



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



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# CCRKBA ACTING ON ARMED PILOTS ISSUE

CCRKBA continues its support of congressional action to implement the armed pilots program.

Speaking in Washington, D.C., John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated that, "ever since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we have promoted the arming of qualified commercial airline pilots. Congress has voted overwhelmingly in support of this proposal. President George W. Bush has signed the congressional enactment into law. However, the vast majority of the pilots still are not armed. The main culprit in this situation appears to be the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which has been dragging its feet in implementing the program.

"We do not intend to let these Washington bureaucrats get away with this outrageous behavior. We're supporting actively initiatives in Congress and working actively with pilots' groups, such as the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, and other pro-gun groups, to make sure that the intent on Congress is not perpetually thwarted by the TSA crowd. We're asking all of our Members and Supporters to contact their own U.S. Senators and Representatives to support these congressional initiatives."

Among these measures is a good faith letter to Secretary Tom Ridge of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which oversees TSA, authored by Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina and signed by dozens of other Representatives. The Representatives call on Ridge "to make the program more pilot-friendly." The letter complains about the way that TSA "has been administering the Federal Flight Deck Officers (FFDO) program."

It states that "TSA has created roadblocks for our nation's pilots to successfully train and complete the FFDO program. Unnecessary and burdensome mental evaluations take place, with pilots not being told of the reasons for their rejection from the program. Further, there is only one training center in the nation to administer the program, making it difficult for our nation's pilots to undergo the necessary training.

"There may be over 100,000 qualified passenger and cargo pilots that meet the necessary qualifications to complete successfully the FFDO program. However, approximately 1,200 pilots have been approved under the program as it exists, far less than the number qualified for the training. Also, reports exist that pilots have been told by TSA that they are not permitted to speak to Members of Congress about their involvement with the FFDO program."

Another initiative to address the complaints about TSA, and to rectify the situation is the proposed introduction of a Cockpit Security Technical Corrections and Improvements Act by Wilson in the House and by Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky in the Senate.

# PRO FOOTBALL PLAYERS OWN GUNS FOR DEFENSE

Not long before the Super Bowl game last month, news reports noted that a number of National Football League players own and carry guns for self-protection.

In late January, for instance, Baltimore Ravens cornerback Corey Fuller exchanged gunfire outside his Florida home.

Fuller and a house guest, according to the Associated Press, went outside to a car when they were confronted by the hoodlum. The man chased Fuller back into the house and then fled after about 20 shots were fired, police said. No one was injured.

Fuller said he returned fire with

his own .38 caliber revolver.

Earlier, in an article headlined, "More N.F.L. Players Turn to Guns for a Sense of Security," The New York Times reported that, "toward the end of his 19 years in the National Football League, offensive tackle Lomas Brown noticed something that...almost every player he knew in the N.F.L. owned a gun. Brown said he saw guns everywhere. On team flights. In locker rooms. In players' cars. In training camp dormitory rooms.

"I think the vast majority of players in the N.F.L. have guns," said Brown, who retired at the end of last season.

"Just about every guy I played with in the N.F.L. had a gun. Almost every player I knew had one. Guns are rampant in football."

Many players in the N.F.L. agree with Brown, according to Times interviews with more than 25 players, owners, team executives and agents.

"The primary reason for the rise in gun ownership, many people said, is an increased concern among players that they are targets for everyone from aggressive fans to criminals and even terrorists."

## FORMER FBI AGENT GETS CCRKBA AWARD



Former FBI Agent Gary Aldrich accepted a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award from CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder during the recent Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, D.C.

Shown right behind Snyder with radio earphones is Don Kroah of WAVA-FM radio and Donna Scuderi, producer of The Don Kroah Show. They broadcast the CCRKBA award presentation live on site from CPAC. CCRKBA is a CPAC cosponsor.

"After Gary, a Second Amendment proponent, left the FBI," said Snyder, "he founded the Patrick Henry Center for Individual Liberty. He and his wife, also a former FBI agent, formed the Patriettes, to train certain qualified women volunteers, including my wife, in the safe and efficient use of handguns. Gary is most deserving of this Award."

Photo by Ling Woo.



# POINT BLANK

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

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# GOTTLIEB: BANK ROBBERS LOVE GUN CONTROL LAWS

"It is easier to rob a bank than it is legally to own a firearm to stop a crime in New York City," says CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "proving that thugs thrive where law-abiding gun owners are scarce."

Gottlieb notes that, "bank robberies have tripled in the last three years, and in many cases, the robbers aren't even using guns. They just stroll into a bank, hand the teller a note, and walk out with the loot."

Citizens "can't smoke in a bar," he adds. "Cabbies can't hold cell phones while they drive, dogs can't be unleashed, and average law-abiding citizens can hardly own, much less carry, guns for personal protection, but any outlaw looking for an easy

score can pick a bank and rob it almost on a whim. Because it's unlikely he'll encounter any armed resistance, he's pretty much got long-term job security, at least until he gets caught."

Gottlieb says the situation in New York City is "a text book example" of what happens in an environment where crooks have greater freedom to commit crime than honest citizens have in defending themselves from it.

"The past year in New York has seen at least two outrageous cases where citizens were hounded for defending their homes and their families against criminals," Gottlieb recalls.

"Trouble began for these would-be victims because they used unlicensed

handguns. Yet one outlaw, Darryl Alexander, was able to plead guilty to grand larceny after robbing the same bank three times in seven months.

"Police Commissioner Ray Kelly threatened to publicize the names of banks that lack security features recommended by his department. In a city where citizens are prosecuted for defending themselves with guns, maybe Kelly should be prosecuted as an accessory to a robbery at any of those banks if they are held up. After all, a system as fouled up as New York's ought to be fouled up for everybody."

## CCRKBA LEADERS RIP POLITICAL COWARDICE

Members of the Wisconsin Assembly who voted to sustain the veto of sensible concealed carry legislation by anti-gun Gov. Jim Doyle have displayed "cowardice below and beneath their duty to public safety," CCRKBA spokesmen said.

"The vote that sustained Jim Doyle's deplorable veto of a rational concealed carry bill was a slap in the face and a sucker punch to the safety of every Wisconsin resident," said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "Clearly, those 34 Assembly members who voted to sustain the veto did so out of political expediency rather than the public good."

This much was confirmed by the remarks of State Rep. Gary Sherman of Port Wing, Wisconsin, who switched his vote "to protect his governor and what limited power the minority Assembly Democrats have," according

to the Wisconsin State Journal.

"Sherman's vote switch was despicable, and should be remembered when he runs for reelection," Waldron stated. "The hysteria drummed up by anti-gun extremists prior to the vote was an insult to every responsible, law-abiding Wisconsin gun owner. The blood of every crime victim in the Badger State who might have been able to defend themselves or prevent a crime had they been legally armed will be on the hands of Jim Doyle and those members of the Assembly who upheld his veto, and especially Gary Sherman."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said the 65-34 vote, which fell short of the necessary two-thirds to override, was disappointing for several reasons.

"It shows how incredibly shortsighted some members of the Assem-

bly can be," Gottlieb observed. "The vote also proved how susceptible some lawmakers are to the outrageous rhetoric of the ludicrous left. In particular, Sherman's switch shows how vulnerable the rights of citizens are to political partisanship. Opponents of responsible personal protection legislation are supporters of criminal recidivism, and it is shameful that such people now serve in public office in Madison, Wisconsin.

"Jim Doyle's ill-considered veto, and the reluctance of 34 lawmakers to override that veto do nothing more than send a clear message to Wisconsin's criminal element that they now have a free ride in a target-rich environment. This vote has condemned a lot of good citizens to a lot of very bad experiences."

# CCRKBA AWARDS JUDGE A “JUDICIAL TYRANNY PRIZE”

“We are awarding U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton a Special Bill of Wrongs Judicial Tyranny Achievement Prize,” John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, announced recently in Washington, D.C.

Snyder, named Dean of gun lobbyists by national media, explained that “Walton deserves the mock award because of his District of Columbia Seegars decision upholding the District of Columbia gun control law and even in effect denying plaintiffs the right to challenge it.”

In that decision, Snyder stated, “Walton disregarded the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding citizens of the Nation’s Capital to keep and bear arms. He’s doing his absolute best to render decent Washingtonians defenseless in the face of rampant criminal violence. He is using his judicial position to undermine the civil rights of our citizens. He opposed the traditional individual right interpretation of the Second Amendment in our Bill of Rights. He seems to believe that all political power resides in the government, rather than ultimately in the people. It is in this kind of false philosophy that tyranny can take root.”

Snyder said further, “it our understanding that this decision will be appealed to a higher court and we certainly are glad to hear that. We also support pending action in the United States Congress to repeal the

ridiculous District of Columbia gun control law against which plaintiffs argued in the Seegars case.

“Beyond that, it has become all too evident in recent years that a number of judges do not base their decisions on the intent of our Founding Fathers in establishing our Constitution and including in it a Bill of Rights. Instead, they rely on some personal theory of government which they believe enables them to make up the law as they go from case to case. It is time that our legislators throughout the United States, and especially in the United States Congress, begin to clip the wings of these judges. Then, hopefully, our judicial system once again will be brought into conformity with the government of the people envisioned by the Founding Fathers who developed it.”

It was in mid-January that Walton upheld the District of Columbia gun control law that prohibits ownership of handguns, rejecting a challenge by a group of citizens who contended the law left them unfairly vulnerable. One of the plaintiffs, Sandra Seegars, is a taxicab commissioner who led a controversial campaign two years ago to give taxicab drivers the right to carry guns to protect themselves.

Walton dismissed the lawsuit in which the plaintiffs argued that the 28-year-old law violated their Second Amendment right to own guns. The D.C. law prohibits ownership and possession of handguns not owned and registered prior to a date in 1976 and reregistered regularly since then. It requires that rifles and shotguns be kept unloaded, disassembled or equipped with trigger locks.

Walton ruled that the Second Amendment is not a broad-based right of gun ownership. “The Sec-

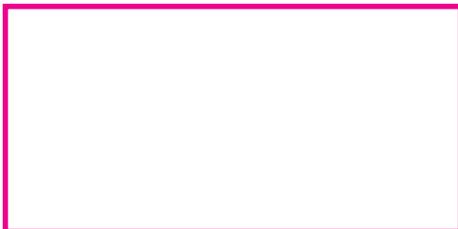
ond Amendment does not confer on an individual a right to possess firearms,” he wrote. “Rather, the Amendment’s objective is to ensure the vitality of state militias.”

Walton said the Second Amendment was designed to protect the citizens against a potentially oppressive federal government. He wrote it does not apply to the District of Columbia because it was intended to protect state citizens, and the district is not a state.

The gun grabbers loved the decision. “It’s a big victory for those who overwhelmingly believe that we need fewer guns on our streets, not more,” said Matt Nosanchuk of the anti-gun Violence Policy Center.

The Washington Times, however, opposed the decision. In a lead editorial, the newspaper declared that, “the prohibition against Washingtonians defending themselves is an unjust law. Since the gun ban, the District has never been off the list of the nation’s most violent cities – and many times it has been the most violent city in America.

“On an everyday basis, people in the capital are unsafe. One fact that cannot be denied is that the city’s gun control laws – which are among the strictest in the country – have not worked. Criminals have guns no matter what the law says, so the only people who have been disarmed are the law-abiding innocents, who are left to be preyed upon by assailants who are confident their victims cannot legally fight back... Although Judge Walton ruled that D.C. residents must remain defenseless, the plaintiffs and others must legally fight back.”



# CCRKBA APPLAUDS DEFEAT OF ‘POISONED’ GUN LAWSUIT LEGISLATION

Final rejection of a heavily-amended gun lawsuit liability protection bill by the U.S. Senate today was hailed by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, which had called on the Senate to kill the measure after weighing it down with restrictive anti-gun amendments.

“Anti-gunners tried to hijack the train,” quipped CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, “and we hijacked it back.”

The Senate’s 90-8 final vote to defeat the poisoned bill came after unacceptable amendments were added that would have extended a ban on semi-automatic sport-utility rifles for ten more years, and placed such onerous restrictions on perfectly legal gun shows that many such events would have been literally put out of business. That was simply not

acceptable, Gottlieb said.

He noted that debate on this measure, and the attempted amendments, stripped away over the period of one week a facade that anti-gun Democrats have been laboring for more than two years to create.

“While they have been criss-crossing the country, staging canned pheasant hunts, showing up at skeet and trap shooting events, and insisting that they support the rights of American gun owners,” Gottlieb said, “it is clear now that the Democrat leadership has never abandoned its anti-gun rights agenda. Their own actions over the past week have put the lie to all of their grand pontifications about believing in the Second Amendment.

“The one thing that gun owners learned from this experience is that

the Democratic leadership cannot be trusted,” Gottlieb stated. “That goes especially for Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota. While he pledged to pass the bill, he spent his time working the floor to pass poison pill amendments so the bill would be killed on a final vote. In my opinion, there is no bigger snake in the U.S. Senate.”



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# KANSAS CONGRESSMAN THE CCRKBA AWARDEE

U. S. Representative Todd Tiahrt of Kansas is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for this month.

In nominating Congressman Tiahrt for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, noted that, "generally, throughout his career in the House of Representatives, Rep. Tiahrt has been an outstanding supporter of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

"In recent months, however, he has distinguished himself in a most significant manner. He has authored, introduced and promoted successfully an amendment to an omnibus appropriations bill mandating the destruction of NICS records of law-abiding gun purchasers after 24 hours. The bill, with this Tiahrt Amendment included, passed the House of Representatives late last year. It passed the Senate and became law just this past January. This is a tremendous legislative achievement. Congressman Tiahrt certainly is most deserving of this Award."

Prior to Senate consideration of the omnibus crime bill, Rep. Tiahrt received an inquiry about his amendment from KAKE-TV in Wichita, Kansas, and he noted that, "I offered an amendment that was approved on a bipartisan basis in Committee and passed overwhelmingly on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. The amendment simply calls for the quick destruction of personal records on citizens who have passed firearm purchase background checks.

"Not only is quick destruction reasonable, it is consistent with the

Brady Act and the original intent of Congress. It was the Clinton Administration that thwarted the will of Congress and trampled on personal freedom by holding on to these records for 180 days. The time period was later cut in half, and my amendment calls for destruction within 24 hours, which is the timeframe agreed to by the FBI, requested by the U.S. Department of Justice and supported by the (Bush) Administration."

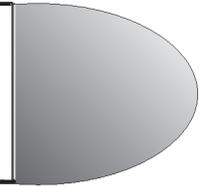
In an interview with the Associated Press, Rep. Tiahrt said that, "for us law-abiding citizens, there is no need to have this database. It is a freedom issue. It is a privacy issue." He noted that guns mistakenly sold to felons can still be traced through records that must be maintained by federally licensed firearm dealers.

A number of the professional gun-grabbing spokesmen and politicians voiced outrage over the Tiahrt Amendment. As Rep. Tiahrt himself pointed out, "gun control advocates cite a Government Accounting Office (GAO) study as proof that a delay is warranted. According to the Kansas City Star, the GAO report found the FBI revoked the initial approvals of 235 gun purchases within a six month period. In an average six month period, 4.4 million background checks are performed (source: FBI website), meaning .00005 percent of the checks were revoked, which is hardly an alarming rate. But more importantly, opponents of the amendment fail to place blame where it appropriately should rest. The problems are with the national check system and in the judicial reporting system, which has been slow in processing domestic violence convictions."

One of the people who spoke out against the Tiahrt Amendment was Peter Hamm of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, known previously for some time as Handgun Control, Inc. He said that, "there are unfortunately a lot of records in this country that are not entered into the national instant check system fast enough." Hamm added that, "what you literally have is the computer flagging, three or four days or weeks later, that somebody who had been approved to purchase a gun in some community has a domestic violence watch order on him, or has been involuntarily committed for issues of mental instability."

Congressman Tiahrt said chances are very low that someone will slip through the system one day. "When you think that out of four million transactions, a couple hundred were missed, we've got a pretty good system," he said. "When you look at weighing how retaining the records imposes on law-abiding private citizens, I think it's a small, negligible risk. There is no proof of any crime being committed by people that did have a firearm for some period of time when they shouldn't have had access to it."

Todd began serving in Congress in 1995. He had attended the South Dakota School of Mine and Technology and later transferred to Evangel College where he graduated and met his wife Vicki. Todd went on to earn his MBA from Southwest Missouri State. He and Vicki have three children, Jessica, John and Luke.



In Annapolis, Maryland, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. said early last month that he opposes a statewide ban on the sale of so-called “assault-style” firearms. This, according to Tim Craig of The Washington Post, sets up a showdown with Democratic leaders in the General Assembly who want to implement the measure before the federal ban is set to expire later this year. Ehrlich did not say whether or not he would veto the legislation if it reaches his desk, but Paul E. Schurick, his communications director, said the Republican administration could never support the measure. “My thoughts have always been to direct resources, time, attention and money to bad guys who have illegal guns and obviously the guns that cause crime,” Ehrlich said. “We devote our time, money and resources to things that work, not things that are politically correct.”



In Chicago, Illinois, the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA), a CCRKBA affiliate, blasted a so-called “youth protest” organized jointly by the Chicago Police Department and the Chicago Board of Education as “state sponsored terrorism against the Second Amendment.” Last month’s proposed protest was slated to take place in front of Chuck’s Gun Shop in Riverdale, Illinois. The store has been a favorite target of anti-gun Chicago Mayor Daley’s anti-gun wrath over the years including a \$433 million lawsuit filed by the City of Chicago against the family-owned

suburban shop. “It’s galling to know that taxpayer dollars are being used to finance this politically-motivated publicity stunt,” said ISRA Executive Director Richard Pearson. “It appears that the Chicago Police Department is being diverted from enforcing the law in favor of Daley’s political agenda.”



Outdoor columnist Doug Pike of the Houston Chronicle recently questioned the neutrality of Americans for Gun Safety (AGS). He wrote an “AGS report stated that ‘a small number of the nation’s 80,000 gun dealers are flooding America’s streets with crime guns – yet Washington rarely investigates, shuts down or prosecutes most of these high-crime dealers.’ Flooding the streets with crime guns? A firearm sold in accordance with current federal guidelines is not a ‘crime gun.’ Driving under the influence of alcohol is illegal, but I have yet to hear the new automobiles on a dealer’s lot described as ‘crime cars.’” Pike notes that, “the anti-gun movement’s efforts to blame firearm makers for gun violence has failed in the courts. Since they could not defeat gun manufacturers and lack the strength to tackle gun owners, the logical targets are small companies and individuals who sell guns.”

“Taser International Inc. investors may be due for a shock,” wrote Kelly W. Spors and Jonathan Weil early

last month in The Wall Street Journal. “The Scottsdale, Arizona stun-gun maker’s stock shot up to more than \$135 a share... a remarkable run from less than four dollars a year ago. Now trading at an electrifying 126 times trailing earnings and 23 times revenue, the stock has zoomed so high, so fast, that even some of its most die-hard fans – those ever-bullish Wall Street analysts – are telling investors to head for the exits... So far, the killing has been made by stock watchers who were savvy enough to get in on Taser early, but even these lucky speculators are uncomfortable with the implications of the stock’s explosive performance.”

“After reports that Dexter Filkins, a New York Times correspondent in Iraq, was carrying a gun,” according to Howard Kurtz of The Washington Post, “the paper issued a cease and desist order.” Now, Times staffers “must never carry a weapon, openly or concealed... While the Times acknowledges that its journalists do find themselves in harm’s way, the newspaper believes it is imperative that they be perceived always as neutral observers. The carrying of a weapon, for whatever reason, jeopardizes a journalist’s status as a writer.” To which, asked CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder, “what about the journalist’s status as a living writer?”

