

POINT BLANK

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



**May
2004**

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

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CCRKBA SUPPORTS 'MODERNIZATION BILL'

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has endorsed the proposed Firearm Commerce Modernization Act.

The bill, H.R. 4048, introduced by Rep. Phil Gingrey of Georgia, with over a dozen original co-sponsors, was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. It would amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to update certain procedures applicable to commerce in firearms and remove certain Federal restrictions on interstate firearm transactions.

"Technological progress allows us to make firearm sales easier and safer," Gingrey said. "H.R. 4048 lowers regulatory burdens without undercutting safeguards that keep guns out of the hands of criminals."

Gingrey noted the proposal, if enacted, would update current laws to:

- Allow a federally licensed dealer to sell any firearm over the counter to an out-of-state dealer, so long as the sale complies with the laws of both states. Current laws, he pointed out, apply only to long guns, such as rifles and shotguns.
- Allow a licensed dealer to sell at a gun show as if it is his or her place or business. Dealers at the gun shows must comply with state laws.
- Allow a dealer to obtain a federal firearms license. "Currently," he stated, "the license is connected to the place of business. This change frees dealers to operate out of state and outside their place of business."
- Reduce the number of firearms lost in the mail.
- Reduce and minimize out of state transfer fees (normally costing between \$250 and \$1,500), shared between the dealer and the customer.
- Reduce time consuming paper work.
- Increase sales for the firearm industry because dealers will have more freedom and opportunity to sell their products.
- Work with the federal criminal background check system to apprehend convicted felons trying to purchase firearms outside their state of residence.

CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Snyder suggested that CCRKBA members and supporters could contact their own U.S. Representative and ask him or her to become a cosponsor of H.R. 4048. He also noted that *Point Blank* readers could contact the House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. and urge the committee to hold public hearings on the proposal. The address for the Committee is 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. The telephone number is (202) 225-3951 and the fax number is (202) 225-7682.

CCRKBA BATTLES ATTEMPT TO EXTEND SEMIAUTO BAN

Still stinging from the defeat of their attempt to add an extension of the semi-auto ban as an amendment to S. 1805, the legislation that would have protected gun makers from frivolous lawsuits, anti-gunners on Capitol Hill continue to work overtime to keep the ban alive beyond its scheduled sunset date of Sept. 13.

Throwing roadblocks in their path, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, joining with other pro-gun organizations, is urging its grassroots supporters and members to keep up the pressure. CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder has issued a call to gun rights activists to "take the time to contact their own U.S. Representative and both of their U.S. Senators and tell them that they oppose any and all congressional attempts to continue the ban."

Said Snyder: "With the current ban on the manufacture and importation of certain semiautomatic firearms set to sunset on Sept. 13, gun grabbers are becoming nearly apologetic about the impending demise of one of their most significant legislative accomplishments. They're getting ready to pull out all the stops to extend the sunset or even to eliminate it altogether."

The current law, signed by Bill Clinton, bans the manufacture and importation specifically of 19 models of semiautomatic firearms, others that meet certain criteria, and ammunition feeding devices capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. Passed in 1994, it was given a ten-year life span, and is largely credited with bringing gun owners out of the woodwork and to the polling places that year. As a result, more than 50 anti-gun Democrats were thrown out

of office, changing the face of Congress for the past decade.

Several bills have been introduced in the present Congress to extend or even expand the ban. Among these are S. 1034, the proposed Assault Weapons Ban of 2003, by Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California. This bill would make the ban permanent. H.R. 2038, the proposed Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003, by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy of New York, would reenact the ban and expand the list of prohibited firearms.

Another measure is H.R. 3831 introduced Rep. Michael Castle of Delaware. It would extend the current ban for another 10 years. Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, its co-sponsors, in addition to McCarthy, included Reps. Tom Davis of Virginia, Nancy L. Johnson of Connecticut, Mark S. Kirk of Illinois, Jack Quinn of New York, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida and Christopher Shays of Connecticut.

McCarthy, whose husband was one of those gunned down on a New York commuter train several years ago, regularly chides Congress about renewing the ban.

"I hope that the American people will take up this challenge and demand that we are able to bring this vote up before Sept. 13," she stated recently. "It would be a shame to see assault weapons back on the street."

However, Jennifer Freeman, executive director and co-founder of Liberty Belles, writes that "the gun ban elitists want you to believe that America's streets will be flooded with killer machine guns if the 'Assault Weapons' ban sunsets this September. They predict blood, mayhem, and societal chaos if law-abiding citi-

zens are 'allowed' to purchase these rifles, despite the fact that rifles of this sort have been commercially available since 1896.

"The term 'Assault Weapon' is just as important as the ban itself," she continued. "One is required to continue to use the term 'assault weapon' when discussing the banned semiautomatic rifles. This allows the lie to perpetuate itself...Once the public is frightened into submission, gun ban organizations will work to ban all semiautomatic rifles and eventually all semiautomatic handguns."



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA TAKES RKBA BATTLE TO ENGLAND

CCRKBA announced recently it is opening an office in London, United Kingdom, and joining with embattled British citizens in their fight to restore their firearm rights.

This is the first time an American firearm civil rights organization has opened an office on foreign soil. CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb appointed veteran Conservative Party activist Greg Smith as CCRKBA's European representative.

"British citizens and gun owners from other European countries are funding this effort," Gottlieb said. "Just as with America's war against international terrorism, we are taking the fight against international gun control to our enemies. With the attack on gun rights becoming global, it is important to fight these battles on every continent before we find ourselves isolated from an important human civil right."

"Extremist gun control measures have disarmed the British people,"

Gottlieb continued, "leaving them vulnerable to criminal assault. Incredibly, if they do defend themselves, they can be prosecuted and imprisoned. Since the United Kingdom banned privately owned handguns in 1997, gun crime has nearly doubled. What more appropriate place for CCRKBA to be than in the middle of this battleground, offering whatever help we can to British citizens in their efforts to take back their neighborhoods and make their communities safe once again?"

In March, Gottlieb traveled to London with his wife, *Women & Guns* publisher, Julianne Versnel Gottlieb, to help Smith open the office there.



Julianne Versnel Gottlieb, Greg Smith and Alan Gottlieb before entering Parliament.

While there, they visited Parliament.

"The British example," Smith said, "is conclusive proof to anyone who proposes gun control that it simply does not work. You can take guns away from law-abiding citizens, whose only desire is to protect their homes and families."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Displaying the image of a handgun with reports of criminal activity is a classic case of social bigotry against guns and gun owners. It subconsciously conditions the public to equate guns with crime.

A more appropriate image for crime reporting might show a pair of handcuffs, or prison bars, or even the Lady of Justice with her blindfold and scales.

Are your local television stations guilty of this form of social bigotry? If so, you have a golden opportunity to show the impact of grassroots in action.

Every television station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission is required to maintain a file of letters called a Public Comment file. Letters of praise as well as letters of complaint must be retained in that file for review by the FCC when the station's broadcast license is up for renewal. As a result, stations tend to take these letters seriously, especially the complaints.

Write a short letter, no more than two or three paragraphs, to the news director of the offending station, explaining that the use of an image of a gun to highlight crime reporting is not only statistically incorrect, but also is an unacceptable form of social bigotry that should not and will not be tolerated. Suggest that station management choose a more appropriate image, such as one of those mentioned above.

Add a request at the bottom to keep this letter on file in the station's Public Comment file. They're supposed to anyway, but it doesn't hurt to make the point. While you're at it, give a copy of your letter to a couple of friends or shooting buddies and ask them to send it in as well. The result is a win-win situation for gun owners, for the station and for the public at large.

CCRKBA RIPS TSA 'ANTI-GUN BIGOTRY' AND THROWS SUPPORT BEHIND THE PROPOSED COCKPIT SECURITY TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS ACT.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms recently ripped the Transportation Security Administration for what it called the agency's "anti-gun bigotry," and threw its support behind the proposed Cockpit Security Technical Corrections and Improvements Act.

CCRKBA spearheaded the movement to arm commercial airline pilots just hours after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Ever since the militant Islamist terrorist attacks of 9-11," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder, "we have supported the arming of qualified commercial airline pilots for the protection of themselves, their crews, passengers and planes. We have endorsed specifically the armed pilots program since it first was proposed in Congress, through its passage by both Houses of Congress, and signing into law by the President, only to see it thwarted by anti-gun bigotry on the part of the Transportation Security Administration."

Snyder called the attitude on the part of TSA "truly incredible."

"What is the matter with these bureaucrats," he demanded. "Don't they realize we are at war with people who will stop at nothing to murder as many Americans as they can and destroy as many planes as they can? Our pilots ought to be armed and the anti-gun bigots in the TSA should have their heads examined for working to prevent them from being armed. Regardless of what the TSA bigots say, there's nothing quite like a handgun for self-defense. Our pilots ought to be able to have them in

the cockpit. They very well may need them."

Snyder contended that the proposed legislation "will rectify TSA foot-dragging regarding the armed pilots program by taking its implementation largely out of TSA hands. These anti-gun bureaucrats should have their wings clipped, and this bill really should trim them down."

The legislation is sponsored by Kentucky Sen. Jim Bunning and South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson. Their companion measures have picked up several co-sponsors. The Senate version, S. 2268, has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, with Sens. Barbara Boxer of California and Conrad Burns of Montana as co-sponsors.

The House version, H.R. 4126, was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Co-sponsors include Reps. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida, Randy "Duke" Cunningham of California, Jim DeMint of South Carolina, Trent Franks and Rick Renzi of Arizona, Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Walter Jones, Jr. of North Carolina, John Kline of Minnesota, Ron Paul of Texas, and Michael D. Rogers of Alabama.

Frustrated by the TSA's delay in arming airline pilots with guns, four members of Congress said they want the agency to get with the program which already has been enacted into law.

"We're not interested in any excuses from here on out. This is too important to our national security," said Bunning. "They'll get the mes-

sage or they'll lose their money for the program. We'll put it somewhere where it will get the job done."

Congress passed the federal flight deck officer program in November 2002 in hopes of making airline pilots the last line of defense against hijackings. A year later Congress added cargo pilots to the program.

However, TSA has made the program cumbersome and discouraging to pilots. According to Wilson, less than one percent of the 40,000 pilots who have signed up to participate have been trained.

Pilots, reported Robert B. Bluey of the Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com), have complained about the way flight deck officers must transport their firearms – in lockboxes, except inside the cockpit; TSA-administered background investigations, psychological exams and the release of personal information; and the remote location of the program's single training facility in Artesia, NM.

"To have an agency that is unelected, that is sitting on legislation like this and not doing it is absolutely wrong," Boxer said. "In essence, TSA is turning its back on a law that is the law of the land."

Bunning said, "It's not up to them to like the legislation. It's up to them to implement the legislation that the Congress passed."

TSA spokeswoman Amy von Walter told CNSNews.com that, "We are very passionate about this excellent program." She defended the agency's record and pointed to recent steps taken to improve the training of applicants.

"If this is her idea of 'passionate',"

GUN BIGOTRY,' SUPPORTS SECURITY LEGISLATION

asked Snyder, "what planet are she and TSA from?"

The congressional members at the April press conference stressed that TSA already has the authority to properly implement the law, but they said that clearly is not happening, given the complaints from pilots and the small number who have successfully completed the training.

"This could be done administratively by TSA," Wilson said. "All we're trying to do is really push what should already occur."

The proposed legislation would make a number of changes that would speed up the process of arming pilots and tear down the barriers that turn off pilots from ever applying. Not only would pilots have to be trained within 90 days, but it would also allow pilots with a military or law enforcement background to be armed immediately.

The TSA would have to open more training facilities and use private training facilities for recurrent training. TSA would be responsible for picking up the tab for the pilots' travel expenses.

The legislation would also end the use of lockboxes, allow pilots to carry a gun outside the cockpit and let them pass through security like law enforcement officers. Pilots could sue TSA if the agency violates the law.

"As airline pilots, our fundamental mission remains the same: get our passengers, our crew, and our cargo safely to its destination," said David Mackett, president of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance (APSA). "It is unfortunate, but nevertheless true, that fulfilling that mission now



As he opened the Capitol Hill press conference held in connection with the introduction of the proposed Cockpit Security Technical Corrections and Improvements Act, Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky was flanked by Sen. Barbara Boxer of California and Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina.

requires new tools, including an armed cockpit."

Mackett said APSA regrets that "Congress has to revisit this issue. However, we are encouraged that the passage of this legislation will result in the tens of thousands of professional airline pilots who are currently avoiding TSA's onerous program, volunteering to provide the effective deterrent layer of security that Congress intended."

Representatives from the Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations, ASTAR Air Cargo and the Law Enforcement Alliance of America also were on hand at last month's press conference to offer their support. Gun Owners of America issued an endorsing statement.

Bunning, citing an urgent need for the legislation, promised to take up the matter with the Senate Commerce Committee immediately.

"It's a gaping hole in our national security, particularly for those who fly on a daily basis or a weekly basis," Bunning said. "And we're all, the people here in this Congress, on that schedule. So it isn't just for us, but it's for all the daily commuters and fliers that we plug this big hole."

"We're not just going to sit quietly by," Boxer added. "This whole program was meant to make sure that what happened on 9-11 never happens again. This is a plan that is a very important part of that never happening again. And they're not executing it. And we've pretty much had it."

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SEN. JIM BUNNING IS MAY CCRKBA AWARD WINNER

The chief Senate sponsor of the proposed Cockpit Security Technical Corrections and Improvements Act, Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky, gets the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for May.

"Throughout his public life," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder, "Senator Bunning has been a strong advocate of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. In the Senate, for example, he has co-sponsored legislation to eliminate third-party harassing lawsuits against gun manufacturers and opposed proposals to extend the ban on semiautomatic firearms beyond the September sunset date and to require background checks on all private, secondary sales of firearms at gun shows.

"Recently," Snyder continued, "he has taken a leadership role in trying to ensure that qualified commercial airline pilots are able to be armed so that they can defend themselves, their crews, their passengers and their planes against militant, Islamist, hijacking terrorist fanatics. He not only introduced the proposed Cockpit Security Act last month in the Senate, but he also led a Capitol Hill press conference in early April to promote the bill. He surely is most deserving of this award."

When he introduced the bill, designed to overcome foot-dragging by the Transportation Security Administration on implementation of the armed pilots program, Bunning stated that, "these pilots are the last line of defense against hijackings. They very well may be the only thing

that stops the Air Force from having to shoot down a plane full of passengers. Tens of thousands of armed pilots are a real deterrent and defense. A few thousand are not."

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998, Bunning is running for reelection in November of this year.

As a youngster, Bunning, born in October 1931 in Southgate, KY, fell in love with baseball, displaying a competitive and hard-working spirit. That combination carried him to a highly successful 17-year career as a major league baseball player.

Pitching primarily for the Detroit Tigers and the Philadelphia Phillies, Bunning accumulated a record of achievement that eventually won him a seat in the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was elected to the Hall in 1996 by the Committee on Baseball Veterans. He was the second pitcher in history (Cy Young was the first) to record 1,000 strikeouts and 100 wins in both the National and American Leagues. When he retired in 1971, Bunning was number two on the all time strikeout list, second only to Walter Johnson. A dominant figure in the founding of the players' union, he helped establish the players' pension plan.

The same competitive spirit that made him a Hall of Famer in baseball served him well also in public office. In 1977, Bunning ran for and won a seat on the Fort Thomas, KY City Council. Two years later, he was elected to the Kentucky State Senate and became Republican Leader. In 1986, Bunning was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served there for 12 years.

As chairman of the Social Security

Committee, he became a congressional defender of Social Security and a leading spokesman for Social Security fairness and reform. Bunning has been the leading proponent of a proposal to wall off budget surpluses to keep them safe from Social Security reform. He played a key role in the passage of landmark legislation making Social Security an independent agency and was the author of successful legislation to raise the unfair "earnings limit" for seniors.

In the current Congress, Bunning serves on the influential Finance Committee. As a member of the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Bunning played a key role in passage of the Corporate Accountability Act of 2002. He also worked to reduce the tax burden on families and individuals who adopt or care for foster children.

In the current Congress, Bunning serves on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and the Senate Budget Committee.

Although his election to the U.S. Senate and induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame stand out as two of the special moments in his life, he says the all-time high point in his life was his marriage to Mary Catherine Theis in 1952. Together, Jim and Mary have raised nine children. They are the proud grandparents of 35 grandchildren. The Bunnings are active members of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Fort Thomas. Jim graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH in 1953 with a degree in Economics.



QUICK SHOTS

In Washington, D.C., CCRKBA announced its opposition to H.R. 3832, a proposed Gun Show Loop-hole Closing Act of 2004. Referred to the House Judiciary Committee, the measure, designed obviously to curtail severely if not downright eliminate traditional American gun shows, ostensibly would require criminal background checks on all firearm transactions occurring at events that provide a venue for the sale, offer for sale, transfer, or exchange of firearms. Introduced by Rep. Michael Castle of Delaware, cosponsors include Reps. Nancy L. Johnson of Connecticut, Mark S. Kirk of Illinois, and Carolyn McCarthy of New York.



In Annapolis, Maryland, a state Senate committee last month narrowly defeated a bill that would have banned the sale of 19 semiautomatic gun types in Maryland. The bill was defeated 6-5 in the Judicial Proceedings Committee, with the deciding vote cast by State Sen. John A. Giannetti, Jr. The bill was intended to replace a federal ban on certain semiautomatic firearms slated to expire in September. "Gun control advocates saw the bill as the last opportunity this year to strengthen Maryland's gun laws," reported Robert Redding, Jr. in *The Washington Times*. Obviously disappointed, State Sen. Robert J. Garagiola, the bill's sponsor, said: "Hopefully, Congress will do the right thing at this point and reauthorize it."



Alan M. Gottlieb, Chairman of CCRKBA, called last month for the impeachment of federal judge Jack Weinstein of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York. "Weinstein's lack of judicial objectivity," says Gottlieb, "at least on the firearms issue, combined with his adamant reluctance to recuse himself from hearing yet another anti-gun lawsuit, can only lead to the conclusion that he has lost sight of the appearance of fairness doctrine, a cornerstone of the American concept of a fair trial. The *Wall Street Journal* noted that he's heard at least 11 gun litigation cases, and they suggested that such cases are steered to his courtroom because, to quote from the newspaper, lawyers for the plaintiffs know they 'might not succeed in any other courtroom in America.' That's atrocious."



A New York criminal defense attorney's complaint that a District Attorney's conduct was "outrageous" because he granted immunity to a man who defended his store with an unlicensed gun against an armed robber is an even greater outrage, stated Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Executive Director. The case involved the recent shooting of Devon Keitt, who was shot in the head by bodega clerk Edwin Marte. Marte said he shot Keitt after the armed suspect demanded money. Marte used an unlicensed .38 caliber revolver, but Queens DA Richard A. Brown granted him immunity from a potential gun charge in exchange for grand jury testimony against

Keitt. Keitt's attorney Scott Brettschneider claimed in a letter to New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer that Brown's conduct was "outrageous."



The United States Supreme Court agreed to decide whether criminal convictions obtained in the courts of foreign countries count as convictions that make it illegal for a convicted felon to own a gun. The case the justices accepted, *Small v. United States*, No. 03-750, is an appeal by a man who had been convicted of a firearms offense in Japan in 1994. Four years later, he bought a handgun in Pennsylvania from a licensed dealer and filled out a federal form answering "no" to the question of whether he had been "convicted in any court" of a crime with more than a one-year sentence. The man, Gary S. Small, later was charged with making a false statement along with illegal gun possession. He argued that the indictment should be dismissed because "any court" did not apply to the Japanese conviction. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, in Philadelphia, rejected that contention.



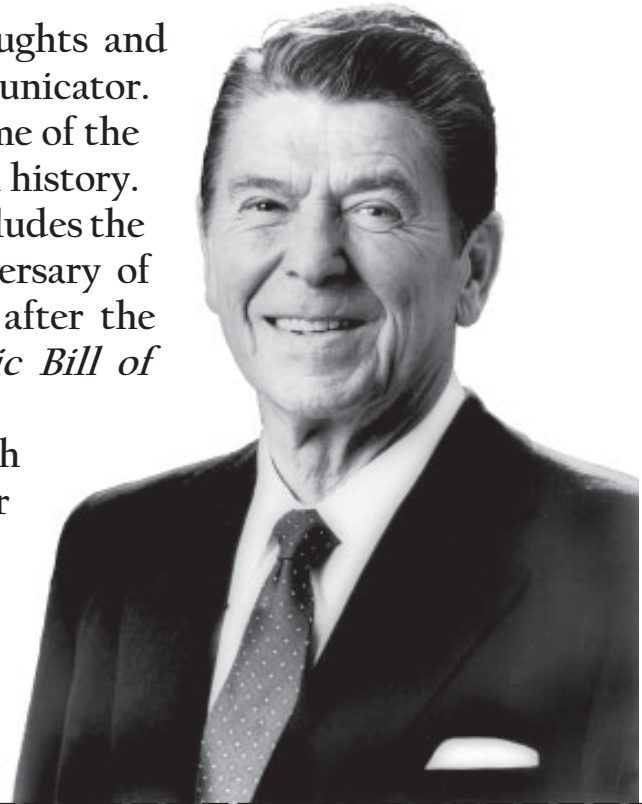
In Illinois, Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich reportedly said he would sign a bill allowing 18 year olds to obtain firearm owner identification cards, which allow a person to buy or possess a gun without parental consent. Current law requires such permission until age 21.

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