and on the rights of law-abiding citizens. The attack on it also is an attack on the interests of American law enforcement. That is why both BATFE and the Fraternal Order of Police last year supported the maintaining of the Tiahrt Amendment."



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA HITS OBAMA FOR FIREARM INSULT

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Hussein Obama early last month insulted millions of legally-armed Americans when he told a Pennsylvania newspaper that concealed carry poses a threat to innocent people, and he should apologize for that remark, said CCRKBA.

Obama, of Illinois, told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that, "I am not in favor of concealed weapons. I think that creates a potential atmosphere where more innocent people could (get shot during) altercations."

"American citizens responsibly have been carrying concealed handguns for years in 48 states," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, co-author of *America Fights Back: Armed Self-Defense in a Violent Age*, published by Merril Press. "These citizens go through background checks, and in some states complete required training courses. Statistically, these armed citizens are far less likely ever to be involved in a crime than average citizens. They have stopped crimes. They sometimes have aided police officers.

"Senator Obama should not confuse legally-armed, law-abiding Americans with inner-city thugs, gang-bangers and other criminals who carry guns illegally. Thanks to a revealing 1996 questionnaire bearing Mr. Obama's handwriting from his days as a candidate for the Illinois State Senate, it's clear he has the good guys confused with the bad guys."

That controversial questionnaire, which Obama recently claimed he never saw, contained answers to questions that indicate he opposes capital punishment and criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults, is

against mandatory sentencing and supports "alternative sentencing." He supported a ban on semiautomatic sport-utility rifles and on the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns, and mandatory waiting periods before Americans could exercise their constitutional right to own firearms.

According to a 1998 Illinois State Legislative National Political Awareness Test, "principles" that Obama "supports on gun issues" included: "Ban the sale or transfer of all forms of semiautomatic firearms;" "Increase state restrictions on the purchase and possession of firearms;" and "Require manufacturers to provide child safety locks with firearms."

Later, in 2005, as a U.S. Senator, Obama voted against a bill, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

The following year, in 2006, Obama stated: "I believe in keeping guns out of our inner cities, and that our leaders must say so, in the face of the gun manufacturer's lobby."

On the campaign trail, Obama has been carefully packaging his rhetoric to indicate he "supports" the Second Amendment, yet his track record demonstrates quite the opposite. His disdain for rural Americans who are more likely to own firearms and attend church regularly was embarrassingly revealed when his remarks, made during an exclusive fund raising event in San Francisco, flashed across the Internet on the Huffington

Post.

"And it's not surprising then," Obama said of rural Pennsylvanians who have suffered during hard economic times, "that they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

His condescending remarks ignited a firestorm.

Early this year, when 55 U.S. Senators and 250 Members of the House of Representatives signed onto a brief filed by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas calling upon the U.S. Supreme Court to affirm an appellate court ruling overturning the D.C. handgun ban in the case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, Obama was one of the Senators who did not sign the document. At the time, *The (London) Guardian* reported that "Obama and Sen. Clinton 'quietly' support the D.C. gun ban. The Democrats Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have quietly supported the city's position."

Gottlieb said, "Barack Obama ignorantly believes that legally-armed Americans are as reckless and irresponsible as the criminals with whom his political sympathies evidently lay. He has been insisting for months that he supports the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, but here he is campaigning in Pennsylvania, stating that he would prefer Americans not exercise that right.

"Legally-armed citizens also are voters, Mr. Obama, and you have outrageously insulted every one of them. You owe these good citizens an apology."

CCRKBA WANTS INVESTIGATION OF IN-FLIGHT SHOOTING MISHAP

CCRKBA recently called for an independent investigation of an in-flight discharge of a pistol carried by an armed U.S. Airways pilot to prevent any whitewashing, cover-up or scapegoating in the incident.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said the incident is alarming because of allegations that the pilot may have been following strict Transportation Security Administration (TSA) rules when the mishap occurred. Those rules came under fire in late March from the Airline Pilots Security Alliance (APSA), which represents thousands of commercial pilots.

"We have a keen interest in this case because we were the first to demand that airline pilots be allowed to carry sidearms in the wake of the 9-11 terrorist attack," Gottlieb stated. "We called for that measure just hours after four terrorist-commandeered jets hurtled out of the sky, killing thousands of Americans in New York City, Washington, DC and a Pennsylvania field on that horrible day in 2001, and that must never happen again.

"But from the outset, TSA officials resisted the Federal Flight Deck Officers (FFDO) program, with bureaucratic red tape and requirements that defy logic in terms of recruiting as many pilots as possible. Rules and red tape actually discouraged would-be volunteers. Professional pilots who are trusted to fly safely millions of passengers across our skies should

be just as trustworthy to defend their aircraft from takeover. This incident could be used to erode public support for the FFDO program, which would be insane. There may or may not be an armed Federal Air Marshal aboard an airplane, but you are guaranteed there is a pilot on board."

Gottlieb said that, "We are calling for an independent investigation of this incident, to be conducted by a panel of civilian firearms instructors and gun safety experts. This will eliminate any possibility of future assertion that the TSA whitewashed this incident and used the pilot as a scapegoat to preserve unsafe regulations.

"Conversely, such an investigation by non-government experts who also are not connected to APSA or the airlines could determine, without bias and free from any influence or coercion, whether the pilot was handling his firearm safely, or in an unsafe manner. We want the truth, and unlike they say in the movies, we believe the American public can handle the truth."

Earlier, a federal air marshal said that the pilot may have been mishandling the firearm when it went off in flight, piercing the cockpit wall before the plane landed safely, reported the Associated Press.

AP also noted that airline officials said the accidental discharge did not endanger the 124 passengers and five crew members, but that air safety experts said the hole could have caused the plane to depressurize rapidly had it been in a window at a higher altitude.

All people eligible to carry guns in the cockpit carry the same firearm model, the .40 caliber H&K USP, stated AP.

"This is an extremely safe and reliable weapon," said Greg Alter of the

Federal Air Marshal Service.

The pistol discharged shortly before noon on a Saturday in March aboard Flight 1536 from Denver, CO to Charlotte, NC, as the plane was at about 8,000 feet and was approaching to land. AP photos reportedly show a small entry hole in the lower side of the cockpit wall and a small exit hole on the exterior below the cockpit window.

Earl Dowell, an aeronautical engineering professor at Duke University, said "there are two issues: would they (the crew) have enough oxygen to remain alert. If the crew could no longer control the airplane, that would be a big deal, and the rapid loss of pressure might damage the structure itself."

The gunshot marked the first time a pilot's firearm has been fired on a plane since the flight deck officer program was created following the 9-11 terrorist attacks, Alter told AP. TSA on its own is investigating how the gun discharged, and the unidentified pilot has been taken off duty during the inquiry.

Pilots in the program undergo 50 hours of training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, NM. Alter told AP it appears the pilot in question wasn't following "proper procedures... We just don't know what procedure wasn't being followed."

Since April, 2003, about 5,000 flight deck officers – captains or first officers – have gone through the training program and received permission to carry handguns in the cockpit, said Bob Hesselbein, Chairman of the National Security Committee of the Air Line Pilots Association.

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH PIZZA HUT?

In Des Moines, Iowa, the driver of a Pizza Hut delivery truck was suspended from his job recently after he shot an armed robber.

However, he says he has been overwhelmed by public support from people who cheered what happened, reports the *Des Moines Register*.

"But no one has contacted me about a job offer," said James William Spiers III, 38. Pizza Hut managers sent Spiers home after he fired multiple shots at a man who put a gun to his head in late March and demanded money outside an apartment complex.

The suspect, Kenneth Jimmerson, 19, was arrested later when he called for medical help. Jimmerson faces a first-degree robbery charge. Melanie Stout, 18, who allegedly called in the pizza order, has been charged with

Spiers said it was the first time in 10 years that he had been a robbery victim. "Anytime you're involved in delivery, I suppose you're an easy target," he said, "but crime is random and it can happen to anybody."

Spiers has a valid handgun permit, according to the *Register*. He said, though, that he's been "pretty much in the dark" about his job since the incident.

At Pizza Hut's corporate offices in Dallas, Texas, Vonnie Walbert, the company's Vice President of Human Resources, declared that employees are not allowed to carry guns "because we believe that that is the safest for everybody."

Spiers said, "I just know that, given what happened, it's not likely I'll have a job anyway. Right now, I'm just taking some time off, trying to

cool things down."

Spiers declined to elaborate on what he termed "gross inaccuracies" in some media coverage of the incident, and said "I can't correct them right now. It's not wise for me to talk about the case with the ongoing investigation and all."

Police said that when officers arrived at the scene, Spiers had two handguns, and the wounded robber had fled.

Spiers said, "The incident wasn't something quick and simple...I did not just take the gun out of the guy's hand and shoot him with it. It was a long ordeal, or it felt like it. My life was, without a doubt, in danger. I wouldn't have shot anybody if I didn't think my life was in danger.

"In my circumstance, there was no way out."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

What's wrong with Pizza Hut? Plenty!

As the article above demonstrates, the company policy prohibiting its employees from carrying guns, even if they have valid handgun permits, is obviously inane, if not downright insane.

In this case, it was only because the Pizza Hut delivery driver used a handgun to defend himself from an armed robber that he is alive today. But Pizza Hut policy forbids that. Essentially, the policy condemns its own innocent at-risk drivers to injury or death at the hands of armed criminals.

Pizza Hut is one of the largest pizza companies in the country, but the company simply cannot go on treating its employees like their lives are unworthy of self-protection.

Contact Pizza Hut, Inc. and let them know how upset you are with this policy of insensitivity to employees. The corporate headquarters are located at 14841 Dallas Parkway in Dallas, Texas 75254. The President is a guy named Scott Bergren. The Chief Financial Officer is David Gibbs. The Chief Operating Officer is Patrick Murtha.

There are several telephone numbers listed for the company. They are: 800-948-8488, 972-338-7700, 972-338-7844 and 866-298-6986.

As a number of studies have shown, and as the title of John Lott's book *More Guns Less Crime* so well illustrates, an increase in the availability of guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens correlates with decreases in the rates of violent crime. Bergren, Gibbs, Murtha and Walbert need to have this truth pointed out to them by lots of law-abiding, pizza-loving armed citizens!

DICK HELLER THE CCRKBA DEFENDER

Dick Anthony Heller, the Washington, D.C. resident challenging the District's handgun ban in the United States Supreme Court in the case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for April.

In nominating Heller for the Award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "Dick Heller deserves the thanks and appreciation of America's 80 million law-abiding gun owners for bringing this case all the way from the streets of the Capital City to the highest court in the land. He's arguing that the handgun ban is a violation of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms. He's been arguing this for over 10 years. A year ago, an appellate court agreed with him and declared the D.C. law an unconstitutional violation of the individual right to keep and bear arms. Then the city of Washington asked the Supreme Court to overturn the lower court ruling. When I met and talked with Dick on March 18 in the Supreme Court building just before entering the courtroom to hear arguments in the case, he said he'd been working on the case for so long that it had become part of his life. His patience, persistence and determination in pursuing this matter render him a true modern Second Amendment hero. He certainly is most deserving of this Award."

Heller is a security guard at a government facility in the Nation's Capital. He carries a pistol on the job but is prevented by the D.C. law from being able to keep a handgun

in his own home for self-protection.

Heller, 66, told *Point Blank* that his father was a medic in the submarine service of the U.S. Navy during World War Two, and that Dick was born in San Diego, California at a time when his dad was based there.

He's had an eventful life, living in many parts of the United States and the world, even spending about a year in Africa as a gold miner.

Heller joined the U.S. Army when he was 17 years old and became a paratrooper. He eventually settled in Washington, D.C. in 1962 since his parents had jobs in the city. He earned an engineering degree at Montgomery College in adjacent Montgomery County, Maryland in the 1960s. According to *The Washingtonian*, Dick has "worked in banking, at NASA, in a stock brokerage, and as a consultant."

About 38 years ago, Dick moved to the Capitol Hill section of Washington, D.C. At the time, he owned a few firearms, and bought a nine-shot Buntline Special revolver with a 9-1/2 inch barrel.

Shortly after Dick bought the Buntline, the city enacted its nefarious law which prevented anyone but retired and working law enforcement officers from keeping handguns in their homes and required that all shotguns and rifles be kept unloaded and disassembled or disabled with a trigger lock. The 1976 law allowed exceptions for residents who at the time already owned handguns, provided they registered the firearms with the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police before a given deadline.

Although Heller could have kept the

Buntline at the time had he registered it with the city, he refused to do so.

"I objected to the government's knowing everyone's business," he said. "We lived in an era when John Wayne was still king. It was a culture that celebrated our Western heritage."

Dick left his revolver with friends across the Potomac River, in suburban Virginia.

The neighborhood in which Heller was living went from bad to worse, and he "routinely witnessed gunfire, drug-dealing and other violence," according to the *Baltimore Sun*. Heller felt he needed to keep a handgun at home for self protection but now was prevented by the handgun ban from doing so.

Heller and others got together with attorney Bob Levy of the Cato Institute, who agreed to fund the case, and decided to challenge the D.C. gun law.

On July 22, 2002, Heller went to police headquarters to register his personal .22 caliber handgun, and was turned down. That meant he could claim he was "harmed" by the D.C. law and had legal standing to sue.

Although there originally were a number of plaintiffs in the case challenging the D.C. law, the lower court decided that only Heller had standing to sue.

Heller has since married and moved to another neighborhood of Washington, D.C. and hopes for a favorable ruling in the case by the Supreme Court.

A decision is expected in late June.



QUICK SHOTS

Reports that state lawmakers are considering the release of thousands of prison inmates across the country to save money amount to a public outrage, CCRKBA said last month. The Associated Press reported in early April that legislators in several states are considering the move to prop up state budgets. One report stated those released might include “drug addicts, thieves and even violent criminals.” CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said, “Before we waste time wondering what raving lunatics are behind this idea, it seems more prudent to advise the citizens who are faced with this ominous proposal that now would be a good time to start exercising their constitutional right to keep and bear arms. After all, the message that this sends to the public seems pretty simple: If you don’t own a gun, get one. If you’re not licensed to carry, you better apply now because cash-strapped state lawmakers obviously don’t care about the crime wave they’re about to unleash.”



In Idaho, Governor Butch Otter signed into law two-pro gun bills, SB 1441 and HB 604. SB 1441 provides that no county, city or local government body can regulate the sale, acquisition, transfer, carry and storage of firearms, thus adding them to the already existing points of preemption. It also clarifies that ammunition and firearm components may be regulated only by the State of Idaho, and not by local entities. SB 1441 removes the restriction on carrying a concealed firearm for

self-defense in a state park. HB 604 protects Idaho shooting ranges from attacks such as noise complaints and local regulation.



In Florida, CCRKBA praised the Florida Legislature last month for passing a measure that expands and protects the right of Sunshine State gun owners to have firearms locked in their cars while they are working, and congratulated Governor Charlie Crist for signing it into law. The so-called “take your guns to work” bill prohibits business owners from banning firearms that are kept locked in cars by their employees when those vehicles are parked on company property. “We believe this legislation will prevent unfair sanctions against workers who simply want to exercise their constitutional right to have a firearm for their personal protection while traveling to and from work,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. “Florida citizens who are legally licensed to carry have gone through background checks and a licensing process that certainly establishes their standing as law-abiding. These are not the kind of people who pose a problem in the workplace.”



In Houston, Texas, a homeowner shot a burglary suspect early last month after he was victimized twice in a week, according to KPRC, Lo-

cal Two. Thomas Williamson said he stayed home from work one day after a burglar hit his home twice in a few days. Williamson said he looked out his window at about one o’clock in the afternoon and saw a man walk across his back yard. The man went into Williamson’s garage and tried to steal an air compressor, worth about \$400, he said. When the burglary suspect walked out of the garage with bolt cutters, Williamson said he grabbed his shotgun. “He came to the door and I went, ‘Get on the ground. Get on the ground.’ He got on the ground and I told him, ‘Do not move,’ he said. “I was shaking. I had him on the ground with my shotgun and I told him, ‘Do not move.’ I was even yelling. I fired one shot in the ground just to show him I meant business.” Williamson said he shot the man when he tried to run. The burglary suspect was hospitalized with a gunshot wound. The District Attorney’s office said charges against Williamson probably would not be filed because Williamson was protecting his property.



In Vermont, reports indicate hunting and fishing licenses have dropped more than 20 percent over the past 20 years. In Arkansas, hunting licenses are down from about 345,000 in 1999 to about 319,000 in 2003. They’re down in Pennsylvania from 1.3 million in 1981 to 946,000 in 2006; in Oregon by 70,000 from 1987 to 2007; and in West Virginia by about 17 percent from 1997 to 2006.



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Past GRPCs have outlined victory plans and made public the latest firearms trends. They allow you a first-hand chance to hear movement leaders--and make your voice heard.

This year we'll take a look at critical issues such as: city gun bans, youth violence, "smart" guns, concealed carry, federal legislation, legal actions, gun show regulation, state and local activity. We'll also preview the upcoming Presidential Elections and analyze the U.S. Supreme Court Heller decision.

The full roster of GRPC 2008 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan M. Gottlieb, Joseph P. Tartaro, Wayne LaPierre, G. Gordon Liddy, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Ken Hamblin, John Lott, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Sen. Larry Craig, Reps. Bob Barr and Chris Cannon and many others. Check our web sites -- www.saf.org or www.ccrkba.org for updates.

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Books, monographs and other materials—enough to start a Second Amendment library are free, as are Saturday luncheon, Friday and Saturday evening receptions and morning and afternoon snack breaks. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendee. For room reservations, please contact the Sheraton Crescent at 1-800-325-3535. Please mention GRPC to receive the special room rate of \$102.00 per night. We will mail you a list of invited speakers and a tentative agenda in September.

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