



# CCRKBA PROMOTES NATIONAL CARRY PERMIT LAW



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

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**CITIZENS  
COMMITTEE  
FOR THE RIGHT  
TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**

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Gathering recently on Capitol Hill were, left to right, Rep. Virgil Goode (D-VA), John Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, Rep. Mike Forbes (R-NY), and Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-FL). Photo by Ling Woo.

The group got together during a reception cosponsored by the American Conservative Union and the American Bankers Association.

Snyder introduced Goode, elected to Congress for the first time in November, to Forbes and Stearns, who both were reelected in November.

Goode, as a Virginia State Senator, sponsored the Commonwealth's law mandating the issuance of permits to carry concealed firearms to law-abiding resident applicants.

Stearns is the sponsor of a congressional proposal which would allow an individual who has a permit to carry a concealed firearm from any state to carry the gun in any state.

Both Forbes and Stearns voted last year to repeal the Clinton ban on certain semiautomatic firearms and multiple capacity ammunition feeding devices.

Snyder, named "the dean of gun lobbyists" by The New York Times, said he believes "the permit to carry concealed concept is an idea whose time has come. The movement is sweeping the country throughout the states. Thirty-one states already allow their law-abiding citizens to carry concealed handguns.

"People want to be able to protect their lives and the lives of their loved ones from violent criminal predators, something they're able to do if they can carry crime-stopping handguns.

"As the University of Chicago Law School study conducted recently by Professor John R. Lott, Jr. indicates, states which have passed shall-issue laws have experienced a murder reduction of 8.5 percent, a rape reduction of five percent, and a robbery reduction of three percent.

"Professor Lott himself writes that if those states which did not permit concealed handguns four years ago had in fact permitted them, the people would have been spared about 1,570 murders, 4,177 rapes, 60,000 aggravated assaults and 12,000 robberies.

"The statistics confirm what any rational person would realize intuitively, and that is that criminals don't want to run up against armed victims. They don't even

*(Continued on page 2)*

# GOODE OF VIRGINIA THE CCRKBA RIGHTS AWARDEE

Congressman Virgil H. Goode, Jr. of Virginia is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for January.

In nominating Rep. Goode for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that "this Virginia lawmaker, throughout his public career, has demonstrated repeatedly and forcefully his commitment to the individual right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

"Recently, when my wife and I were talking with the newly-elected Congressman Goode, a Democrat, and his wife during a reception in Washington, D. C., Goode said that 'we need a permit to carry concealed law for Washington, D. C.'

"Of course I agreed and volunteered to introduce him to Congressman Clifford B. Stearns of Florida, a Republican. Rep. Stearns, himself a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, is the author of legislation which would allow the holder of a permit to carry a concealed firearm issued by any state to carry concealed in any state.

"Congressman Goode was happy with the prospect of meeting Congressman Stearns and so I introduced the two Representatives to each other. It seems that, as a result, we now will have in Congress bipartisan support for the federal reciprocity permit to carry concealed concept."

Goode, as Virginia State Senator, was the chief sponsor of Virginia's concealed carry legislation. The 1995 Personal Protection Act, adopted after a spirited fight by legislators favoring restrictive gun control, set standards so that Virginia's

law-abiding citizens would have a fair chance of obtaining a concealed carry permit regardless of the locality in which he or she lived.

Prior to the Virginia law, it was almost impossible in many jurisdictions in Virginia to get a concealed carry permit.

When the Goode proposal was being debated in Virginia, R. Cort Kirkwood columnized in the Arlington, Virginia COURIER that "those who don't want citizens to carry guns might explain how crime will increase if more citizens carry guns. Criminals will always commit crimes, but law-abiding citizens will not, and their newly-won liberty to protect themselves isn't likely to cause more crime. More shootings, however, are another matter. If and when Mr. Goode's bill becomes law, more shootings may indeed occur, but it is unlikely those shooting will be defined as 'crimes' in the sense of predator and prey. Where citizens are prepared to defend themselves as the rule rather than the exception, criminals will fear being shot dead while plying their trade..."

"Aside from the obvious advantage an armed man has if he must defend life and limb, he also has the undying respect of those who see the bulge under his jacket, which says, in the words of the old cliché: 'Don't tread on me.'

"Those words don't mean much to those who want to live in a risk-free community where people no longer know how to use, and in all likelihood fear, firearms. But what those folks don't understand is that a measure of danger always accompanies liberty, and no society is truly free unless its citizens have a right to defend themselves. Accidental

shootings will occur, but for the same reason we do not curtail the right of the press because a newspaper might err, we should not curtail the right of free citizens to defend themselves."

As a Virginia State Senator, Congressman Goode voted against banning certain shotguns on the grounds that they could be used for self-defense purposes. He also voted against then Governor Wilder's "one-gun-a-month" registration scheme.

Born October 17, 1946 in Richmond, Virginia, Goode, a Baptist, holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the



## POINT BLANK

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

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## CCW PUSH

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want to take a chance of running up against a victim who just may be carrying a concealed handgun.

"The message really is clear - the permit to carry concealed movement is a life-saver and a violent crime-preventer.

"This is one bandwagon the pro-gun movement should take the lead in promoting, at the federal as well as the state level.

"Concealed carry promotes the interests of law-abiding gun owners as well as the public safety in



# CCRKBA AWARDEE RIPS BRADY IN SUPREME COURT ARGUMENT

Attorney Stephen P. Halbrook, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, argued against the constitutionality of the Brady Law on the basis of the Tenth Amendment.

The session involved two cases, Sheriff Richard Mack, Graham County, Arizona v. United States, and Jay Printz, Sheriff/Coroner, Ravalli County, Montana v. United States, consolidated, brought by the two local officials.

Halbrook had prepared the brief for Printz and David T. Hardy, also a noted constitutional scholar, had prepared the brief for Mack.

In the December 3 hearing before the Supreme Court, the Clinton Administration tried to convince the Court that the Brady Law does not trample on the constitutional principle of state sovereignty in requiring local law enforcement officials to conduct background checks of prospective handgun purchasers.

During the hour long argument, Justice Antonin Scalia observed that the effect of the law was to "make the states dance like marionettes on the fingers of the federal government."

The Brady Law, which amends a 1968 provision prohibiting convicted felons from buying firearms, as of 1994 imposed a five-day handgun purchase waiting period ostensibly to provide time for a police check of criminal records.

The two sheriffs, Printz and Mack, who was defeated in his recent reelection bid, challenged the law's background check requirement as a burdensome incursion into the inner workings of state government. While they lost their case last year in the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in San Francisco, another federal appeals court struck down the provision in a nearly identical case brought by sheriffs from Texas and Mississippi.

The Ninth Circuit "held that Congress may commandeer the sheriffs' departments of this country." Halbrook told the Justices last month that "we've not seen a constitutional provision that justifies these commands."

The Brady Law requires local law enforcement officials to make a "reasonable effort" to check local, state and federal records, a practice that Halbrook told the Court can take as long as several hours

of a deputy's time for each application.

Halbrook said the Constitution prohibits "requiring states to administer a federal regulatory policy." He argued the Brady Law differs from other mandates that are tied to federal funds and permitted under Congress' spending power. He noted that under the Tenth Amendment constitutional powers not given to the federal government are reserved to the states.

While Halbrook described the background check as onerous, Solicitor General Walter Dellinger depicted it as a "reasonable" provision that asked only "minimal effort" from local officials. He said that "Congress simply is telling the states to do something state and local governments have been doing for a long time."

Dellinger said Congress simply was using local enforcement agencies as a source of information and was not requiring local governments to make difficult policy decisions.

Some Justices were skeptical. The Brady Law puts local law enforcement officers to "a real policy choice," Justice David H. Souter said, a choice that "can politically be very explosive in some communities" if officials have to divert limited resources from solving local crimes to performing the required background checks.

When Dellinger said that most law enforcement organizations support the Brady Law, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist pointed out that the Court does not resolve constitutional issues on the basis of how many or how few people complain about a particular provision.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor got Dellinger to agree that Congress could not impose a massive welfare program without providing money. "This is just a smaller version of that example, is it not?"

However, Justice O'Connor also was critical of Halbrook at one point.

Halbrook said the Constitution would prohibit Congress even from simply requiring local law enforcement agencies to make their records available so that federal officials could do the background investigations themselves. "That's an extreme position," said Justice O'Connor.

A number of amicus briefs were filed in support of the two sheriffs.

- A joint brief of the States of Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Virginia and Wyoming by Gale A. Norton, Attorney General of the State of Colorado.

- A joint brief of the Council of State Governments and National Conference of State Legislatures by D. Bruce La Pierre, Washington University School of Law.

- A joint brief of Doctors for Integrity in Policy Research, Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership, and the Lawyer's Second Amendment Society by Steven A. Silver of the Lawyer's Second Amendment Society.

- A brief of the Gun Owners Foundation by James H. Jeffries, III.

- A brief of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America by James H. Warner.

- A brief of the National Rifle Association of America by Robert Dowlut.

- A brief of the Pacific Legal Foundation by Sharon L. Browne.

A number of amicus briefs also were filed in support of the United States. These included:

- A brief of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations by Lawrence Gold.

- A brief of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York by Louis A. Craco, Jr. of the Association.

- A joint brief of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and the Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence by Donald A. Verrilli of Jenner and Block.

- A joint brief of United States Senators Herb Kohl of WI, Paul Simon and Carol Moseley-Braun of IL, John Chaffee of RI, Edward M. Kennedy and John Kerry of MA, Dianne Feinstein of CA, Frank Lautenberg and Bill Bradley of NJ, Tom Harkin of IA, and Bob Kerrey of NE by Andrew J. Pincus of Mayer, Brown and Platt.

- A joint brief of the States of Maryland, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island and Wisconsin by Andrew H. Baida, Assistant Attorney General of the State of Maryland.

Sarah Brady, Chairwoman of Handgun

# CCRKBA AWARDEE BLASTS BORK FOR BORKING SECOND AMENDMENT

Nationally syndicated columnist Samuel Francis, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, wrote recently in THE WANDERER and other publications that "it has been quite a few years since the world last heard of Robert Bork, but back in 1987 his name was a household - indeed, a national headline - word. Judge Bork, of course, was one of Ronald Reagan's nominees to the Supreme Court, a nominee whom the liberal Democrats who then controlled the Senate defeated in a particularly ugly and often insulting confirmation battle.

"So ugly and insulting was the war waged against Judge Bork by the left that his conservative champions tried to coin a new word, to 'bork' someone, meaning to stop a person's candidacy for office by systematically smearing him. To this day Judge Bork remains the number one guru of the conservative view of the Constitution.

"Unfortunately, it may also be his last day as the guru-in-chief of constitutional issues. In his most recent book, SLOUGHING TOWARD GOMORRAH, Judge Bork manages to carry out a bit of borking on his own - not on a person but rather on the Constitution itself, and in particular on the Second Amendment.

"The Second Amendment, the bete noire of the gun gestapo, states that 'a well regulated Militia, being necessary for the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.' It is the core of the constitutional argument against gun control, long held to secure the right of individuals to own (buy, sell, keep, and carry) firearms. Judge Bork, however, doesn't think so.

"Discussing the carnage of violent crime, Judge Bork rejects gun control as an effective means of reducing it. 'Gun control,' he writes, 'shifts the equation in favor of the criminal,' and he's right, as he often is. But when he gets on to the constitutionality of gun control, he's simply wrong, as he usually isn't.

"In a footnote on page 166, Judge Bork writes that 'the Supreme Court has consistently ruled that there is no individual right to own a firearm. The Second Amendment was designed to

allow states to defend themselves against a possibly tyrannical national government. Now that the federal government has stealth bombers and nuclear weapons, it is hard to imagine what people would need to keep in the garage to serve that purpose.'

"Judge Bork is in fact wrong in both logic and facts. As to logic, even if the Supreme Court had ruled as he claims, that doesn't settle the issue of constitutionality. The Supreme Court can be wrong, and indeed Judge Bork is a hero to conservatives precisely because he often criticizes the Supreme Court's rulings. By implying that Supreme Court rulings are authoritative if not infallible, he contradicts most of what he has argued throughout his juristic career.

"But second, as to facts, he is also wrong that the court 'has consistently ruled that there is no individual right to own a firearm.' The OXFORD COMPANION TO THE SUPREME COURT, a standard reference work on the court and its rulings that really is authoritative, states that one of the main nineteenth century cases, Presser v. Illinois (1886), 'declared that the Second Amendment only protected individuals from federal not state infringement.'

"As for twentieth century cases, the main one is a 1939 ruling in United States v. Miller, in which the court held unanimously that 'the Second Amendment protected the citizen's right to own weapons that were ordinary militia weapons.' That excluded sawed-off shotguns, which is what the case was about, but it left us a pretty heavy arsenal in their place. As to the 'collective right' that the amendment supposedly expresses, the view that only the people collectively, not as individuals, have a right to keep and bear arms, the Oxford reference book concludes that 'history gives very little support for that view.'

"That's more than what Judge Bork offers in support of his view, and as for his claim that government possession of bombers and nukes makes whatever weaponry you have stashed in your

garage useless, tell that to the Afghan resistance, the Nicaraguan contras, and indeed the Vietcong, the Sandinistas, and a dozen other guerrilla groups that have laid their local leviathans low with weapons no more advanced than what we can keep in the carport.

"For all Judge Bork's juristic learning and thinking, he missed the constitutional boat on what may in the near future be the most important constitutional issue

# CCRKBA CAUTIONS CONGRESS ON VIOLENCE, RIGHTS ISSUES

As Congress prepared for its opening session this month, Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms noted potentially difficult connections between two high profile political and legislative issues.

These are the issues of domestic violence and alleged abuse of civil rights by some law enforcement agents.

Last year, President Clinton signed into law a prohibition on firearms acquisition

and possession by individuals convicted of misdemeanor domestic abuse.

Subsequently, BATF issued open letters to state and local law enforcement officials, all federal firearms licensees and the general public regarding this new law prohibiting persons convicted of a "misdemeanor crime of violence," provided they either had or knowingly waived their right to counsel and had knowingly waived the jury right, from possessing firearms and ammunition.

The law took effect on September 30, 1996 but it is being applied retroactively, which means anyone convicted of a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" is prohibited from owning guns or ammunition.

This includes federal, state and local police, as well as the military.

The last Congress also voted to establish the Commission on the Advancement of Federal Law Enforcement charged, among other things, with investigation of alleged abuses of civil rights by federal law enforcement agents.

On December 11, 1996, Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, wrote Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia, Chairman of the Task Force on Firearms created by the Speaker of the House, regarding these issues.

"We understand," stated Gottlieb, "that you have suggested holding hearings on the federal law prohibiting firearms acquisition and possession for misdemeanor domestic abusers which was enacted as part of the appropriations bill at the end of the 104th Congress.

"We understand further that new legislation may be introduced and considered which might correct some of the problems which have been identified with the new law, particularly with respect to law enforcement and military personnel as well as armed federal agents and security guards.

"It is the view of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms that any revisitation of this issue should be undertaken with extreme caution and careful deliberation. The domestic abuse issue is an extremely

volatile social and political question.

"In this instance, much as we may not like it, the domestic abuse issue is linked to the question of allegations of abuse of civil rights by some federal and local law enforcement agents.

"Because of the seriousness of this matter, the 104th Congress, with your help, authorized formation of a special commission to review law enforcement practices and policies, although Congress failed to fund the commission.

"Meanwhile, on November 14, 1996, Joseph Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, called on President Clinton to form a commission to investigate police abuse charges because of allegations related to recent incidents in St. Petersburg, Florida and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

"It seems clear that the public would not happily accept a total exemption in any revised domestic abuse law for law enforcement and military personnel who have been convicted or pleaded guilty to domestic abuse crimes.

"Common sense should tell anyone that a law enforcement officer who can physically abuse his loved ones should not be expected to exercise greater restraint with strangers, especially those suspected of a crime. Because of this fact we don't believe anyone has to apologize for applying the new law to law enforcement and military personnel as well as civilian security people.

"If the issue is to be revisited, we believe any correction should relate to the severity of the domestic abuse crimes involved in each instance. Thus if there is evidence of actual physical violence involved in a domestic abuse investigation and the defendant is convicted or pleads guilty after proper advice of the consequences, the present prohibition on firearms ownership should be retained.

"Failing that, Congress should reinstitute and fund a federal system for relief from disability, as previously existed with felony records. If a crime is felonious, we should treat it as such no matter who is involved. If not, the matter should be left to the discretion of the states or the federal agencies involved."

CCRKBA offered to discuss the matter in greater depth and to testify regarding

# CCRKBA BLASTS LOCAL & STATE GANG UP AGAINST GUN OWNERS

"From coast to coast, local and state officials are continuing the political warfare against legitimate firearms ownership," noted John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, last month in Washington, D. C.

"While these attacks usually are presented as attempts to reduce crime, in reality they are attempts to limit the right of law-abiding citizens and, often, especially, less advantaged but truly law-abiding citizens, from being able to resist violent criminals. Hopefully, these officials will be called to account by their constituents for what in reality is an assault on the safety of society."

In California, for instance, Zev Yaroslavsky, the new Chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, early last month called for a ban on so-called "Saturday Night Special" and other "easily concealable" handguns in unincorporated county areas.

The proposal, modeled on the City of Los Angeles' ordinance to ban the sale of inexpensive handguns, would prohibit federally licensed gun dealers from selling the affected firearms in any neighborhood zoned as residential, including sales from homes or cars.

In November of last year, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge dismissed a challenge to a West Hollywood ordinance which banned the sale of inexpensive handguns. The judge ruled that state gun laws did not preempt the local law.

In Massachusetts, Attorney General

Scott Harshberger proposed a number of anti-gun "consumer protection regulations" as a way of imposing more and more burdens on legitimate firearms ownership without asking the state legislature to enact more anti-gun laws.

His proposed regulations would eliminate the legal acquisition of many handguns sold currently for defense of life and property. They would, for instance, prohibit the sale of any handgun having a barrel length of less than three inches, or of handguns that have a melting point of less than 900 degrees Fahrenheit, are composed of any material having an ultimate tensile strength of less than 55,000 pounds per inch, are composed of any powdered metal having a density of less than 7.5 grams per cubic centimeter, have a "defect" which makes them prone to accidental discharge such as a history of repeated detonation based on a single pull of the trigger or explosion of the handgun, or which fail to comply with the suggested chamber pressure standards of other handgun tolerances of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute.

Harshberger's proposed regulations also would prohibit the sale of handguns without child-proofing or safety devices such as trigger locks, combination grip locks, safeties which only an adult could operate, self-limitation devices or trigger pull weight high enough that it effectively precludes a child under the age of six from firing the gun; require

"tamper-resistant" serial numbers on all handguns sold in the state; require that all handguns be equipped with a "load indicator;" and require that any handgun sold be accompanied by a warning.

According to WASHINGTON POST staff writer Pierre Thomas, the Harshberger "move could have potentially far-reaching liability ramifications for gun manufacturers, who fear that crime victims will use the new regulations to sue companies that made the firearms used in shootings."

From Atlanta, Georgia, Richard J. Feldman, Executive Director of the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC) and a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, announced that the firearms industry is calling on Harshberger "to reject politics, and to work together with it on establishing firearms safety programs in the schools."

Feldman said "we conduct sex education and drug education without encouraging the participation in either, so if the Commonwealth's Chief Law Enforcement Officer is serious about the problem, then we need to focus on programs that teach Bay Staters three basis firearms safety rules: Guns are not toys. Never point a gun at anyone. Treat every gun as if it is loaded."

Feldman pointed to the success of the firearms industry's education efforts by citing recent statistics which show accidentally firearms deaths at an historic low.

ASSC, which represents firearms manufacturers, distributors and retailers in legislative, legal and public matters, invited Attorney General Harshberger to join in meetings with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms with the goal of establishing uniform, nationwide standards for placement of hidden serial numbers on firearms.

The invitation also included an opportunity for Harshberger to address the industry as a whole this month in Las Vegas, Nevada at its annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show and Conference to learn more about the industry and its commitment to firearms safety.

"Firearms safety is much more important than political aspirations, and we



# QUICK SHOTS

and yards in the area. PETA originally opposed the hunt. A Maryland National Park and Planning Commission ecologist said that the lower than expected success of the hunt resulted from anti-hunting vandals who attempted to sabotage the hunt by removing markers from hunting stations.



Ever wonder why the anti-gun leadership of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) was so hot for anti-gun President Clinton's reelection last year that it publicly endorsed him in a much ballyhooed ceremony?

Well, the answer may have been found by THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR, which reported in its December, 1996 issue that the FOP "have learned the hard way what it's like to be shafted by Bill Clinton. Along with the International Union of Police Associations and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the FOP had been angling to win the support of the 750 rank-and-file members of the Capitol Hill police force, which was seeking union representation. In late August, White House staffers met with members of the FOP executive committee, who suggested that Capitol Police membership might lock up an FOP endorsement for Clinton. The White House group made no guarantees, but hinted they might be able to 'thin the field' a bit for the FOP prior to the Hill police vote. Several weeks later, after the Teamsters did their part by ostensibly withdrawing from the selection process, the FOP board endorsed Clinton to great fanfare.

"Then, in mid-October, the Hill police voted to join the teamsters anyway, even though, the White House had assured the FOP that the teamsters were out of the running. 'We were shown correspondence and spoke to people involved who led us to believe all of our concerns had been resolved before the endorsement vote,' said the source. 'After we heard we were out, we went to several people in the Labor Department for an explanation because no one in the White House would return our calls. Basically, the White House created a mirage, suckered us in, and then screwed us big time.'"

ones, including their children, from vicious and violent rampaging urban brute criminals.



After the Clinton Administration refused to allow the importation of legal M1 Garand rifles and other surplus firearms into the United States, anti-gun Rep. Charles Schumer of New York and newly elected Rep. Carolyn McCarthy of New York wrote Secretary of State Warren Christopher urging him to block the importation of M1 Carbines and other historic firearms. Actually, under current federal law, such firearms could be imported. However, Schumer wants the Clinton Administration to block their importation while he works for legislation which would prevent importation of firearms which fire "real bullets."



Congressman Schumer still is in on the Brady front as well. He fears that the Supreme Court may declare the Brady Act or part of it unconstitutional as a violation of the Tenth Amendment. He already has indicated he may introduce legislation to try to get around that problem by making background checks contingent on state concurrence and providing monetary grants. He thinks that would make a state's participation voluntary and defensible against constitutional attacks on states' rights grounds. Sounds like blackmail to us, but Schumer reportedly plans to introduce the legislation this month.



People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) wanted a Maryland deer hunt called off because the group said not enough deer were being taken by hunters. The special managed hunt had been called by Montgomery County officials to reduce the overpopulation of deer in the area, which led to a number of automobile accidents involving the animals as well as problems with crops

In New Jersey, former Governor Jim Florio, who pushed the state's semiautomatic firearms ban while he was in office, is thinking about running again for the same position, reports Jennifer Preston of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Florio lost his reelection bid to Christine Todd Whitman in 1993.



In mid-November, the so-called Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, known formerly as the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, "honored" Abe Pollin, the owner of the Washington Bullets professional basketball team, for changing the team's name to the Wizards, effective next season, according to THE WASHINGTON POST.

Michael Beard, the Coalition President, said Pollin was designated as the recipient of the Coalition's Robert F. Kennedy-Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for "his decision to reject symbols of violence in our culture."

If anyone ever was in doubt as to where anti-gun journalists would like to lead the country, they only had to view a November 30, 1996 WASHINGTON POST editorial under the simple but direct headline: "Until Handguns Are Outlawed..."

According to the editorialist's opinion, "absent any serious chances for a ban on the civilian marketing of handguns, every effort ought to be made to rid the country of the most dangerous, shoddy models that all too easily fall into the hands of - and end the lives of - children."

Obviously, the writer gave no consideration to the number of lives saved each year by law-abiding owners of inexpensive handguns who use them for preservation of life.

Also, the editorial writer obviously did not consider the number of lives which may be lost because people who cannot afford expensive handguns would be unable to defend themselves or their loved



"There's an old saying: Figures don't lie, but liars can figure," said Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, in commenting on the 1996 edition of ACCIDENT FACTS, published by the National Safety Council (NSC).

"Through the subtle inclusion of misleading and inappropriate information in an otherwise respected and valuable management tool," Gottlieb added, "the National Safety Council joins other allegedly non-partisan groups in pursuing a clearly biased, and flawed, political agenda."

Gottlieb's comments came when he learned that researchers at the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), of which he is Founder, concluded that the NSC publication contains biased and misleading representations of firearms accident statistics.

ACCIDENT FACTS for a number of years has served the research community by providing statistics related to accidental injury or death in the United States. In a striking departure from its mission, however, the editors of the 1996 edition chose to include statistics on intentionally inflicted firearms injuries, a move which could confuse many readers into believing that firearm related accidents are far more common than they actually are.

Marie Gryphon, CCRKBA Research Director, said that "on the table related to emergency room visits, all firearms injuries, the vast majority of them intentionally inflicted, are counted in the category 'other accidents.' This is explicitly disingenuous.

The only graph included on the page devoted to firearms reflects a very carefully chosen segment of data, that for persons between the ages of 15 and 24 for the years 1987-1995, in order to show a slightly increasing rate of gun accidents.

"In fact accidental firearms fatalities have decreased from a high of 3,200 in 1930 to only 1,400 in 1995 despite population increases and far more privately owned firearms.

"This means that the average American in 1930 was over four and a half times more likely to die in a gun-related accident than he or she would be today."

Joe Waldron, SAF Special Activities Director, pointed out that "people with agendas are going to look at this graph tracking a very small increase in fatal accidents among 15-24 year olds and say 'More of our children are victims of gun accidents,' but a 24-year old gangster with a stolen pistol isn't a 'child' by any stretch of that word." Among children 14 and under, accidental gun deaths have decreased by more than half since 1975, due probably to increased safety awareness.

"We have observed the adulteration of pure science with advocacy 'research' widely in the medical community to further the gun grabbers' goals," said Gottlieb.

# **GOTTLIEB HITS PHONY “SAFETY” STATISTICS**