

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



**January
2006
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FOR THE RIGHT
TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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2006 – A YEAR OF CRISIS FOR RKBA

This New Year very well could turn out to be a time of great crisis for the right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

Although the year just ended saw the enactment at the federal level of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, the anti-gunners lost no time in acting to undermine the new law.

Last month in New York City, a federal judge ruled that the city's lawsuit against gun manufacturers may go forward, despite passage of the law designed to protect the firearms industry from such suits.

The Protection Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush last October, bars harassing third party lawsuits against gun makers or sellers.

Judge Jack B. Weinstein said the city's case, claiming that gun suppliers violated public nuisance laws by negligently and recklessly marketing its firearms, fell within a narrow exception in the new federal law that allows lawsuits against gun makers if their sales or marketing practices violate state or federal statutes. He did, however, stay all action in the trial to allow gun manufacturers to appeal the decision.

While we hope that the case will be resolved ultimately in favor of the firearm manufacturers, the situation demonstrates once again that the gun grabbers in this country are so opposed to the individual civil right to keep and bear arms that they will use any excuse to promote their agenda.

What that means is that we must work continuously to counter the attacks of the gun grabbers and to promote our rights under the Second Amendment. We're doing that in Washington, D.C. and around the country, and we need your help to continue the fight.

One of the issues we're working hard on in the Nation's Capital is the proposed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act.

Since the mid-1970s, the District of Columbia has had about the worst anti-gun laws in the country. In our nation's Capital, residents can't even acquire a handgun for protection of life and property, even if they keep it in their own homes. They can't keep rifles or shotguns, unless they're registered and unloaded.

For all practical purposes, the District of Columbia outlaws the right of self-defense.

The proposed Act would change all that so that the Second Amendment once again would have meaning in our nation's capital.

That's why we're asking CCRKBA Members and Supporters to contact their U.S. Representative and both of their U.S. Senators and urge them to support the proposed Act, H.R. 1288 in the House of Representatives and S. 1082 in the Senate.

We must continue the fight to promote our gun rights!

CCRKBA HITS BLOOMBERG FOR EXPLOITING POLICE HERO

CCRKBA last month condemned New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Robert Kurtz, M.D., Director of Service for Trauma and Surgical Care at Kings County Hospital in New York for attempting to capitalize on the slaying of a highly decorated New York police officer to push their anti-gun agenda.

Officer Dillon Stewart was fatally shot in late November, and almost immediately following his tragic death, Mayor Bloomberg and Dr. Kurtz made statements blaming the availability of firearms, instead of the criminal actions of the suspect, who was being held in police custody.

"New York City has some of the toughest gun laws in the nation, where honest citizens find it incredibly difficult to purchase and own firearms," said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "New York's complaints about gun trafficking from other states led to one-gun-a-month laws in those states, yet the mayor still contends that there are too many guns. Maybe if it were easier for law-abiding citizens in New York to own and carry firearms for their personal protection, criminals might find New York City to be an environment they want to avoid altogether."

Waldron said that, "instead of dancing verbally in the blood of a slain police officer to push their political philosophy, anti-gunners like Bloomberg and Kurtz should be devoting their attention to ridding the streets of criminals. One more gun law is not going to eliminate homicides in New York, or anywhere else."

Dr. Kurtz complained that, "this country and this city are awash with guns," while Mayor Bloomberg lamented that, "sadly, we live in a world with too many guns."

"What's even sadder," said Waldron, "is that we live in a world with too many politicians like Bloomberg, who are quick to blame inanimate objects for the acts of criminals. Adding more restrictions that will only make it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to own and purchase firearms has never prevented a single crime, and never will. The proof is in Dr. Kurtz' own words. If restrictive gun laws worked, New York would be crime free, and good men like Dillon Stewart would not be murdered while doing their jobs."

In an account of the Stewart murder, The New York Times reported that the suspect, Allan Cameron, shot an off-duty police officer, Wiener Philippe, outside Philippe's home. Then, two days later, "as Officer Stewart and his partner, Officer Paul J. Lipka, began to follow him and check his license plates after he sped past them and ran a red light, Cameron led them through the streets... and at one point stopped and started shooting, law enforcement officials said.

"One bullet struck Officer Stewart, 35, passing through the armhole in his protective vest. Wounded in the heart, he chased Cameron's car until it went into a parking garage. He died at a hospital despite furious attempts to save him."

Cameron, according to the Times, "had a number of motor vehicle infractions on his record, and was on probation for an incident in January 2003, in which he tried to speed away from officers who had tried to stop him, hitting one of them..."

"In March 2003, according to Pennsylvania court documents, Cameron showed a more volatile side during an incident on the outskirts of

Philadelphia. Several officers tried to arrest Cameron while he was 'yelling and ranting' and running onto a highway. He resisted, kicking a police officer several times, and breaking windows on a police car. He was charged with aggravated assault and never showed up in court, according to law enforcement officials."



POINT BLANK

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

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ANALYSIS OF CITY STATISTICS SHOWS VALUE OF RIGHT TO CARRY

By Dave Workman, Managing Editor, Point Blank

In Wisconsin recently, the Milwaukee Journal reported that, by mid-November 2005, the city had recorded 110 homicides, and there were still six weeks to go before the arrival of the New Year.

That's a grim statistic in a city of approximately 583,600 residents. So, it might appear understandable that people like Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle, Democrats in the Legislature and some police officials are not too keen about legislation that would make it possible for Wisconsin citizens to carry concealed handguns.

That is, until one does a quick comparison with another city of roughly the same size and social makeup. Welcome to Seattle, Washington, a city of approximately 571,500 people. At the same time Milwaukee has posted a body count of 110 homicides, Seattle had logged a mere 27. In surrounding unincorporated King County, there had been less than a dozen criminal slayings by mid-November.

Wisconsin is smaller, covering 65,503 square miles, where Washington State's total area is 71,303 square miles. Washington has more people, with an estimated population of slightly more than 6.2 million, while Wisconsin's current population estimate is just over 5.5 million.

Aside from the vast disparity in the number of homicides in Milwaukee and Seattle, there is one more big difference. Washington State residents can carry concealed handguns, and a lot of them do, more than 230,000 at last count. The Evergreen State has had a concealed carry statute for more than 50 years and a state constitutional right to bear arms that is rock solid. An armed Washington State citizen might look at the mur-

der statistics in Milwaukee, shake his or her head and wonder why Wisconsin's citizens are treated as though they are "second class" and not allowed the means to defend themselves.

That's a fair question to ask Jim Doyle, Democrats in the Wisconsin state legislature and any sheriff or chief of police who vocally opposes concealed carry, because that amounts to being opposed to a person's inherent right of self-preservation. And the comparison certainly pokes holes in the argument that more guns create more violence.

In Washington State, concealed carry works. Our state Supreme Court has twice affirmed that under our self-defense statutes there is "no duty to retreat" from criminal attack. Florida's gun control zealots launched a barrage of hysteria last year when the Sunshine State passed a law that strengthened self-defense there, but all the dire predictions of blood in the streets have proven false.

And that's been the pattern in states that have adopted shall-issue concealed carry laws over the past 15 years. Every alarmist argument trotted out by opponents of personal protection was bogus. Instead, according to various studies, violent crime rates actually go down in places where citizens are armed. In many cases, sheriffs and politicians who had opposed these laws changed their opinions after the statutes had been in place for six months or a year. Had it been any other way, we would have known it.

Sensible legislation proposed by Wisconsin State Sen. Dave Zien and Wisconsin State Rep. Scott Gunderson deserves to become law, because Wisconsin residents deserve to fully

enjoy their rights under a very matter-of-fact 1998 state constitutional amendment that says: "The people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose."

There's nothing in there about "subject to the social prejudice of the governor." This right is not subordinate to the whims of anti-gun lawmakers or apprehensive local officials. One might reasonably argue that politicians and public servants who are fearful of armed law-abiding citizens ought to find other lines of work. I've found that the overwhelming majority of street cops around the country are not so distrustful of their fellow citizens, and that in reality, the legally armed citizen is often the strongest supporter of good law enforcement.

Wisconsin citizens don't need to earn a right they already have. They don't need to prove how responsible they can be. But the governor and his cronies need to explain why they don't trust the people who elected them and pay their salaries.



LEGAL SCHOLAR HITS ANTI-GUN MYTHOLOGY

When San Francisco acted recently to provide for the confiscation of all handguns and ban the purchase of all guns, legal scholar Don B. Kates, Jr. excoriated not only the San Francisco action but also the faulty thinking underlying the promotion of restrictive gun control proposals.

A criminologist and constitutional lawyer who is a Research Fellow with the Independent Institute, Kates wrote that anti-gun action “is based on the unfounded belief that the more guns in an area the more violence will occur. If that were true, the United States, with 280 million guns today, should have a far higher murder rate than after World War Two when we had only 48 million guns. Instead, the murder rate is the same.

“During the intervening decades, murder rates varied dramatically, but not because of rising gun ownership. In the past 30 years the number of guns owned by civilians more than doubled, yet murder declined by one third.”

A speaker in years past at the CCRKBA co-sponsored Gun Rights Policy Conference, Kates wrote: “Accepting the mythology that guns cause murder, areas with high violence ban guns. But violence stems from basic social factors, not the mere availability of one among the innumerable deadly instruments in the world. In a study published in December 2004, the National Academy of Sciences, having reviewed 43 government publications, 253 journal articles, 99 books, and its own research, could not identify even one example of gun control that reduced murder or violent crime.

“Drastically increasing homicide led Washington, D.C. to ban handguns in the 1970s. So useless was this

that D.C. soon had, and continues to have, some of the nation’s highest murder rates.”

Anti-gun advocacy, stated Kates, “is built on decades of erroneous claims that the United States, with the world’s highest gun ownership rate (true), has the highest murder rate (false). Russia’s recently disclosed murder rates since 1965 have consistently exceeded U.S. rates despite Russia’s ban of handguns and strict control of long guns. Since the 1990s Russian murder rates have remained almost four times greater than American.

“Anti-gun advocates used to compare the United States to England, Canada and Australia, nations specially selected because they once combined low violence rates with severe gun controls. But gun controls and initially low violence rates did not prevent their violent crime rates from steadily outpacing ours in recent decades. Although these nations banned and confiscated hundreds of thousands of guns in the 1990s, today their violence rates are among the highest in the world, more than twice ours.”

If more guns in fact really did translate into more violence, argued Kates, “nations with high ownership rates should have high murder rates. But two international studies comparing gun ownership with murder rates in 36 and 21 nations, respectively, found ‘no significant correlations.’

“Anti-gun advocates never mention these facts. Nor do they mention all the European nations with high gun ownership rates but very low murder. Norway, with the highest gun ownership rate in Western Europe, has the lowest murder rate, far below England’s. The only European na-

tion that bans all guns, Luxembourg, has the highest murder rate except for Russia – 30 percent higher than the U.S. and 10 times that of gun-dense Norway. Holland, with Western Europe’s lowest rate of gun ownership, has a 50 percent higher murder rate than Norway. Greece has much higher gun ownership than the Czech Republic but much less murder. Finland has 14 times more gun ownership than neighboring Estonia but much lower murder rates.”

After these facts and the results of studies based on them began to be published, digested and understood, stated Kates, criminologists became “powerfully affected” by them. In 1969, he noted, “Professor Hans Toch of the State University of New York at Albany endorsed handgun prohibition. Thirty years of research later he recanted. ‘When used for protection firearms can seriously inhibit aggression and can provide a psychological buffer against the fear or crime,’ he wrote. ‘Furthermore, the fact that national patterns show little violent crime where guns are most dense implies that guns do not elicit aggression in any meaningful way. Quite the contrary, the findings suggest that high concentrations of guns in places, or something correlated with that condition, inhibit illegal aggression.’

“University of Massachusetts Professors James Wright and Peter Rossi also began their research believing guns cause murder. Years of research later they recanted because ‘there is no persuasive evidence that supports that view.’”

CCRKBA BLASTS CANADA'S ANTI-GUN PRIME MINISTER

CCRKBA said that Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, heading a Liberal Party that has been scandalized by corruption and fell recently after a "no confidence" vote in the House of Commons, is trying to deflect attention from his abysmal failure as a national leader by calling for a ban on handguns.

"This is nothing less than a cheap political subterfuge," stated CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "I'm not sure if they understand the 'smell test' north of the border, but Martin's attack on handgun owners sure doesn't pass it. This is a smarmy attempt to shift public focus away from his political troubles, and those of his party.

"A dozen years of Liberal rule in

Canada has been nothing short of disaster. The Canadian gun registration scheme has been a billion dollar boondoggle that even Canadian police have criticized. Under Liberal rule, the country has endured not only this, but also the infamous sponsorship scandal. Most of the blame for that fiasco fell on the shoulders of Martin's predecessor, Jean Chretien, but the fact remains that Liberal rule has given Canadians one headache after another."

Waldron said, "Martin's proposed handgun ban is not only just another stupid attack on law-abiding Canadian gun owners. "It is clearly designed to deflect public and media attention away from his scandal-plagued government and the political

trouncing Liberals took last month. We're disappointed, but hardly surprised, that the Toronto Star editorial writers were completely sucked in by this tawdry political maneuver.

"As is typical of liberal politicians here in the United States, Martin has discovered that when your bankrupt philosophy is under attack, and your party is politically shipwrecked, there is only one thing to do: Attack gun owners. They're the only people against whom it is still fashionable to practice social bigotry. In Martin's case, it's like the cattle rustler stirring up a lynch mob to hang the town outcast while he uses the distraction to make good his own escape."

NEW YORKER THE CCRKBA DEFENDER

Believe it or not, deep in the heart of New York City is a young gentleman so committed to the right to keep and bear arms that he's running a perfectly legal professional shooting range right off Broadway.

That fellow is 40-year old Darren "Chop" Leung, the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for January.

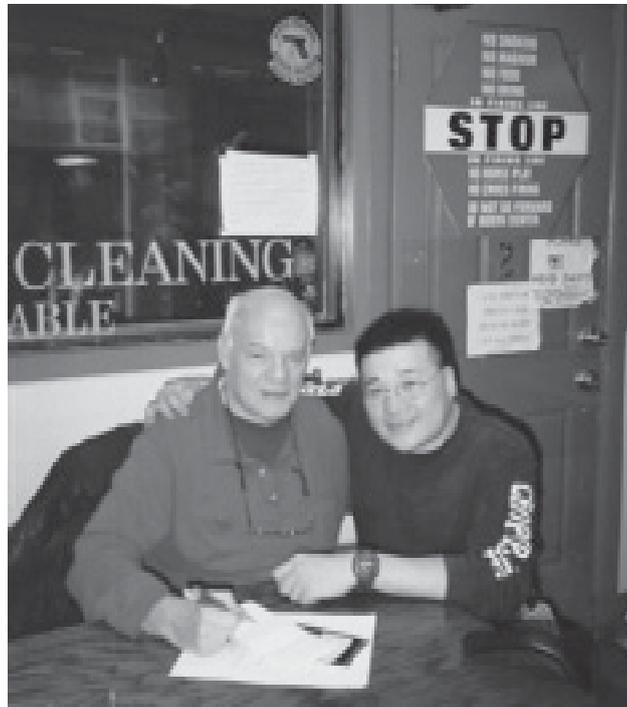
In nominating Leung for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, noted that, "recently, while talking with Darren on the phone, he asked me to drop in on him at the Westside Rifle and Pistol Range, Inc. Darren is Vice President of the Range and co-owner, with Robert S. Derrig.

"Shortly after that, I was in New York and did in fact visit with Darren and some of the other shooters at the lower Manhattan location. His enthusiasm for safe shooting and for preserving the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens is outstanding. The fact that he maintains this position right in the heart of the metropolis known far and wide for the production of so much anti-gun propaganda makes him even more outstanding. He certainly is a most worthy candidate for the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award."

Born and bred and Jesuit-educated in New York City, Darren developed an affinity for firearms and gun rights at an early age, and now works to help qualified citizens apply for and obtain pistol permits in gun control crazy New York City.

It's a hard road.

In a city of many millions of people, there are only about 14,000 permits to own a pistol issued to private citizens, says Darren. Of that 14,000, only



about 10 percent are carry permits.

"You're more likely to be robbed than to get a pistol permit," he says.

Darren and others at the West Side Rifle & Pistol Range try to do what they can to make the best of what is a hard situation for law-abiding firearm activists in New York. The range, located in a basement at 20 West 20th Street since 1965, is the only range in Manhattan open to private citizens.

Darren started working there in 1989 and became co-owner in 1994. It claims a membership of 2,500.

The range was the scene of Darren's interview with Nicole Citron, a graduate student in the journalism

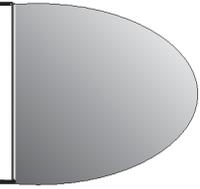
department at New York University who reviews books for Publishers Weekly. She noted in the publication Identity Theory that when she asked Darren how he ended up in his line of work, he replied with a rhetorical question: "Didn't every Chinese kid want to be a cowboy?"

She wrote also that Darren, "who grew up on the Lower East Side... carries a Glock 19 pistol in a holster at his hip. Because he's also a peace officer for the State of New York - he used to enforce child abuse cases - his Glock contains a high capacity magazine. Instead of the 10 rounds to which civilians are limited, the magazine holds twelve 9mm bullets..."

"You grow up watching TV, you want to be that hero who saves the entire Western town - all done with his firearm," Darren says...

But the adult reality of actually carrying a gun weighs heavily on Darren. "It means I must have more responsibility in life. You have life and death in your hands. Anybody who has ever carried a gun for a living probably has one of the calmest temperaments."

Darren was married in 2003. He and his wife, Wai, are the proud parents of an 18-month-old daughter, Samantha. He told Point Blank he hopes that, when Samantha grows up, she will follow him in running the range.



In Washington, D.C., Rep. James R. Langevin (RI) introduced H.R. 4390 to increase to three times from once the number of times federal agents may be allowed to make compliance inspections of all federally licensed firearms dealers. Referred to the House Judiciary Committee, cosponsors include Reps. Corrine Brown (FL), Ed Case (HI), Rosa DeLauro (CT), Patrick J. Kennedy (RI), John Lewis (GA), Carolyn McCarthy (NY), James P. Moran (VA), Janice D. Schakowsky (IL), Christopher Shays (CT), Chris Van Hollen (MD), Robert I. Wexler (FL), and Lynn Woolsey (CA) and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC). They call the proposal the Crack-down on Deadbeat Dealers Act of 2005.



In Bellevue, Washington, CCRK-BA Executive Director Joe Waldron praised the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly for passing concealed carry legislation. The Assembly modified the bill passed by the Senate and sent it back to the Senate for further action, expected this month. "Wisconsin residents have just as much right to defend themselves as do the citizens in 46 other states," Waldron stated. "Yet anti-gun Gov. Jim Doyle, who once again promises to veto this modest legislation, is treating them like second class citizens who cannot be trusted with their own safety. It makes me wonder why he expects Wisconsin citizens to trust him in the governor's office. Wisconsin gun owners and other supporters of self-defense rights need to make

their feelings known."

From Florida, Frank Barbera of Spring Hill writes that a new law passed last year re self-defense with lethal force "does apply to incidents outside the home. It applies to any place you have a right to be, be it a shopping center parking lot, a nurse leaving her shift at a hospital at 2 AM, preventing an attempt to highjack your automobile, or even to prevent physical harm from happening to another person, even a stranger, etc. The only difference in the law is a victim no longer must back away to escape. If your life is in danger, you are allowed to use deadly force to prevent it from happening."

In New York City, anti-gun U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer calls for an "improved" gun database. He says he wants all states to be required to report stolen guns and guns involved in crimes to a nationwide database. Right now, about 25 states voluntarily report such firearms. Speaking last month at a press conference, Schumer said that, of the illegal guns recovered in New York City between 1988 and 2003, 92 percent were from out of state. Patrick Lynch, President of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, appeared at the conference with Schumer and called the proposed change "mandatory."

"This past summer, members of a Manhattan law firm went on a field trip to Danbury, Connecticut, where they spent an entire day at the range

without swinging bats or golf clubs," reports The New York Times. "The members of Kobre & Kim LLP were there not to hit and hack, but to lock and load, and to experience the thrill of firing pistols, rifles and even submachine guns...In the last few years, a growing number of professionals...are abandoning traditional company outings like softball, golf or fishing, choosing instead to escape the pressures of their busy workdays by blowing off steam – and rounds of ammunition – at shooting ranges that give corporate retreats some of the atmosphere of military attacks."

Noting that "half of U.S. hunters have annual household incomes of \$75,000 or more," USA Today reports that "hunting, fishing and the shooting sports are storming the mass market and luring upscale consumers at a healthy clip. More hunting and fishing lodges are vying for corporate and family dollars. Millions of anglers, hunters and target shooters are shelling out billions of dollars on gear, from \$300 fly-fishing rods to \$10,000 shotguns...Many of the enthusiasts are baby boomers in their peak earning years, and their kids are joining them, according to industry groups and marketing reports."

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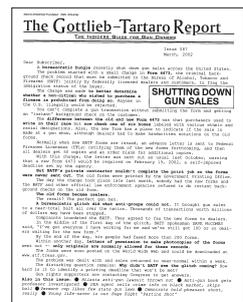
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