

POINT BLANK

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



**December
2013**

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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CCRKBA TAKES CENTER STAGE IN WA INITIATIVE DUEL

Leading a contingent of gun rights and law enforcement representatives, Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, delivered 13 boxes of petitions containing an estimated 340,000 signatures of citizens in support of Initiative 591, a measure in Washington State that would prohibit government gun confiscation without due process, and require that background checks comply with a uniform national standard.

CCRKBA is part of a broad statewide coalition that includes hunters, gun collectors, target shooters and law enforcement professionals. What seemed stunning to reporters is the volume of signatures that had already been gathered, and the revelation by Gottlieb that more were being gathered. The initiative is to the Legislature, and gun rights activists have until Jan. 2 to actually collect signatures from registered Washington voters.

An off-shoot of the campaign has been to register thousands of new voters, which is going to be important if the measure goes to the ballot in November 2014, as it most likely will.

The measure is supported not only by CCRKBA but also the Washington Arms Collectors (WAC), Hunters Heritage Council, Washington State Rifle & Pistol Association and the Washington State Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association (WSLEFIA). They are joined under the "Protect Our Gun Rights" coalition banner.

POGR filed the initiative quietly about two weeks before supporters of a competing gun control measure – Initiative 594 – filed their documents with the Secretary of State's office.

Gottlieb, acknowledging that he is not opposed to background checks, provided they are quick and easy, told reporters that the kind of "universal checks" being pushed by gun prohibitionists did not stop any of the high-profile shootings that have impacted Washington State and the rest of the nation.

"Contrary to what you may have heard, read or even written," he told reporters, "I-591 is not and never has been designed to prevent background checks. Our goal from the outset has been to make sure that any such check



CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb was all smiles when he and members of the CCRKBA staff delivered an impressive 13 cases of the Initiative 591 petition bearing nearly 340,000 signatures to the Washington Secretary of State's office. (Dave Workman photo)

Continued on page 3

CCRKBA SETS 'GUNS SAVE LIVES DAY' DEC. 15

Activities from peaceful demonstrations to candlelight gatherings are in the works for the first annual "Guns Save Lives Day," slated Dec. 15 to coincide with Bill of Rights Day.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is co-sponsoring the event with the Second Amendment Foundation and DefendGunRights.com. There is an on-line petition for individuals to sign in support of the fundamental right to own a firearm for self-defense.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb noted that the observance is to underscore the importance of an armed citizenry "because crazy people, criminals and gun control extremists prefer unarmed victims."

"Americans are concerned about attempts to erode their gun ownership rights, and for good reason," Gottlieb said. "Our mission with Guns Save Lives Day is to assure them our groups are working day and night to thwart government gun-grabbers at every opportunity. We are going to show America that there is a good side to guns."

"The event is designed to counteract what certainly will be a day of activism and misinformation from the gun prohibition lobby," noted Larry Ward, founder of DefendGunRights.com. "We wanted to ensure that the public has the facts on gun rights and understand how many Americans stand with them in defense of Second Amendment rights."

"The Founders understood what many modern-day politicians do

not: that Americans are safer – from crime and tyranny – when they have the means to defend themselves," Ward added.

Gottlieb had appealed to gun prohibition groups to not exploit or politicize the tragic anniversary of the Dec. 14 Newtown elementary school attack, but instead they have been using the Sandy Hook backdrop to call for increasing gun control measures.

Americans protect themselves from violent crime with firearms up to two million times annually, by some estimates. Nearly half of those incidents occur away from home, demonstrating the effectiveness of concealed- and open-carry laws. In the majority of those cases, a shot is not even fired, but the presence of the firearm serves as a deterrent to violence.

"Guns Save Lives Day" might be considered an off-shoot of a nationwide CCRKBA rolling billboard campaign in 2011. The "Guns Save Lives" effort was launched in reaction to a project by the anti-gun Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which attempted to spread a gun control message to communities across the country. CCRKBA's rolling billboard, in many cases, visited the same communities in the wake of the MAIG campaign, to hand out pro-gun literature and talk to citizens about their self-defense and gun ownership rights.

Gottlieb noted that the billboard campaign was mounted because the MAIG campaign was telling "less than half of a story, so we set the record straight."

While the MAIG effort, financed

by out-going New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, encouraged various gun control measures, the CCRKBA effort told people what MAIG didn't tell them.

"Guns save between 800,000 and 2.5 million lives annually," Gottlieb told people. "That's 2,100 to 6,800 people every day who successfully use firearms to defend themselves, or prevent a criminal attack. In the majority of those incidents, no shots are fired, and nobody is injured or killed. In some cases where shots are fired by armed citizens, several lives are saved."



POINT BLANK

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

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CCW APPLICATIONS EXPECTED TO SURGE IN ILLINOIS

Authorities in Illinois, where many state lawmakers had to be virtually dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st Century, anticipate that as many as 400,000 residents will apply for carry permits during the law's first year.

According to the *Springfield State Journal-Register*, Illinois State Police had already approved nearly 1,000 instructors to deliver mandated gun safety training courses, but if the volume of applications is anywhere near the prediction, more instructors may be needed. The course runs for 16 hours, and one gun shop proprietor in Springfield told the newspaper that he already had a waiting list of 200 people.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb observed that this anticipated volume should send a clear signal to state lawmakers that stubborn efforts by Gov. Pat Quinn to derail concealed carry were "out of step" with a huge

number of his constituents. Concurring with the training requirement and its length cost one veteran gunwriter his job with a major firearms magazine.

Some 1.6 million Illinois residents have a Firearms Owner's Identification Card, and that could translate to an overwhelming demand for carry permits as the new law takes effect. One blogger suggested that the demand could exceed the number of concealed carriers in Wisconsin, which hit 200,000 active permits after its law was in effect almost two years.

Elsewhere around the nation, anecdotal evidence points to a continued surge in concealed carry applications in just about every state. Even Connecticut license applications are up one year after the Newtown tragedy, which seemed to surprise the media.

If things go as predicted in Illinois, it will fit a pattern that has emerged over the past two decades in state af-

ter state that has adopted a concealed carry law. In many states, laws have been amended and improved for armed citizens, which has become a thorny issue for gun prohibitionists who continue lobbying for public disarmament.

Some unconfirmed estimates suggest that there are more than 8 million law-abiding citizens with concealed carry licenses or permits, but the actual number is hard if not impossible to establish because some states keep information regarding concealed carry licenses private. Other states simply protect the names of licensed individuals but provide details about the number of issued licenses.

In Washington, the Department of Licensing provides data on the number of active concealed pistol licenses, but the identities of holders are secure. Washington, at last report, was approaching 450,000 active licenses.

DUELING INITIATIVES IN WA

(Continued from page 1)

conducted in Washington lives up to a uniform national standard.

"The process should be quick, simple and without a mountain of bureaucratic red tape or 15 pages of complicated regulations," he continued, "designed to discourage rather than encourage the exercise of a constitutionally-protected, fundamental civil right."

Gottlieb has maintained all along that the POGR coalition's mission "is, and always has been, to assure public safety while protecting the constitutional civil rights of law-

abiding gun owners and all citizens."

Gottlieb and WAC Executive Director Phil Shave were accompanied by Bill Burris, representing WSLEFIA, and his presence at the press conference seemed to surprise some of the media. A retired Pierce County sheriff's detective and firearms trainer, Burris made it clear that his organization not only supports I-591, but will actively oppose the gun control measure.

WSLEFIA was one of the first groups to support the POGR initiative, while

opposing the other effort. That has caught many in the gun control camp off guard because it preemptively derailed any claim that I-594 had overwhelming support from law enforcement, which would no doubt be the case if their measure had gotten an early endorsement from any law enforcement group.

After the press conference in Olympia, the *Seattle Times* reported that I-594 was "closing in" on 325,000 signatures, yet they have spent about twice as much as the largely grassroots POGR effort.

TIPS ON GIFTING GUNS FOR CHRISTMAS

December brings Christmas, and with it comes gift-giving, which means there will be packages with firearms inside.

Recently, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) offered some advice on gun gifting, and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is in full agreement, with some additional advice.

First and foremost, it is legal to give firearms as gifts, provided that the recipient can legally own a firearm where they live. Be sure to consult local laws and regulations in advance. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has information on its website,

(www.atf.gov) and also has suggested that instead of buying the firearm, purchase a gift certificate from that gun shop or sporting goods store and giving that to the lucky recipient.

That way the gift recipient will get the firearm he or she wants. This is also a way to avoid providing the wrong information on a Form 4473 about who the actual purchaser is.

In the event you want to give a gun you own to a son or daughter as a means of passing a family heirloom, be sure to check whether your state is one of a handful that requires even this kind of transfer – between family members – to go through a background check via a licensed dealer.

You can enhance the gift by giving – in a separate package, of course – a lockable gun case, with the locks and keys, in which the new or heirloom firearm may be stored. There are many fine hard-sided cases with padding that are legal for airline and Amtrak travel.

One other gift that can accompany a firearm is a good cleaning kit. This is something that is so often overlooked it is surprising. It sends a message that with each firearm comes the responsibility to maintain that gun. Ammunition is always a welcome gift as well.

Point Blank wishes each and every one of its readers a joyful holiday season.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Congress has just started its long holiday recess.

All Senators and Representatives are back in their home districts to relax and take a break from the vitriol that has characterized politics lately in our nation's capital. Many will schedule town hall meetings to brief constituents on issues of interest and receive input as well. Keep in mind, town hall meetings are two-way streets.

The disastrous roll-out of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (better known as “Obamacare” – until the President started distancing himself from that term by mid-November) will no doubt take center stage. But the administration and Congress continue to work on a variety of issues, including gun control.

President Obama has indicated he will use his executive powers and the power of regulatory agencies such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to accomplish his goals. Gun control advocates in Congress are still planning a renewed assault on your rights. At the top of their list is universal background checks – what would eventually become de facto nationwide gun registration, with a paper trail accessible by the BATFE, on every firearm sold, traded or gifted in the United States.

Look in your newspapers for scheduled town hall meetings. If you don't see them by mid-December, call the district offices of your Senators and Representatives and ask when and where a meeting will be held that you can attend. Attend those meetings, and tell your elected officials – they work for you – that restrictions on law-abiding gun owners is not the answer to the misuse of firearms by a small minority.

Contact information for your Senators and Representatives may be found at www.senate.gov and at www.house.gov or at www.ccrkba.org using the links at “Contact your Representative” or “Contact your Senator” in the left margin.

BLOOMBERG TAKES BODYGUARDS INTO RETIREMENT

Anti-gun billionaire New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg is reportedly taking along several of his police bodyguards when he leaves office at the end of December, and the *New York Post* suggested in an article that he is doing so to “buy their silence.”

The mayor, whose money has played a part in several efforts to curb gun ownership and gun rights, will take along a security team consisting of a current lieutenant and “several detectives.” Yet, Bloomberg does not believe that average citizens have as much right to be safe as he does.

The soon-to-be-ex-mayor has already given strong hints that he will use his big checkbook to influence politics and especially gun control. Bloomberg reportedly has his sights set on five states, but that number could grow in 2014 with the mid-term elections.

The security detail Bloomberg will leave with reportedly consists of people with more than 20 years of experience. They will reportedly file for retirement and will be paid big bucks on top of their retirement.

Reportedly the seventh-richest person in the country, Bloomberg made a fortune before serving three terms as mayor. His time in office has been marked by incidents that have earned steady criticism from the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb has blasted the mayor for sticking his nose into the gun rights battles of others while some of his own cops were being prosecuted for crimes, including illegal gun and drug transactions.

Gottlieb was also critical when it was revealed that Bloomberg apparently was hosting the website for

Mayors Against Illegal Guns on New York City-owned computer servers.

When Bloomberg criticized a reporter during a press conference for asking what he thought about two New York Police patrolmen opening fire on a gunman, killing him and wounding several bystanders in the process, Gottlieb went after him.

“Let me ask you, Miss,” Bloomberg said at the time, “if somebody pointed a gun at you and you had a gun in your pocket, what would you do?”

“There’s just one big problem with Bloomberg’s remark,” Gottlieb observed at the time. “In his city, under his Draconian gun regulations, it is nearly impossible for a private citizen to have a gun in his or her

pocket for personal protection, and he knows it.”

When Bloomberg’s MAIG launched a nationwide anti-gun-rights bus tour, reading the names of so-called “gun violence victims,” Gottlieb again blistered the mayor when it was revealed that the name of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev was on the list.

“This is so far beyond insulting, I’m not sure there’s a word in the dictionary to describe it,” Gottlieb said in reaction.

Bloomberg’s future plans, beyond spending lots of money in an attempt to undermine the Second Amendment, are not clear. What is certain is that wherever he shows up to push gun control, CCRKBA will be there.

CCRKBA CHAIR PROFILED FAIRLY BY ANTI-GUN NEWSPAPER

For readers of the *Seattle Times*, it must have been surprising, if not downright shocking, to see a well-balanced profile of Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear arms, on the front page.

Gottlieb told *Point Blank* that he was “pleased” by the balance in the piece, authored by Erik Lacitis, which detailed Gottlieb’s rise to national prominence as the CCRKBA head and founder of its sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation. The article also appeared nationwide as AP picked it up and distributed it. Gottlieb is no stranger to publicity, but the profile was stunningly balanced, and some might even call it complimentary in places. It covered his verbal sparring with CNN’s Piers Morgan, his rising identification as a nationally-recognized gun rights leader and the man behind various legal actions that have protected and actually strengthened the Second Amendment.

The article also noted his degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Tennessee and estimated that he makes somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 television and radio appearances in a single year.

What the piece did not explain is that Gottlieb is accessible, which makes him something of a “go-to guy” when the media is working on a hot story and they are looking for comment from someone of leadership status in the firearms community.

REP. KELLY OF PA EARNS 'DEFENDER' HONOR

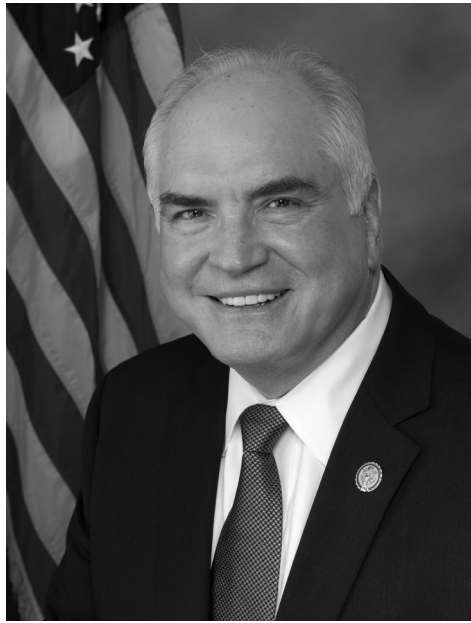
When resistance to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) needed to be mounted in Capitol Hill, Congressman Mike Kelly (R-PA) took the lead and got 180 of his colleagues to co-sign a letter to President Barack Obama, opposing the administration's signing of that treaty.

Among the co-signers were members of the House leadership, including Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-CA), Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX), and Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA).

Rep. Kelly's letter drove home six important points, starting with the reminder that signing the treaty violated the Obama administration's own "red line" that the treaty had to comply with the "rule of consensus decision-making," but consensus was never achieved.

He also noted that the treaty "allows amendments by a three-quarters majority vote." Kelly and his colleagues are concerned that this treaty will be amended and the United States will be pressured to comply with amendments that it was unwilling to accept during negotiations.

A third point is crucial. The treaty, according to the letter, "includes only a weak, non-binding reference to the lawful ownership and use of, and trade in firearms, and recognizes none of these activities, much less individual self-defense, as fundamental individual rights."



Rep. Kelly

Kelly also noted that even the State Department sees the treaty as "ambiguous."

A native of Pittsburgh, Kelly grew up in Butler, where he still lives. He attended Notre Dame on a football and academic scholarship, and after graduation, he worked at Kelly Chevrolet-Cadillac, which was founded by his father in the early 1950s.

He still owns the dealership, and employs more than 100 people.

When Kelly sent the letter to President Obama, he noted that "the People's House takes a stand for national sovereignty where the White House failed to do so."

"The ATT is a clear threat to the Constitutional rights of all Americans and should never have been signed," he stated. "This letter makes it absolutely clear to President Obama and his cabinet that the United States Congress will not support any implementing legislation to give this

dangerous treaty the legs it needs to take effect. We will also oppose any efforts by this administration or future ones to implement or enforce this treaty through executive action. The liberty of the American people and the independence of the United States are far too sacred to ever be sacrificed at the altar of a dysfunctional global institution like the United Nations. For the sake of our freedom at home and our strength abroad, this fight must continue."

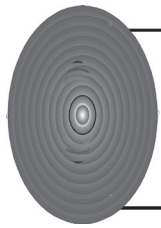
This wasn't the first time Congressman Kelly stepped forward to lead the opposition to the ATT. Back in March, he introduced a bipartisan concurrent resolution opposing the treaty, and it garnered 149 co-sponsors in the House and 36 supporters in the Senate.

In May, he sent a letter to the president and Secretary Kerry, urging them to reject the treaty. That letter had 130 co-signers.

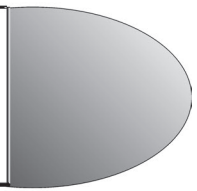
On June 14, according to his website, the House Appropriations Committee, basing their move on language from a bipartisan letter which Rep. Kelly authored and submitted to the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee in April, approved the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2014. That measure imposes a one-year ban on the use of federal funds for the implementation of the ATT by the State Department.

Clearly, Rep. Mike Kelly is not backing down in his efforts to protect the Second Amendment from global gun control efforts.

That's why he deserves recognition as a Gun Rights Defender.



QUICK SHOTS



The Hartford Courant reported that through October, Connecticut state officials reported 253 residents of Newtown applied for state pistol permits, a significant rise from the same time frame last year.

Further, reports the paper, the increase in permit applications in Newtown extended statewide, with over 18,000 permits being issued from March until September of this year, up nearly 80 percent from last year's numbers during the same time period.

This belies any suggestion that citizens of that community have turned their backs on the Second Amendment. Indeed, some reports indicate that the spike was at least partly due to concern about crime and safety.



A Florida lawmaker is looking to protect state gun owners when it comes to their homeowner's insurance policies.

WEAR-TV in Pensacola reported that State Rep. Matt Gaetz has filed a bill that would prohibit insurance companies from charging different rates than normal for those homeowners who have guns in the house – or cancel coverage all together. The bill, according to the TV station, would apply for both home and automobile insurance.

If the bill is passed, it would take effect sometime next year.



From Arizona, we have news of a defection from Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the anti-gun group led by soon-to-be former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The *Arizona Daily Star* of Tucson reported that the mayor of the town of Oro Valley, near Tucson, Satish Hiremath, had announced his departure from the MAIG organization. In an email to the paper, he cited MAIG's focus being different than that of those at the state level to curb gun violence.

The move was praised gun rights activists in the state, who the paper reported had been putting pressure on several other mayors in Arizona to also leave the anti-gun organization.



A pro-gun Louisiana congressman has introduced a bill that if passed, could improve handgun sales. HR 3335 was introduced by Rep. Steve Scalise.

According to the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, the bill would allow for gun dealers to be able to sell handguns to people who live out of state, like for example someone in Birmingham could purchase a handgun in Sarasota and take it back home. Currently, under federal law, that is not allowed, but the bill would make essentially changes in wording of existing law that would result in the aforementioned changes, the newspaper said.

The bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.



The November election saw a number of results that impacted gun rights, but it appears voters in one upstate New York county spoke volumes about their state's own recently-passed anti-gun laws, called the SAFE Act, in their vote for sheriff.

The *Buffalo News* reported that voters in Erie County, near Buffalo, re-elected their top lawman, Timothy Howard, to a third term overseeing the county's law enforcement. Howard's campaign, according to the paper, centered around his opposition to the act and his proclamation at a news conference back in May that he wouldn't enforce it.

The *News* reported Howard beat out two other candidates to retain the sheriff's chair for another four years.



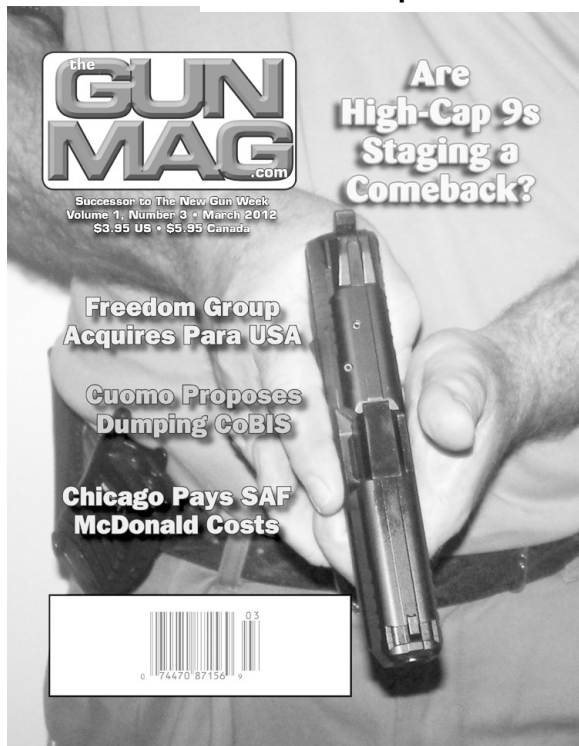
A new poll shows a split among residents of one of Oklahoma's largest cities on the issue of open carry.

The *Tulsa World* reported that a new Oklahoma Poll, conducted at the beginning of November, showed 47 percent of respondents indicating they felt safe knowing that regular citizens could openly carry loaded guns in public, while 47 percent also felt otherwise. The poll, according to the paper, queried 401 Tulsa residents for their views on this issue, which stems from the passage of an open-carry law a year.

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- *TheGunMag* reports key roll-call gun votes in Congress so you know how your rep voted.
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