

POINT BLANK

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



**December
2011
Volume XXXVI No. 12**

IN THIS ISSUE

Reciprocity Vote	1
Hunters' Charity	2
Federal Gun Scandal	3
RKBA & Polling	4
Hatch: Gun Rights	5
Citizen Action Project	5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

National Headquarters:
12500 N.E. Tenth Place
Bellevue, Washington 98005

Capitol Hill Office:
1250 Connecticut Ave, N.W. #200
Washington, D.C. 20036

CCRKBA LAUDS HOUSE RECIPROCITY VOTE

CCRKBA lauded November's 272-154 majority vote by the House Representatives on passage of H.R. 822, the proposed National Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011.

"We're delighted at the outcome of this important legislation in the House," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "especially since the floor debate brought out all of the tired old cliché arguments. Congressional anti-gunners pulled out all the stops, but their rhetoric could not derail this common sense measure."

"Now," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, "we hope the U.S. Senate will take up this measure as soon as possible."

Gottlieb noted that, "As so many of the bill's proponents wisely pointed out during the debate, citizens do not leave their self-defense rights at a state border. Those who would argue otherwise evidently have no interest in public safety."

"What was remarkable is how many self-defense opponents suddenly discovered the cause of states' rights as an excuse to oppose this legislation. This measure is not about states' rights; it's about individual rights."

"How the bill fares when it reaches the Senate remains to be seen," Gottlieb noted, "but this recorded House vote will give the nation's firearms owners a chance to see how their congressional representative feels about their rights under the Second Amendment, and about the safety of their families when they travel across state lines."

Prior to the vote, Reps. Cliff Stearns (R-FL) and Heath Shuler (D-NC) explained that, "H.R. 822 would allow any person with a valid state-issued concealed-firearm carrying permit or license to carry a concealed weapon in any other state. It would not create a federal licensing system but merely would require states to honor one another's carry permits, just as states recognize one another's driver's licenses. . . Concealed-carry permit holders would have to obey the concealed-weapon laws of the state they enter, just as drivers must obey speed limits and basic safety laws of whichever state they are driving in, regardless of where they are from."

"If you look at the statistics," they wrote, "it is clear why our bill has amassed widespread support from law enforcement agencies and both Republicans and Democrats from across the country and political spectrum. It is well-documented that citizens with carry permits are more law-abiding than the general public."

GUN HUNTERS AND SEASONAL CHARITY

With all the negative publicity firearms, gun owners and hunters generally get from much of the mainstream media, it's good to be able to counter the anti-gun propaganda with the unvarnished truth.

One of the most significant truths is that hunting can be and has been a way of performing genuine works of real charity, of doing good for others, for others who are in need.

This is especially significant during the holiday season, and during difficult economic times.

Although it's not generally known or reported, hunters provide millions of pounds of food each year for their fellow Americans who are on hard times.

According to a recent study conducted by Mile Creek Communications, hunters last year enabled 11 million meals to be provided to the less fortunate through their donations of venison. The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) commissioned the Mile Creek study. Nearly 2.8 million pounds of game meat got to shelters, food banks and church kitchens and onto the dinner plates of the needy, according to the study, reported OpposingViews.com.

The rules and regulations for donating venison vary from state to state, according to [Hunting Boots News](http://HuntingBootsNews.com). Most states require that the donated venison must be processed by a licensed processor. Nearly 40 states have at least one participating processor.

"Given our challenging economic times, hunters' donations of venison have never been more important to so many people,"

said Stephen L. Sanetti, president and chief executive officer of NSSF. "These contributions are just one way hunting and hunters are important to our way of life in America. Learning about these impressive figures makes me proud to be a hunter. I have donated game meat during the past year, and I urge my fellow hunters to consider strongly sharing their harvest."

The Mile Creek Communications study revealed that donations were largest in the Midwest and the South. The Midwest provided 1.3 million pounds of game meat, amounting to 46.1 percent of total donations. The South was close behind, with 1.25 million pounds and 45.7 percent. The Northeast contributed 7.2 percent of total donations and the West one percent. The West's contribution accounted for 108,520 meals.

"Certainly the Midwest, South and Northeast benefit from having large populations of white-tailed deer," said Jim Cuccuruto, NSSF director of statistics and research. "These figures are from confirmed sources, but annual donations could easily be double this amount if 'direct' donations from hunters to friends and family are included." He added that NSSF commissioned the study to better understand the size and scope of these venison donations.

OpposingViews.com noted that a report out of the Indiana-Kentucky-Illinois area indicated that one deer can feed up to 200 people. Ground venison is a versatile food, with cooks using it in pasta sauces, chili, tacos, meatloaf, burgers and other dishes.

Obviously, individual hunters in a true spirit of charity donate game and even pay for processing, although many hunters choose to work with organizations dedicated to the cause of feeding the hungry. According to OpposingViews.com, many of these groups were sources for the NSSF-Mile Creek study. They include Hunters for the Hungry, Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry, Hunt to Feed, and Buckmasters, among others.



POINT BLANK

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

Editor John M. Snyder
Publisher Alan M. Gottlieb
Managing Editors J. H. Versnel
 Dave Workman
Associate Editors Tom Gresham
 Merrill Jacobs
 Herb Stupp
 Peggy Tartaro
 Joe Waldron

POINT BLANK is published monthly by Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005.

Copyright © 2011 CCRKBA

Address Change: Write new address, city, state, and zip code on a plain piece of paper. Attach mailing label from an issue of **POINT BLANK** and send to CCRKBA, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005. Please allow four to six weeks for change to become effective.

CCRKBA HITS REACTION TO FEDERAL GUN SCANDAL

John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, blasted the reaction of some political gun grabbers to the ongoing federal firearms scandal associated with Operation Fast and Furious.

Operation Fast and Furious was an aspect of Project Gunrunner of the Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

"For months," Snyder noted, "a number of observers have been advancing the idea that the gun walking which led to the scandal had its genesis in an attempt by proponents of additional gun control to create the appearance of an argument for such control. According to this theory, gun control advocates actually wanted guns to be allowed to 'walk' illegitimately into Mexico so that these advocates then could argue that more gun controls were needed to interfere with these transfers, with these 'walks.'"

"What actually happened is that this activity resulted in thousands of guns being transferred to criminals in Mexico. Many of the guns then were used in felonies, including murder, including the murder of American law enforcement personnel."

Snyder said that, "some pro-gun observers believe anti-gun advocates wanted to allow the gun walking so they could argue for more gun control. So far, there has not been solid, incontrovertible evidence brought forth to support this way of thinking.

"However, recent statements by some gun control advocates lend credence to the theory held by some pro-gun observers. While most reasonable people would agree that Fast and Furious has been an absolute disaster, some anti-gun folks actually

have tried to use this disaster as a basis for proposing more gun controls."

Snyder cited as an example Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

He noted that the Golden State's senior U.S. Senator said last month at a hearing held by the Senate Judiciary Committee that lax gun laws and not Obama administration misfeasance within ATF was the real problem. Sen. Feinstein is a senior majority member of the committee.

She even told the committee that Fast and Furious showed America needed gun registration.

Snyder said that Sen. Feinstein's remarks "show she is incorrigible. With her, and most likely with a lot of 'my mind is made up don't confuse me with facts' politicians like her, the commitment to gun control is beyond reason. We must continue to oppose her radical anti-gun agenda, and we will."

Sen. Feinstein said her "concern... is there's been a lot said about Fast and Furious and perhaps mistakes were made, but I think the hunt for blame doesn't really speak about the problem."

"And the problem is," she continued, "anybody can walk in and buy anything, .50-caliber weapons, sniper weapons, buy them in large amounts, and send them down to Mexico. So, the question really becomes, what do we do about this."

"I've been here 18 years," Sen. Feinstein continued. "I've watched the BATF get beaten up at every turn on the road. And, candidly, it's just not right."

During the hearing, according to The Daily Caller, "Sen. Feinstein advocated for Operation Fast and Furious as a springboard from which to advocate

for gun control laws, including national databases and government-controlled firearms registration. She argued that such laws would prevent future programs like Fast and Furious from reaching maturity."

At the same hearing, Assistant Attorney General Breuer, "asked for more gun control and blamed law-abiding gun shop owners for violence in Mexico," reported Townhall.com.

Breuer expressed his agreement with statements by Sen. Feinstein that American gun laws are too "lax" and therefore result in more violent crime.

Breuer defended the Obama administration's policy of introducing new gun controls by executive fiat with regard to at least one controversial anti-gun administration initiative.

"Federal, state and foreign law enforcement agencies have determined that certain types of semiautomatic rifles – greater than .22 caliber and with the ability to accept a detachable magazine – are highly sought after by dangerous drug trafficking organizations and frequently recovered at violent crime scenes near the Southwest Border," reads the Obama administration anti-gun policy initiative which Breuer told Sen. Feinstein he supports.

He told her he thought a reporting measure for multiple sales of such rifles would be "helpful" to ATF.

The Department of Justice already has done an end run around Congress by requiring that multiple sales of such rifles in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas be reported to ATF.

The Obama administration says the initiative is "tailored to focus only on multiple sales of these types of rifles to the same person within a five-day period."

GUN GRABBERS HEADED FOR DUSTBIN OF HISTORY

"Gun grabbers are on the wrong side of history," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said last month in Washington, D.C.

"A recent Gallup poll of attitudes towards firearms ownership in the United States shows this," he added. "Politicians and media personalities should pay attention."

According to the poll, support for a ban on private handgun possession dropped from 60 percent in 1959 to 26 percent today.

"This is staggering," said Snyder. "It shows that such support dropped about 35 points in the last half century or so. That is a tremendous shift."

Another item shows that in 1996, support for a ban on semiautomatic firearms was at 57 percent, with 42 percent opposed. Now the figures show 43 percent in favor of the ban and 53 percent opposed.

"The meaning is clear," said Snyder. "The trends are clear. The gun grabbers, the proponents of unreasonably restrictive firearms control measures have lost and are losing the public relations battle over the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. Anti-gun politicians and spokesmen in general better take note, or are cast into the dustbin of history where they belong."

Snyder said also that, "This news demonstrates once again that the United States is gun country. We are a solid gun country. Over decades, our opponents have spent time, money and effort in an attempt to upend this traditional aspect of the American character. They have failed and are failing miserably in

their multi-million dollar, perhaps multi-billion dollar effort to turn public opinion irrevocably against Americans' gun rights. As Americans, we stand four-square in support of and in defense of our freedom, and will continue to do so."

According to the Gallup report itself, which was released in late October, "Americans have shifted to a more pro-gun view on gun laws, with record-low support for a ban on handguns, an assault rifle ban, and stricter gun laws in general. This is the case even as high-profile incidents of gun violence continue in the United States, such as the January shooting at a meeting for U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Arizona.

"The reasons for the shift do not appear related to reactions to the crime situation, as Gallup's Crime poll shows no major shifts in the trends in Americans' perceptions of crime, fear of crime, or reports of being victimized by crime in recent years. Nor does it appear to be tied to an increase in gun ownership, which has been around 40 percent since 2000, though it is a slightly higher 45 percent in this year's update."

Gallup surmised that, "Perhaps the trends are a reflection of the American public's acceptance of guns. In 2008, Gallup found widespread agreement with the idea that the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of Americans to own guns."

"Perhaps the trends also are a reflection of the American public's growing opposition to more and more intrusions into their lives on the part of all levels of government, federal, state and local," surmised Snyder.

Gallup headed its late October

report with the statement that, "Record-Low 26% in U.S. Favor Handgun Ban."

Gallup declared definitively that, "A record-low 26 percent of Americans favor a legal ban on the possession of handguns in the United States other than by police and other authorized people. When Gallup first asked Americans this question in 1959, 60 percent favored banning handguns. But since 1975, the majority of Americans have opposed such a measure, with opposition around 70 percent in recent years.

"The results are based on Gallup's annual Crime poll, conducted October 6-9. This year's poll finds support for a variety of gun control measures at historical lows, including the ban on handguns, which is Gallup's longest continuing gun control trend."

The polling organization noted that, "For the first time, Gallup finds greater opposition to than support for a ban on semiautomatic guns or assault rifles, 53 percent to 43 percent. In the initial asking of this question in 1996, the numbers were nearly reversed, with 57 percent for and 42 percent against an assault rifle ban. Congress passed such a ban in 1994, but the law expired when Congress did not renew it in 2004. Around the time the law expired, Americans were about evenly divided in their views.

"Additionally, support for the broader concept of making gun laws 'more strict' is at its lowest by one percentage point (43 percent). Forty-four percent prefer that gun laws be kept at they are now, while 11 percent favor less strict laws."

FIGHTING FOR GUN RIGHTS

By Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), CCRKBA Congressional Advisor

Gun owners in America know they can never rest easy. That's because Americans' constitutional right to keep and bear arms is always under fire from the political left and their allies in the White House, Congress and the media.

It doesn't take much to prompt another assault on our Second Amendment rights. All it requires is one high-profile case involving a criminal and a firearm, and there's no shortage of liberal legislators and pundits willing to tar law-aiding gun owners with the same brush and call for gun control.

In that never-ending war, I have found it better to be proactive than reactive. It is better to take the legislative initiative rather than wait for the next intrusion from the anti-gun crowd before taking action. That's

why I have spearheaded many important initiatives over the years to uphold our right to bear arms.

In October, for example, Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK) and I introduced the Firearms Interstate Commerce Reform Act (S. 1691), which brings laws into the 21st century by allowing the interstate sale of firearms and getting rid of antiquated and unnecessary restrictions on interstate firearms transactions that hurt business and jobs.

Specifically, the legislation would remove a number of restrictions from the Gun Control Act of 1968, which only allows dealers to sell rifles or shotguns of a different state subject to a tedious series of conditions. These restrictions are aimed at stopping buyers from evading background checks.

Since 1998, however, all people buying firearms from dealers in the U.S. are subject to a sophisticated computer background check under the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which is much more advanced and renders the restrictions in the 1968 law obsolete. The current restrictions, unless changed, will continue to interfere with interstate commerce by hindering or preventing these sales. The bill would put a stop to that.

While getting anything through this Congress and the White House can be an uphill battle, I and other defenders of gun rights have had some notable successes in protecting the constitutional rights of our nation's 93 million gun owners. There will be many more battles.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The one thing that has become obvious after several months of Congressional hearings and whistleblower testimony about the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Operation Fast & Furious is that the ATF is an agency that is out of control. Just how far up knowledge of this incredibly short-sighted and illegal operation remains to be determined. Without doubt heads should roll.

The flawed culture of ATF-style "law enforcement" that permeates the agency didn't start with Fast & Furious. It goes back to 1992 and Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and to Waco, Texas a year later. While most men and women serving as ATF agents do their jobs properly and diligently, some are not satisfied to enforce the law as it is written.

It's time that Congress puts the entire ATF under a microscope. It's time to see just how far this culture of lawlessness has penetrated the day-to-day operations of the ATF. And it's time that the Attorney General, whoever that is at the time, holds the ATF and ALL federal law enforcement agencies to the oath they took to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the U.S. -- as passed by Congress, not as they prefer to interpret them.

Please contact your Representative and ask him or her to demand that ATF be subjected to a full investigation, and that rogue agents, and rogue agencies, be brought to justice. Contact information can be found on the internet at <http://house.gov> or on the left margin at ccrkba.com under "Congressional Information." Local contact information may also be found in the blue "government listings" pages of your local telephone directory.

HOUSE JUDICIARY CHAIRMAN THE CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

Congressman Lamar Smith (RTX) is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for December.

In nominating the Lone Star State lawmaker for the award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, extolled Rep. Smith. He said "the Congressman, throughout his years here in the Nation's Capital, consistently has demonstrated his determined, judicious and articulate commitment to the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. Although he has done this at different times and in different ways, he most recently demonstrated this in heading the House Judiciary Committee, which he leads as Chairman, to report out to the full floor of the House, a bill providing for national concealed carry reciprocity. He is most deserving of this award."

When Chairman Smith brought up the reciprocity bill for a full committee mark-up, he noted that the bill is H.R. 822, the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011, by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-FL), and that it had 245 cosponsors "from both sides of the aisle.

"The bill allows law-abiding gun owners with valid state-issued firearm permits or licenses to carry a concealed firearm in any other state that also allows concealed carry. This legislation does not preempt a state's ability to set concealed carry requirements for its own residents. It requires states that currently permit people to carry concealed firearms to recognize other states' valid concealed carry permits – much like the states recognize drivers' licenses issued by other states."



Rep. Smith

Rep. Smith said, "H.R. 822 also does not affect state laws governing how firearms are carried or used within the various states. A person visiting another state must comply with all laws and regulations governing the carrying and use of a concealed firearm within that state."

Studies show, noted Congressman Smith, "that carrying concealed weapons reduces violent crime rates by deterring would-be assailants and by allowing law-abiding citizens to defend themselves.

"A 1997 study published by John Lott and David Mustard regarding the effect of concealed carry laws on crime rates estimated that 'when state concealed handgun laws went into effect in a county, murders fell by more than seven percent, and rapes and aggravated assaults fell by similar percentages.'"

Rep. Smith pointed out that, "The study has been replicated and confirmed by other scholars – some of whom found that the Lott and Mustard study underestimated the effect of concealed carry laws on violent

crime rates. This bill simply allows Americans who travel in interstate commerce to bring their Second Amendment rights with them.

"Congress has previously passed laws to permit certain active-duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons in other states. H.R. 822 extends the same ability to all law-abiding citizens."

On another matter, Chairman Smith said he wants an independent lawyer to investigate whether Attorney General Eric Holder misled Congress in the fall when he found out about the scandalous behavior involved in Operation Fast and Furious.

Documents the Justice Department gave to the Judiciary Committee appear to contradict statements Holder made to the committee in the spring about when he found out about the operation, Rep. Smith alleged in a letter to President Obama.

They "raise significant questions about the truthfulness of Attorney General Holder's testimony," Rep. Smith wrote.

Congressman Smith was born November 19, 1947 in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from T.M.I.: The Episcopal School of Texas, Yale University and Southern Methodist University Law School. He briefly practiced law before entering politics. He was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1980. He served as Bexar County, Texas commissioner from 1982 to 1985. He has been a U.S. Representative since 1987 and chairman of the Judiciary Committee since January of this year.

He is married to Elizabeth Lynn Schaefer and has two children, Nell Seeligson and Tobin Wells.



QUICK SHOTS

In Memphis, Tennessee, a Papa John's pizza driver drew his handgun in self-defense after an 18-year-old man tried to hold him up while he was delivering three pizzas, according to the Jackson Sun. The perpetrator was listed in fair condition in a Memphis hospital. There have been a number of armed robberies of drivers for Papa John, which prohibits drivers from carrying firearms while delivering food. In this case, however, the delivery man pulled a .38-caliber handgun and told police he fired five times at the alleged robber. The robber dropped his own .38 and fled across the street. The 31-year-old driver told police he was walking to the door of the house when he noticed a man hiding behind a bush in the yard. The man called out to him and told him to drop his money. At that point, the driver, who police say had a valid gun carry permit, drew and fired.

Alex Wagner, an MSNBC analyst who reportedly is slated to be host of a daytime network television show, was asked what she thinks needs to be removed from the United States Constitution and said, according to Fox News, the Second Amendment since it doesn't seem to fit in with the others. According to Fox, Wagner, when interviewed by the Huffington Post, said, "Well, I'm going to be pilloried for this. I think get rid of the Second Amendment, the right to

bear arms. I just think in the grand scheme of the rights that we have; the right of assembly, free speech, I mean, owning a gun does not, it does not tally on the same level as those other Constitutional rights. And being more discreet about who gets to have a firearm, I think is something that would be in our national interest to revisit that."

The October 2011 NICS figure adjusted by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) of 945,088 is an increase of 10.6 percent over the NSSF-adjusted NICS figure of 854,563 in October 2010. For comparison, the unadjusted October 2011 NICS figure of 1,331,836 reflects a 2.1 percent decrease from the unadjusted NICS figure of 1,359,894 in October 2010. This marks the seventeenth straight month that NSSF-adjusted NICS figures have increased when compared to the same period the previous year. The adjusted NICS data were derived by NSSF by subtracting out all NICS purpose code permit checks used by several states for CCW application checks as well as checks on active CCW permit databases. Though not a direct correlation to firearms sales, the NSSF-adjusted NICS data provide a more accurate picture of current market conditions.

In Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Tina Kearns, a local nurse practitioner, told WMBF that, "You have to be prepared when someone steals your purse, what are you going to do, let them have it or fight back?" Tina told WMBF that she is educating her daughter to respect weapons. She added, "My husband and I have already started teaching our daughter to be careful about a gun." Concealed weapons instructors say more people are being educated about self-defense. Already this year, they say almost 300 more South Carolinians have gotten permits. Firearms instructor Melvin McKinney said that according to South Carolina law a law-abiding citizen is allowed to have a gun in the home, in the car and at the place of work depending on different company policies.

The Oregon University System will not appeal a court ruling that declared its gun ban on its seven campuses exceeds its authority and is invalid. Kevin Starrett, executive director of the Oregon Firearms Education Foundation, questioned whether the university system can restrict students with permits from carrying guns in public buildings. He said he had predicted university officials "would try to find ways to circumvent the intent of the (court) decision." The decision was the result of a lawsuit filed by the foundation, a nonprofit group that fights for Second Amendment rights.

