

POINT BLANK

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



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GUN GRABBERS PROMOTE AGENDA

As U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators came back into Washington, D.C. to begin the Second Session of the 108th Congress, it was evident that gun grabbers were just as intent as ever to do whatever they can to move forward their anti-gun legislative agenda.

That means, of course, the pro-gun men and women throughout the United States, regardless of some recent perceived legislative and political successes, can not for a moment relax our efforts to maintain and promote the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms.

From the gun grabbers' point of view, one of the gravest threats they face this year is the scheduled sunset, in September, of the ban on the manufacture of certain semiautomatic firearms enacted during the Clinton Administration. On the last day of 2003, in fact, *The Washington Post*, the editorial page of which reads often as if it is the bulletin board of the gun control lobby, editorialized that, "the ban should be extended, not ended, and expanded to include the many knock-offs of the weapons currently banned." We can expect a major effort on the part of anti-gun politicians in Congress to work this year in that direction, and CCRKBA will be working assiduously to make sure it does not occur.

S.659, the Lawful Commerce in Firearms Act protecting gun manufacturers from frivolous nuisance lawsuits, will be heard on the floor of the U.S. Senate in early March. This bill passed overwhelmingly during the First Session (2003) of the current Congress. A comfortable majority of U.S. Senators already has signed onto the bill as co-sponsors.

A number of die-hard anti-gun Senators such as Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, Dick Durbin of Illinois and Chuck Schumer of New York, had been considering the use of a filibuster to block consideration of S.659 by the full Senate. The latest plan appears to be an attempt to amend the bill when it comes to the Senate floor. Likely amendments include an extension and expansion of the ban on certain semi-automatic firearms, as well as adoption of some form of "gun show loophole" legislation. CCRKBA will remain alert to this potential sabotage of S.659 and will make every effort to keep the bill "pure."

The fact that all of the Democrat presidential candidates have called for legislation extending and expanding the ban on semi-automatic firearms and closing the nonexistent "gun show loophole," while pledging their commitment to the Second Amendment, serves to show how much is at stake in this critical election year. We need your help and trust you will continue to offer us the dedication and assistance you have in the past. It promises to be a difficult year.

CCRKBA LIKENS AIRLINE CHECKS TO NICS

When the American Civil Liberties Union recently voiced strong opposition to tougher airline passenger screening—under which passengers would be subjected to invasive background checks before being allowed to board a plane—CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman quickly pointed out that gun owners have endured such checks for years.

In an Op-Ed column, Workman noted that the ACLU “which recognizes nine of the first ten amendments in the Constitution, that section known as the Bill of Rights – is in something of a huff, as are a growing number of airline passengers, over new and intrusive security checks.

“Travelers have learned,” Workman continued, “that the Transportation Security Administration – the same federal agency that is deliberately dragging its feet to prevent pilots from flying armed and providing a last line of aircraft security – will begin testing the new system soon. This invasive system will ‘color code’ passengers, and could be accessing such things as credit history and medical records to do it, according to published reports.

“Known as CAPPS II (Computer Assisted Passenger Pre-Screening), this program will require airline passengers to provide ticket agents with their name, address, telephone number, and date of birth. This information will serve as something of a gateway to all sorts of personal data. A lawyer for the ACLU in Washington D.C., Katie Corrigan, is very unhappy about this.

“Where was Corrigan, and where were all the other critics of this new program, when federal legislation was passed that requires background checks and personal information on

firearms buyers, and law-abiding citizens who want to obtain concealed pistol licenses?”

“The right to bear arms is a civil right,” he observed, “recognized by the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment and specifically delineated as an individual right by the constitutions of most states. Air travel enjoys no such constitutional protection, yet the howls of anguish about invasiveness from the ACLU – which claims through some tortured logic that the right to bear arms is some sort of ‘collective’ right – are all over the concern of people buying a lousy airplane ride.

“For years,” he continued, “non-gun owners have wondered why their fellow citizens who do own firearms were so offended at having to submit to a background check. After all, the reasoning went, if gun owners have nothing to hide, what’s the problem? Now airline travelers and the ACLU have suddenly discovered what the problem is. Gun owners, like rape victims, feel violated.”

Workman challenged, “The ACLU contends that this new security system could become ‘a real nightmare.’ You want a genuine nightmare? Try being the guy whose gun purchase was denied because he was mis-identified by the National Instant Check System (NICS). Try being the man whose vengeful ex-wife or girlfriend falsely accuses him of domestic violence and obtains a restraining order against him, thus turning him into an instant federal felon for having a shotgun with which he hunts ducks. Try being the single mother who, terrified of an abusive partner (who typically ignore restraining orders), suddenly finds herself having to endure a waiting period and background check before she can buy a

gun to protect herself.

“Gun owners have been told in patronizing terms that ‘If it saves the life of one child,’ they must be willing to submit to insidious, guilty-until-proven-innocent requirements to exercise a right. Perhaps the ACLU and millions of offended airline travelers ought to be reminded that ‘If it saves one high rise building or a plane load of passengers’ they ought to also just shut up and allow the airlines to snoop into their private lives.

“Or,” he concluded, “perhaps we ought to get together and change things.”



POINT BLANK

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

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GOTTLIEB BLASTS CHICAGO CONTROLS

Strict gun control in Chicago has worked to once again boost the homicide rate, making the Windy City the most murderous city in the nation for the past 12 months, CCRKBA stated late last year.

"Chicago finished off the year with more murders than New York or Los Angeles," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "During the past 12 months, 599 people were murdered in Chicago, three more than in New York, where 596 people were slain, and about 100 more than in Los Angeles."

"Isn't it remarkable," Gottlieb observed, "that Chicago, New York and Los Angeles have some of the toughest gun laws in the nation, yet still typically lead the nation in the number of homicides?"

Gottlieb was particularly critical about Chicago's murders because Mayor Richard Daley there has made

his anti-gun philosophy a cornerstone of his administration. Gottlieb recalled that one of the city's highest profile crimes was the workplace massacre at Windy City Core Supply in August of 2003. In that case, recidivist felon Salvador Tapia used an unregistered handgun that previously had been owned by two now-deceased Chicago police officers.

"How Tapia got a gun that had been owned by two cops in violation of the very gun laws they were sworn to uphold underscores the hypocrisy and complete failure of Chicago's draconian anti-gun laws," Gottlieb noted. "Chicago's murder rate will stand as a monument to the institutionalized brutality that gun control represents.

"On the other hand, in Detroit, a city once plagued by runaway murder rates, the number of homicides reportedly has dropped to its lowest

level since 1968. Two years ago, Michigan reformed its concealed carry law, and today, thousands of law-abiding citizens in Michigan are legally armed. Gosh, do you suppose there is any correlation?"

Gottlieb declared that, "Mayor Daley should publicly admit that gun control in his city has been an absolute failure. It is time for Daley and his anti-gun colleagues to take responsibility for every one of these killings, and to either change the law, or get out of public service."

In a report early last month on Gottlieb's complaint regarding Chicago's gun control system, Susan Jones of the Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com) stated that Chicago police superintendent Philip Crane blamed the city's murder problem on gangs, guns and drugs, noting that the 599 figure was down from 648 a year ago and 665 in 2001.

CCRKBA WORKING AGAINST CALIFORNIA GUN GRABBERS

CCRKBA and the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) joined recently in a lawsuit to prevent the California Department of Justice from destroying critical data that may show many sheriffs and police agencies have practiced blatant discrimination in the way they issue concealed pistol licenses.

CCRKBA and SAF filed for a temporary restraining order against California Attorney General Bill Lockyer and California Department of Justice Director Randy Rossi and their agencies. CCRKBA and SAF want to prevent destruction of records under guidelines of AB 1044, a new California state law that allows the state to destroy permit applications.

"Normally," said CCRKBA Chair-

man Alan M. Gottlieb, "we would fight to protect the privacy of gun owners, but this is not a normal situation. If those records are destroyed, it could prevent California gun owners from ever finding out whether they have been the victims of ethnic or gender discrimination in their attempts to secure concealed pistol licenses."

Gottlieb added that, "this is an important issue because there already have been indications of racial and gender imbalances in the issuance of concealed carry licenses."

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron said that, "California gun rights activists advised us months ago that there appears to be a pattern of discrimination against some

permit applicants. There may be an even larger pattern of entire communities, with high minority populations, having been completely 'red-lined' by local sheriffs for blanket non-issue of permits to anyone living in those communities.

"We're asking for a temporary restraining order to stop implementation of the law while the court has an opportunity to review our request for a permanent order. Ultimately, we would like to see this law overturned in favor of a law protecting the equal rights of all California gun permit applicants, regardless of race of gender."

CCRKBA and SAF filed the lawsuit in the Superior Court of Sacramento County, California.

CCRKBA: TIME TO SLICE UP THE TSA?

"Has the time come for the country to start slicing up the Transportation Security Administration in the interests of national security and the safety of airline pilots, crews and passengers," asked John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, rhetorically, in a recent Washington, D.C. statement.

The TSA, he continued, "has been dragging its feet so hard and so long in implementing a national mandate for the arming of airline pilots that one cannot help but think that the interests of the nation would be better served if this responsibility is taken out of the hands of the agency.

"The threat in the air from international terrorists, known so well to everyone ever since the horrible events of September 11, 2001, continues and our pilots need to be able to carry and use guns to protect themselves, their crews, their passengers, their cargoes, and their aircraft. This seems like a no-brainer to anyone with an ounce of common sense. If TSA simply cannot or will not get it, then it's time to start dumping on the TSA."

At the very least, Snyder continued, "perhaps it is time that Congress start to take a serious look at the functions, activities and personnel policies of the TSA."

Snyder's comments came as *The Wall Street Journal*, under the pithy heading, "Too Few Guns in the Cockpit," recalled that "the TSA initially

opposed guns in the cockpit altogether but was overridden by massive bipartisan majorities on Capitol Hill... Unfortunately, Congress left the TSA with too much discretion in implementing the program, and the bureaucrats have done everything within their power to discourage pilots from signing up."

The *Journal* noted that, "the weeklong training course – to be completed at the pilot's own time and expense – was sited in the New Mexico desert, four hours from the nearest city of El Paso. Pilots are required to submit to rigorous psychological and background screenings from an agency they know to be hostile to the program and which has the power to pull their flying licenses. This is in addition to the twice-a-year FAA physical and psychological exams.

"Should they pass the TSA scrutiny, pilots are required to carry their firearms around in a locked box – a dangerously unwieldy procedure not required of federal air marshals. The upshot is that only a few thousand of the nearly 100,000 eligible pilots have volunteered and even fewer have been trained."

John R. Lott, Jr., an American Enterprise Institute resident scholar and author of *The Bias Against Guns* who received the CCRKBA Scholar of the Year Award during the 2003 Gun Rights Policy Conference, wrote recently in the *New York Post* that, "despite all the concern about hypothetical risks, arming pilots is nothing new. Until the '60s, American commercial passenger pilots on any flight carrying U.S. mail were required to carry handguns. The rule, which dates to the start of commercial aviation, was meant to ensure that pilots could defend the mail if

their plane ever crashed. Indeed, U.S. pilots were allowed to carry guns until as recently as 1987...

"Protecting the people should be as important as protecting the mail once was."

It was on November 25, 2002 that President George W. Bush signed the Arming Pilots Against Terrorism Act. That new law, noted Captain Tracy Price, who flies Boeing 737s for a major airline and who is a former CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, "compelled TSA to train and arm airline pilots who volunteered for the program. One year later, many Americans believe that large numbers of airline pilots now are carrying guns. Sadly, they are mistaken."

Writing in *The Washington Times*, Captain Price, former chairman of the Airline Pilots' Security Alliance, stated that, "a logical armed-pilot program would not be looking for ways to screen pilots out; it would be looking for ways to encourage more volunteers."

He wrote that, "We have endured almost two years of TSA searches of law-abiding citizens, yet recent news reports show that al Qaeda operatives remain interested in targeting airliners. Nothing the TSA has done thus far has sufficiently deterred al Qaeda. Embarrassed by a college student who easily snuck knives on board airliners, the TSA now plans to use technology that will 'see through' each passenger's clothing and present them naked to the government screeners.

"Further violation of our rights is not the answer; but hardening the target is the answer. Congress should take all discretion about which pilots get into the armed pilot program away from the TSA."

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CCRKBA COMMENDS NEW MEXICO COURT

New Mexico's State Supreme Court has done the correct thing in allowing the new concealed statute to stand, CCRKBA stated last month.

The state high court, without comment, rejected a challenge to the new law by an anti-gun physician and child advocacy group. Under the new statute, law-abiding New Mexicans over the age of 25 who qualify will be able to obtain a two-year carry license. They must complete a background check and firearms training course.

"Anti-gunners like those in New Mexico have revealed themselves as being against the rights of honest citizens to defend themselves against criminals," said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "It appears the justices of New Mexico's high court took the intellectually honest approach on this case, reviewing the statute and properly interpret-

ing the state constitution's provision regarding the right to bear arms. The rejection of this simplistic challenge to the self-defense rights of law-abiding New Mexico citizens, if nothing else, should stand as a monument to common sense.

Waldron suggested that "the opponents of this new law have a hidden agenda. They're not simply against concealed carry; they wanted to prevent New Mexico residents from learning just how well such a law can work. Citizens, and many law enforcement officials, in other states where concealed carry laws have been passed have learned from experience that these laws are effective. Studies, and crime statistics, suggest that states with concealed carry laws enjoy lower crime rates. Anti-self-defense zealots should have to explain what's wrong with that."

The justices later will issue an opin-

ion on their decision, but Waldron noted that a similar challenge is being mounted against the new concealed carry law in Missouri, and that state's Supreme Court now has the case under consideration.

"Missouri justices should take a lesson from their contemporaries in New Mexico and follow their lead," Waldron stated. "Concealed carry laws work, and it does not take much analysis of state constitutions to understand that framers of the right to keep and bear arms in those states knew what they were doing, and what they meant."



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CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Ohio has just become the 46th state to pass a concealed carry licensing law. The only states left without some form of concealed carry are Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and Wisconsin, and the outlook for the latter three states is good.

The next step in the evolution is recognition of out-of-state concealed carry licenses, or reciprocal agreements between the states. Alaska and Vermont do not require a license to carry provided the individual can legally possess a firearm and has no criminal intent in carrying. Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Utah offer universal recognition of ALL CCW licenses issued by other states. Twenty-two other states offer some kind of reciprocity, recognizing at least some CCW licenses from other states.

The right of self-defense does not and should not stop at a state border. The concealed carry licensing program has proven an overwhelming success in every state that has adopted it. Predictions of blood-in-the-gutters or shootouts-at-fender-benders have not come to pass. The citizen who has taken the time and made the effort to comply with the licensing system does not pose a threat to his or her fellow citizens.

Most state legislatures currently are in session. Now is the time to write or call your state legislators and ask them to give serious consideration to passing legislation that would extend the right of self-defense to visitors to your home state. Universal recognition, following the example of the states listed above, is the most effective means of accomplishing this, as well as the fastest way to ensure that your license is recognized by other states. Act now to protect your right of self-defense.

LEGAL SCHOLAR ALONSO THE DEFENDER AWARDEE

Joseph B. Alonso of Marietta, Georgia is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for February.

In nominating Mr. Alonso for the Award, J. H. Versnel, Managing Editor of *Point Blank*, pointed out that the 27-year-old attorney has produced a tremendous amount of published scholarly research in support of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms. This includes a comprehensive analysis of the dangers posed for Second Amendment rights by various global attempts to institute, codify, mandate and implement various gun control proposals. Within the overall context of assaults on the traditional American right to keep and bear arms, the international attacks coming from various quarters very well could be some of the most threatening, as well as most insidious. The gun grabbers, thwarted recently in their attempts to undermine our rights on the domestic front, are turning more and more to the international arena in an attempt to deprive us of our rights. For ringing this bell of warning of potential threats to our freedom, Joe Alonso certainly is most deserving of this award.

Alonso, who was born in Tampa, Florida, informed this publication that his research while at Tulane Law School in New Orleans, Louisiana resulted in an article on the ramifications of international gun control on the Second Amendment.

A version of the article won first place in the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund Contest in 2001-2002. The Second Amendment Foundation published another version of the ar-

ticle, titled *The Second Amendment and Global Gun Control* in its *Journal On Firearms & Public Policy* for the Fall of 2003. Another version of the article was slated for publication just last month in the *Houston Journal of International Law*.

Alonso tells *Point Blank* that his "focus has been on small arms developments in international law and specifically at the United Nations. I believe that the current push for additional international law regarding small arms is destined to affect the Second Amendment. I also believe that the Second Amendment and international small arms law is likely to be the first area in which a material conflict between United States Constitution and international law will play out. If history provides any insight, defenders of the United States Constitution should be wary.

"The activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the international small arms arena are also of high concern because the vast majority of them are rabidly anti-gun. The primary anti-gun NGO, the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), is pushing an aggressive, non-democratic anti-gun agenda world wide. They receive massive funding from foundations and foreign nations and have recently become engaged in domestic politics and lobbying."

He states also that, "the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities (WFSA), an educational and scientific association, founded by over two dozen existing associations and organizations is one of the few, if not the only, NGO representing the interests of the world wide sport shooting community. They

are vastly under funded and face enormous resistance from IANSA, the majority of involved NGOs and from most United Nations member countries. As you can imagine, the goings-on at the United Nations tend to better the UN, the member countries and the NGOs who have been able to acquire increasing power by assisting the UN and the member countries. Although NGOs claim to represent 'civil society,' noticeably absent is any true voice for individuals who are opposed to the growing influence of the UN or its pre-determined political goals. The WFSA is ever-present, serving as that voice."

In his article, Alonso states categorically that, "it is the United States government's job to ensure that no foreign political body usurps the authority of the United States government... The United States government may not grant power to a polity to violate the rights of United States citizens."

Last summer, Alonso was a member of the WFSA delegation to the the United Nations' second meeting to discuss the implementation of the Program of Action on Small Arms. He now is researching the primary anti-gun NGO, IANSA, monitors IANSA, and supplies information to NGO Watch, an NGO watchdog group founded by the Federalist Society and the American Enterprise Institute.

While studying at Tulane Law School, he was President of the Federalist Society. Prior to Tulane, he attended college at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he majored in Political Science and Philosophy, focusing on American political philosophy.



QUICK SHOTS

In Ohio, after CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb urged Gov. Bob Taft to sign a concealed carry measure passed by the state legislature, Taft did so. For years, CCRKBA worked with Ohioans for Concealed Carry to produce a CCW measure acceptable to both the legislature and the governor. Under the measure, slated to take effect in 90 days, Ohioans who apply to carry a concealed firearm will have to be fingerprinted, undergo a background check, take 12 hours of training and three hours of training on a firing range, and acquire special holsters for smaller guns.



Congress has passed a \$373 billion omnibus appropriations bill which included a requirement that all records from mandatory background checks on potential gun buyers authorized by the Brady Act will be destroyed within 24 hours. This requirement enforces the spirit and intent of the law that was negotiated in 1993 during the Clinton Administration. However, anti-gunner Sarah Brady was quick to condemn the vote, arguing, "It has made it easier for spousal abusers, stalkers, the mentally ill and even terrorists to get guns and keep them." She then added this threat: "Eventually, we will restore the background check system and strengthen it."



"Reversing longstanding patterns in the United States," reports Tim Vanderpool in *The Christian Science Monitor*, "residents ages 65

and up are now the most likely of all citizens to own a gun. 'Personal gun ownership used to be highest among the middle-aged, but in our 2000 and 2002 survey, it was highest among the 65-plus age group. So there is a shift upwards in gun ownership,' says Tom Smith, director of the General Social Survey, which is part of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. In Arizona alone, the state's Department of Public Safety reports that more than 31,000 residents between the ages of 50 and 69 – including 6,200 women – have concealed weapon permits. 'It's easy to understand why,' says Richard Batory (owner of the Desert Trails Gun Club). 'Just read the papers. Older people are getting tired of being picked on by savages.'"



"According to the National Self-Defense Survey created by Florida State University criminologists in 1994," reports Doug Hagin of OpinionEditorials.com, "the rate of defensive gun uses can be projected to approximately 2.5 million per year, or one defensive use for every 13 seconds... Among 15.7 percent of gun defenders interviewed nationwide during the National Self-Defense Survey, the defender believed that someone 'almost certainly' would have died had the gun not been used for protection – a life saved by a privately held gun about once every 1.3 minutes. (In another 14.2 percent cases, the defender believed someone 'probably' would have died if the gun hadn't been used in defense.) In 83.5 percent of those successful

gun defenses, the attacked either used or threatened force first. So much for the gun control argument that gun availability for self-defense will not make any difference."



"In previous wars," writes Julia Angwin in *The Wall Street Journal*, "journalists often traveled with troops and then returned to a safe base camp to file their stories. In Iraq, there are few safe havens, the enemy can be anywhere dressed in civilian clothes, and journalists have become targets. 'The norms about whether or not you shoot at journalists have changed,' says Thomas Rosenstiel, director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, an initiative at the Columbia University School of Journalism to clarify and raise the standards of American journalism. As a result, reporters in Iraq are arming themselves more than in many recent conflicts."



In Canada, according to the *Calgary Herald*, the head of the city's front-line police officers is calling for the federal government to scrap the billion-dollar gun registry because it has been a colossal failure in reducing violent crime in the country. Al Koenig, president of the Calgary Police Association, said the vast amount of money spent on the firearms program could have been much better put to use for front-line police officers in Canada. He said the program has had no effect on crime or acted in any way as a deterrent.

