

# POINT BLANK

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



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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

CCRKBA Agenda	1
DOJ Study	2
Latest Gun Grabber Lies	3
Court Ruling Against Antis	4
NY Ani-Gun Lawmakers	5
Citizen Action Project	5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

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

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## **TIME TO MOVE PRO-GUN BILLS**

Now is the time to promote pro-gun legislation on the national level and to promote it with strength, enthusiasm and commitment.

It's agreed generally in political circles in Washington, D.C. that gun owners showed unusual strength politically in last November's elections.

Whether people talk about the presidential race or a number of important races for seats in the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, the general belief now is that the firearms owning sector of the American electorate is a force to be reckoned with.

As even anti-gun columnist Nicholas D. Kristoff wrote in The New York Times just a couple of weeks after the elections, "If it weren't for guns, President-elect Kerry might now be conferring with incoming Senate Majority Leader Daschle."

So, the word is out! Gun lobby, people, we got muscle! Now, we better use it – or lose it!

In politics, as in the gym or on the playing field, unused muscle gets flabby, but exercised muscle gets stronger and stronger.

We can use it by promoting a pro-gun legislative agenda on Capitol Hill, by translating strength at the polls into the kind of laws we want to protect our individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms.

CCRKBA Members and Supporters should resolve, in this New Year, to keep up good contacts and develop new ones with their U. S. Representative and both of their U. S. Senators through office visits, district meetings, including town hall meetings, telephone calls and e-mails.

This could be our hour, the time for turning back some anti-gun legislation enacted during previous years.

This is the time to really push hard for a comprehensive pro-gun legislative agenda.

This is the time to let the elected federal officials know that they should take up proposals for a national reciprocity concealed handgun carry law.

This is the time to let the politicians know that our government should proceed immediately with the voluntary arming of qualified commercial airline pilots.

This is the time for enactment of a law to put a stop to harassing, predatory third party lawsuits against law-abiding firearm manufacturers, distributors and dealers.

This is the time, too, to eliminate the laws in Washington, D.C. that prevent law-abiding citizens in our Nation's Capital from being legally able to arm themselves against violent criminals in defense of life.

CCRKBA has an agenda for the 109th Congress. It's time to move forward.

# JUSTICE STUDY REFUTES CLAIMS OF GUN GRABBERS

A U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) study refutes anti-gun groups' claims regarding criminals' sources for firearms.

According to a report last month on the study by Jim Kouri in *Mens News Daily*, "the DOJ study refutes the conventional wisdom that guns used in criminal acts are purchased at retail stores or gun shows."

Kouri's report is significant in light of ongoing anti-gun attempts to restrict severely or even eliminate entirely traditional American gun show activity and firearms commerce in general. The gun grabbers like to intimate that access to guns generally, even by law-abiding citizens, should be curtailed, because gun-carrying criminals get their firearms generally from legitimate sources.

Kouri, a Vice President of the National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACOP), notes also that, according to a NACOP survey, "95 percent of U.S. police commanders and sheriffs believe most criminals obtain their firearms from illegal sources."

According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics November 2004 report, about 18 percent of state prisoners and 15 percent of federal prisoners reported that they were armed when they committed the offense for which they were imprisoned. An estimated nine percent of state prisoners and two percent of federal prisoners reported that they fired their weapon during the commission of the crime. The data were obtained from personal interviews with a nationally representative sample of more than 18,000 state and federal prisoners, "the largest survey of prison inmates sponsored by the federal government," Kouri reports.

Kouri holds a Certified Protection Professional (CPP) degree/designation given by the American Society for Industrial Security.

He notes that, according to the DOJ study, inmates serving time in state prisons said they obtained their guns from a number of sources. These include those purchased from a retail store, 8.3 percent; those purchased as a pawn shop, 3.8 percent; those purchased at a flea market, one percent; those purchased at a gun show, seven-tenths of one percent (0.7%); those obtained from family or friends, 39.6 percent, and those obtained on the street/illegal source, 39.2 percent.

He writes that the percentage of inmates who bought their guns from retail outlets fell from 21 percent in 1991, when the last previous such study was conducted, to the current study's 14 percent. At the same time, the percentage of those who obtained their firearms from family or friends rose from 34 percent in 1991 to about 40 percent.

Among the prisoners who carried a firearm during the commission of the offense for which they were sent to prison, about eight percent carried a military-style, semiautomatic firearm. These guns included the UZI, Tec-9, and MAC-10 handguns, the AR-15 and AK-47 rifles, and the "Street Sweeper" shotguns. As Kouri points out, "possession of these models that meet certain criteria as contained in federal statute can be unlawful. The firearm most favored by the inmates was a handgun, which was carried by more than 80 percent of the armed inmates."

Among inmates convicted of non-violent crimes, about eight percent

of state prisoners and almost 12 percent of federal prisoners were carrying a firearm at the time of the property, drug or public order offense that resulted in their imprisonment. Of those inmates who were incarcerated for a violent crime – murder, rape, sexual assault and assault – 30 percent of state prisoners and 35 percent of federal prisoners reported they used or possessed a gun when they committed the offense.



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

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# CCRKBA COUNTERS LATEST GUN GRABBER FALSEHOODS

Following a horrendous multiple murder in Wisconsin right around Thanksgiving, gun grabbers attempted to use the incident to promote their anti-gun agenda, but CCRKBA jumped into the publicity fray immediately to counter the false propaganda with the truth.

According to authorities, Chai Vang, 36, of St. Paul, Minnesota, shot eight people the Sunday before Thanksgiving, killing six, following a confrontation over a deer stand on private property.

When Vang was arrested by a state Department of Natural Resources warden, he allegedly was carrying an empty Russian-made Saiga 7.62, SKS semiautomatic rifle.

As Bill Kordus of Menasha, Wisconsin, a state certified hunting instructor and former president of the Twin City Rod and Gun Club pointed out, the SKS did not fall under the expired ban on the sale and importation of so-called "assault weapons." He said also it was incorrect to label the hunting version of the SKS an "assault weapon."

That, however, did not prevent gun grabber groups from trying to put their false spin on the incident.

Obviously stunned by recent legislative and electoral setbacks, they apparently saw in this tragedy an opportunity to once again pontificate about the evils of gun ownership and the necessity of more gun control, to promote their agenda.

The Violence Policy Center (VPC), for instance, stated that, "SKS assault rifles like the one reported to have been used to murder five hunters and wound three others over the weekend are a primary threat to police...In the wake of the shooting, the VPC called on President

George W. Bush today to use the Administration's executive authority over firearm imports to fully ban the import of all foreign-made assault rifles."

The VPC screamed that the SKS which Vang allegedly used can "expel projectiles at velocities that are capable of penetrating the type of soft body armor typically worn by police officers."

However, as Dave Workman, CCRKBA Communications Director, pointed out, "every bullet commonly used in centerfire hunting rifles of all calibers can do that, and the VPC knows it. Soft body armor is primarily designed to stop handgun bullets. That is why gun rights organizations traditionally oppose legislation to ban so-called 'armor-piercing bullets.' Such legislation, if enacted, would ban ammunition for every hunting rifle on the planet, which, of course, would delight the extremists at the VPC.

"Besides, this case had nothing to do with the police, and none of the victims was wearing soft body armor. The argument has no relevance."

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence united with the Million Mom March "also danced through the blood," noted Workman, "declaring that SKS rifles 'should be banned for civilian use.' Twisting remarks attributed to Lawrence Keane, senior vice president and general counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, on the pages of The New York Times, the Brady Bunch contended the SKS is not suitable for deer hunting because it fires an 'underpowered' cartridge. Keane subsequently told me the comments he made to a

Times reporter were taken somewhat out of context, and I believe him. Larry Keane never employed Jayson Blair.

"Ironically, perhaps laughably if it were not associated with such a tragic event, the gun control crowd can't keep its rhetoric straight. An editorial writer at The Capital Times in Madison, Wisconsin went on a rant about the SKS, not because it is 'underpowered,' but because it is 'a high-powered semiautomatic carbine.' The writer also erroneously sneered that 'semiautomatic weapons are increasingly popular among hunters of a not particularly sporting ilk' noted Workman.

In an attempt to set a few facts before the public, Workman stated that, "the 7.62mm is ballistically similar to the .30-30 Winchester, a cartridge that has been used successfully in the Wisconsin deer woods for more than a century. On the power scale, it's something of a weak sister to the more popular .308 Winchester, .30-06 Springfield or .300 Winchester Magnum.

"SKS rifles are popular among thousands of responsible upper Midwest sportsmen and women, including by his own admission to the Eau Claire Leader Telegram some hunting partners of Sawyer County Sheriff James Meier. Long before the SKS came along, Remington, Winchester and other gun makers marketed semi-auto hunting rifles early in the last century. That 'ilk' of ethical hunters spans generations."

Workman says it's important to "keep this in perspective...Let's focus on prosecuting one individual for a horrible crime, not penalizing a million gun owners for the rifles they own."





# CCRKBA EXCORIATES NEW YORK LAWMAKERS

New York State is setting “a deplorable example the rest of the nation should reject in disgust,” CCRKBA said early last month, after the Legislature voted to reduce mandatory prison sentences for drug offenses, while leaving in place some of the most Draconian gun laws in the country.

“Empire State lawmakers must think it’s okay to lighten the load for drug offenders while keeping in place laws that literally treat honest firearm owners like criminals,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. “One published report suggested that more than 400 in-

mates might apply for early release. That should come as good news to citizens already worried about criminals in their neighborhoods.”

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron added that, “New York is widely known as a state in which law-abiding travelers have been hassled, and even arrested, for having legally-owned firearms in their vehicles, when they have done absolutely nothing wrong. It is a state in which law-abiding firearm owners must be ever vigilant so they don’t run afoul of a gun law, and an over-zealous anti-gun prosecutor.”

America, noted Gottlieb, “has a

tradition of giving everyone who deserves it a second chance, but in New York, gun owners don’t even get a first chance. They’re run through the legal ringer just in order to purchase and possess a firearm, and woe be unto the unfortunate gun owner who should run afoul of a gun law.

“It makes you wonder what they’re smoking in Albany. If New York lawmakers want to strike a blow for common sense, instead of loosening up the law on drug offenses, they ought to repeal the restrictive gun laws that have been penalizing honest citizens for generations.”

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The New Year is here, and with it a new session of Congress (the 109th Congress, First Session) and new sessions for most state legislatures.

Future Citizen Action Project columns will address dealing with the 109th Congress, but because bills tend to move much more quickly in state legislatures, that should be our first focus. Add to that the fact that some gun control advocates have discovered that the gun control issue doesn’t sell well at the federal level, but may do better in the states.

With the demise of the federal so-called “assault weapon ban” last September, many states will consider state-level bills to reenact a Clinton-style gun ban...or an even worse one. Other potential gun control topics at the state level include restrictions on gun shows (“closing the gun show loophole”), banning or restricting rifles chambered for the .50 caliber cartridge, additional restrictions on where lawfully licensed concealed weapons may be carried or used, and many other gun-related issues. For example, although initiatives to restrict or prohibit certain forms of bear hunting in Alaska and Maine failed, animal rights activists have vowed to pass such legislation across the United States.

There’s an old saying, “Keep your friends close, and your enemies closer.” That is as true in politics as it is in any other area. If your state legislators (Senators, Representatives, Assemblymen, Delegates, etc.) have supported our rights in the past, communicate with them and let them know that you appreciate their support and you look forward to working closely with them to continue their support. If your legislators have an anti-gun right voting record, let them know you’re watching them. But soften it by suggesting that they discuss proposed gun control legislation with you before acting on it, to ensure they have both sides of the story before they vote on a bill.

If one or more of your state legislators are newly elected and haven’t developed a track record on the gun issue, this is the time to talk with them, let them know where you stand and especially WHY you’ve taken that position. There is an incredible amount of misinformation floating around on the gun control issue. Take this opportunity to educate them on the real impact – or lack of impact – of well-intended but ineffective gun control legislation. A little time and effort spent now can save headaches down the road.

We’ll take a closer look at specific legislation – both pro-gun and anti-gun – as the legislative sessions develop.

# CONDOLEEZZA RICE THE CCRKBA RIGHTS DEFENDER

Condoleezza Rice, Ph.D. of Washington, D.C. is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for January.

Ms. Rice served as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, commonly referred to as the National Security Advisor, during the first term of President George W. Bush. After his reelection last November, President Bush nominated Dr. Rice as Secretary of State during his second term.

Rev. Anthony L. Winfield, Chaplain at Elmhurst Hospital in New York City, himself a previous recipient of a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award, nominated Dr. Rice for this month's Award.

He informs Point Blank that, "Dr. Rice knows how important the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms is to minority Americans, especially black Americans, and she has articulated this publicly in a most outstanding manner. She is a distinguished Christian woman of sterling character and her outspoken courage in defending our traditional freedoms certainly makes her a worthy candidate for this Award."

The Secretary of State nominee "is a big supporter of the Second Amendment," according to NewsMax.com, "a commitment cultivated during her days growing up in Bull Connor's Birmingham, Alabama, when the shotgun wielded by her father was often the only thing that stood between her family and the Ku Klux Klan."

Dr. Rice says, "I have a sort of pure Second Amendment view of the right to bear arms."

This "pure view," according to

her biographer, Antonia Felix, stems from her childhood.

In 1963, racial violence was "turning her hometown into 'Bombingham' as Alabama's Governor George Wallace fought a federal court order to integrate the city's schools," writes Felix in her book, "The Condoleezza Rice Story."

With the bombings, writes Felix, "came marauding groups of armed white vigilantes called 'nightriders,' who drove through black neighborhoods shooting and starting fires. (Condi's father) John Rice and his neighbors guarded the streets at night with shotguns.

"The memory of her father out on patrol lies behind Rice's opposition to gun control today. Had those guns been registered, she argues, Bull Connor would have had a legal right to take them away, thereby removing one of the black community's only means of self-defense."

In June 1999, Dr. Rice completed a six-year tenure as Stanford University's Provost, during which she was the institution's chief budget and academic officer. As Provost she was responsible for a \$1.5 billion annual budget and the academic program involving 1,400 faculty members and 14,000 students.

As professor of political science, Dr. Rice has been on the board of the Stanford faculty since 1981 and has won two of the highest teaching honors, the 1984 Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 1993 School of Humanities and Sciences Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching.

At Stanford, she has been a member of the Center for International

Security and Arms Control, a Senior Fellow of the Institute for International Studies, and a Fellow (by courtesy) of the Hoover Institution. Her books include "Germany Unified and Europe Transformed" (1995) with Philip Zelikow, "The Gorbachev Era" (1986) with Alexander Dallin, and "Uncertain Allegiance: The Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Army" (1984).

From 1989 through March 1991, the period of German reunification and the final days of the Soviet Union, Dr. Rice served in the Administration of President George H. W. Bush as Director, and then Senior Director, of Soviet and East European Affairs in the National Security Council, and a Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. In 1986, while an international affairs fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, she served as Special Assistant to the Director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Born November 14, 1954 in Birmingham, she earned her bachelor's degree in political science, cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Denver in 1974; her master's from the University of Notre Dame in 1975; and her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver in 1981.

Dr. Rice is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has been awarded honorary doctorates from Morehouse College in 1991, the University of Alabama in 1994, the University of Notre Dame in 1995, the National Defense University in 2002, the Mississippi College School of Law in 2003, and the University of Louisville and Michigan State University in 2004.



# QUICK SHOTS

According to a Gallup Poll taken just before the national elections in November, and shortly after expiration of the so-called “ban” on so-called “assault weapons” in September,” slightly more than half of Americans (54 percent) said laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, while 11 percent said they should be less strict, and a third (34 percent) said they should be kept as they are. According to Darren K. Carlson, Gallup’s Government and Public Affairs Editor, these “most recent results are part of a larger pattern that suggests the public is becoming less willing to say that gun laws should be stricter. Between 1990 and 1993, an average of 71 percent of Americans said laws regulating firearms should be stricter. After Congress passed two major gun laws, the Brady Bill on handguns in late 1993 and an assault rifle ban in 1994, support for stricter gun laws dropped to 62 percent in 1995. Average results from six surveys Gallup conducted in 1999 – the year of the Columbine High School shootings – showed that 63 percent of Americans thought gun laws should be made stricter that year.”

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The U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance (USSA) reports that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) plans to join forces with the Fund for Animals to create a single and, the two anti-hunting groups hope, a stronger and better-funded so-called animal “rights” organization.

The two groups have been classified as “non-profit charities,” a designation restricting then amount of money they’re able to spend on lobbying. Under a new classification as a “social welfare program,” the newly organized group will be able to spend much more on lobbying activities. According to reports, the new group will have assets in excess of 95 million dollars with which to fund its anti-hunting agenda.

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In the behind-the-scenes politicking which goes on in Washington, D.C. while appropriation measures are being considered, Congress cut federal grants to local and state law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting crimes committed with firearms. The Administration had requested \$45 million for local grants under the Justice Department’s gun prosecution program, Project Safe Neighborhoods. Congress, though, in passing a \$388 billion spending bill in late November, eliminated the direct money sought for the program. John Scofield, a spokesman for the Appropriations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, said that, although “we didn’t specifically set aside any money for the program,” nevertheless, “we think we’ve taken care of the need because we provided \$900 million over what the Administration asked for in other general assistance for states and locals.”

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In Lampasas, Texas, a parent-teacher organization is raffling off a deer rifle to raise money for a school project. The goal of the unique raffle is to raise \$15,000 to fence in a portion of a junior high school. Marta Ellison, who is one of the organizers of the raffle for the Hanna Springs Intermediate School Parent-Teacher Student Organization, told The Dallas Morning News that the group consists of moms using guns as tools to protect their kids. The idea of the fence followed an incident in 2003, when a registered sex offender began talking to a student while she was jogging for gym class. Hopefully, the gun raffle will bring in enough money to build the fence.

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“Russian society,” reports Pravda, “is on the verge of the real firearms fever.” The drive on the part of average Russians to acquire firearms started to take off after the terrorist act in Beslan, where extremist islamist militants took over a school for a time and murdered teachers and students. “People are racing to hospitals, psychiatric facilities in order to obtain needed certificates which will enable them to purchase firearms,” stated Pravda. They all want “one thing only,” according to the report, “legal permission to store firearms at home in order to protect their families.”

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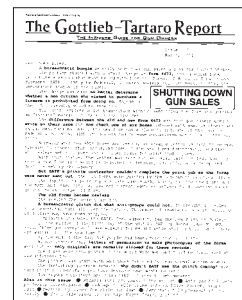
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