

POINT BLANK

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



**April
2004**

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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CCRKBA PROMOTING NEW GUNS-IN-COCKPIT CONGRESSIONAL MEASURE

Since it appears unlikely that the Department of Homeland Security will respond positively to a letter from nearly 40 Members of Congress to Department Secretary Tom Ridge seeking removal of "roadblocks that are in effect sabotaging the program to arm pilots," CCRKBA is prepared to support fully legislative action to mandate the removal.

In their letter to Ridge, Reps. Don Young of Alaska, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, John Mica of Florida, Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, Peter DeFazio of Oregon, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, and 34 other Representatives complained that only a fraction of the potentially 100,000 passenger and cargo pilots qualified to complete successfully the Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program "have been approved under this program, as it exists today."

Now Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina and Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky are preparing to introduce House and Senate versions of a proposed Cockpit Security Technical Corrections Act to rectify this situation and we intend to give the proposal our all-out support.

According to an outline of the proposed measure which Sen. Bunning's office provided John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, the bill would be designed to create a last line of defense in the sky and help prevent future terrorist attacks.

To counter TSA bureaucratic foot-dragging, it would provide: for the training of all commercial pilots who volunteer within 90 days from when they apply; that any pilot who volunteers and can legally own a firearm will be armed after training; and that any volunteer pilot with a military or law enforcement background and recent firearms training be armed immediately and trained within six months.

To overcome the ineffectiveness of current TSA rules as far as the terrorist threat is concerned, the proposal under consideration would put armed pilots on international flights immediately; allow the pilot to carry the gun inside and outside the cockpit; and end the practice of carrying firearms in a locked box in the luggage.

Since TSA has opened only one training facility, created unknown selection criteria and threatened pilots about talking to their congressional representatives, the proposal would eliminate arbitrary and unknown selection criteria; end redundant background screenings since pilots already get them to be licensed; require that training facilities be opened throughout the country; protect the privacy of pilots who volunteer for the program; and ensure that pilots can talk to Congress about the program.

DEMOCRATS COME CLEAN

By Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, and Dave Workman, CCRKBA Communications Director

After two years filled with pontifications, photo-op pheasant hunts, visits to gun ranges and shooting events, leading Democrats who have been insisting that they support the rights of gun owners have pretty much put an end to that lie.

During two days of debate and two hours of voting on legislation that would have protected lawful gun makers from frivolous lawsuits, Democrats returned to their old habit of demonizing guns and the people who own them.

Debate last month over a tort reform bill that may have alarmed anti-gun rights trial lawyers hoping to cash in on nuisance municipal lawsuits against legitimate firearm manufacturers for the misuse of their products by criminals provided Americans with something valuable in this election year.

It highlighted the anti-gun extremism that Democrats have been trying furiously to camouflage in their efforts to woo gun owners. From the attempts by California's Dianne Feinstein to extend the ban on semiautomatic firearms to the hysterics of Edward M. Kennedy's calling for a ban on most hunting ammunition, and the egregiously misleading remarks from Rhode Islander Jack Reed, gun owners who were glued to the coverage of the debate on C-SPAN (and millions were) quickly realized that Democrats never abandoned their anti-gun agenda. They just re-packaged it in rhetoric.

While a handful of Republicans supported the amendments, the vote counts show they were pushed overwhelmingly by Democrats who want to abolish gun shows and demonize sport utility rifles as "assault weapons." These same Democrats will be campaigning back home this fall,

swearing they "support the Second Amendment rights of citizens to own guns for hunting." Such remarks demonstrate they know nothing about the Second Amendment, and even less about the intelligence of firearm owners whose votes they covet.

Even John Kerry, who portrays himself as a hunter, albeit an elitist one, darted back to the Senate chambers from whence he was absent without leave, missing 70 percent of the votes cast during the 108th Congress. His brief appearance, to support the anti-gun amendments, seemed more like a campaign stop to appeal to the extremist left.

Kerry and fellow Democrat John Edwards both supported the gun ban legislation. Dianne Feinstein revealed perhaps more than she should when she admitted, "We would have lost without them. They were vital."

If there was any question about how far Democrats can be trusted on the gun rights issue, look at South Dakota's Tom Daschle. He belatedly signed on as a sponsor of the bill, then supported every poison pill amendment that came along, in order to kill it.

Democrats did not want this bill to pass, even though some cosponsored it, because they clearly like the notion that lawful gun makers should be litigated into bankruptcy. That they now claim victory shows just how short-sighted they are in their efforts to appeal to gun owners.

Their hysterical words and votes on onerous gun control amendments to the lawsuit protection legislation are public record. One thing Democrats should have learned about gun owners is that they have long memories.

Kerry, Daschle, Feinstein and other Democrats, and their cheerleaders in the press, think that by killing the gun lawsuit protection bill by loading it with anti-gun amendments, they won something. Perhaps, but in so doing, they sacrificed any credibility they may have built with gun owners over the past couple of years.

What kind of victory is it, when all it accomplished was to further erode and polarize our nation when we should be joining together in common defense?



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA ACTIVE ACROSS MIDWEST

As the issues of gun control and the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens continued to attract public attention during this election year, CCRKBA spokesmen were speaking out for the rights of gun owners throughout the midwestern section of United States.

In Topeka, Kansas, for instance, CCRKBA declared that Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and other opponents of a proposed statute that will allow citizens to carry concealed handguns for personal protection are "historically and emotionally wrong" on the issue.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said that, "Gov. Sebelius draws the line at allowing retired law enforcement officers the right to defend themselves. Is she telling all other Kansas citizens that their lives and the lives of their families are less valuable? It certainly sounds that way."

The proposed Personal and Family Protection Act, sponsored by Rep. Candy Ruff, a Democrat, and Rep. Gary Hayzlett, a Republican, would allow Kansas residents to arm themselves against criminal attack. An article in the Wichita Eagle recounted how Ruff had heard from two women in her district who had been raped, and began carrying guns to defend themselves from further attack, whether legal or not.

"Politicians of the stature of Gov. Sebelius walk safely because they have armed security," Gottlieb observed. "Alas, her female constituents enjoy no such luxury. The time has come for anti-gun politicians like Sebelius to change their attitudes about personal protection, and stop trying to enforce their prejudices on the citizens they are elected to serve."

Kansas is one of four states that do not have some form of concealed carry. Gottlieb said it is long past time for Kansas citizens to join the ranks of Americans in 46 other states, including 37 with right to carry laws, whose right to self-protection is fully recognized.

"I am continually astonished at the rhetoric from those opposed to the self-defense rights of the citizens they serve," Gottlieb stated. "Hysterical predictions of more blood in the streets and increased risk to police officers and children have been proved to be just plain nonsense. Law-abiding, legally armed citizens don't habitually murder cops or kids. Thugs and lunatics who already are armed illegally will do that, no matter what the law says, and everybody knows it. Why allow them a low-risk working environment? It's time for the bright rays of safety to shine down on the Sunflower State."

In Jefferson City, Missouri, on the other hand, CCRKBA congratulated the state Supreme Court for its intellectual honesty in ruling that there is no constitutional prohibition against carrying concealed firearms, thus upholding the Legislature's override of Gov. Bob Holden's veto last year.

"This is great news for the law-abiding citizens of Missouri, who may now join citizens in 46 other states in carrying firearms legally for their personal protection," said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "Thanks to the intellectual honesty of Missouri's high court, the arguments of anti-self-defense fanatics who tried desperately to stop this law have been shown to be without merit.

"Citizens of the 'Show Me State' now will have the opportunity to show all the nay-sayers that they've

been wrong. As they have done in almost four dozen other states, legally-armed, law-abiding citizens behave responsibly, and actually contribute to the safety of their communities."

While the 5-2 ruling appears to leave intact some concerns about the law's enforcement in four specific counties because of questions about unfunded mandates under the Hancock Amendment, a legislative solution appears already to be in the works.

"We know that in many other states," said Waldron, "license fees are far less than the hundred dollar ceiling allowed in Missouri's statute. We are confident that officials in Camden, Cape Girardeau, Greene and Jackson counties will find this fee structure more than adequate to cover their costs."

Waldron added that the delay in implementing the provisions of Missouri's new law has left citizens unnecessarily at risk for the past four months.

"We are gratified that Missouri residents now will be able fully to enjoy their self-defense rights," Waldron said, "but there never should have been such a delay. It took 12 long years for personal safety proponents to get this sensible law passed, and when they did, Missourians had to wait another four months for the courts to uphold the law. As Dr. Martin Luther King so eloquently noted, 'A right delayed is a right denied.'"

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SENATE VOTE SPARKS NEW DEMAND CONTINUES VIGOROUS OPPOS

Last month's 52-47 U.S. Senate vote in support of an extension of the ban on certain semiautomatic firearms, set now to sunset in September, has sparked new demands by gun grabbers for an extension of the ban.

CCRKBA spokesmen point out that this new development demands ever increasing attention to the legislative situation by CCRKBA Members and Supporters. "As we've repeatedly indicated," says CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder, "the movement for further gun control is not and never has been something to ignore or be unconcerned about. The gun grabbers are on the march, and we need the support of all CCRKBA Members and Supporters to turn back these expected new attacks on our freedom.

"Consequently, we're urging CCRKBA Members and Supporters and, indeed, all freedom-loving Americans, to contact their U.S. Representative and both of their U.S. Senators and demand that these federal legislators oppose congressional attempts to extend the ban beyond the September sunset."

Even though the March votes for the ban and also for a severe curtailment of gun show activity, in the form of amendments offered to a measure to prohibit harassing third party lawsuits against gun makers, caused supporters of the underlying measure to join with opponents and to reject the entire package by a whopping 90-8 vote, supporters of the ban were reenergized and vowed to work throughout the rest of the year for an extension of the ban.

Ban backers said they would try to tack the measure onto other bills or

to pass it on its own.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, who offered the ban extension amendment, said, "We will come back, and we will come back, and we will come back again."

She said that "the legislation has the support of 77 percent of the American people and 66 percent of gun owners."

Gun control groups not only want Congress to pass an extension of the 1994 ban. They want the ban to be strengthened, according to the Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com).

The Violence Policy Center (VPC) accuses the gun industry of "willfully circumventing federal law" by modifying a new generation and renaming them "post-ban" or "after-ban" assault weapons.

Such firearms are perfectly legal under the current ban, observes CNSNews.com, but VPC accuses the gun industry of evading the intent of Congress by "making minor cosmetic changes and producing 'clones' and 'knock-off' versions to continue to sell for profit at the expense of public safety."

The group singled out six Illinois gun makers that manufacture "post-ban assault weapons." It said a new study shows that Illinois had more "post ban" assault weapon manufacturers than any other state.

Even if the U.S. Senate had passed an extension of the semi-automatic firearms ban, "the extension would do nothing to curtail Illinois' unique distinction of being number one in manufacturing these deadly assault weapons," said Thom Mannard, Executive Director of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence.

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, known formerly as Handgun Control, Inc., says renewing the current ban prior to its official sunset date will be its highest priority for the coming months.

In a press release, the group praised Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, now the presumptive Democrat party presidential nominee, for speaking "loud and clear on what America should be doing to reduce gun violence." Kerry left the presidential campaign trail in order to return to Washington, D.C. to vote in favor of the Feinstein gun ban extension amendment.

Sen. Larry E. Craig of Idaho, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor and chief sponsor of the underlying im-

CITIZEN ACT

President George W. Bush signed gun legislation. Rolled into the 2004 C on that date was an important amend The "Tiahrt Amendment" prohibits the System (NICS) center from keeping a than 24 hours, thus reducing establish The amendment also prohibits the BA handgun sales and certain firearms t

Now is the time to call, write or e-n signing this important provision into la a long way in showing the President y of gun owners.

His mailing address is: The White N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500.

His e-mail address is: president@

The White House comment line is (TDD).

FOR EXTENSION OF GUN BAN; CCRKBA ITION TO INCREASED THREAT

munity proposal, also said that presidential politics was at work. He blamed a speech by Kerry with turning the tide in the Senate in favor of the gun ban extension amendment. He said that when the debate began he thought he had the votes to defeat the amendment.

"The presence of Kerry, the entry of this into presidential politics, that had some dynamic," Craig said.

Craig also said he would try again to raise the immunity bill, but that he was not optimistic.

Brady Campaign President Michael Barnes praised "police leaders, crime victims and elected leaders of both parties" for "standing up and rejecting the extremist agenda" of gun lobby leadership.

The fact that the Senate passed the gun ban extension amendment shows that "common-sense gun safety laws are back on the national agenda," Barnes said.

"As of today, these military-style weapons of destruction are only outlawed in this country for 195 days," he warned. "Our priority in those 195 days is to work with police, Congress and the American public to make sure this ban remains in effect. To let it expire would be an outrage."

In the weeks ahead, gun grabbers will be preparing for a second so-called Million Mom March May 9 in Washington, D.C. They're calling it "the Mother's Day March to Halt the Assault." The Brady Campaign says that activists will call on Congress to reauthorize and strengthen the Clinton-era firearms ban.

CCRKBA and other pro-gun groups point out that the Clinton-era ban is a total fraud and should be allowed to lapse. The ban arbitrarily outlaws a certain group of firearms based on how they look – characteristics that give them a "military style" appearance.

John R. Lott, Jr., a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, author of *The Bias Against Guns*, and a CCRKBA Scholar of the Year, notes that the ban applies to "semi-automatics that fire one bullet per pull of the trigger. Rebuilding semi-automatic weapons into machine guns is very difficult, as completely different firing mechanisms are used. The term 'assault weapon' simply describes cosmetic features of the gun, not the way the gun fires bullets.

"Ironically, notorious 'assault weapons,' such as the 223-caliber Bushmaster used in the D.C.-area

sniper killings, are not even allowed in most states for hunting deer or larger animals. The reason: It is such a low-powered rifle that it will too frequently wound rather than kill the deer."

The ban, Lott continues, "arbitrarily outlaws some guns based upon brand name or cosmetic features – such as whether a rifle could have a bayonet mount, a pistol grip, a folding stock or a threaded muzzle. Not only could someone buy some other semi-automatic gun that wasn't banned that fired the same bullets, at the same rapidity and with the same damage, but even the banned guns can be sold under a different name or after, say, the bayonet mount was removed.

"Too often the debate misleads people about the guns being banned. Sen. John Kerry, the obvious Democratic presidential nominee, supports extending the ban because he claims, 'When I go out there and hunt, I'm going out there with a 12-gauge shotgun, not an assault weapon.' Yet the ban has nothing to do with shooting birds with machine guns. The guns' names or cosmetic features make them no less well suited for hunting."

CCRKBA regards as offensive allowing the government to decide which guns have "legitimate uses. This is a version of the "you don't need an assault weapon to go hunting" argument.

As CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb declares, however, "the Second Amendment is not and never has been, about shooting ducks, deer, clay targets or tin cans. It's about personal defense, homeland security, and resisting tyranny."

ION PROJECT

into law a very important piece of pro-consolidated Appropriation Act signed by Rep. Todd Tiahrt of Kansas. National Instant Criminal Background approved NICS transactions for more of a de facto gun owner registry. TFE from releasing reports of multiple race information.

mail President Bush and thank him for law. A short, simple "Thank you" goes you appreciate his support of the rights

e House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,

@whitehouse.gov.

s: (202) 456-1111, or (202) 456-6213

ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR GETS GUN RIGHTS AWARD

Illinois State Sen. Edward Petka of Plainfield is the recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for April.

Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, presented the Award to Petka during a recent Chicago ceremony hosted by the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA).

ISRA sponsored the event to demonstrate support for Chuck's Gun Shop in Wilmette. Chuck's had become the subject of anti-gun attacks after Hale DeMar wounded a burglar who had entered his home twice in two nights. Initially, DeMar was charged with violating a Wilmette ordinance against handgun possession, and for having guns when his state Firearms Owner Identification Card had expired. Following a public uproar, the charges against him were dropped.

As a part of that uproar, Sen. Petka introduced a bill to amend the Illinois Criminal Code of 1961, and provide an affirmative defense to a violation of a municipal ordinance that prohibits, regulates, or restricts the private ownership of firearms if the individual who is charged with the violation used the firearm in an act of self-defense or defense of another.

Sen. Petka said, "I believe the right to self-defense and self-preservation is an inherent right of citizenship that government should not restrict in any way. A recent incident in Wilmette has reinforced my conviction in the correctness of that belief."

Sen. Petka recounted the DeMar situation and noted that DeMar "only sought to protect his loved ones from possible harm and he acted, not recklessly but in self-defense. The right to self-preservation and self-defense

is an inalienable right. It was so recognized by our Founding Fathers who thought so much of this issue that they listed it as the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights. When a government interferes with this right, government has overstepped its authority. This is why I



Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, presented the Award to Petka in Illinois.

have introduced legislation that would provide citizens such as Mr. DeMar with an 'affirmative defense' or legal justification from prosecution for violating such local gun bans when they are acting in self-defense."

He stated that under circumstances such as occurred in the DeMar case, "the homeowner should be afforded the right to self-protection and that no form of government, at any level, should interfere with that right.

"If a unit of government were to pass an ordinance restricting church attendance to once a month or restricting a local newspaper reporter from publishing only one critical news story about local government each month, we would cringe and rightly so because that would be a violation of the Constitution."

Sen. Petka said that, "despite the best efforts of law enforcement, the

police cannot be everywhere at all times. The Wilmette law was passed to protect people, but it did not work as designed because the premise behind the law was flawed. It ignores real life. A casual observation of what occurs in the real world shows that most people are on the front line of their own defense. There is a proper place for a police department but no amount of calls to 911 and no amount of money spent for large police forces are going to protect you or me and our families who can be victims in our own homes, especially in the middle of the night."

An attorney by profession, Petka was born March 10, 1943 in Chicago. He received his B.A. from Southern Illinois University and his Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School. He is a former President of the Illinois State's Attorneys Association and serves on the Criminal Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Elected State Senate Minority Leader last year, Petka was Majority Whip from 1995 to 2003. He's been in the State Senate since 1993 and, from 1987 to 1992, served as a State Representative.

Sen. Petka received the 2000 Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), and was named Legislator of the Year by the Illinois State's Attorney's Association in 1994 and 2002. He has received Legislator of the Year awards from Will and DuPage Counties in Illinois, and from the Illinois Farm Bureau.

He and his wife, Phyllis, have four children, Jennifer, Edward, Jr., Tanya and Melinda, and three grandchildren, Alexis, Brianna and Ryan Jacob.



QUICK SHOTS

After New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg told New York Magazine that gun lobby leaders' pro-gun remarks were "reprehensible," Alan M. Gottlieb, Chairman of CCRKBA and Founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), announced that the two groups have cancelled plans to hold their 20th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC) next year in New York City and will hold the event elsewhere. The annual three-day conference draws hundreds of participants, and provides over half a million dollars in revenue to hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Informed of the CCRKBA-SAF decision, Bloomberg reportedly stated on New York radio station WLIB that he basically distained rank and file gun owners.



Nationally-syndicated columnist Michelle Malkin noted in The Washington Times and other media outlets that CCRKBA and SAF had cancelled the 2005 GRPC in New York City in favor of another location. She then asked if Bloomberg, "the gun-phobic mayor," will "be revoking the concealed carry permits of the city's rich and famous anytime soon? Licensed gun owners in New York City include record executive Tommy Motola, liberal actors Steven Seagal and Robert De Niro, talk show bigwigs Howard Stern and gazillionaires Winthrop Rockefeller and Donald Trump. While these well-connected gun owners are free to walk the streets without fear, nestled in their gated communities

and surrounded by bodyguards, it is average citizens who suffer the most from the gun control paternalism of the elite."



Speaking of next year's GRPC, please remember to attend this year's GRPC if you are able. Taking place in September in suburban Washington, D.C., it'll be a big one, coming as it does just a matter of weeks before the presidential election. For further information, see the CCRKBA web site, www.ccrkba.org, or phone 425-454-4911. Each year, this event attracts some of the most well known spokesmen and spokeswomanes of the gun rights movement in the United States as well as hundreds of leading gun rights activists from virtually every part of the country.



"When Americans watch the nightly news images of U.S. troops on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan," states pro-gun U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, "they see them carrying out their most difficult duties, using the finest small arms in the world. Those weapons are proudly made in South Carolina's Second Congressional District by FNMI, FM Manufacturing, Incorporated, in Columbia, South Carolina. Since the mid-1980s, FNMI has been building the M-16 rifle, the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, and the M-240 Medium Machine Gun for the U.S. Armed Forces. In other words, FNMI is the principal supplier of small

arms to the military. These arms are universally recognized as the finest infantry weapons in the world, perhaps the finest ever made."



David Skow of White Bear Township in Minnesota, writes on TwinCities.com that, "it's been almost a year since the passage of the concealed carry law, and the sky hasn't fallen. There haven't been any road rage shootings or Wild West shootouts like the gloom and doom crowd predicted. In fact, it appears that people actually can be trusted to be responsible in exercising their Second Amendment rights. What a huge disappointment this has to be for the gun control crowd, but not to worry. In their typical fashion, they'll just continue to ignore the facts and conjure up more horror stories to make us believe that we can't be trusted to do the right thing."



An Argentine mayor is so fed up with crimes on his patch he has told farmers to go ahead and gun thieves down in cold blood, reports Reuters from Buenos Aires. "I endorse killing criminals in your farmland, I endorse it," said Jorge Simoni, mayor of the municipality of Villarino in southern Argentina. "The life of a guy who gets up at five o'clock in the morning to produce, to work, comes first," he reportedly said in a television interview aired last month. "There will be a thousand reasons why people go out and steal, but I don't excuse them."

