

POINT BLANK

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



**July
2004**

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

**National Headquarters:
12500 N.E. Tenth Place
Bellevue, Washington 98005**

**Capitol Hill Office:
1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005**

ARMED CITIZENS AGAINST TERROR

This spring, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller warned that al Qaeda, the international terrorist organization, is almost ready to launch a large-scale attack on the United States.

As The Washington Times editorialized, "the threat is not new, but the likelihood of an attack is. To counter it, all Americans will have to become citizen-soldiers."

True. And what better American citizen-soldiers can there be than law-abiding armed American citizens? Ready, willing and able to defend life, family and property against what Ashcroft stated disturbing intelligence indicates is "al Qaeda's specific intention to hit the United States hard."

These are some of today's hard facts of life in the United States.

It absolutely is unconscionable that elected public officials, supposedly concerned with national security and the safety of American citizens, actually persist in promoting restrictive gun control measures.

Currently, one of the most egregious initiatives in this regard is the legislative attempt to extend the 1994 Clinton "ban" on the manufacture and importation of certain semiautomatic firearms beyond its scheduled September sunset date.

Early last month, Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California introduced S. 2498 to do just that, to extend the ban for another 10 years. The anti-gun extremist listed Sens. Barbara Boxer (CA), Lincoln Chafee (RI), Hillary Clinton (NY), Mike DeWine (OH), Christopher Dodd (CT), James Jeffords (VT), Frank Lautenberg (NJ), Carl Levin (MI), Jack Reed (RI), Charles Schumer (NY) and John Warner (VA) as cosponsors.

At around the same time as Feinstein was preparing to introduce S. 2498, CNN was conducting an internet poll, running from May 9 for about a month, on whether or not their Quick Vote participants wanted the "ban" lifted or extended.

As of this writing, when 374,028 votes were tabulated, 221,400, or 59 percent, wanted the "ban" lifted, and 152,628, or 41 percent, wanted it extended. That's roughly three-to-two against the extension.

From this, it would appear that Americans are not demonstrating overwhelming support in this matter for Feinstein and her co-conspirators.

This survey was at least the second major indication that there is not massive popular support for extending what euphemistically has been termed a "ban on assault weapons." The first came on Mother's Day, when the much-heralded Million Mom March to support the extension degenerated into a thousand gang limp in Washington, D.C.

CCRKBA Members could tell their Senators and Representatives to keep these facts in mind when they consider Feinstein's proposal.

ARMED PILOT BILLS GAINING MOMENTUM

As Congress prepared for its Fourth of July recess, support for the proposed Cockpit Security Technical Corrections and Improvements Act gained momentum on Capitol Hill.

The proposal, S. 2268, by Sen. Jim Bunning (KY), and H.R. 4126, by Rep. Joe Wilson (SC), would direct the Transportation Security Administration to stop its foot-dragging with regard to implementation of the armed pilots program and proceed immediately to implement it.

Commenting on the need for enactment of the new legislation, Paul M. Weyrich, Chairman and CEO of the Free Congress Foundation, noted that if you "leave it up to the Federal Government's bureaucrats to carry out an act of Congress they disagree with...you can bet they will reinterpret the fine print to undermine the intentions of the legislative body that represents the people of the United States of America. Such is the case with the provision of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 that allowed the arming of pilots as a precautionary measure against 9-11 repeats.

"The Transportation Security Administration's bureaucrats have made clear their disregard of Congress' intent in the way they have designed the Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program to discourage participation by pilots. They have micromanaged the program to achieve the opposite of what Congress intended."

Weyrich, citing Captain Dave Mackett, President of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, noted that, "for instance, the TSA requires the pilot carrying a weapon to place the weapon in a locked box at any and all times he is outside the cockpit. In case they are deadheading, the locked box is to be placed in luggage,

not carried by the pilot, leaving it open to being lost, misplaced, or even stolen. CNSNews.com Senior Staff Writer Jeff Johnson wrote: "The pilots also complain that TSA has issued a thinly veiled threat to disclose personal information discovered during background investigations and subjective results of psychological evaluations in an attempt to discourage pilots from volunteering for the program."

In the House of Representatives, Members began to see the need for the new legislation. There, over 10 percent had signed on as cosponsors of H.R. 4126 as of this writing. These include Reps. W. Todd Akin (MO), J. Gresham Barrett (SC), Roscoe G. Bartlett (MD), Joe Barton (TX), Rob Bishop (UT), Marsha Blackburn (TN), Rick Boucher (VA), Jeb Bradley (NH), Ginny Brown-Waite (FL), Dan Burton (IN), Ken Calvert (CA), Chris Cannon (UT), Eric Cantor (VA), Shelley Moore Capito (WV), Ben Chandler (KY), Mac Collins (GA), John Abney Culbertson (TX), Randy (Duke) Cunningham (CA), Jim DeMint (SC), John T. Doolittle (CA), Trent Franks (AZ), Scott Garrett (NJ), Phil Gingrey (GA), Virgil H. Goode, Jr. (VA), Sam Graves (MO), Ralph M. Hall (TX), Wally Herger (CA), John N. Hostettler (IN), Johnny Isakson (GA), Timothy V. Johnson (IL), Walter B. Jones, Jr. (NC), Mark R. Kennedy (MN), John Kline (MN), Steve C. LaTourette (OH), Donald A. Manzullo (IL), Jim Marshall (GA), Thaddeus G. McCotter (MI), Jeff Miller (FL), George R. Nethercutt, Jr. (WA), Randy Neugebauer (TX), C. L. (Butch) Otter (ID), Ron Paul (TX), Collin C. Peterson (MN), Jim Ramstad (MN), Rick Renzi (AZ), Mike D. Rogers (AL), Mike Ross (AR), Jim Ryun (KS), Max Sandlin (TX),

Pete Sessions (TX), and Patrick J. Tiberi (OH). Senatorial co-sponsors of S. 2268 include Sens. Barbara Boxer (CA), Conrad R. Burns (MT), Jim Inhofe (OK), Zell Miller (GA), and Craig Thomas (WY).

"We really need to sock it to the anti-gun TSA bureaucrats," said John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, in Washington, D.C. "Hopefully, Point Blank readers will contact their U.S. Representative and both of their U.S. Senators during the summer recess and urge them to become cosponsors of this proposal."



POINT BLANK

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

Editor John M. Snyder
Publisher Alan M. Gottlieb
Managing Editors J. H. Versnel
 Dave Workman
Associate Editors Tom Gresham
 Merrill Jacobs
 Bob Kukla
 Herb Stupp
 Peggy Tartaro
 Joe Waldron

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CCRKBA HITS CALIFORNIA PRIVACY INVASION MEASURE

When California State Senators in late May passed a thumb-print-for-ammunition proposal, CCRKBA condemned it immediately as an "invidious invasion of privacy."

CCRKBA noted also that keeping records on ammunition sales has proven ineffective in fighting crime. "Requiring a thumb print moves this idea into the realm of the ludicrous," said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron.

"It's a waste of time and taxpayers' money," added Waldron, "but more importantly, this constitutes a serious privacy issue. If this measure dealt with something other than a gun control issue, the American Civil Liberties Union would be screaming about it."

Waldron said that, "If this measure becomes law, "it is just another example of California lawmakers treating honest gun owners like criminals. What comes next? Will citizens be required to submit a thumbprint to buy a car? Will gun owners be forced

to submit their medical records before they can legally buy firearms and ammunition?"

The measure, Senate Bill 1152, passed the California Senate by a vote of 22-16 and has been sent to the Assembly.

The bill would require that "all vendors of ammunition maintain specified information" on ammunition buyers, including: (1) the date of the transaction; (2) the name, address, and date of birth of the buyer; (3) the buyer's driver's license or other identification number and the state in which it was issued; (4) the brand, type, and amount of ammunition bought or transferred; (5) the buyer's signature; (6) the name of the salesperson who processed the transaction; and (7) "the vendor shall also at the time of purchase or transfer obtain the right thumbprint of the purchaser or transferee."

Senate Bill 1152 also would require that the information be recorded on a special form provided by the Cali-

fornia State Department of Justice.

Under existing California law, it is a crime for people who are prohibited from possessing firearms to possess ammunition. It is a misdemeanor for any person to sell ammunition to anyone under the age of 18.

Senate Bill 1152 would require dealers to retain records on ammunition sales for at least two years. The records, said Waldron, might be used as evidence in cases where people who are barred from owning guns and ammunition are charged with illegally buying them.

"If this measure is enacted," declared Waldron, "it might result in the creation of a black market for ammunition. It could also open the way for retailers to be prosecuted for a technical violation if they do not get a readable thumbprint. How many dealers know the proper way to roll a thumbprint? Is anybody in Sacramento (the California State Capital) thinking about any of this?"

SHOULD CANDIDATE HOST RADIO PROGRAM?

CCRKBA called upon KIRO-AM radio in Seattle, Washington to remove morning talk show host Dave Ross from the air after he announced he is running for the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a letter to KIRO management, CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb and Executive Director Joe Waldron wrote that, "Historically, broadcasters who decide to run for public office immediately leave the air, acknowledging that remaining on the air gives them an unfair advantage over every other candidate. We are astounded that Mr. Ross, for what-

ever reason, has chosen to ignore that tradition."

Gottlieb noted that an employee at a CCRKBA-owned radio station in Spokane, Washington had to leave the air when he ran for the state legislature in 2002. Locally, Waldron pointed to the case of KVI radio personality John Carlson, who had to leave his job at that station in 2000 when he ran unsuccessfully against Washington Gov. Gary Locke. Carlson has since returned to the airwaves.

"We're not asking that Dave Ross be fired," Gottlieb stressed, "only that

he be required to step away from the microphone while he is a candidate for public office. John Carlson's case shows that you can run for office and return to the air after the election. That same option, we're sure, would be available to Dave Ross, who has become a popular fixture at KIRO."

Gottlieb emphasized that, "if Dave Ross wants to run for Congress, that's his right, and we encourage him to do so. But he ought to run on a level playing field, and the only way to do that is for the plug on his microphone to be pulled."

ANTIS ADMIT THEY WANT TO BAN GUNS

By Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, and Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Executive Director

Finally, some honesty has surfaced from the socially-bigoted Million Mom March, an organization that, while obviously numerically-challenged, seems to have members who were unusually candid in their remarks to the National Review.

In a remarkably revealing series of comments reported by National Review's Daniel J. Flynn following the MMM's Mother's Day Dud in Washington, D.C., a handful of die-hard extremists admitted they aren't out simply to keep guns out of the wrong hands. They want to rid the nation of guns, evidently with no concern that they would trash a constitutionally-guaranteed civil right in the process.

Lisa Toomey, a resident of Washington State, offered this: "I'd be happy with stricter gun laws," but admitted, "I would just say no to guns. That's where I'm at."

Where she's at is right up there with Joan Davis from Michigan, who declared, "I don't think guns should be legal. I don't think the average person should have a gun."

And Bonnie Rock, who suggested she might consider moving to Canada if President George W. Bush is reelected, admitted, "Ideally, I guess I would like to see a total ban on guns." She called President Bush a "whore of the NRA." Is that what

she's teaching her children to say?

All of these women have lowered the façade behind which the extremist gun control movement has hidden for years. While sprouting platitudes about "supporting the Second Amendment right of people to have guns for hunting," and insisting that they do believe in gun ownership, the leaders of the radical anti-gun community have been trumped by the honesty of their foot soldiers.

For starters, Toomey needs to read her own state's constitution, which specifically recognizes the "right of the individual citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

Davis should study up on history because she might discover that this nation was created, and has been defended for more than 200 years, by "average persons" with guns. Rock, of course, can join all of those celebrities, such as Alec Baldwin, who vowed to move out of the United States if Bush was elected in 2000. We're all still waiting to help load up the moving vans.

As spitefully against constitutionally protected gun ownership as these women are, none of them seem nearly so separated from reality as Rockville, Maryland resident Dick Berman, quoted by Flynn as stating,

"If we had our druthers, (America) would be like England or Australia or other civilized countries."

Berman must live in a cave, else he would know that since strict gun controls have been enacted in England and Australia, citizens in those so-called "civilized" nations have suffered skyrocketing violent crime waves. Since handguns were banned in Great Britain, handgun crime has soared and violent home invasion robberies have become almost commonplace. In the few instances when crime victims have defended themselves, they typically have been prosecuted. One man, Tony Martin, was imprisoned for shooting at two thugs who broke into his home while he was there.

In Australia, crime rates are also up, and in that country, also, you can be prosecuted for defending your life and property with a firearm. Same goes in Canada, where a national gun registration scheme has cost taxpayers a billion dollars, hasn't stopped a single crime, and now is in such disarray that even some police want it scrapped. None of these nations consider self-defense as a good enough reason to own a firearm. If that's Berman's definition of "civilized," we'll stick to life on the wild frontier, thank you all the same.

With such thinking at its core, it is small wonder that so many call the MMM the "Million Misguided Moms." Their hatred of firearms, and of the people who own them, is matched only by their obvious disregard for the truth about what gun control has done to people in other countries they want to emulate.

But at least some of them finally are honest about it.

After the 1996 Dunblane, Scotland school massacre of 16 children and a teacher by a deranged gunman, the British government gave handgun owners until 1998 to turn in their handguns, which they did. According to a May 14, 2003 article in the Edmonton Journal, "the incidence of gun crime in England and Wales nearly doubled from 13,874 in 1998 to 24,070 in 2003. And the incidence of firearms murder, while thankfully still very small, has risen 65 percent."

STABBING SHOWS NEED FOR ILLINOIS CCW LAW

The early June stabbing of one-year-old Ashley Hurt by a knife-wielding man at a Midlothian, Illinois shopping mall outside of Chicago is just one more reason why Illinois citizens deserve a concealed carry law, said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb.

"This horrible murder adds another layer of blood on the hands of anti-gun extremists who have fought so hard to keep law-abiding citizens unarmed," he said. "If a concealed carry law could save the life of just one innocent child like Ashley, it would be worthwhile."

Gottlieb noted that, according to published reports, "The suspect went through the mall area, also stabbing four adults. Had there been a legally-armed citizen at that strip

mall, who justifiably could have intervened to stop the rampage, that toddler still might be alive. It took a courageous teenager to bring the attack to a halt by clubbing the suspect with a flashlight.

Newspapers have identified the hero as 18-year-old Suparak Rattananarkin, a Thai citizen who recently came to the United States.

"Suparak obviously has not been in the Chicago area long enough to be cowed by the fear that grips many Illinois citizens who are too scared of legal reprisal if they get involved," Gottlieb observed. "Yet, all he had was a flashlight, against a knife. I wonder how long it will take Chicago Mayor Richard Daley to start demanding that flashlights be banned as a means of reducing vio-

lence."

Gottlieb pointed out that Illinois gun laws, and specifically Chicago's draconian handgun ordinance, didn't help another citizen victimized at around the same time. Terrance Wesson, 32, was shot dead by an unknown assailant at a Chicago gas station.

"The state's stupid gun laws don't stop crime," Gottlieb said. "These laws only leave law-abiding citizens at the mercy of gas station gunmen and shopping mall maniacs. It is too late to help Terrance Wesson or Ashley Hurt, but it's not too late to change Illinois gun laws so that other citizens can defend themselves, and their children, from the criminals and lunatics who have been given free rein under current statutes."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

There are fewer than 100 days left until the 13 September 2004 sunset (expiration) of the 1994 Clinton gun ban (the so-called "assault weapon" ban). The media is publishing editorial after editorial calling for both extension and expansion of the ban. Their editorials are long on misinformation and short on facts...but that's nothing new.

Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, author of the original 1994 legislation, has introduced yet another bill to extend the ban for an additional 10 years. The bill is S.2498, and it has been placed on a fast track in the Senate. Recall that a similar amendment to S. 1805, the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, actually was passed by the Senate on a 52-47 vote on March 2, 2004. It was that amendment, along with the McCain gun show "loophole" amendment, that poisoned S. 1805 to the point where it was killed on the Senate floor.

Given that the original Feinstein amendment passed on a 52-47 vote, there is a strong likelihood that, unless it is filibustered, it may pass again, either as a stand-alone bill (S. 2498) or rolled into some other bill as an amendment or rider. It is critical that, as a first step, you contact your Senators as soon as possible and urge them to oppose this legislation.

If the bill passes out of the Senate, it still must be passed by the House of Representatives. Step two in our citizen action project is to call, e-mail or write your U.S. Representative and strongly urge him or her to oppose any attempt to extend the "assault weapon" ban in House action.

You may reach your Senators and Representative via the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or via the internet, at <http://www.senate.gov> for Senators, and <http://www.house.gov/writerep> for Representatives.

COLORADO CONGRESSWOMAN THE CCRKBA RIGHTS AWARDEE

Congresswoman Marilyn N. Musgrave of Colorado is the winner of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for July.

In nominating U.S. Rep. Musgrave for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "during these times, when so many in the national media attempt to glamorize so supinely such anti-gun women politicians as Sens. Dianne Feinstein of California, Patty Murray of Washington State and Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, it is well to recognize the statesmanlike activities of such pro-gun women public officials as this forthright Colorado defender of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. Throughout her public career, Congresswoman Musgrave has been an articulate defender and promoter of the right to keep and bear arms, and she surely is most deserving of this Award."

Recently, Musgrave was a prime spearhead in the formation in the U.S. House of Representatives of the Second Amendment Caucus, a group of pro-gun Representatives who realize that the Second Amendment "refers to the individual citizen's right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of defense, recreation and collection."

Musgrave's support of the right to keep and bear arms, however, goes back to her days in the Colorado State Legislature, where she worked hard to lay the groundwork for Colorado's current concealed carry law. She served in the Colorado State Senate from 1998 to 2002 and,

before that, in the Colorado State House, from 1994 to 1998. Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, she is running for reelection this November.

During her membership in the 108th Congress, she is working to make sure that the 1994 Clinton ban on semiautomatic firearms sunsets in September as proposed. She writes that H.R. 2038, proposed by Reps. Carolyn McCarthy of New York, John Conyers of Michigan and others, to reauthorize and even expand the ban, is "a violation" of the constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Musgrave herself is a cosponsor of H.R. 990, the proposed Secure Firearms Enhancement (SAFE) Act of 2003, a bill she says would ensure that Colorado concealed carry permit holders will be able to protect themselves while traveling out of state. She helped in House passage of H.R. 1036, the proposed Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, a bill to stop frivolous lawsuits against gun manufacturers and dealers. The proposal is still pending in the U.S. Senate.

"The Constitution," Musgrave declares, "plainly states that private firearm ownership is necessary for both personal and national defense. Although many politicians today are trying to erode our civil rights under the guise of protection, I will continue to work hard to restore our Second Amendment rights."

She writes she is a cosponsor of H.R. 2906, to reduce unnecessary paperwork and government intervention in firearm sales, and opposes H.R. 3237, a bill to expand the NICS background check system. She is a member of the Congressional Sports-

man Caucus.

Born July 27, 1949 in Greeley, Colorado, Marilyn grew up in rural Weld County, a place where, she says, a wide blue sky meets fields of corn, hay and other agricultural staples.

She says also that, growing up, she liked reading and sports, and learned to work hard at an early age. As a student at Eaton High School, she remembers when politics first came alive to her. "A teacher in my government class inspired me," she says.

Her interest in politics continued in her years as a Social Studies student at Colorado State University. Marilyn remembers being disturbed by themes of socialism. "Some professors wanted guaranteed income for everyone," she recalls. "That didn't make sense to me. I asked, 'What about those who work hard, and get an education? Shouldn't they enjoy what they work for?'"

She married Steve Musgrave while attending Colorado State University, where they both worked their way through college. She earned a bachelor's degree in Social Studies. After graduation, Marilyn taught school in Eastern Colorado.

While living in Morgan County, Marilyn and Steve started an agricultural business, an experience she says has given her a personal understanding of the concerns and needs of small businesses.

Marilyn and Steve raised four children, Chad, Becky, Amy and John, and now have five grandchildren.

Now, in the House of Representatives, Mrs. Musgrave sits on three committees: Agriculture; Education & the Workforce; and Small Business.



QUICK SHOTS

In Reno, Nevada, federal agents said agents working undercover at gun shows in Nevada the past year have arrested 14 suspects on charges ranging from dealing firearms without a license to illegal possession of machine guns and explosives. The FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) and local law enforcement joined to apprehend the 13 men and one woman in five western states – California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Washington – as part of “Operation Over the Line,” according to the Associated Press. “Undercover ATF agents purchased nearly 40 firearms using different Reno gun shows as the hub of activity,” said John Torres, BATFE special agent in charge of the San Francisco office.



In New York City, Magistrate Judge Cheryl L. Pollack ruled in Federal Court in Brooklyn that the city was entitled to federal data that traces the path of guns used in crimes, overruling objections by the U.S. Justice Department. The city government wants the data because its attorneys believe such information could help prove its claim that the gun industry’s marketing and distribution practices amount to a public nuisance. The lead lawyer at the city’s law department, Eric Proshansky, said that the data would enable the city to prove that gun makers have failed to protect the public. Observers expected the Justice Department to appeal Pollack’s ruling.

In Washington, D.C., the U.S. Senate Committee on Ethics dismissed a complaint filed by the anti-gun Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence against Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor and holder of a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award. The Brady bunch was terribly upset that Craig sponsored the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (S. 659/S. 1805) while serving as a Director of the National Rifle Association of America. “After careful consideration of your letter, of the provisions of Senate Rule 37 and other relevant standards, and of all the information before the Committee in this matter,” wrote the Senate Ethics Committee to the Brady Campaign, “it appears that your complaint lacks substantial merit. Therefore, the Committee intends no further action with respect to this matter, which is hereby dismissed.”



“CCRKBA Decried Selection of Pelosi as House Minority Leader,” notes the Republican National Committee (RNC) in an eight page internet dossier it has compiled on anti-gun Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California. Since her selection, she has become a leading national spokeswoman for the Democratic Party, appearing frequently on national television news and talk shows. The RNC provides statements on the Pelosi selection in 2002 by CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb and CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. RNC cites

Pelosi’s anti-gun votes in 1991 and 1993. See <http://www.gop.com/RNCResearch/Read.aspx?ID=4217>.



“For every failure of gun control, they have a solution: More of it,” writes Steve Chapman regarding the gun grabbers. A nationally syndicated columnist, Chapman wrote in The Washington Times and other newspapers that the Million Mom March on Mother’s Day to urge renewal of the 1994 assault weapons ban “was about 997,500 short. But the advocates are not easily discouraged. Afterward, they launched a vehicle called the Big Pink Rig on a ‘Halt the Assault Tour.’ The bus will crisscross the nation between now and September, when the ban is expected to expire.”



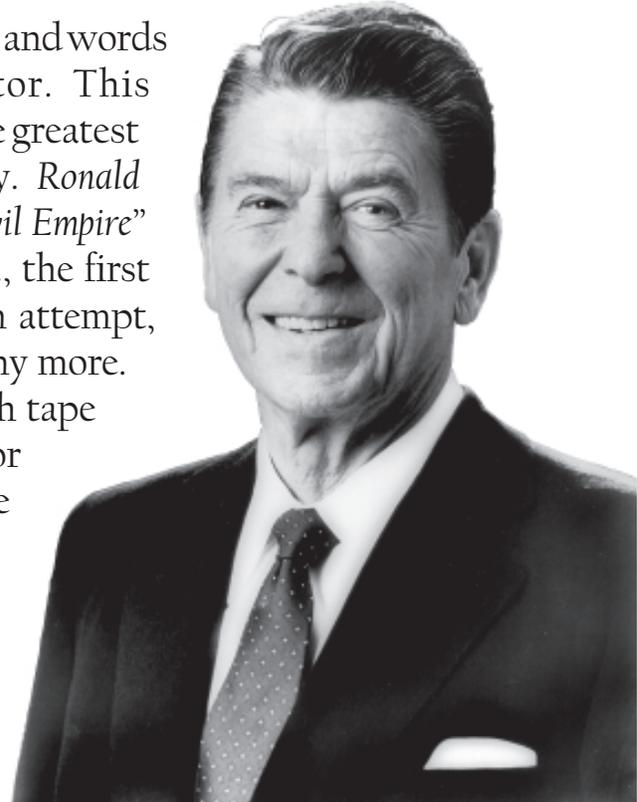
Remember to sign up for the 2004 Gun Rights Policy Conference sponsored by CCRKBA and the Second Amendment Foundation. The 19th annual pro-gun activist get-together will be held this year in the Washington, D.C. area just a little more than a month before the presidential election, September 24, 25 and 26, at the Marriott Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Registration for the “Ban Gun Bans!” national confab is free. Just call (425) 454-7012 for more information or email your registration to GRPC2004@saf.org. You can phone the Crystal City Marriott at 1-800-228-9290 for the special \$109 room rate as long as you mention GRPC 2004.

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