



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



**July
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FOR THE RIGHT
TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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ACTION NEEDED NOW!

We are now at a crossroads concerning the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms.

For the first time in a number of years, there is a solid majority of the U.S. Senate and a solid majority of the U.S. House of Representatives and a U.S. President committed generally, at least in principle, to the traditional interpretation of the Second Amendment.

So, it would appear that now is the time for Congress and the Administration to move forward in enacting legislation favorable to the Second Amendment community and thwarting legislative proposals unfavorable to that very community.

There are a number of legislative proposals awaiting congressional action in Washington, D.C. that would, if enacted into law, generally be favorable to the Second Amendment community.

Among these are the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, H.R. 800 in the House and S. 397 in the Senate. This would protect law-abiding firearm producers from reckless, predatory and potentially bankrupting lawsuits.

Recently, the House Judiciary Committee, under the chairmanship of Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. of Wisconsin, voted to move H.R. 800 to the full House. As Rep. Cliff Stearns of Florida, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month stated, "this measure provides protection only against suits based on the criminal or unlawful acts of third parties, not against their own negligent or criminal conduct."

To help move this bill forward in the House, CCRKBA Members and Supporters could contact their own U.S. Representative and ask him or her to work to ensure passage of H.R. 800 at the earliest opportunity.

Last year, in fact, a similar measure did pass in the House, and it passed by an overwhelming margin. The trouble came when the Senate, late in the year and late in the 108th Congress, appeared ready to take up the proposal, only to have pro-gun efforts there undermined by anti-gun Senators' clever use of Senate rules to threaten the proposal with "killer amendments."

Hopefully, with a Senate in the current, 109th Congress, supposedly more attuned to Second Amendment interests, there is somewhat less likelihood that this scenario would be repeated.

However, the situation in the Senate still is a fluid one. It's still touch and go.

The one thing that might make the difference there is the unified, determined commitment on the various parts of the Second Amendment com-

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CCRKBA ENDORSES WAR TROPHY BILL

CCRKBA is endorsing a congressional proposal which, if enacted into law, would allow veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to legally register firearms brought home as trophies.

The bill, H.R. 2088, the proposed Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act, has been introduced by Rep. Jim Gibbons of Nevada, with scores of original co-sponsors. It has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be determined by the Speaker of the House, Rep. J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois, in each case for consideration.

Specifically, H.R. 2088 would provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their families could register certain firearms in the National Firearms and Transfer Record. It would allow veterans and their heirs to register firearms that troops were allowed to bring home under U.S. military policy in effect at the time. It would not change existing policy for veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan who are barred from bringing back any cap-

tured weapons.

It would allow veterans and their heirs to register firearms brought back to the United States between June 26, 1934 and October 31, 1968. The veterans who brought back the firearms or their lawful heirs would have 90 days to register the guns without fear of prosecution.

As Rick Maze wrote in ArmyTimes.com, "similar amnesty was approved by Congress in 1968 as new and tougher firearm rules took effect, but Gibbons said many veterans never knew they needed to register their weapons. Now, because they didn't follow the 1968 procedures, those who brought a firearm home in full compliance with military rules and federal law face confiscation of the weapons and possible criminal charges if they are found to own an unregistered firearm," Gibbons said.

Gibbons said that, "unfortunately, when our servicemen returned home from battle, many did not learn about the registration regulations until the short registration period passed and it was too late."

Veterans, he added, "are currently in jeopardy of being unjustly con-

victed of serious felonies because they possess war relic firearms that they were authorized to bring home."

H.R. 2088 contains another provision under which any firearms confiscated from veterans would not be destroyed, but instead would be made available to museums to add to their permanent collections.

ACTION NEEDED

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munity to make that difference, to make sure that this year the Senate does not drop the ball on this issue.

That is why it is so important that you and all CCRKBA Members and Supporters and all members of the Second Amendment community contact both of their U.S. Senators and urge them to do all they can to move forward a clean, that is an unamended, S. 397.

It would be a good idea, too, to

make your views known to the Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, whose phone number is 202-224-3135, and to the Senate Minority Leader, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, whose phone number is 202-224-5556.



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA ENDORSES SENATE PERSONAL PROTECTION BILL

CCRKBA has announced its wholehearted endorsement of S. 1082, the proposed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act, stating that repeal of the prohibition of handgun ownership by citizens in Washington, D.C. is "long overdue."

"For more than a generation, it has been disgraceful that American citizens living in the Nation's Capital essentially have been deprived of their Second Amendment rights under the Constitution," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "Just how much more ironic could it be that in Washington, D.C. – the Capital of Freedom – citizens are not free to exercise one of the most basic of civil and human rights, the right of self-defense."

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, along with a number of cosponsors, including Sen. George Allen of neighboring Virginia, introduced S. 1082. It has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, under

the chairmanship of Sen. Susan M. Collins of Maine.

S. 1082 is the Senate version of H.R. 1288, introduced earlier in the House of Representatives by Rep. Mark Souder of Indiana and a number of cosponsors. H.R. 1288 was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, under the chairmanship of Rep. Thomas M. Davis III of Virginia.

"The Washington, D.C. handgun ban has been a dismal failure," said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "Criminals ignore it and honest citizens essentially are prisoners in their own homes because of it, fearful to venture far from the front door. That's not much of a testament to the 'Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.'"

Gottlieb added that, "narrow-minded District of Columbia businessmen and elitist politicians who have opposed similar legislation in the past are part of the problem, not the solution. Incapable of admitting

they've been wrong about solving the District's violent crime problem and reducing the District's murder rate, they would rather continue the status quo, in which law-abiding citizens are little more than fodder in a target-rich environment for criminals.

"It is deplorable that anyone would oppose a measure clearly aimed at making Washington, D.C. residents safer in their homes and neighborhoods, when politicians on Capitol Hill currently enjoy tighter security than commercial airline passengers. If congressional proponents of personal protection weren't such hypocrites, they would be ashamed of themselves."

Sen. Hutchison said that, "residents of the District should not have to choose between protecting themselves and obeying a law that shreds the Constitution."

She noted that the District of Columbia enacted the Firearms and Control Regulations Act in 1975, pointing out that while the Mayor and D.C. Council have the authority to pass laws that regulate sales of handguns, they do not have authority to pass laws that undermine the Constitution.

S. 1082 recognizes that current law denies citizens access to firearms, which is an infringement on their Second Amendment rights. It also clarifies that the D.C. City Council does not have the authority to prohibit private ownership of firearms but will maintain power to regulate machine guns and firearms according to the National Firearms Act.

WHAT'S UP WITH WACHOVIA?

When a Wachovia bank in St. Petersburg, Florida posted a sign recently prohibiting customers from carrying handguns, Joshua Cabanne Smith, General Partner and Portfolio Manager of Headstream Asset Management, wrote a letter of complaint to G. Kennedy Thompson, its Chairman/President/CEO.

Pointing out that the no guns sign policy was not in accordance with Florida State law, Smith stated that, "signs are not a deterrent to crime and, if honored, they leave your customers, customers who often carry large amounts of cash, vulnerable to attack. Why advertise to criminals

that your customers are unarmed? Why not just post a sign saying, 'please rob our unarmed customers? Please,' wrote Smith, "stop this ill-conceived policy."

Doug Arehart in the Office of the Wachovia President responded that the bank "reserves the right to refuse service to anyone bringing weapons onto its property," and that "the signs are meant to be a clear indication of this policy to lawful citizens and customers." He gave his phone number as 866-642-9407, extension 98953. Their address is Wachovia Corporation, One Wachovia Center, Charlotte NC 28288.

NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTROL DANGEROUS ASSAULT JOURNALISTS

By Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman

Seventeen confirmed dead and hundreds injured. This was not the work of some stereotypical lunatic with a gun, but the handiwork of a careless reporter who must have graduated from the Dan Rather School of Investigative Journalism.

Now that Newsweek has lived up to the high standard of prevarication established by Jayson Blair at The New York Times and by Janet Cooke at Newsweek's parent company, The Washington Post, maybe it's time to establish the kind of ground rules for reporters that the anti-gun press has advocated for American gun owners, who never lied, or caused harm to anybody.

Why isn't Sarah Brady screaming for a clampdown on "assault journalism?" Why can't we demand some "common sense" controls on out-of-control reporters who go off half-cocked faster than a broken musket?

Where's Chuck Schumer? He's good at dancing in the blood of gunshot victims to push his gun control agenda. Why isn't he just as eager to capitalize on the mayhem of riots that resulted from Newsweek's bogus story about the Guantanamo Bay flush that never happened? Schumer's never been able to hide from media exposure. This is the first time he's missed the opportunity to trample his way to the television camera.

With tongue-in-cheek, let's apply the same logic to exercising the First Amendment that the mainstream press has accepted as reasonable when applied to those exercising the Second Amendment. It might be shocking to members of the press just how eagerly American firearm owners would seriously embrace this concept of karma.

Henceforth, the First Amendment will be interpreted to apply only to state-owned newspapers. When the First Amendment was written, nobody envisioned computers, high speed presses, or the internet or television or radio news. There is no individual right to become a reporter, especially a freelance journalist. Only reporters employed by state-owned print media outlets have a legitimate reason to own laptops or personal home computers.

Journalists should be registered and required to pass a course in safe news writing before they can own, or have access to, a keyboard. They should need a special permit to carry a notebook and pen, and a mandatory background check before carrying a concealed tape recorder or hidden camera.

Newsmen should be limited to stories containing no more than 10 paragraphs. All small one or two paragraph news shorts, like the one in Newsweek that caused all the trouble, should be banned because they are so easily hidden within larger news columns.

America must stop importing foreign news, because it might be dangerous if it fell into the wrong hands. If news is not clearly sports-related, the average American should not be allowed to read it or listen to it.

All personal computers, laptops and word processors must be registered because of their ability to rapid-fire words into print and onto the internet indiscriminately. Journalists who currently own computers will be able to keep them, but they won't be able to sell them to other reporters unless the buyers go through

federally-licensed computer retailers, and pass a background check to make sure they haven't libeled anyone or ever filed an erroneous story.

"Civilian journalists" don't need laptops or personal computers. Manual typewriters are acceptable because of their slower rate of word production. Before a journalist can possess a typewriter he or she purchases, they must submit to a mandatory background check that can take up to three days.

If a reporter carelessly writes a story that falls into the wrong hands and causes the death of another person, that reporter should face criminal prosecution.

Reporters may not carry notebooks, tape recorders, typewriters or laptops aboard commercial aircraft. All such devices must be transported in checked baggage.

All news must be delayed from broadcast or print for a period of three days, allowing time for reporters and editors to "cool off."

Journalists would come unhinged if such measures were ever seriously considered, much less enacted. But this is exactly the kind of legal minefield through which gun owners must now tread; a regulatory nightmare the press has endorsed.

Newsweek's carelessness has killed more people than any law-abiding gun owner, outside of battlefield service in the armed forces.

What's good for gun owners should also be good for the press. Considering recent events, to argue otherwise is hypocrisy.

CCRKBA HITS D.C. TYRANNY

"Three gun-grabbing Washington, D.C. public officials are standing in the way of progressive reform of the city's anti-self defense laws and should resign," John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated last month in the Nation's Capital.

"These three, Mayor Anthony Williams, Police Chief Charles Ramsey, and Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton," he continued, "constitute an anti-right to self defense triumvirate of tyranny. Their opposition to the elimination of local law prohibiting the acquisition of

handguns by law-abiding citizens, even in their own homes, for self-defense against ruthless, violent criminals makes a mockery of the citizens' right to life itself. Their continuance in office in the Nation's Capital undermines the spirit of freedom which our country represents."

Snyder said the triumvirate of tyranny is bucking public opinion as well. He cited a local NBC4.com Internet public opinion survey conducted in late May indicating that over 90 percent of the public want a change in the law. Ninety-one percent, or 6,751 participants,

responded "yes" to the question: "Do you think it's time to change D.C.'s handgun law?" Only nine percent, or 646 participants, said "no."

"Personally," said Snyder, "I'm very happy that Sen. George Allen of neighboring Virginia is among the congressional leaders working to bring about a change in the D.C. gun law. Hopefully, gun owners will work to ensure him a successful reelection campaign next year. It's heartening to know that activists in his party rank him first among possible presidential candidates in 2008."

ISRA'S PEARSON THE JULY CCRKBA DEFENDER

Richard A. Pearson, Executive Director of the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA), is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for July.

In nominating Pearson for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "as the gun rights movement more and more begins to show increasing legislative and political strength at the national level, the gun grabbers are pouring more and more of their resources and concentrating more and more of their attention towards promoting their cause at the state level. This is especially so in those particular states where the gun grabbers believe they have a greater opportunity for promoting their anti-gun ideas.

"One of these states is Illinois, long a battle ground for preserving the individual civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. With a number of activist anti-gun politicians holding public office, including that of the Governor, Rod Blagojevich, the battle to preserve citizens' rights is a tough and ongoing one. Fortunately, there are a number of pro-gun activists in Illinois who are hard working, perceptive and articulate in promoting Second Amendment rights and in countering the nefarious efforts of Blagojevich and company. One of the leaders of these activists is Richard Pearson, who has given unstintingly and tirelessly of himself in this fight. He certainly is most deserving of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award."

Pearson understands full well what is at stake. In a recent message to Illinois gun owners, he wrote that, "the

average guy or gal sitting in a duck blind or in a tree does not understand that there are lawmakers just waiting for the chance to wipe out their way of life. They do not understand that their son or daughter may never be able to enjoy the freedoms or experiences they have had. What could change all of this that we have taken for granted as our birthright? The answer is insidiously simple – just a few words changed here and there in the laws of Illinois. Over time, if allowed to happen, we would be amazed at how quickly our freedoms would disappear.

"To keep from losing our freedoms, somebody must attend every committee hearing on gun legislation; somebody must talk to almost every legislator before they vote; somebody must read every bill with the foresight to understand every word, every sentence, and every nuance, and be able to comprehend short and long-term consequences. Someone must attend every committee hearing, give testimony, and represent the gun owners and sportsmen in this state. Someone must meet every day to discuss bills coming up that day, that week, and that month...

"Who is there to make sure that next year we will be able to see our kid or grand kid climb into a shooting stand for the first time? That our spouses will be able to defend themselves in their own houses? That they will be able to go target shooting? So, who do you think is fighting for you?"

Pearson says that someone is ISRA. He, as ISRA Executive Director, actually is the individual who does much of if not in fact most of that work.

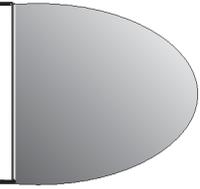
Recently, Pearson commended citi-

zens in Wilmette, Illinois for risking their own safety to defend a teenaged girl who was under a savage attack from an ex-wrestler former boyfriend. Noting that Wilmette is one of a few municipalities that prohibits its citizens from possessing handguns, Pearson said that he and ISRA are fighting against legislative proposals designed to put an end to lawful firearm ownership in the state. He said that in the Wilmette situation, "an armed citizen could have turned the tables in a hurry."

What happened there, though, was that "one would-be rescuer, a 69 year old man, was severely beaten while also another of the men was reportedly beaten and choked by the attacker before police could step in and save him from further harm."

Richard is an insurance broker and was owner of the Shafer-Pearson Insurance Agency in Chatsworth, Illinois from 1978 through 2001. He was a geography teacher at the Bloomington Junior High School in Bloomington, Illinois from 1976-1978 and a cooperative work training instructor there from 1970 through 1977.

His prior career also includes service as a teaching assistant in the Department of Geography and Geology at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, as a teacher for the Illinois Youth Commission of the Illinois Department of Corrections at Kankakee, Illinois, and as a social studies teacher at Bradley-Bourbonnais High School in Bradley, Illinois.



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, stated recently that the constitutional right of Americans to own firearms is as important as their rights to speech and religion. Rice said during a CNN "Larry King Live" interview that her father, a black minister, and his friends armed themselves to defend the black community in Birmingham, Alabama against the White Knight Riders in 1962 and 1963. She said if local authorities had had lists of registered weapons, her father and other blacks would not have been able to defend themselves. She said she favored background checks and gun show controls but that, "we have to be very careful when we start abridging rights that the Founding Fathers thought very important." Rice said the Founding Fathers understood "there might be circumstances that people like my father experienced in Birmingham when, in fact, the police aren't going to protect you...I also don't think we get to pick and choose from the Constitution. The Second Amendment is as important as the First Amendment."

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron congratulated Minnesota lawmakers for their quick, decisive effort to revive that state's reasonable personal protection act. Passage of the bill by an 86-47 vote in the State House of Representatives just days after the Senate approved the measure in a lopsided 44-21 vote "was the right thing to do," Waldron stated. "This sends a message to criminals that Minnesota citizens are not going to be made easy targets,

through the efforts of anti-gunners or because of a court ruling. Minnesota gun rights activists should be congratulated for quickly reviving this law, thanks to Sen. Pat Pariseau and Rep. Larry Howes, who took leadership positions to shepherd this important legislation through both chambers."

In West Palm Beach, Florida, an appeals court rejected a lawsuit that the widow of a teacher gunned down by a 13-year-old student had filed against a gun distributor. Pam Grunow's lawsuit charged that Valor Corporation was negligent in selling the cheap handgun used in the shooting and should be held liable for the May 2000 death of her husband, Barry Grunow. He was shot in the doorway of his middle school schoolroom by Nathaniel Brazill, who stole the gun from the man he considered to be his grandfather. "We certainly sympathize with Grunow and recognize the tragedy of the events that transpired," read the court's decision. "However, it was Brazill, his grandfather, and perhaps the school that were liable, not Valor." A jury that heard the case in November 2002 had ordered the company to pay \$1.2 million, but the trial judge threw out the verdict and Grunow appealed.

Faced with violence in courtrooms, a number of judges are thinking long and hard about their own personal security, reports David Finkel of The Washington Post. Some are thinking about carrying personal firearms into the courtroom

if they in fact have not already done so. One who already has is U.S. District Court Chief Judge Joseph Hood in Lexington, Kentucky. "It's with me whenever I move," Hood said after reaching into his briefcase and pulling out a semiautomatic pistol this he is holding in the air," wrote Finkel. "There are people out there wrapped not too tight. Their bubble is off-center, if you know what I mean." "He added, 'These Glocks are good pieces of equipment.'"

In the Philippines, journalists, tired of being targeted by criminal gangs, politicians and rogue police who don't like their critical reporting, are getting ready to pack pistols along with their pens and notebooks, according to the Scotsman, a United Kingdom publication. "We believe in the adage that the pen is mightier than the sword," said Joel Sy Egco, and organizer of a new journalists' self-defense group, the Association of Responsible Media, or ARMED. "It always will be, but the problem is, they use guns on us. To silence us, they shoot at us. Therefore, we should also know how to use their tools against them." Recently, about 100 ARMED members trudged to a Department of National Defense firing range to practice marksmanship with their firearms. Some wore black shirts that read, "Stop killing journalists" in front and, in back, "We don't get mad, we get even."

4

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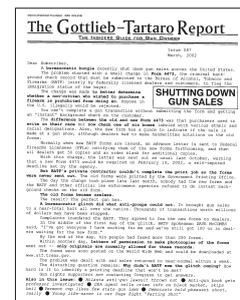
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