

POINT BLANK

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



**June
2004**

Volume XXIX No. 6

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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**

MILLION MOM MARCH 'JUST A LIMP,' SAYS CCRKBA

"The so-called 'Million Mom March' degenerated on Mother's Day into a thousand gang limp," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder.

Snyder didn't pull any punches in his critique of the demonstration.

"Obviously," he said, "the good citizens of the United States would rather spend Mother's Day enjoying their time with the mothers of America than wasting it on Brady bunch nonsense."

The much-ballyhooed Million Mom March United with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence drew such a pitifully small crowd of supporters that automobile traffic on the bridges crossing the Potomac River from Virginia into Washington, D.C. flowed more quickly than normally is the case. Snyder noted that on the Thursday preceding the event the Brady bunch ran a full-page ad in *The Washington Post* calling on supporters gathering "on the West Front of the Capitol to demand that President Bush and Congress save the assault weapons ban."

"If this is the best these gun grabbers can do," Snyder observed, "they're not getting much bang for their buck. Even if there were as many as 2,000 people at the rally and march, as the Associated Press estimated, that means the Brady bunch spent about \$25 per person on the ad alone just to inform people of the limp, and this does not include whatever else they had to have spent on travel and other expenses. The Brady bunch is wasting its contributors' money."

The episode, said Snyder, "shows clearly that there certainly is not enthusiastic massive popular support for extending the ban on so-called assault weapons beyond the September sunset date. The fact of the matter is that there never really was such support for the ban, actually a ban on the manufacture and importation of certain semiautomatic firearms, when it was enacted in 1994. When the Democratic Party in congressional elections later that year lost control of the United States House of Representatives for the first time in 60 years, President Clinton, the most anti-gun chief executive in the history of the United States, admitted publicly that enactment of the ban was one of the major reasons for the astounding political defeat."

"If the Brady bunch really would like to do something for the cause of public safety," Snyder suggested, "let them join with us in supporting congressional moves to overcome foot-dragging on the part of the Transportation Security Administration regarding the arming of commercial airline pilots. Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky and Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina have introduced legislation in their respective bodies to accomplish this. They certainly deserve the support of all Americans."

GUN-CARRYING PRIEST BATTLES TERRORISTS

In 1994, Father Cirilo Nacorda, a Catholic priest ministering to parishioners in the southern part of the Philippine Islands, along with a number of other victims, was kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf, terrorist "cousins" of Al Qaeda, tortured, and held in captivity for 61 days.

Abu Sayyaf beheaded a number of the other prisoners, and threatened to behead Nacorda, but

ransomed him to the Philippine government for four million pesos, half of which, says Nacorda, made its way into the hands of some corrupt Philippine military officers working hand in glove with Abu Sayyaf.

Upon his release, Nacorda, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Lamitan on Basilan Island, who had military training, including jungle survival training, before entering the seminary, armed himself with a .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun and a 9mm semiautomatic handgun for self-protection. "The Abu Sayyaf," he stated, "do not respect life, and the military cannot provide 24-hour protection."

He also began to organize what in effect eventually grew to a self-defense militia of about 7,000 armed citizens. Father Nacorda stated that, "we cannot protect ourselves just by prayers or dialogue. We have to be practical."

He did all of this, he reports, with

ecclesiastical approval.

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron read about Nacorda in news reports, and informed Public Affairs



John Snyder greeted Father Nacorda in Washington, D.C.
Photo by Ling Woo.

Director John Michael Snyder, who is founder and chairman of the St. Gabriel Possenti Society, Inc. Possenti was a mid-nineteenth century Italian seminarian who rescued a village from a gang of terrorists with a demonstration of handgun marksmanship. Snyder contacted Nacorda and, through unofficial channels of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., sent a specially-engraved Possenti Society Medallion to Nacorda.

Snyder also included a chapter on Nacorda in his book, *Gun Saint*.

Last fall, Nacorda's bishop directed Nacorda, now the object of an Abu Sayyaf assassination threat with a price on his head, to come to the United States on ecclesiastical business for three years for his own safety.

After Nacorda arrived in the United States, he telephoned Snyder from his current location. In April, Snyder and his wife brought Nacorda to Washington, D.C. so that Nacorda

could tell selected audiences in the nation's capital about his experiences and about the practical necessity for decent people to arm themselves against the terrorist menace.

"Father Nacorda's experience," said Snyder, "is contemporary indication of the fact that the possession and use of firearms, including handguns, for protection of life is commensurate with Divine Worship, devotion to morality, and commitment to social service."



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

POINT BLANK is published monthly by Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005.

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Correspondence and manuscripts should be sent to **POINT BLANK**, CCRKBA, 1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20005
Address Change: Write new address, city, state, and zip code on a plain piece of paper. Attach mailing label from an issue of **POINT BLANK** and send to CCRKBA, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005. Please allow four to six weeks for change to become effective.

BUSH A 90-PERCENTER, CCRKBA TELLS FOX NEWS

President George W. Bush is a 90-percenter on the gun issue, CCRKBA told Fox News. Fox News Channel's Peter Brownfield in Washington, D.C. highlighted the CCRKBA position in a news story headlined, "Some Gun Activists Wobbly on Bush."

The article noted that, "John Kerry's campaign web site has pictures of him holding a gun and wearing hunter's orange. He describes to reporters not only the joy of the hunt, but also gutting and eating his kills.

"That appeal may work on some gun owners who are deciding whether the gun-slinging Massachusetts senator is a better choice for president than George Bush."

The article notes further that, "while President Bush may have his problems, many gun owners say that Kerry, with his long record of favoring gun control legislation, is not a palatable alternative.

"Bush is 'not with us 100 percent of the time. He is with us 90 percent of the time. John Kerry is with us zero percent of the time. Gun owners don't have much of a choice,' said Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the 650,000-member Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms." The Fox article notes that, "Bush has rankled gun owners by expressing through spokesmen his support for reauthorizing the assault weapons ban, which is set to expire in September. Gun activists are also bothered by Patriot Act legislation that they say is an imposition on personal freedom."

Fox reported further, "Gottlieb acknowledged that gun owners have some problems with Bush, but he predicted that Bush's support from gun owners would rise. 'While Al Gore was known to gun owners as anti-gun, John Kerry is known as

anti-gun plus. And the example is that he broke off his campaigning to cast a vote against gun owner rights,' Gottlieb said, referring to Kerry's March vote to renew the assault weapons ban and to require background checks of purchasers buying guns at private shows. Both were amendments to legislation that would give manufacturers immunity from some lawsuits. The bill failed in the Senate.

"Gottlieb expressed concern about the Patriot Act and Bush's failure to promote a stronger gun rights agenda, but he said he still believes the choice is obvious in this presidential race. 'I personally like the fact that there are a couple of people out there screaming, but when push comes to shove, everyone's going to vote for Bush. It would be foolish not to. It would be cutting off your nose to spite your face,' Gottlieb said."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Summer starts this month, and with it the 2004 campaign season is in full swing.

Candidates are gearing up and reaching out to the public. Political campaigns, from city council all the way up to President of the United States, have two essential ingredients: money and volunteer support. Wondering where to spend our surplus cash isn't a problem faced by too many gun owners, but there is a way YOU can make a difference.

If your elected officials are pro-gun, call their campaign office and volunteer some of your time to help return them to office. If your elected officials are NOT pro-gun, consider spending a few hours or days helping their opponent. Campaign offices usually are staffed at the last minute, and you'll probably have to call "information" to get their telephone number. You can call a legislator's office and ask for the campaign office number, but no campaigning is allowed from a taxpayer-funded office.

Most political campaigns have a volunteer political coordinator who would love to receive your call. He or she will have just the right job for you. It may be working a telephone bank, or stuffing envelopes, or walking a neighborhood "doorbelling" and distributing literature.

Volunteering a little of your time to a candidate has a long term benefit as well. In addition to helping elect a public official, you'll probably have a chance to meet the candidate and maybe even speak briefly with him or her. Six months or a year from now, when you write to the legislator to ask support for or opposition to a given bill, remind the legislator that you were part of the campaign staff. You even may be remembered, making the whole process more personal.

CCRKBA PRAISES CONGRESSIONAL SECOND AMENDMENT CAUCUS

Members of the US House of Representatives have created the Congressional Second Amendment Caucus on Capitol Hill.

"It's about time we had a Second Amendment Caucus in Congress," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder. "There are caucuses on Capitol Hill for all kinds of interests and Second Amendment interests deserve to be right up there in the forefront."

Spearheaded by Reps. Marilyn Musgrave of Colorado and Virgil Goode of Virginia, the caucus includes nearly 40 members of Congress, and is dedicated solely to the right of lawful individuals to own firearms as recognized in the Second Amendment of the Constitution.

"As lawmakers in our nation's highest legislative body," said Musgrave, "we must fight to preserve the constitutional right for individual citizens to keep and bear arms. While many in our nation's capital seek to chip away at the right of firearm ownership and possession, the Second Amendment Caucus is committed to defending the lawful gun owner's constitutional rights in our nation, without com-

promise. Their voice will be heard in Congress."

"In fighting for and protecting our Second Amendment rights," said Goode, "it is important to be vigilant. I hope that this caucus will further that goal."

According to its mission statement, "The members of the Congressional Second Amendment Caucus know and understand that the Second Amendment to the Constitution is clearly written to protect the fundamental and individual right to keep and bear arms.

"Furthermore, we understand that the Second Amendment does not refer to a collective right of federal or state governments. The Second Amendment refers to the individual citizen's right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of defense, recreation, and collection.

"We oppose the banning of firearms, their accessories, their manufacture and their importation. Furthermore, we support recognizing the right of lawful citizens to carry a weapon both at home and while traveling the nation.

"In upholding these principles we have joined the Congressional Sec-

ond Amendment Caucus. This caucus' purpose for existence is solely to accomplish the above stated goals and protect the Second Amendment as it is written."

In addition to Musgrave and Goode, initial caucus members include Reps. Robert Aderholt of Alabama; Gresham Barrett and Jim DeMint of South Carolina; Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland; Tom Tancredo, Bob Beauprez of Colorado; Rob Bishop of Utah; Ron Paul, Michael Burgess, Sam Johnson, Jeb Hensarling and John Carter of Texas; Max Burns, Charlie Norwood and Nathan Deal of Georgia; Eric Cantor and Jo Ann Davis of Virginia; Steve Chabot of Ohio; John Hostettler, Mike Pence and Chris Chocola of Indiana; Ernest Istook and Tom Cole of Oklahoma; Tom Feeney and Jeff Miller of Florida; Trent Franks, John Shadegg and J. D. Hayworth of Arizona; Peter Hoekstra of Michigan; Steve King of Iowa; John Kline of Minnesota; Sue Myrick of North Carolina; Steve Pearce of New Mexico; Jim Ryun and Todd Tiahrt of Kansas, and Joseph Pitts and Patrick Toomey of Pennsylvania.

ITALY MAY CONTRAST WITH UK ON GUN RIGHTS

Although the United Kingdom appears to be going for broke in limiting, if not just outright eliminating, the right of law-abiding individuals to keep and bear arms, other news from Europe seems to indicate that Italy may be about to proceed in the opposite direction.

According to ANSA, the Italian News Agency, the Italian Senate Justice Committee in Rome in late April approved a controversial bill which would modify existing law on legitimate personal defense, allowing people to keep legally owned firearms in homes and businesses for protection of life and property.

The important modification of article 52 of the penal code, according to ANSA, focuses on the right of individuals to defend property, including the right to shoot thieves or other illegal trespassers.

The bill states explicitly that lethal force may be used to prevent aggression against life. It states also that firearms may be used, but not with the intention to kill, to defend private property. The limitation, however, is not mandatory if the hesitation to shoot, or the invitation to go away, may put in trouble the defender's life, or the lives of other people.

NEWSPAPERS SHUN BITING OP-ED

When CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman recently fired off an Op-Ed piece about businesses that post their establishments “off limits” to legally-armed citizens, newspapers around the country winced, and ignored it.

“Separated by several states and an obvious cultural gap,” he wrote, “two recent stories about crime – one from Ohio and the other from Oregon – perhaps best illustrate why a growing number of American citizens have concluded that the police can’t protect us, and neither can gun control laws or anti-gun corporate policies.

“Police were quick to apprehend a suspect in the May 4 armed robbery of a Dairy Mart convenience store in Akron; perhaps much quicker than many Ohioans were able to grasp why so many of their neighbors are arming themselves, getting licenses to carry concealed handguns, and choosing not to shop in establishments that ban their legal firearms.

“Clerk Mustapha Taoufik was struck in the head by an armed bandit who ignored the sign posted in the glass double door of the Dairy Mart on West Market Street. That’s the sign warning customers: ‘No Weapons. Pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person’s control, convey, or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance onto these premises. A valid license does not authorize the licensee to carry a weapon onto these premises. Violators will be prosecuted!’

“That sign certainly did Taoufik’s head, and the nerves of six unarmed customers in his store at the time, a lot of good, didn’t it? Such signs are

being posted by gun-phobic businesses in Ohio, Minnesota and elsewhere. They accomplish two things: They tell law-abiding firearms owners that the management thinks social bigotry is okay, when practiced against armed citizens, and they alert thugs to a risk-free environment.

“In the Buckeye State, a group called Ohioans for Concealed Carry has established a “Do Not Patronize” list on its website of businesses where armed citizens are not welcome, and neither, evidently, is their money. Smart economic move, turning away potential customers simply because they choose to exercise a civil right; they might as well post signs reading: ‘Gun-Free Zone. Armed robbers welcome. Come in, plunder, and assault anyone because nobody will be able to stop you.’

“Meanwhile, out in Scappoose, Oregon, a woman identified as Sheryl Fitzwilliams won’t be calling the police anymore. She tried that once, on May 8, and it took more than two hours for her town’s only cop on duty to respond, even after some guy tried to break into her home before she screamed and he fled. She was at home with her daughters at the time.

“Fitzwilliams put her indignation tersely: ‘I do have an armed neighbor. And from now on, that’s who we call. We do not call 911.’

“Fitzwilliams has a keener perspective than the management of Akron’s Dairy Mart, but still hasn’t figured out that her safety is not the neighbor’s responsibility, it’s hers. Instead of counting on police, stupid signs, or armed neighbors, Fitzwilliams should visit the nearest gun shop and take a self-defense course.

“Or, maybe she should just get herself elected to the Scappoose City Council, and follow the example set by Chicago Alderman Arenda Troutman, who lives on Chicago’s South Side. Her home having been burglarized twice in recent weeks, Troutman reportedly demanded—and received at a whopping \$366 per day cost to the taxpayers—individual police protection of her home. A patrol car is parked outside her house several hours a day on Saturday and Sunday, and beat cops have been ordered to check her property on every shift, every day of the week.

“Troutman’s arrogant justification for this elitist treatment: ‘Deserve it? Damn right. I should receive the protection I am receiving. I am an elected official.’ Well, we’re all impressed.

“Chicago, incidentally, is a city in which the average law-abiding citizen can’t buy a handgun, much less legally carry one for personal protection.

“Anti-gun signs, like restrictive gun control laws and the pontifications of those who support both, do not prevent crimes, nor deter criminals. Elitists who get special police protection deny it to everyone else in the process.

“It is refreshing that in a society where so many have flocked to the false promises of gun control laws and stupid warning signs, an increasing number of sensible American citizens have decided they are not sheep.”



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VCDL PRESIDENT GETS CCRKBA RIGHTS AWARD

Philip Van Cleave, President of the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL), is the June recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award.

Van Cleave was hailed as a hard worker for gun rights by CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder.

"As one who works in Washington, D.C.," Snyder said, "I have the choice of living in one of three political jurisdictions, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. My primary reason for living in Virginia is that the right to keep and bear arms is more respected there, legally, than it is in either of the other two jurisdictions. In fact, you could say that, while Maryland is somewhat unfriendly towards private gun ownership and the District is generally hostile towards private gun ownership, Virginia is more or less friendly to such ownership. One of the primary reasons for this is the good work of people like Philip and the activity of such groups as VCDL, working diligently and pretty successfully to protect our cherished freedoms. He definitely is most deserving of this award."

Van Cleave worked night and day with the State Legislature and with the Governor's office in Richmond to promote the VCDL legislative program. He is looking forward to work-

ing next year to correct problems with a measure, also enacted this year, regarding an airport terminal firearms ban.

From a legislative standpoint, the current year has been a banner year for gun owners in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Among the beneficial changes to Virginia law, effective next month are:

- * Full state preemption throughout the Commonwealth, per VCDL request, for all law-abiding gun owners, including those who do not have concealed carry permits. No more city pistol purchase permits, park bans, and so forth. Virginia now will have one set of statewide, consistent gun laws.

- * No more county pistol permits or waiting periods, also per VCDL request.

- * No one-gun-a-month requirement for concealed carry permit holders or curio and relic collectors.

- * Expansion of concealed carry reciprocity with other states.

- * Non-residents can apply for Virginia concealed carry permits.

- * If there is a delay in issuing a permit, the applicant automatically will be given a 90-day temporary permit.

- * Virginians will be able to buy long guns in any other state that allows such a purchase and gun owners from other states can buy long guns in Virginia.

- * If an applicant is denied a concealed carry permit, the court must give the applicant the reason and what the applicant can do to appeal the denial.

Van Cleave was born in 1952 in Kankakee, IL. He holds a Master's degree (1978) and a Bachelor's degree (1975) in Computer Science from

Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. He received the Charles Babbage Award for Achievement in Computer Sciences from Trinity.

He served as a volunteer firefighter in Bexar County, TX from 1971 to 1973, and also served as a reserve deputy sheriff in Bexar County, from 1973 to 1980. He moved to Virginia in 1980, and in 1984, he started his own software company, Virginia Systems, where he is still employed.

He told *Point Blank* his interest in guns goes back to his childhood. When he moved to Virginia, he brought his service revolver with him. He became active in the right to keep and bear arms movement in Virginia in the mid-1990s, when Virginia was on the verge of enacting "shall issue" concealed carry permit legislation.

After getting involved with VCDL, he was asked to serve on the Board of Directors, then to become vice president and then president, and he's remained president for about three years. He said that, "being President of VCDL truly has been a crowning moment in my life." VCDL had 300 members when Phil became Vice President. It now has about 2,000 members, and has 3,000 gun owners signed up on its alert system.

One of the important things he has done as president is use the VA-ALERT system to broadcast a consolidated e-mail on items of interest to Virginia gun owners on a weekly basis. VA-ALERT is used by VCDL to rally pro-gun activists and supporters to write letters, send e-mails, make phone calls, and so forth, to elected officials to get the laws in Virginia made as friendly as possible to gun owners.

To receive free electronic alerts from CCRKBA, please send an email to info@ccrkba.org with "Subscribe" in the subject line.



QUICK SHOTS

In Washington, D.C., CCRKBA announced its opposition to H.R. 4292, by Rep. Jim Moran of Virginia, and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia, to ban the commercial sale of .50-caliber rifles. The anti-gun Violence Policy Center (VPC) staged a so-called "press event" last month to announce the introduction of the measure. "With a turnout that could fit under two umbrellas," reported the Fifty Caliber Institute, "perennial gun control hucksters stood shoulder to shoulder with Moran" to make the announcement. H.R. 4292 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee and also to the House Ways and Means Committee.



An airline employee found a loaded 9mm handgun early last month lodged between the seats of a Continental Airlines flight after it landed at Newark airport, reported Brock N. Meeks, Chief Washington Correspondent of MSNBC.com. The plane departed from Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C. The FBI was called in to investigate and determined the firearm, a 9mm Sig-Sauer, belonged to a U.S. Secret Service agent, stated MSNBC.com. The agent declared his carry-on gun at Reagan before boarding and was the only armed agent on board, according to a federal security employee Meeks said asked to remain anonymous.



Utah Governor Olene Walker should request the resignations of the entire Board of Trustees at the

University of Utah for their continued defiance of the Utah Legislature, CCRKBA declared in late April. "It is astonishing," said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron, "that out of 10 people sitting on the Board of Trustees, none of them appears to have any reservations at all about defying state law, by continuing to enforce an anti-personal protection policy on the university campus." CCRKBA's call for the trustee ouster followed reports that the Board voted unanimously to continue its policy of prohibiting students, faculty and staff from being armed on campus, despite state laws that allow it.



In Maryland, groups promoting so-called "animal rights" said they will not donate \$75,000 to the state's Department of Natural Resources because the agency rejected their condition of calling off a bear hunt. The animal people offered the money in mid-April and the agency accepted it, but rejected the stipulation to cancel the bear hunting season in October for Allegheny and Garrett counties. The increasing number of black bears in the region have been raiding trash cans and bird feeders and scaring homeowners, reported S. A. Miller of *The Washington Times*.



A survey released in mid-April indicates a majority of Americans are in favor of continuing the ban on so-called "assault weapons," and in households with NRA members, the numbers were about evenly split, reports Brian DeBose of *The*

Washington Times. The University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey, which interviewed 28,446 persons, shows 71 percent of people in households without guns support extending the law, as do 64 percent of those in households with guns. The survey says 46 percent of respondents in households with NRA members support continuing the 10-year-old ban.



CCRKBA applauded Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for signing legislation that prevents police agencies from keeping comprehensive lists of law-abiding gun owners. "Florida's new law has sharp teeth to prevent law enforcement agencies from developing a database that amounts to de facto gun registration," said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "There is no sensible reason for a police agency to maintain a list of law-abiding firearms owners, who have committed no crime." Under the law, police and government agencies that keep firearm owners' lists could be fined up to \$5 million for the offense. There is an exemption for keeping a list if it is part of a criminal investigation. "This new state law will provide one more layer of security for the privacy of law-abiding gun owners," Waldron stated. "Henceforth, without legitimate cause, the identities of private citizens who exercise their constitutional right to keep and bear arms will not be available to police or government bureaucrats who might exploit that information for their own political agendas."

4

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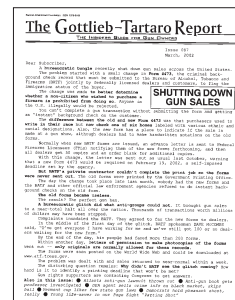
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