



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



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IN THIS ISSUE

CCRKBA Coast-to-Coast	1
Hype on Ban Extension	2
Schumer Clipped	3
A Look at 2004	4-5
Citizen Action Project	4-5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

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CCRKBA PROMOTES GUNRIGHTS NATIONWIDE

As 2003 draws to a close and we await the New Year, CCRKBA looks back on a period of tremendous activity in defending the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms and prepares for an equally if not more demanding 2004.

Last month, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder commended the U. S. Senate for passing a bill to provide for the arming of cargo pilots against terrorism.

Sen. Jim Bunning (KY), a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor, who proposed the measure with Sen. Barbara Boxer (CA) as cosponsor, said he hopes the House of Representatives soon will take up the matter. The White House, he told the Associated Press, assured him that President George W. Bush would sign the bill into law.

Earlier last month, CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb and CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron countered an anti-gun editorial in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* with a well-received op-ed piece.

When the paper editorialized against the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act by proclaiming that, "gunmakers don't deserve cover from lawsuits," Gottlieb and Waldron pointed out that the "bill would not prevent a cause of action by a private citizen against a manufacturer, distributor or dealer who sold a defective product or who violated federal or state law in delivering a firearm to an individual."

Also in November, Gottlieb said that a workplace shooting in suburban Cincinnati, Ohio underscores the need for Ohio lawmakers to craft a sensible concealed carry law, and for Gov. Bob Taft to stop blocking one.

Meanwhile, in September, CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman wrote a hard-hitting op-ed piece for the *Chicago Tribune* about that city's workplace shooting Aug. 27. He blasted city officials, noting, "Before the victims were even cold, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Acting Police Supt. Phil Cline, and an extremist gun control group called Handgun-Free America (HFA), were exploiting the deaths to push an anti-gun political agenda..."

Workman wrote that all three complained about "easy access to guns," then dropped this bombshell: "There's just one problem with all of these whines. The pistol used by (Salvadore) Tapia had previously been owned by two now-deceased Chicago police officers. One of them bought it from a Chicago resident nine years ago; a resident who had owned it since 1967 and registered it in 1983. Neither cop had bothered to register the gun, a .380-caliber Walther PP semiautomatic, as required by law. Now, why would two Chicago cops have owned the same undocumented small-caliber handgun? For what purpose could they have wanted such a pistol?"

GUN GRABBERS HYPE GUN BAN EXTENSION

The gun grabbers are using outrageous hype to promote legislation designed to extend the semiautomatic firearm ban which is scheduled to sunset late next year.

CCRKBA will be battling them all the way – right down to the wire!

In October, *PRWeek* reported that, “a newly formed organization affiliated with gun control groups, including the Brady Campaign and the Million Mom March has begun to roll out a campaign...”

“The campaign, which has tapped Dan Klores Communications, hopes it can help win congressional support for the renewal of the current ban on assault weapons.”

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence united with the Million Mom March ran a full-page ad in *The New York Times* calling for an extension of the ban. The ad featured a target-silhouette of a subject in a generic police officer’s hat. There were outlines of 12 bullet-holes in the silhouette. The top line in bold face lettering read, “12 Slugs in a Cop’s Body.”

“Police officers on your streets will soon be outgunned by fast, efficient cop-killing machines that have been banned for a decade,” ran a subhead, if the gun lobby “gets its way.”

The gun lobby, stated the ad, “wants military-style rapid-fire assault rifles – weapons of choice of violent gangs and drug traffickers – made legal again. And the Republican Congress is going along.

“They’ve taken dead aim on the 1994 federal assault weapons ban. They want to wipe it from the books.”

Actually, though, the ban simply will go off the books unless Congress enacts legislation to extend the ban. It’s that proposed legislation which

CCRKBA is fighting against and will be fighting against throughout much of 2004.

The current law, signed by former President Bill Clinton, bans the manufacture and importation specifically of 19 models of semiautomatic firearms, others that meet certain criteria, and ammunition feeding devices capable of accepting more than 10 rounds.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (CA) has introduced S. 1034, the proposed Assault Weapons Ban of 2003, which would make the ban permanent, instead of allowing it simply to sunset in September of 2004. It has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Cosponsors of the Feinstein bill include Sens. Charles E. Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry of Massachusetts, Lincoln D. Chafee and Jack Reed of Rhode Island, Barbara Boxer (CA), Richard J. Durbin (IL), James M. Jeffords (VT), Frank R. Lautenberg (NJ) and Carl Levin (MI).

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (NY) has introduced H.R. 2038, the proposed Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003, which also would make the ban permanent and actually expand it. It has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee and has well over 100 cosponsors.

H.R. 2038 would expand the list of specifically banned semiautomatic firearms, ban most semiautomatic firearms with large detachable magazines, ban all semiautomatic rifles and pistols with detachable magazines if they possess just one of a list of additional characteristics such as folding

stock, threaded barrel, pistol grip, forward grip or barrel shroud, ban all semiautomatic shotguns if they possess just one of a list of additional characteristics such as folding stock, pistol grip, detachable magazine or fixed magazine of over five rounds, ban a number of semiautomatic frames and conversion kits, ban any military or police semiautomatic rifle or shotgun if it is “not particularly suitable for sporting purposes,” and outlaw private sales of grandfathered semiautomatic firearms.



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA BLASTS SCHUMER OBSTRUCTIONISM

“Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York gets the mock Civil Liberties Infringement Prize (CLIP) for his leadership in blocking an up or down judicial confirmation vote on the nomination of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor,” CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder announced.

Pryor, an outstanding defender of constitutional civil rights, has written that the individualist interpretation of the Second Amendment “protects the fundamental interest of Americans in security and self-preservation.” He has been nominated by President George W. Bush for a seat on the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The Senate in November for the second time failed to overcome a Schumer-led filibuster to prevent a confirmation vote.

Snyder noted that, “Schumer has taken the Senate helm in blocking the will of the people. As the arrogant chieftain of the Senate nay-sayers, he is the real ‘Senator No’; a genuine reactionary.”

Ever since Schumer came to Congress, continued Snyder, “he was worked in different ways to undermine the traditional right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. As political developments have shown, Schumer is on the wrong side of history in this regard. Recent news reports generally have indicated a political shift on this issue, a shift in favor of the right to keep and bear arms.

“But that hasn’t stopped Schumer! No way! ‘Senator No’ is trying to thwart political progress. He’s trying to substitute his personal whim for the will of the people. His outrageous performance, and the outrageous performances of the Senators who

voted with him against stopping the filibuster, is proof of that,” Snyder stated.

CCRKBA in October named Pryor its Gun Rights Defender of the Month.

“There’s a real contrast between the two men,” said Snyder. “One, Pryor, would use the judicial system to honor the rights of the people. The other, Schumer, would use government to thwart the will of the people, to undermine their civil rights. There is a real struggle taking place right here in the Nation’s Capital, in the Halls of Congress.”

The final vote last month to break off the filibuster, 51-43, fell short of the 60 votes needed to cut off debate. Schumer and company had also blocked Pryor’s nomination in July.

“We’ve been very careful when we’ve opposed nominees,” Schumer said. “We’ve tried to give the President...the benefit of the doubt. But some nominees are so far out of the mainstream, it is so clear they are going to make law, not interpret law, we feel it’s our constitutional obligation to our country and to the next generation of Americans to oppose them.”

Schumer said Pryor fits into this category. On the other hand, though, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee who holds a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award, accused Pryor’s Senate opponents of carrying out a misinformation campaign. He said Pryor has shown an ability to separate his personal beliefs from his work as Alabama Attorney General.

“Sound bites are easy to make,” said Hatch, “but General Pryor’s record speaks with far more authority than

these stupid fulminations against him. His opponents attack his personal beliefs, even though in every instance in which a conflict between those beliefs and the law has arisen in Bill Pryor’s career, he has unfailingly put the law first.”

One of Pryor’s biggest supporters, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, also a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award winner, said his Senate opponents had treated the nominee in an inappropriate way.

“I’ve not known a single individual in my history of practicing law that’s more committed, more dedicated, has more integrity about the issues that are important to the legal system of America, a man who’s more committed to improving the rule of law in America,” Sessions said. “Bill Pryor is that kind of person.”

Anti-gun Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts said that Pryor “does not have the open-mindedness and fairness essential to be a federal judge.”

Pryor’s nomination is opposed by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and the Million Mom March.

Pryor’s Senate supporters said they will continue to press for an up or down vote. Sen. John Cornyn of Texas attacked the obstructionism. Pryor’s supporters announced they will force Pryor’s opponents to defend their filibusters against him in a 30-hour straight debate.



A LOOK AHEAD AS THE N

By Alan M. Gottlieb, CC

In protecting the right to keep and bear arms, we need to view our strengths and weaknesses from the point of view of those who oppose and attack our freedoms.

We need to ask ourselves: "Where are our weaknesses? Where are our vulnerabilities? If I were anti-gun Senator Diane Feinstein, how would I most effectively attack gun ownership in America?"

A poll conducted by the Second Amendment Foundation and Rasmussen Research had the following results:

When registered voters were asked if they agreed with the attorney general of the United States that the Justice Department would adopt the position that the Second Amendment protects the individual right to keep and bear arms, 73.7% responded yes and only 26.3% responded no.

When these same registered voters were asked do they agree or disagree that citizens who have been the subject of a background check and properly licensed should be allowed to carry a firearm for personal protection 75.6% responded yes and only 24.4% responded no.

When these same registered voters were asked would they be more or less inclined to support the Democratic Party if they backed away from restricting gun owners' rights 54.9% responded yes and 45.1% responded no.

In addition, a First Amendment Center poll that was conducted by the Center for Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut contained the following question on the second amendment which they last polled in 1997:

"Is it essential, important or not important, that you have a right to own firearms?"

In 1997, 33% said the right to own firearms was essential. In 2002, 48% said this right is essential. In 1997, 31% said the right to own a firearm was important and in 2002 31% said it is important.

In 1997, 33% said your second amendment right was NOT important and in 2002 that percentage dropped to 20%.

A 15% increase in those that said the right to own a firearm was essential or important and a 12% decrease in those that said this right is NOT important.

Another, poll conducted by Zogby International for the Second Amendment Foundation found that 75% of American voters agree with the United States Justice Department's new position under the Bush administration that the Second Amendment guarantees the right of individuals to keep and bear arms with only 22% disagreeing.

Even 65% of Democrats in this survey agreed that the Second Amendment protects the individual right to keep and bear arms. That is why many Democrats are running away from the gun control issue.

Not all polling data is good news. From this polling data we can find our weaknesses. Our number one weakness is gun show background checks.

A poll conducted for the Second Amendment Foundation by the noted firm Moore Research had the following results:

When registered voters were asked, "Would you vote for or against a ballot measure requiring background checks on the private sale of guns at gun shows if the time required to complete such a check results in effectively putting gun shows out of business?" 61% responded yes, 31%

responded no and only 8% were undecided.

When these registered voters were asked "Would you vote for or against a measure requiring background checks on the private sale of guns at gun shows if the background check results in a loss of privacy rights of the buyer or seller?", 62% responded yes, 29% responded no and 9% were undecided.

These same registered voters were then told, "Requiring background checks or waiting periods on private sales of guns at gun shows would

NEW YEAR APPROACHES

Lieb, CCRKBA Chairman

result in an increased number of back alley, or street sales of guns where police cannot watch for illegal sales.

After hearing this, would you vote for or against the measure requiring background checks at gun shows that I just asked you about?" 62% responded that they would still vote yes, 29% no and 8% undecided.

So it is not surprising that Handgun Control Incorporated (or whatever their new name happens to be today) demonizes gun shows with sound bites calling them arms bazaars for felons and terrorists.

Our opponents are doing a great job of reaching out to those in the middle with sound bites and images. We must do the same on the road ahead.

While we must maintain an energized base of gun owner support and keep it secure from defection, it is just as important to reach out to those in the middle.

With the public's deep concerns about terrorism, and the continuing war on terrorists, we may not get that chance.

A *Washington Post*/ABC news poll conducted after the September 11th disasters does not bode well for individual rights.

Voters asked if they would be willing to surrender some of their civil liberties guaranteed Americans in order for the government to crack down on terrorism responded 66% in the affirmative. Only 24% said no and 10% had no opinion.

A number of polls done two years after the terrorists' attacks show the same results.

If new terrorist attacks take place, Americans' willingness to surrender constitutional rights will increase.

Just imagine if the terrorists who hijacked the planes on 9/11 had used guns instead of box cutters.

In a free society, rights protect the individual from the government. In a dictatorship, rights protect the government from the people. If enough legal precedence for end-runs of all the protections contained in the Bill of Rights are allowed to go unchecked, where will those precedents be to stop future leaders from dismantling our constitutional rights?

Over the next 12 months, it is OUR job to make sure that the Bill of Rights remains intact.

It is also our job to expand our gun rights by repealing laws like the ban

on so called "assault weapons" that already infringe on our firearms freedom.

That job starts with making sure that every elected lawmaker is lobbied by us from the time they get up in the morning until they are tucked safely in bed at night and the good guys win in the 2004 elections.

Our immediate priority is to make sure that the so called federal assault weapons ban sunsets making it null and void.

This so-called assault weapons ban that stopped the sale and manufacture of new semi-automatic rifles, shotguns and pistols based on cosmetic characteristics, as well as magazines that hold more than ten rounds, sunsets in 2004 unless re-authorized by Congress.

Our next priority is to make sure that none of the 10 declared anti-gun rights Democratic Party candidate for president gets near the oval office and gets the chance to reinstate Bill Clinton's gun grabbing agenda.

We must make sure that pro gun rights candidates to the House of Representatives and the US Senate get elected in large enough numbers to control the national legislative playing field in the gun rights arena.

The gun grabbers know that issues like waiting periods, assault weapon bans, Saturday Night Special bans along with one gun a month sale limitations, kids with guns, .50 caliber rifles that they now call "Second Amendment pornography," gun show background checks and terrorism divide our base and drive those non-gun owners in the middle in greater numbers to support their legislative attack on our rights.

PA REP. WINS CCRKBA GUN RIGHTS AWARD

The CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for December goes to Congressman Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania

In nominating the Keystone State solon for the award, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder said, "Rep. Toomey is an outspoken proponent of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms not only in the halls of Congress but in the public media. He truly is an articulate defender of our traditional rights and is certainly deserving of this Award."

Toomey, a cosponsor of H.R. 3193, the proposed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act introduced by Rep. Mark E. Souder of Indiana, recently defended the proposal during a nationally-televised debate on the issue with D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, an outspoken opponent of the measure. Toomey and Norton squared off in October during an edition of "Hardball with Chris Matthews" on MSNBC.

The bill would allow law-abiding citizens in Washington, D.C. to possess handguns and rifles in their homes and businesses, by repealing the registration requirements for firearms and ammunition, and by eliminating criminal penalties for the possession and carrying of firearms in homes and businesses.

Toomey, blasting away at the virtual DC gun ban, said that "If gun bans

worked, Washington would be the safest city in America instead of the most deadly city in America."

Holmes argued that the problem in Washington, D.C. is that thugs get guns from Virginia and Maryland and then come into the nation's capital to commit crimes with those guns.

Toomey said, "Virginia doesn't have the same kind of homicide rate as Washington does, so obviously, that's not the cause of the problem in Virginia." He said that, with regard to the anti-gun laws in Washington, D.C., "the fact is all we do is systematically make sure that law-abiding citizens have no way to defend themselves."

When Matthews asked Norton what people should do if they hear a disturbing noise in the house, she replied that they should "call the cops."

Then Matthews said, "Call them. There's the question. Go ahead. What happens when you call the police? Are they there in time to save you?"

Toomey said, "You wait and a half hour later..."

Matthews added, "Drawing the line around the body on the floor."

"Exactly," Toomey responded. "If the criminal says, you know what, 'I'll have a cup of coffer and wait a half hour for the police to get here and then I'll just turn myself in.' It's ridiculous. And, again, I think that people miss the point. Making guns available to law-abiding citizens doesn't make them into criminals. If I'm able to defend myself by having a gun in my apartment in Washington, it doesn't make me any more likely to go out and mug you or harm anybody else, but it does make me a

little safer in my home. And the fact is, criminals know this. What we've done is systematically disarm and create sitting victims, sitting ducks, of law-abiding citizens."

Toomey, who has been in Congress since 1999, serves on the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Financial Services. He chairs the Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports of the Small Business Committee.

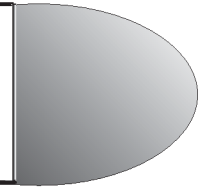
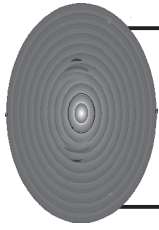
Prior to his service in Congress, Toomey spent 15 years in business. An investment banker for seven years, Toomey lived and worked in New York, London and Hong Kong. He later built a restaurant business with his brothers in Allentown and Lancaster, PA.

He is a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in government. He and his wife, Kris, have two children, Bridget and Patrick.

"I firmly believe the Second Amendment of the Constitution prohibits the federal government from denying law-abiding citizens the right to own and bear arms," Toomey told *Point Blank*. "Our Founding Fathers considered this a fundamental right and ensured that the right to 'keep and bear arms' was guaranteed by the Second Amendment of our Constitution. I find it ironic that the same liberals who are always concerned about protecting First Amendment free-speech rights seem to have conveniently forgotten about the equally important Second Amendment. The bottom line is that gun control measures restrict the freedom of law-abiding citizens while criminals continue to break laws and take advantage of bad public policy."



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Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (MA) introduced S. 1774, to repeal the sunset provisions of the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988, thus making permanent the ban on so-called plastic firearms, or guns that can't be detected by X-ray machines or metal detectors. Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Original co-sponsors are Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles E. Schumer of New York, Jon Corzine and Frank R. Lautenberg of New Jersey, Dianne Feinstein (CA), Carl Levin (MI), and Jack Reed (RI). In the House, Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (WI) introduced H.R. 3338, which would extend the ban on the non-existent guns, set to expire this month, for 10 years. It was approved by voice vote last month in the House of Representatives.



A St. Louis, MO County judge dismissed a lawsuit the city of St. Louis brought against the gun industry seeking reimbursement for costs associated with gun-related injuries. Judge Emmett O'Brien said he found no basis for the claim, and dismissed the lawsuit against gun manufacturers, gun distributors and trade organizations. He wrote that such lawsuits would open "a floodgate to additional litigation." He said that "issues of both logic and fairness" favored dismissing the case. St. Louis city counselor Patti Hageman said it was too early to say whether the city would appeal the decision. It is one of two dozen similar lawsuits seeking to recover law enforcement and public health expenses that have

been filed nationwide by cities and counties.



Gun grabber guru Josh Sugarmann, executive director of the Violence Policy Center (VPC), now is all upset with the Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE). He's bent out of shape because BATFE, according to VPC, "is allowing the sale to the general public of a small-caliber handgun disguised as a pen." Made by Stinger Manufacturing Corporation in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, states VPC, "the Stinger Pengun is a single-shot pistol disguised as a pen. It is 5.6 inches long, weighs only five ounces when empty, and retails for \$250. It is currently available in 17 and 22 caliber, and the company's web site (<http://www.stingerpengun.com>) promises that more calibers are 'Coming Soon!'"



After Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (SD) indicated he would support S. 659, the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, *The Wall Street Journal* editorialized that, "perhaps Mr. Daschle has seen the light and concluded that it's wrong for Smith & Wesson to be held responsible for high homicide rates on the South Side of Chicago. But our guess is that the explanation is far more pragmatic. Mr. Daschle has seen the writing on the wall: Gun control, which was less about safety than about scaring suburbanites into voting for Democrats, is a political loser. After the Gingrich revolution

in 1994, Bill Clinton said the assault weapon ban angered gun owners enough to cost his party more than 20 seats. In 2000, Al Gore lost his home state of Tennessee, among other traditionally rural Democratic states."

The Annapolis, MD City Council reportedly wants to ban toy guns, but following the onslaught of national attention, according to *The Washington Times*, the lawmaker responsible for the proposed law has made one change. "We are no longer referring to them as toys," Alderwoman Cynthia A. Carter said. "We are calling them replica guns." If the proposal is enacted into law, Annapolis residents found possessing, selling, or transporting toy guns within the city will face a maximum fine of \$1,000. "Replica guns are used by criminals, usually juveniles, who cannot get the real thing," said Michael J. Keller, chapter coordinator for Anne Arundel Police Action, an organization that lobbies county lawmakers. Annapolis is situated within Anne Arundel County.

Serious crimes reported in the United States, including murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft, rose slightly last year but remained well below the levels reported a decade ago, according to the FBI.

