

# POINT BLANK

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



**October  
2013**

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## **CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

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## **ARMS TREATY SHOULD GATHER DUST**

Immediately after Secretary of State John Kerry signed the controversial United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms predicted it will gather dust in the U.S. Senate, like other unpopular treaties.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb noted that Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) had warned Kerry in a letter that the treaty "will collect dust alongside the Law of the Sea Treaty and the Kyoto Protocol, which have all been rejected by the U.S. Senate and the American people."

Early in 2013, 53 senators sent a letter to President Barack Obama stating that they would oppose the treaty "to uphold Second Amendment rights."

And Sen. Bob Corker, ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, warned the Obama administration against "taking any action to implement the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty without Senate advice and consent."

"The ATT raises significant legislative and constitutional questions. Any act to implement this treaty, provisionally or otherwise, before the Congress provides its advice and consent would be fundamentally inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution, law, and practice," Corker said in a press release.

Gun rights advocates have long maintained that this treaty could be the launch pad for increased regulation of private firearms owners in the United States. Kerry insisted that the treaty is about "keeping weapons out of the hands of terrorists and rogue actors."

Kerry signed the treaty in late September, raising alarms in the firearms community about international gun control. The treaty signing seemed to be something of a symbolic gesture by the Obama administration, which has been on notice for months that the Senate will not likely ratify it, if it ever gets out of the Foreign Relations committee for a vote, and that is doubtful.

"We will remind the administration of the warning it received from Sen. Corker," Gottlieb observed. "Because the Senate has not given its advice or consent to this treaty, the Executive branch is not authorized to take any steps to implement the treaty. How does that look to the world when an administration can't get one of its pet projects approved on Capitol Hill?"

Gottlieb warned that pursuing this treaty could result in a backlash from gun owners.

"If Secretary Kerry and President Barack Obama pursue this farce," Gottlieb cautioned, "the full fury of American firearms owners could come back to haunt them. Second Amendment sovereignty is not up for grabs, and we encourage our members and supporters to contact their senators about this treaty."

# RASMUSSEN SURVEY CONFIRMS GUN RIGHTS SUPPORT

Three days after the mass shooting at the Washington Navy Yard by a deranged gunman armed with a pump shotgun, Rasmussen Reports revealed that a survey conducted during the two days following the rampage showed no new traction for additional gun control measures.

According to Rasmussen, only 33 percent of Americans think tougher gun laws would have prevented the mass shooting at the Washington Navy Yard, while 59 percent of those who participated think stricter laws would have prevented the attack. Only 15 percent of survey respondents thought it was "at least somewhat likely" that stronger gun control laws would have prevented the shooting. But 26 percent were convinced that tougher laws were not at all likely to have stopped the gunman, identified as Aaron Alexis, 34.

He was armed with a Remington Model 870 Express pump-action shotgun, loaded with buckshot. Images released by the FBI show that Alexis had cut a short piece off of the barrel and also had removed most of the buttstock, and then he scrawled some strange messages in the shotgun's receiver.

Alexis got at least one handgun from a security officer he murdered, the investigators acknowledged. But perennial anti-gunners Piers Morgan with CNN and Sen. Dianne Feinstein went on the warpath, calling for new laws and a ban on "assault weapons," and at least one New York newspaper put an image of an AR-15 on its front page, for which it wore egg on its face.

Throughout the post-shooting coverage, CCRKBA Chairman Alan

Gottlieb and his staff marveled at the inaccurate reporting that occasionally approached hysteria.

But the faulty reportage apparently had no impact on the public, because the Rasmussen survey found that 71 percent of Americans believe it is not possible to completely prevent mass shootings and only 16 percent think it is. Nineteen percent believe tougher gun laws would reduce the odds of such shooting incidents, while 13 percent of the respondents think other measures, such as limits on violent video games and movies would be effective.

One of the more interesting revelations of the survey was that 62 percent of the respondents do not trust the government to fairly enforce gun control laws, while only 26 percent do have that trust. Twelve percent aren't sure.

The survey also revealed that 57 percent of those surveyed think there needs to be more attention to mental health treatment.

Rasmussen conducted the survey of 1,000 adults Sept. 17-18, the two days following the Navy Yard attack. The survey work was conducted by Pulse Opinion Research LLC.

The survey also revealed continuing partisan divisions on guns. Sixty-nine percent of those identified as Democrats favor tougher gun laws, but 79 percent of those identified as Republicans and 53 percent of independents do not believe stricter gun laws would have prevented the Navy Yard shooting.

Twenty-five percent of those surveyed think the nation would be safer if only the police and military were allowed to have guns, but 46 percent think the country would be

less safe under such a scenario.

Only 23 percent of survey participants would feel safer moving to a "gun free" neighborhood, Rasmussen reported.

And, while there is still strong support for background checks, Rasmussen says 51 percent of the survey respondents do not believe such checks will reduce violent crime.

Good news for gun rights advocates is that 74 percent of Americans believe citizens have a constitutional right to own a firearm, but 44 percent are concerned that the government may try to confiscate private firearms over the next generation.



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

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## CCRKBA SUPPORTS EFFORT TO RETURN GARAND RIFLES

When the White House announced President Barack Obama's executive action against re-importation of military firearms manufactured in the United States and then shipped to foreign countries, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms quickly supported efforts aimed at reversing that decision.

The case involves thousands of M-1 Garand rifles sent to South Korea decades ago. These top-loading semiautomatic WWII-era rifles are highly prized by collectors, long-range target shooters and military reenactors. As CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb noted, they are "decades old and have no history of being used in criminal activity."

Indeed, they are rather heavy compared to the current military

rifle and its civilian versions. They might be considered cumbersome by today's generation of hunters and shooters, but they have considerable historic significance.

"We want the White House to know that this decision was wrong and that it affects the wrong people," Gottlieb stated. "These guns have really no value except to collectors, reenactors and target shooters."

CCRKBA encouraged its members and supporters to sign an on-line petition to the White House in an effort to garner at least 100,000 signatures, and twice that number if possible.

"While there is pending legislation to prevent this in the future, this decision needs to be undone because of the far-reaching impacts it could

have on all kinds of firearms with significant historic value," Gottlieb stated. "The decision to prevent return of these rifles was wrong, and a successful petition can make it right."

He said a private firearms company had gone through "all the normal processes" required for such importation, but at the last minute, the Obama White House derailed that effort.

General George S. Patton once expressed his personal admiration for the M-1 Garand, and in the 70 years since WWII, collectors and nostalgia buffs, along with citizen riflemen who purchased one of these rifles through the Civilian Marksmanship Program have elevated them to legendary status.

## CCRKBA BLASTS BLOOMBERG OVER NYPD OFFICER'S ARREST

When a New York City police officer and his brother, a resident of California, were arrested on federal weapons charges recently, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms quickly suggested that anti-gun Mayor Michael Bloomberg to keep his own house clean before he spends one more dime or one more day trying to tell the rest of the country about "illegal guns."

Upon hearing about this latest case, CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb could only shake his head, noting that this is not the first time a Big Apple policeman has run afoul of gun laws on Bloomberg's watch.

Gottlieb observed, "Maybe he

should pay more attention to what happens in Manhattan than mainstream America, where law-abiding gun owners are tired of his demagoguery."

NYPD officer Rex Maralit and his brother, Customs and Border Protection officer Wilfredo Maralit, face charges of conspiring to violate the Arms Export Control Act, and dealing firearms without a license.

"Published reports say this alleged gun running started in January 2009 and continued until March 2013," Gottlieb noted. "All that time, Bloomberg has been working to infringe on the firearm civil rights of law-abiding citizens, through his Mayors Against Illegal Guns."

More than a year ago, another NYPD officer gave the department a black eye when he was identified as a suspect in the theft of firearms. At the time, the *New York Post* reported that at least four handguns had been taken and apparently sold.

Three months before that, two former NYPD officers – one a retired and the other an auxiliary sergeant – were convicted for drug offenses while carrying department-issued handguns. The two convicted officers had been involved in the movement of about 20 pounds of cocaine.

At the time, Gottlieb called their criminal activities "an insult to every honest and decent hard-working police officer in New York City."

# CCRKBA AMONG SPONSORS OF AZ TRAINING EFFORT

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is among more than a dozen sponsors of a new firearms safety training effort in Arizona called TrainMeAZ.com.

Spearheaded by veteran Arizona gun rights activist and author Alan Korwin, TrainMeAZ.com is aimed at gun owners at all levels of experience.

“Responsible gun ownership means getting training and that’s what TrainMeAZ.com provides,” Korwin notes in a promotional piece. “It’s your one-stop shopping guide to firearms safety and marksmanship training.”

TrainMeAZ.com is not a training program in itself, but an effort to show gun owners where they can get training, where they can shoot around the state, and acquaint them with safety information.

Based in Scottsdale, TrainMeAZ.com has a listing of gun ranges all over the state. They call it a “one-stop shopping guide to firearms safety and marksmanship training.” Ranges may be found by zip code, shooting specialty or name.

One will also be able to hook up with firearms instructors who promote their services via the website.

TrainMeAZ.com advertises itself as

a non-partisan, joint educational effort of the firearms training and Second Amendment community in Arizona.

In addition to CCRKBA, sponsors include the Second Amendment Foundation, American Spirit Arms, Arizona Citizens Defense League, Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association, Caswells, Crossroads of the West gun shows, GalleryOfGuns.com, GunLaws.com/Bloomfield Press, Gunsite training academy, Scottsdale Gun Club, Second Amendment Sisters, the Robar Companies and Wide World of Maps.

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The high-profile recall election victories in Colorado last month show the strength and effectiveness of grassroots activity.

It wasn’t the political machines that removed State Senator (and Senate President) John Morse of Colorado Springs (D) and State Senator Angela Giron (D) of Pueblo from office. It was grassroots activists that sent a message nationwide: pass extremist gun control legislation and your job is at risk.

Morse led the effort to pass a package of legislation this year that mandates universal background checks and bans firearm magazines with a capacity of greater than 15 rounds, despite broad opposition to the measures. The industry reacted pretty quickly, with MagPul closing its factory and moving out of Colorado. Many Colorado sheriffs, also elected officials, announced they would not enforce the new gun restrictions.

The recall effort was strictly grassroots-driven. Citizens fed up with elected officials ignoring their constituents and following an Obama-led, media-driven anti-gun agenda said STOP! They gathered the petition signatures to put the recall on a special election ballot. Then the voters had their opportunity to weigh in. Despite his position as the most powerful man in the State Senate, Morse went down to defeat. Angela Giron represented a “safe” Democrat district... until last month, when she was fired by her constituents on a 56-44% vote. Blue collar Democrats tend to be gun owners.

No elected official should be safe when he or she ignores the wishes of their bosses: the voters in their district. And every gun owner should learn that lesson too. Grassroots political activism – and that’s what the Citizen Action Project is all about – works. You may think “I’m just one vote,” or, “I’m just one voice.” But the voices, and the votes, add up. This is the time to renew YOUR commitment to protecting YOUR gun rights.

# CCRKBA SAYS COLORADO VOTE A 'WARNING'

State lawmakers who may entertain ideas about pushing restrictive gun control should take a lesson from September's special recall election in Colorado that unseated a pair of anti-gun state senators for their involvement in pushing that state's new laws, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms warned following the elections.

Voters in two Colorado districts – encompassing Colorado Springs and Pueblo – ousted a pair of Democrats who were heavily involved in pushing extremist measures earlier this year. One, State Sen. John Morse, was president of the Senate. The other, Angela Giron, had been thought to be in a "safe" district where Democrats outnumber Republicans by a wide margin.

"Let Colorado be a warning that no lawmaker is immune from the wrath of his constituents," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "Gun owner activism is rising because of the Colorado vote, and they will be paying close attention to Washington's Legislature because of the two gun-related initiatives, I-591 and I-594."

He reiterated that during the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference, which CCRKBA co-sponsors.

Gottlieb applauded the largely grassroots recall effort, noting that the election outcome "affirms that the power of government ultimately resides in the hands of the people."

"Anti-gunners are wailing that this election was bought by the so-

called 'gun lobby,' but organizations didn't vote in Colorado Springs and Pueblo, the people did," Gottlieb stressed.

He was reminded of the political wisdom that "all politics is local."

"Colorado proved that grassroots activism can overcome big money demagoguery," Gottlieb stated.

He was alluding to the fact that anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg personally spent \$350,000 to influence the election, according to various published reports. In all, estimates are that recall opponents who wanted to keep Giron and Morse in office outspent the recall effort six or seven to one.

Given the choice between defending their rights or submitting to extremist regulation, Colorado voters sent a clear message that they will not surrender their liberty to be sacrificed on the altar of political correctness, CCRKBA said in a press release.

Removing both legislators was as much a symbolic victory as it was a political bow shot. Morse and Giron were two of four lawmakers initially targeted for recall. Petitions against the other two did not gather enough signatures for a recall election.

"The downfall of John Morse and Angela Giron should send a message that extremist anti-gun politicians are not beyond the reach of angry voters," Gottlieb observed. "Even members of their own party appear to have voted to oust them, putting their constitutional rights above knee-jerk party loyalty."

The election outcome could be significant where political activities

in Washington state are concerned, Gottlieb suggested. That's the state where a pair of battling initiatives are being circulated for ultimate submission to the Legislature in January.

Initiative 591 is a common sense approach to background checks and the rule of law, while I-594 is a 15-page gun control measure disguised as a so-called "universal background check" proposal. I-591 is supported by a statewide coalition of Second Amendment activists, collectors, sportsmen and law enforcement professionals, while I-594 is backed by a Seattle-based group largely funded by a handful of wealthy Seattle-area residents, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns promised last May to support it.

CCRKBA threw early support behind I-591, along with the Washington Arms Collectors, Washington State Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association and the Hunters Heritage Council.

The other measure is sponsored by the so-called Washington Alliance for Gun Rights, but it appears that the majority of contributions have come from the Seattle area. When WAGR held a fund raising event to launch their campaign, Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns indicated it would support that effort.

But Gottlieb cautioned Evergreen State solons about supporting I-594.

"Washington lawmakers will have choices next year in Olympia," he concluded. "Before pushing a restrictive gun prohibition agenda, they should remember Colorado."

# COLORADO PLUMBER SHOWS HOW TO FIGHT BACK

Call Victor Head a “Don Quixote” if you want, but the Colorado plumber who spearheaded a recall campaign against anti-gun Democrat State Sen. Angela Giron in September showed America once again that one determined person can inspire determination in others, and ultimately make a difference.

Giron is now out of a job, and Colorado voters in her district, and that of fellow anti-gun Democrat Sen. John Morse, fired a political bow shot heard ‘round the world. The message was simple and lawmakers all over the American landscape have taken notice: If you vote against a constitutionally-enumerated fundamental civil right, there are consequences.

The newspapers have called this recall campaign a classic case of “David versus Goliath” because head not only faced awesome resistance from a political machine that had the financial backing of anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, state Democrats and anti-gunners from all over the nation, but also from people in his own Republican party, and from a high-profile Colorado-based gun rights activist.

By some accounts, pro-Democrat groups spent some \$3 million to keep Giron and Morse in office. That would mean they outspent recall supporters many times over.

The recall of any public official is a monumental undertaking, and many such efforts have failed, sometimes miserably. Recall campaigns can get ugly, personal

and financially devastating, and it takes something special to champion a cause, see it through and win.

Twenty-nine-year-old Victor Head appears to have what it takes, and then some. In March, after Colorado Democrats rammed through extremist gun control measures, Head emerged as one of many Centennial State gun owners who had had enough, and he has become something of an icon among conservative organizations that promote grassroots activism.

A native of Pueblo, he runs a plumbing operation with his brother, Adam. Both had lived out of state for a while, but returned to be with their parents and siblings, landing right in the middle of history.

As he told it to Point Blank, Victor is a recreational shooter and Adam is the hunting enthusiast. Between them, they own several firearms, and Colorado’s new laws make it difficult, if not impossible, for them to share guns back and forth. Head even has concerns that his girlfriend could not legally use his Remington Model 870 shotgun for home defense if the need arises.

That inability to legally loan or borrow firearms, he explained in a telephone interview, was the catalyst for his activism.

As the Colorado Observer noted in a profile of Head’s effort, the plumber “had virtually nothing: No money, no college degree, no support from national or state gun-rights groups, and probably no clue as to what he was getting himself into.”

That sounds like a description

that could fit a lot of Americans who stand up when the need arises. During the course of his political summer, Victor observed a birthday and so did his brother, but they couldn’t celebrate until after the election, and then they really had something to celebrate.

Against the odds, Victor Head’s effort demonstrated that angry citizens can fire the people they hire to represent their interests, even when those interests involve gun rights, a subject that is none too popular with the mainstream press.

Political pundits gave Giron slight odds of success, figuring that she would squeak through and emerge the victor, even if by the proverbial skin of her teeth.

When the votes were counted, she took what many might call a political drubbing, losing in her heavily-Democratic Third District by 56 to 44 percent. What this proved is that Democrats are not all anti-gunners, and they can be just as ferocious about defending their gun rights when push comes to shove.

“Little people” aren’t so little, after all. What Victor Head demonstrated in Colorado is that when politicians turn a deaf ear to the concerns of their constituents, the voters can crank up the volume. The noise they make is like the sound of a freight train that no amount of money from a New York mayor can derail.

All it takes is for someone to climb into the engineer’s seat. Victor Head stepped forward and because of that, he’s our Gun Rights Defender of the Month.



# QUICK SHOTS

According to the Sept. 9 Lynchburg News and Advance newspaper, Lynchburg councilman Jeff Helgeson made the suggestion during a recent debate on safety in local parks. Currently, the city charges \$50 for renewals of CCW permits, but he wants to change that. The city, according to the paper, is opposed to the councilman's proposal, but numbers obtained by the News and Advance show that the city is making a small profit off of permit renewals, and has done this three out of the last four fiscal years.



The recent controversy over Starbucks' decision to ask gun-owning latte lovers to not bring their firearms into their coffee shops inspired one Louisiana restaurant to go the opposite direction.

According to KSLA-TV, the Chicken Express restaurant of Bossier Parish has been a strong supporter of gun rights, even going so far as to offer free food to concealed carry permit holders as part of a promotion. The restaurant's owner, Randal Neel, told the station that he welcomes gun owners into his establishment, and suggested he doesn't think Starbucks' chairman Howard Schultz's request will be honored by most folks.

The controversy appears to center on a relative handful of incidents and individuals who showed up at so-called "Starbucks Appreciation Day" events carrying rifles. Even the open carry community has been critical of those long-gun carriers.



A debate has started in a Texas school district over a high school's use of a U.S. history textbook that offers an incorrect interpretation of the Second Amendment.

FOX News reported that parents of students at Guyer High School, Second Amendment, suggesting that it applied only as part of a "state militia," and distorted the true meaning of the amendment to favor anti-gun views.

The issue has created such an uproar that the book's authors are now changing it, and a version with a proper definition is set to hit shelves next spring.



Pro-gun activists got the last laugh against the anti-gun Mayors Against Illegal Guns recently.

It happened in Columbus, OH, where the anti-gun group, spearheaded by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, was protesting Ohio U.S. Senator Rob Portman's record on the gun issue. But, according to WCMH-TV, a larger number of pro-gun counter-protesters showed up, and the pro-gun crowd so outnumbered the anti-gun folks that witnesses thought the protest was actually a pro-gun one.



A California mayor has declined an opportunity to become part of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns. *The Mountain View Voice* newspaper

reported that the city's mayor, John Inks, said no to the request, which was made by two people at the city council's meeting in early September.

The paper reported that Mayor Inks made the decision in an email which the paper obtained. It stated, in part, "MAIG principles are silent on legal gun rights such as ownership and are fundamentally anti-gun. Like MAIG, gun owners are generally wholly law abiding and already against gun crimes. I'm not joining the MAIG coalition."

Mountain View is located in the southern part of the San Francisco Bay region, near San Jose.



A YouGov/Huffington Post survey following the Washington Navy Yard mass shooting revealed that 52 percent of Americans do not think stricter gun laws would make a difference in preventing such incidents in the future.

The survey was conducted among 1,000 adults on Sept. 17-18 and has a 4.2 percent margin of error.

According to a report in the *Washington Times*, the survey also found that 40 percent of the respondents do believe stricter laws would make a difference. Of those, 14 percent were identified as Republicans and 62 percent were Democrats.

Fifty-seven percent of the respondents think better mental health care might be more important than stricter gun laws in preventing mass shootings, with 74 percent of identified Republicans and 43 percent of identified Democrats in agreement.

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