

POINT BLANK

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



**January
2012**
Volume XXXVII No. 1

IN THIS ISSUE

Blill to Stop UN Gun Grab	1
Grassley Blasts Justice	2
Gun Owners Oppose Obama	3
Black Friday Gun Sales	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)

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CCRKBA LAUDS BILL TO STOP UN ANTI-GUN MOVE

CCRKBA applauds the introduction of a bill by Rep. Joe Walsh (R-IL) to withhold funding from the United Nations and prevent the United States government from adopting any treaty that threatens national sovereignty or abridges the Second Amendment firearms rights of American citizens.

H.R. 3954 would express the sense of the Congress that the United States should not adopt any treaty that poses a threat to national sovereignty or abridges any rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, such as the right to keep and bear arms.

It would withhold funding from the United Nations unless the President certifies that the United Nations has not taken action to restrict, attempt to restrict, or otherwise adversely infringe upon the rights of individuals in the United States to keep and bear arms, or abridge any of the other constitutionally protected rights of citizens of the United States.

H.R. 3954 was developed with the cooperation and assistance of CCRKBA staff, according to CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb.

"The United Nations' effort to adopt a global gun control initiative needs to be reined in," said Gottlieb. "For too many years, bureaucrats in the United Nations have become far too cozy with international gun prohibition organizations, and Congressman Walsh's legislation seems the best way to get their attention. We've been delighted and honored to be part of this effort."

He said "it is an insult to United States sovereignty that the United Nations would be entertaining such measures while enjoying the country's hospitality at its headquarters in New York City. It is the greatest irony, and perhaps the pinnacle of hypocrisy, for the United Nations to be discussing any treaty that might threaten our Second Amendment, because it has been the United States, with its citizen soldiers and our constitutional right to keep and bear arms that has come to the world's rescue not once, but twice in global conflicts.

"When diplomacy fails, it is time to close our checkbook. The Bush administration opposed such a treaty, but the Obama administration is moving forward with discussions on an international Arms Trade Treaty. It is up to Congress to put the brakes on such efforts and protect our sovereignty, which has been protected and defended for more than two centuries because our citizens have the right, and the resources, to defend it."

H.R. 3594 cosponsors include Reps. Joe Barton (R-TX), Paul C. Broun (R-GA), Howard Coble (R-NC), K. Michael Conaway (R-TX), Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Phil Gingrey (R-GA), Tim Hueskamp (R-KS), Steve King (R-IA), Kenny Marchant (R-TX), Bill Posey (R-FL), and Lynn A. Westmoreland (R-GA).

CCRKBA HONOREE CONTINUES BLAST AT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) for months has been leading the charge in the U.S. Senate against the U.S. Department of Justice and its Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for the handling of Operation Fast and Furious of Project Gunrunner.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Grassley is in a good position to do this.

He already has been named a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for his leadership in this regard and for his overall support of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms throughout his public career.

In his continuing attack on the Justice Department, Sen. Grassley released a devastating analysis showing the connection between Operation Fast and Furious and the death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry.

Sen. Grassley excoriated Attorney General Eric Holder's statement to Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) that, "It is not fair, however, to assume that the mistakes that happened in Fast and Furious led directly to the death of Agent Terry." Holder made the statement during a Senate Judiciary Committee Oversight Hearing.

"According to the FBI," Sen. Grassley noted, "two weapons were found at the murder scene of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. The bullet removed from Agent Terry matched the caliber of these two weapons, not the caliber of the weapons in possession of the Border Patrol agents, so it appears he did not die from friendly fire. Congressional investigators have asked the FBI to explain its theory of the case, since if there was no hired third gun at the scene and the bullet

didn't come from the Border Patrol, there must still be an unknown third gun which law enforcement has not yet recovered. It is possible that that third gun is not related to Fast and Furious. However, since two guns in Fast and Furious were present, it is possible that a third may have been as well. The two found at the scene were both part of three weapons purchased by known straw buyer Jaime Avila on the same day in January 2010.

"Prior to the purchase of the weapons found at the Terry murder scene, Avila had already been identified by the ATF as a likely straw purchaser at least two-and-a-half months earlier. In November 2009 Uriel Patino, the largest purchasing agent in Operation Fast and Furious, brought Avila into a cooperating gun dealer to buy five weapons. ATF received real-time notice from the gun dealer and knew the purchases were significant enough that agents rushed to the store to follow them. However, they arrived too late. Yet rather than going to Avila's address to question him, ATF opted to sit back. Avila continued to purchase through December 2009 and into January 2010.

"Regardless, by using the word 'directly,' Holder seems to be echoing the statement of Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer: 'The tragic truth is that if those criminals who killed Agent Terry had not gotten the guns from this one source, they would have gotten the gun from another source.' That is hardly an excuse for federal law enforcement to watch criminals collect more than a thousand firearms without acting to stop them."

The Senate is controlled by the

Democrats, who hold a majority number of seats in that body.

On the other side of Capitol Hill, the Republicans hold a majority. There, almost 100 Republican Representatives have called for Holder's resignation in the aftermath of the Operation Fast and Furious scandal.

The congressional investigations of the operation have revealed that the ATF gun trafficking investigation apparently let hundreds of guns go to Mexico with inadequate efforts to track them. Many of the guns apparently have wound up with Mexican drug cartels.



POINT BLANK

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

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GUN OWNERS LEAD OPPONENTS OF OBAMA

Firearm owners now are in the lead nationally in public opposition to the presidency of Barack Obama, analysis of public opinion survey by a leading polling organization reveals.

"Among households where someone owns a gun, just 17 percent strongly approve of the way President Obama is performing," according to a late November 2011 statement by Rasmussen Reports. "Fifty percent strongly disapprove for a Presidential Approval Index rating of minus 33.

"The president does much better in households without a gun owner. In those homes, 26 percent strongly approve and 30 percent strongly disapprove for a Presidential Approval Index rating of minus four."

According to Rasmussen Reports, the survey of 7,000 likely voters was conducted November 7 – 20 last year. The margin of sampling error is +/- one percentage point with a 95 percent level of confidence. Field work for all Rasmussen Reports surveys is conducted by Pulse Opinion Research, LLC.

Rasmussen Reports also conducts a daily rolling assessment of public opinion regarding the president's job performance. For many months, this rolling survey indicates that the Presidential Approval Index rating has been in the negative category, often to a substantial degree.

On Friday, November 25, 2011, for instance, Rasmussen Reports indicated that its daily presidential tracking poll for Wednesday, November 23, showed that 22 percent of the nation's voters strongly approved of the way that Barack Obama was performing his role as president. Forty percent strongly disapproved, giving Obama

a Presidential Approval Index rating of minus eighteen.

Rasmussen Reports explained that, "The Presidential Approval Index is calculated by subtracting the number who strongly disapprove from the number who strongly approve..."

"Overall, 44 percent of voters say they at least somewhat approve of the president's job performance. Fifty-three percent at least somewhat disapprove."

Gun owners have taken the lead in the apparent public opposition to the policies of the Obama presidency. Some observers feel that is one reason Obama and company have not yet pushed as much of the gun control legislation anti-gunners in Congress and in gun control advocacy organizations hoped he would push.

Pro-gun spokespersons, however, point out that the Obama administration has been appointing a number of anti-gun individuals to the Department of Justice and to the United States Supreme Court and other federal courts.

They also note that Obama has been doing an end-run around Congress by promulgating anti-gun initiatives through the federal establishment, such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The nation's media have not failed to notice the low public anti-gun profile Obama has been assuming, at least for now and probably through the November 2012 elections.

After recognizing that Republican presidential candidates generally now are taking a definitive pro-gun public stance on Second Amendment issues, the Associated Press stated recently that, "President Barack Obama, on the other hand, is virtu-

ally silent on the issue.

"He has hardly addressed it since a couple of months after the January (2011) assassination attempt on Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Arizona, when he promised to develop new steps on gun safety in response. He still has failed to do so, even as Tucson survivors came to Capitol Hill last week to push for action to close loopholes in the background check system.

"Democrats have learned the hard way that embracing gun control can be terrible politics, and the 2012 presidential election is shaping up to underscore just how delicate the issue can be. With the election likely to be decided where hunting is a popular pastime, like Missouri, Oklahoma or Pennsylvania, candidates of both parties want to win over gun owners, not alienate them."

According to the AP article, "For Republicans, that means emphasizing their pro-gun credentials. But for Obama and the Democrats, the approach is trickier.

"Obama's history in support of strict gun control measures prior to becoming president makes it difficult for him to claim he's a Second Amendment champion, even though he signed a bill allowing people to take guns into national parks. At the same time, he's apparently decided that his record backing gun safety is nothing to boast of, either, perhaps because of the power of the gun lobby and their opposition to anything smacking of gun control."

The result, states AP, "is that while Republicans are more than happy to talk up their support for gun rights, Obama may barely be heard from on the issue at all."



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CCRKBA EXPLAINS SALES OF GUNS & BLACK FRIDAY

While some people have been struggling to explain a gun buying surge reported on "Black Friday," the day after Thanksgiving, CCRKBA suggests there are several possible explanations, all reflecting the times in which we live.

"Despite claims to the contrary," observed CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "for many American citizens, the economy remains unstable, and the outlook for tomorrow is very uncertain. We've seen public safety budgets hacked to shreds by state and local governments that have spent themselves into near bankruptcy. Our streets, parks and state capitol buildings have been occupied by anarchists. Europe appears on the verge of financial collapse. Congress is unable to resolve our budget crisis.

"And on top of that, we've got a spectator president who always

seems to be waiting for someone else to take action, perhaps because he wants someone else to blame for another plan that doesn't work. Why is it any surprise that American citizens, including many for the first time, are buying firearms and ammunition?"

USA Today reported that the FBI's National Instant Checkcenter logged more than 129,000 background check requests on the Friday after Thanksgiving, a new record surpassing the 97,848 checks conducted on Black Friday in 2008. The National Shooting Sports Foundation credits much of the buying to the realization by increasing numbers of citizens that they have a constitutional right to own guns. Also, more women are getting involved in shooting sports, including hunting, and more are carrying firearms for personal protection.

"Americans hope for the best," Got-

lieb said, "but they prepare for the worst. Some call that 'panic,' but in reality, it is prudence. While there are some small signs of improvement, there remains a vast landscape of uncertainty. Sensible people evidently have concluded that it is better to have a gun and not need it, than to need a gun and not have it."

In its somewhat confirmatory analysis of the Black Friday gun sales phenomenon, The RT Question More internet electronic publication reported that, "According to numbers courtesy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, this year's Black Friday saw the most background check for gun buyers ever in a one-day span: 129,166... To some, it isn't that Obama's ban on firearms is causing stockpiles to surge in size - it's that the commander-in-chief's failure to perform his job has others scared of a country-wide collapse."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

It's a new year and Congress has returned from its Christmas recess -- IF it took a recess at all. Nearly 100 firearms-related bills have been filed in the first year of the two-year Congressional session, many good and deserving of support, and many not so good.

You can find all of the bills by visiting <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing "firearms" in the "Search" box at the top of the middle column. Most of these bills were sent to the appropriate policy committee, usually the House or Senate Judiciary Committees, where they sit with no action taken.

Take a few minutes to scan the list of bills. Each bill is linked to a page with the complete bill language, the current status of the bill, and a list of the Representatives or Senators who have signed in support of the bill as co-sponsors. The interests of gun owners vary widely. Some of these bills will draw your attention -- positive or negative -- others will not.

As the new year begins, this is a good time to write, e-mail or call your elected officials and express your support of, or opposition to, the bills that you believe are most deserving of action. Contact information for both your Representative and Senators can be found on the internet at on the left margin at <http://ccrkba.gov> under "Congressional Information." Local contact information may also be found in the blue "government listings" pages of your local telephone directory.

NEW JERSEY'S BACH CHAMPIONS GUN RIGHTS

Scott Bach is the January 2012 Defender of the Month.

"Scott is actively involved in *MULLER et al v. MAENZA et al*," states Alan Gottlieb, Chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. "This is a case brought by our sister organization, The Second Amendment Foundation, to challenge the 'deprivation of civil rights under color of law' in the denial of permits in New Jersey."

In his seventh year as president of the New Jersey State Rifle & Pistol Clubs, he recently became executive director of that organization. He spent almost 13 years in law enforcement and recently retired as auxiliary police captain in a large municipal police department.

He twice sued the Garden State to overturn unconstitutional handgun laws, and he defeated the Jersey City gun ban in court. He has also sued the Port Authority in New York

and New Jersey for wrongly arresting honest gun owners and he helped secure a gubernatorial pardon for Brian Aitken, the traveler whose outrageous conviction for violating a New Jersey gun law made national headlines.

In his "spare time," Bach has added to his resume three terms on the National Rifle Association's Board of Directors — he is running for a fourth term, having been nominated by both the Nominating Committee and member petition — and he was founding chair of NRA's Right to Carry Committee. He has served as vice chair of the NRA Public Affairs Committee and spent about six years on the Executive Committee.

Along the way, Bach secured concealed carry permits in eight states, became licensed to practice law in four states, became an NRA-certified firearms instructor, and managed to appear on television several times and participate in numerous gun rights

debates. He also attended Thunder Ranch and Gunsite training courses. He also helped restore black bear hunting in New Jersey, ending a 30-year ban, after an encounter with one of the bruins.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb told *Point Blank* that working with Bach on various projects has been inspiring.

"Bach has the energy of any three other people," Gottlieb observed. "When there is work to be done, Scott rolls up his sleeves. When there is a crisis, you can count on him to be there. It's a delight to work with someone with his knowledge, talent and experience."

Scott Bach has championed gun rights in a state where those rights have been severely eroded and much work remains in the fight to restore them. This Defender of the Month will continue to be in the middle of that fight.

MOBILE MAYOR'S HYPOCRISY SHOWING IN BURGLARY CASE, SAYS CCRKBA

Mobile, Alabama Mayor Sam Jones has some explaining to do in the wake of a highly-publicized incident during which he held a burglary suspect at gunpoint.

Jones, a Democrat, is a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, an organization that has campaigned for stricter gun control laws that affect average private citizens.

But Jones is no average private citizen. According to published reports, Jones was returning home from an errand, driving his private vehicle. "His bodyguard, who drives the mayor's city vehicle, was not on duty," the Press-Register newspaper

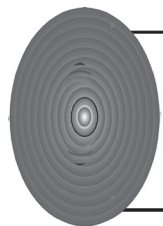
reported. And now there are questions about whether the mayor has an Alabama carry permit.

"Here is a municipal mayor who has a bodyguard, and believes it is okay for him to carry a gun, but he belongs to an organization that consistently works to keep everyone else from carrying," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

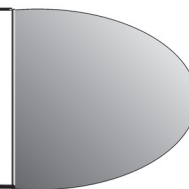
"If Mayor Jones doesn't have a permit," he continued, "then he is a poster child for the double standard that elites like Mayor Michael Bloomberg believes separates them from the citizens they serve. Either way, Mayor Jones owes it to his constituents to

show them his carry permit, and to oppose any further attempts by Mayors Against Illegal Guns to prevent private citizens from exercising their constitutionally-protected right to keep and bear arms.

"It is no surprise that average American citizens are fed up with government officials at all levels," Gottlieb observed. "We're glad that Mayor Jones had the means and the willingness to protect his property, but we are stunned and disappointed that he belongs to an organization whose very essence is to make it virtually impossible for average citizens to do likewise."



QUICK SHOTS



A surprising surge recently in the number of requests of the FBI's instant background check system for gun purchases can be attributed to a number of reasons, says the head of the CCRKBA.

Alan Gottlieb thinks that, among other things, the economy is a big factor. "Despite claims to the contrary," said Gottlieb, "for many American citizens, the economy remains unstable, and the outlook for tomorrow is very uncertain." According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, numbers obtained from the FBI's instant background check system report that last November 25, the day known as "Black Friday" because of it being the first big holiday shopping day, had the most requests for checks in the system's history, eclipsing a mark set in 2008.



CCRKBA is praising Senators who voted to deny the nomination of an anti-gun lawyer to a judgeship on a key federal appeals court.

The Senate on December 6 voted 54-45 against confirming Caitlin Halligan to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and CCRKBA chairman Alan Gottlieb was pleased. "We sent out more than one million e-mail alerts to gun owners across the country, warning them of Halligan's anti-gun philosophy," said Gottlieb, "and it is clear from today's 54-45 Senate vote against cloture, thus rejecting Halligan's nomination, that their voices were heard loud and clear."

The emails from CCRKBA criticized Halligan for her record on gun rights, calling her a "liberal

agitator and a fervent gun hater" who "pushed to bankrupt gun manufacturers in New York with frivolous lawsuits."



A gun-owning convenience store owner in Seffner, Florida, may have put an end to a local robbery spree thanks to his quick thinking and his weapon.

According to WFTS-TV of Tampa, a security camera video from the store shows an individual run into the business with a gun and pepper spray in tow, and that's when the owner of the establishment, Nick Desai, sprang into action, pulling his gun. Once that happened, the bad guy fled, only to end up getting himself hurt in a car crash in a nearby town a short time later. Police caught up with the bad guy at the hospital and, reports the TV station, they think he may be responsible for several other robberies in the Tampa area over the past year.



Gun owners and pro-gun activists now have a new one-stop resource on the Internet.

The conservative news website The Daily Caller has launched a section on their site specifically covering news and trends concerning guns and gun rights. Known as "Guns & Gear", the section will provide readers with the latest news and information about their firearms freedoms. Coverage will range from industry news to the latest information on legislation affecting the rights of gun owners nationwide.

The Daily Caller website is at

www.dailycaller.com.



An Idaho judge has ruled against a University of Idaho student who had challenged the university's ban on guns with a lawsuit.

According to KLEW, the Latah County judge ruled that the university's gun policy did not violate the student's constitutional rights. The student, Aaron Tribble, who is majoring in law at the school, had sought to strike down the ban so he could keep his guns in his on-campus apartment. The TV station reports that under existing rules, students are required to keep their guns at the police station which is located on the university's Moscow, ID, campus.

The suit was filed earlier this year, and it is not known whether Tribble will appeal the ruling.



A mayor of a Texas town was recently at odds with his city council over gun control.

According to KENS-TV, the mayor of the San Antonio suburb of Shavano Park vetoed an ordinance initially passed by his city's council which barred the discharge of any guns within city limits. The dispute centered around how broad that regulation should be; the ordinance, in addition to banning firearms discharge, also prohibited the use of toy or BB guns. One resident interviewed by the TV station supported the mayor's decision.

After the veto, the council took another vote, and changed its mind, rejecting the proposal.

The American Family That Lives Here Doesn't Need to Own Firearms



The residents of the White House are one of the few American families that don't really need to own firearms for their own defense. They have the best personal protection a nation can buy...24/7 Secret Service guardians.

Some governors and other high government officials are similarly shielded at taxpayer expense. And a few families are wealthy enough to pay for personal bodyguards.

Everyone else is on their own. Of course there are dedicated law enforcement officers, but they can't be everywhere all the time, and they are vastly outnumbered by the criminals. The courts have ruled repeatedly that police can't be liable for any failure to come to anyone's aid, even when lives are at stake.

The American people know that when threatened by the unexpected, they must provide for their own defense. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to arms for domestic defense, and 48 states provide for legal concealed carry of firearms.

In their homes and businesses, millions of families own firearms for personal defense, and many of those are the same popular semi-automatic rifles, shotguns and pistols which some misguided policy advocates propose to outlaw.

Such efforts would further tip the scales of safety in favor of criminals and terrorists who always ignore laws against murder, rape, robbery, carjacking and burglary just as they always have ignored gun laws. Enforcing gun bans against good citizens would place another, more difficult burden on law enforcement, with little effect on those intent on violence.

If you think you have the right to defend yourself and your family, use the coupon at lower left to remind President Obama of his campaign promise not to take away anyone's guns.

If you believe others should be exposed to this message, or if you wish to get more facts about firearms policy from the Second Amendment Foundation, use the coupon at lower right.

Dear President Obama:

During your 2008 campaign you said you believed in the Second Amendment and would not take away anyone's guns. Please don't let Congress turn law-abiding citizens into criminals with misguided gun laws affecting lawfully owned firearms.

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