

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



**October
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IN THIS ISSUE

INS, Anti-Gun?	1-2
Maryland Governor's Race	2
Gun Laws Create Victims	3
Gun Rights Critical in MN & MI	3
2nd Amendment Pivotal in PA	4
Armed Pilots Victory	5
Citizen Action Project	5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

**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

**CCRKBA QUESTIONS INS
ON SECOND AMENDMENT**

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has challenged the wording of an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) study manual for immigrants as it pertains to the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms.

The INS manual for immigrants seeking United States citizenship warns that "a special permit is required" by anyone wishing to exercise his or her constitutional "right to bear arms, or to own weapons."

CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder emphasized that, "the Second Amendment recognizes a right, not a privilege, to keep and bear arms. One of the reasons people from all over the world want to come to the United States and to become citizens of our country is that they appreciate and look forward to enjoying the freedoms which are part and parcel of our American heritage. These rights are ours, period. They are not privileges dependent on governmental whims. The INS document is misleading in its wording regarding the right to keep and bear arms, to say the least, and it ought to be changed or thrown out!"

The manual differs from statements issued by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft regarding the Second Amendment and gun ownership.

General Ashcroft is head of the Justice Department which exercises authority over the INS. Earlier this year, he reinstated the traditional interpretation of the Second Amendment, which the federal government had maintained for over 150 years. During the Clinton Administration, the Justice Department under the direction of former Attorney General Janet Reno argued that the Second Amendment recognized no guarantee for individuals to own firearms.

Ashcroft, though, upon taking office, stated that the Second Amendment "clearly protects the right of individuals to keep and bear firearms."

However, the INS manual, the *United States Government Structure Study Guide for Civics Exam*, warns prospective immigrants that the Second Amendment "guarantees the right to have weapons or own a gun, though subject to certain regulations." The INS proceeds to define the term "regulations" as: "Rules or orders which control actions and procedures."

INS critic Richard Stevens, editor of the *Bill of Rights Sentinel*, told the Cybercast News Service that the agency is promoting principles not contained in the Second Amendment. By his account, the INS is teaching immigrants "out and out lies" about the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

Contrary to the INS' description of the Second Amendment, Stevens

(Continued on page 2)

GUNS MAJOR ISSUE IN MARYLAND RACE

As with races in three other states, gun control is turning out to be a major issue in the Maryland gubernatorial campaign this year.

Last month, the Republican nominee for governor, U.S. Rep. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., said that if he is elected to the office he will review Maryland's strict gun control laws. He said he will consider asking the General Assembly to repeal two of the most comprehensive measures if they proved ineffective.

"It's time to take a look at what's passed over the last 16 years and see what's worked and what's not," he said.

Surprisingly, even the *Washing-*

ton Post offered some veracity to his claims. In a Sept. 23 report, the newspaper acknowledged that a 1996 gun law cracking down on straw purchases "has proved so unwieldy and difficult to enforce that the state attorney general's office says it knows of only two cases that have resulted in convictions in the past two years."

Another law supported by his opponent, anti-gun Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, was Maryland's so-called Responsible Gun Safety Act of 2000. This one authorized police agencies to keep a "ballistic fingerprint" of every new handgun sold in Maryland. So far, not one arrest has resulted from this legislation.

Another section of the law mandates a five-year prison sentence for any convicted felon caught with a firearm. Prosecutors and judges are now complaining that the law threatens to clog the courts.

Ehrlich said he doubted that several major gun laws passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by anti-gun Gov. Parris Glendening had reduced gun violence. He noted laws intended to regulate inexpensive handguns and require ballistic fingerprinting deserved particular scrutiny.

INS . . . Anti-gun?

(Continued from page 1)

said, "There is absolutely no special permit requirement anywhere in the Constitution and Bill of Rights." There is no provision for "certain regulations" either, he said.

INS spokesperson Niki Edwards told CNSNews.com that the information contained in the study guide is devoted to teaching immigrants the "main principles" of the Constitution and should not be literally interpreted.

"It's not a verbatim account of the Constitution," Edwards said. The intent of the guide is only to "describe" the Constitution to immigrants, she said.

Edwards said the INS only added the terms "special permit" and "certain regulations" in order to help explain to immigrants how "certain (constitutional) rights may be limited or regulated at the state level." Such "parenthetical statements," she said, "give them an idea of what the federal

law is."

Further, she said immigrants need to know that there may be a "change" in their constitutional rights at the state or local level.

She noted also, though, that a replacement for the current "study" is under consideration.

U.S. Department of Justice spokesperson Monica Goodling refused to comment on the INS' interpretation of the Second Amendment and the differences between it and the statements issued by Ashcroft.

Instead, Goodling cited a Nov. 9, 2001 memorandum from Ashcroft to "All United States Attorneys" pertaining to the *United States v. Emerson* case, in which the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a federal statute designed to keep firearms away from those who had been issued judicial restraining orders.



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 Editor J. H. Versnel
Dave Workman
Associate Editors Mike Connelly
Tom Gresham
Merrill Jacobs
Bob Kukla
Peggy Tartaro
Joe Waldron

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GUN LAWS CREATE HELPLESS VICTIMS IN CALIFORNIA

Once again, anti-gun laws in California have created defenseless victims out of innocent, and unarmed, citizens as a man armed only with a knife was able to attack a Greyhound bus driver, causing the bus to crash and two passengers to die.

Joe Waldron, executive director of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA), said the October 1 attack in San Joaquin, Calif. is an outrage that could be prevented, or at least deterred, by an armed citizenry. He said this crime is reminiscent of last year's deadly knife attack on a bus in Tennessee, in which six people, including the perpetrator, were killed.

"Anti-self defense laws that disarm law-abiding citizens simply create opportunities for thugs, lunatics and terrorists," Waldron stated.

"If Californians enjoyed the same right-to-carry protections as citizens in 32 other states, and if there were no regulations barring them from traveling armed, this kind of crime could be prevented.

"Whether it's a slasher on a bus, a crazed gunman on a commuter train, or a terrorist in an airplane, the presence of a firearm in the hands of someone who knows how to use it could prevent a tragedy and preserve innocent lives," he added.

Waldron noted that at least two terrorist attacks in Israel have been prevented by armed citizens in recent months. A would-be suicide bomber was shot dead at an Israeli supermarket by a woman shopper. A gunman shooting at a bus was shot by an armed citizen. Recently, the Israeli government announced

it would issue 60,000 more gun permits, allowing more citizens to carry firearms.

"No matter what they officially call it, a knife attack on a bus is as much an act of terrorism as blowing up a bus is in Tel Aviv," Waldron said. "We hear lots of talk about homeland security, but in the final analysis, we've had homeland security since the Bill of Rights was adopted. It's called the Second Amendment.

"The individual right to keep and bear arms that the Second Amendment affirms," he continued, "is just as important now as it was two hundred years ago. In Louisiana, Gov. Mike Foster advised women in Baton Rouge to consider arming themselves against a serial killer. Why can't they realize in California what they realize in Louisiana?"

GUN RIGHTS A CRITICAL ISSUE IN MINNISOTA & MICHIGAN

In the gubernatorial contests in Minnesota and Michigan, guns and how the candidates have dealt with concealed carry reform are prominent issues.

In Minnesota, concealed carry reform is a hot button topic with the Democrat candidate firmly opposed, the Republican in favor.

Meanwhile, the Michigan race has gun owners recalling, or being reminded of, the heated opposition to CCW reform mounted by Democrat Jennifer Granholm, who fought that state's new concealed carry law as Michigan Attorney General. Republican Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus has historically backed gun rights.

Minnesota's Democrat Farm Labor (DFL) candidate Roger Moe is an unabashed anti-gunner, while Republican Tim Pawlenty has emerged as a stalwart supporter of gun rights

issues, including concealed carry.

While Granholm is the media favorite in Michigan, the recent Congressional primary contest between Democrats Lynn Rivers and John Dingell served as a reminder that gun control nowadays can be a political kiss of death. Rivers tried to make the election a referendum on guns, citing Dingell's long association with the gun rights cause and his former service on the NRA Board of Directors, while Dingell simply stood on his record. Rivers lost that race by nearly 20 points.

Though favored to win by her media cheerleaders, Granholm lately has been taking no chances, attempting to soft-peddle her previously hysterical anti-gun positions. Whether it works remains to be seen, as gun rights activists labor at the grassroots

level to get out the vote.

Lining up against CCW reform in Minnesota are liberals and the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association. Supporting it are gun owners across the state. In a noticeable split, the Minneapolis police union has endorsed Pawlenty, apparently not concerned about his position on CCW reform.

Equally transparent to Michigan gun owners, though portrayed as riding a political juggernaut, Granholm may never be able to convince gun owners in her state that she is re-evaluating her position on CCW and gun rights. If she wins, there is the fear that she will revert to her original anti-gun positions, which she may have softened, but not repudiated.

GUN ISSUE BIG FACTOR IN PENNSYLVANIA RACE

Pennsylvania this fall is the scene of a major gubernatorial race in which gun control has become a central issue. The other states are also detailed in this issue.

"In next month's Pennsylvania gubernatorial election, former Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell's anti-gun record could well come back to haunt him," warned CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder.

Rendell is the Democratic nominee for governor. When he was mayor of Philadelphia, he sought passage of a one-gun-a-month bill for the entire state. Rendell defeated pro-gun Democrat Bob Casey to be the party standard-bear in this fall's gubernatorial contest. After Casey's defeat, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence waxed enthusiastic over Rendell's victory.

"As we work to create an America free from gun violence," said Brady Campaign President Michael D. Barnes, "Ed Rendell is a leader who is capable of making this dream a reality for the residents of Pennsylvania."

In late August, though, Kenneth P. Vogel of the *Pennsylvania Times Leader's* Harrisburg Bureau, noted that, "gun control is about as popular with the Northeast's many hunters as Brussels sprouts are with the average first-grade class.

"Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Fisher, the state's attorney general, is hoping to capitalize on the gun control aversion to win support from Northeast Democrats by highlighting Democratic candidate Ed Rendell's plan to limit handgun purchases to one per person per month."

In Nanticoke, Ken Piestrak, owner of Piestrak's Gun Shop, declared flatly that, "if you're for gun control up in this area – it doesn't matter if you're a Democrat or a Republican –

you're not going to get many votes."

In an attempt to soft-pedal the anti-gun nature of his campaign, a Rendell spokesman indicated that Rendell's plan is intended to make things difficult for illicit gun traffickers, not sportsmen.

Piestrak, however, and Mike Protz, owner of Holsted Electronics and Sporting Goods in Susquehanna County, pointed out that there are many legitimate reasons why sportsmen would want to buy more than one handgun per month.

Both Protz and Piestrak said they are registered Democrats, but both plan to discourage sportsmen from voting for Rendell because of his handgun limit plan. Pennsylvania long has been known as a state in which the rate of legitimate gun ownership is high and in which there are a large number of licensed hunters.

Kent Gates, the campaign manager for GOP gubernatorial nominee Mike Fisher, reiterated Fisher's opposition to any gun control measures.

"Northeast Pennsylvania will be a critical area for us," Gates said. "There's an opportunity for us to pick up conservative Democrats who would have supported Bob Casey."

They will try to do that by highlighting social "wedge issues," such as gun control, said veteran political pollster G. Terry Madonna of Millersville University. Socially conservative Democrats in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties tend to oppose gun control, Madonna said.

Local Democratic state legislators maintain that Rendell's gun control position is less important to voters than his plans to provide more assistance to senior citizens and his plans for growth in small and mid-sized cities.

Interestingly, State Sen. Robert Mellow of Peckville, as well as State

Reps. Kevin Blaum of Wilkes Barre, Jim Wansacz of Old Forge and John Yudichak of Nanticoke, all Democrats, say they are backing Rendell, even though they disagree with his position on handguns.

Blaum predicted that the handgun issue would be moot because it's unlikely Rendell as governor would get his plan through the State Legislature, which has killed similar plans several times over the last few years.

Rendell, however, would not propose the plan if he was not serious, said spokesman Dan Fee, adding that the one-gun-a-month limit "is an important part of reducing and eliminating handgun violence."

Fee said, "It is part of a governor's job to state their beliefs and to convince the legislature and the public to support their proposals."

Rendell will have a tough time convincing conservative voters, said Piestrak, because "competition shooting is big up here. We have some people who buy four, five or six handguns a month" for competition or target shooting.

Protz said that some hunters use revolver-type handguns for hunting deer, bear and small game. He said that Rendell's plan is "ludicrous. Limiting the legal purchase of handguns to one per month is no way to fight crime."

Protz added that the state's four-year old instant check system prevents criminals from legally buying guns, but asserted that illegal gun purchases would continue no matter how the law was tweaked.

CCRKBA LAUDS SENATE FOR COCKPIT GUNS

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms hailed passage last month of legislation in the U.S. Senate to allow guns in the cockpit.

CCRKBA was first to call for the arming of commercial airline pilots after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D. C.

"This landmark legislation will provide a last line of defense for flight crews and passengers," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "The time for airline security half-measures passed the moment that first plane hit the Twin Towers one year ago. American travelers have a right to feel safe, and flight crews have a right to defend themselves and their airplanes."

The Senate bill, authored by Sen. Bob Smith of New Hampshire, passed 87-6, and was attached to legislation aimed at creating a new Cabinet agency to combat terrorism within U.S. borders. In July, the House of Representatives, by a vote of 310-113, passed a bill that would create a firearms training program for pilots who volunteer as special deputies.

CCRKBA's call for armed pilots was answered within days of the attack, with the introduction of the first of several aviation security bills. Other organizations, most notably the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, Air Line Pilots Association and Air Travelers Association, quickly followed CCRKBA's lead in pushing for armed pilots.

"Volunteer pilots, who go through training," Gottlieb said, "can provide one more layer of security against the kind of terrorist outrage that occurred last year. There may not be an air marshal on every flight, but you can bet every airplane has a pilot. Obvi-

ously, public sentiment and political momentum overwhelmingly support this idea, and it should become law."

CCRKBA Chairman Joe Waldron, meanwhile, congratulated the Bush Administration's policy reversal on armed pilots. He said a proposal to arm about 1,400 pilots in a "test program" is a good first step, but he hopes that program expands rapidly to allow all pilots the option of being trained and flying armed.

"If we are truly going to have safety in the skies," Waldron stated, "then we must allow all flight crews the choice of flying armed to provide a critical last line of defense against terrorists."

The *New York Times* condemned the developments in harsh terms, editorializing that, "Washington has done a startling and politically gutless turnabout on guns in the cockpit..."

"President Bush must assert leadership here, and reassure travelers that neither politics nor a sense of helplessness has overtaken the federal effort to secure the skies. He should veto the gun measure if it reaches his desk. The reasons that his administration initially opposed arming the pilots are still sound."

Captain Tracy Price, chairman of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, said he wants Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta fired for his opposition to the plan.

"Secretary Mineta's opposition to arming pilots is not based in reason," stated Capt. Price, "but is based upon an emotional and visceral aversion to firearms in the hands of anyone but federal agents."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The talk is over. This is the time for action. The mid-term election of 2002 is about to begin.

The pundits and pollsters have spoken. Democrats will take control of the U.S. House of Representatives...no they won't, the Republicans will pick up some seats. Republicans will regain control of the U.S. Senate... or they won't. Basically, the "experts" are all over the map on this one. It could go either way. And there is still time for an "October surprise" to tip the balance in favor of either party.

Absentee ballots will be going in the mail in many states starting around Oct. 20. Citizens will be voting almost as you read this. There are still critical tasks to be accomplished, things that can be done to sway the outcome of the election.

I won't ask if you are registered to vote. If you've read this far, I know you are. But what about your family members? Co-workers? Shooting buddies?

If you've requested an absentee/mail-in ballot, great! Absentee voters are twice as likely to vote as those who wait to go to the polls on Election Day. Check with your friends and co-workers. If they've got an absentee ballot, talk with them; make sure they know who the pro-gun candidates are. Make sure they actually mail that ballot in!

As Election Day approaches, consider again giving an hour or two to your local pro-gun candidate(s). Help with a phone bank, or a last minute envelope stuffing party.

On Election Day - Tuesday, Nov. 5 - the FIRST thing to do is VOTE. Leave home a little early, and vote on the way IN to work, not on the way home. Make sure YOUR vote is counted. Then ask your family, friends and co-workers if they've voted. Offer to give them a lift to the polls if that's what it takes. Maybe you can take an hour or two off to volunteer as a "taxi driver" for those who have no way to get to the polls (your candidate's volunteer coordinator will have a list). Or maybe you can give up your lunch hour doing this critical task.

"But that's only a couple of votes," or "My vote can't really count." Don't believe it. In every major election there are a couple of races that are decided by one or two or three votes, or maybe a dozen. Imagine the satisfaction you'll feel knowing that YOUR actions won the election!

NIGER INNIS OF CORE EARNS CCRKBA AWARD

Niger Innis, national spokesman for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), is October's recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award.

"It gives me great pleasure to nominate Niger for this Award," said John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director. "He is rendering great service on behalf of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms."

Snyder continued, "In addition, he is a fellow graduate of Georgetown University, and it gives me an added boost to be able to nominate a fellow alumnus for the Award. He certainly deserves it."

Snyder pointed to the importance of having spokespeople like Innis taking leadership positions in the gun rights battle. Innis is very effective in countering opposition to gun rights, Snyder observed.

Amplifying that point, nationally-syndicated columnist Richard Poe, also a CCRKBA Gun Rights award winner, made this point not long ago when he wrote, "with the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) suing gun manufacturers and Jesse Jackson stumping for stricter gun laws, black leaders seem to have fixed their crosshairs squarely on the Second Amendment. But not all African Americans are cheering them on.

"Niger Innis certainly isn't. Growing up in Harlem, Innis lost two brothers to gun-wielding killers. But these tragedies only deepened his conviction that an armed and vigilant citizenry is the best curb on lawlessness."

Poe also noted that, "Innis sees gun control as a slippery slope toward

outright gun confiscation. Loss of Second Amendment rights, he says, would leave both whites and blacks vulnerable to tyranny."

Innis has observed that, "Not every cop can be everywhere at all times...Decent men and women with families need to be able to defend themselves and their property. It's that simple.

"Traditionally," Innis continued, "when governments want to disenfranchise people, the first thing they do is disarm them. That was the case in Nazi Germany, when the Jews were disarmed. That was the case in the American South, after slavery."

Innis was born in the Bronx, NY on March 15, 1968. He graduated from Brooklyn Tech before going on to Georgetown University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1990. He now lives in Westchester, NY.

CORE, says Innis, seeks to establish, in practice, the inalienable right of all people to determine their own destiny, to decide for themselves what social and political organizations can operate in their best interest and to do so without gratuitous and inhibiting influence from those whose interest is diametrically opposed to theirs. He adds that the organization feels the most important fundamental freedom for all people is the right to govern themselves. If this simple ideal can be realized, Innis says, then other necessary freedoms automatically will follow.

Niger believes that blacks are being suckered by some of their ultra-left leaders.

"The Jesse Jacksons and the NAACPs are mouthpieces of the liberal establishment and the gun prohibitionist crowd," he charges.

"They are not serving their constituents within the black community. They're serving their masters within the liberal Democratic party."

According to Innis, the individual right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental freedom. CORE, though, of all the major so-called civil rights organizations, is the only one defending it, he states.

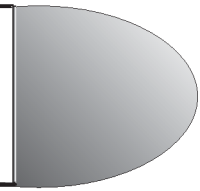
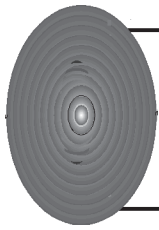
Innis is the son of CORE National Chairman Roy Innis, a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and member of the NRA Board of Directors.

In addition to his role with CORE, Niger serves as Advisory Committee member of the National Center for Public Policy Research Project 21 and is a Founding Member of the Third Millennium, an organization dedicated to promoting young leaders that will focus on the problems facing the next generation.

In August, 1997, Innis served as a delegate for the 19th American-German Young Leaders Conference, sponsored by the American Council on Germany and Atlantik Brucke. He was selected along with 23 other Americans to travel to Hamburg, Germany to meet their German counterparts to discuss America's relationship with the European Union.

Niger's experience has led to several appearances as a civil rights activist on the Cable News Network (CNN), Fox News, CNBC's "Equal Time," and Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect."

His radio appearances include "The Jim Bohannon Show" and "The Gil Cross Show." Innis has guest-hosted "The Bob Grant Show" and "The Barry Farber Show."



The White House plans to ask Congress to consider moving BATF from the Treasury Department to the Justice Department, according to *The Washington Post*. The proposal follows the Bush Administration's decision to transfer two other large Treasury agencies, the U.S. Customs Service and the Secret Service, to the proposed Department of Homeland Security. BATF has about 5,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$850 million.



"People are afraid to fly because they see what a politically correct joke our airline security is," writes columnist Peggy Noonan in *The Wall Street Journal*. "Searching for every last toenail clipper, forcing 85-year old people with walkers to stand spread-eagled as some oafish wand-wielder in a blue jacket humiliates them – this is absurd and cowardly. Let's get coldly serious: Arm the pilots, fortify cockpits, man flights with marshals, and profile passengers. We don't have a transportation secretary who is willing to do these things. Someday when something terrible happens we'll wish we did. Why not coldly remove Norman Mineta now?"



Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore stated in an advisory opinion that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation exceeded its authority when it prohibited the carrying of concealed handguns by holders of valid carry permits within

state parks. Kilgore noted that the Virginia General Assembly made explicit statements regarding the limits of carrying concealed handguns, prohibiting such carrying in places of worship, courthouses, schools, places licensed for on-premises alcohol beverage consumption, and such property as may be prohibited by the owner. He said the Department may no infer authority to change those limits.

The nation's violent crime rate fell 10 percent last year, continuing a trend observed since 1994, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced last month. During the last seven years, the annual violent crime rate decreased about 50 percent, from 52 violent victimizations per 1,000 U.S. residents age 12 or older in 1994 to 25 per thousand in 2001. Violent victimization and property crime rates in 2001 are the lowest recorded since the National Crime Victimization Survey's inception in 1973. The number of criminal victimizations in 2001 was almost half that measured when the BJS survey commenced in 1973. There were an estimated 44 million personal and household crimes that year, compared to 24.2 million in 2001.

U.S. Reps. Jim Gibbons of Nevada and Chris Cannon of Utah introduced H.R. 5176, the proposed Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2002. Referred to the House Judi-

ciary Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee, the measure would allow veterans to keep the automatic firearms they brought home as souvenirs. The proposal would give veterans 90 days in which to register their firearms with BATF. In order to qualify, a member of the Armed Forces while stationed outside the continental United States must have acquired the guns before Oct. 31, 1968. The bill would allow family members to register firearms inherited from veterans.

The Arizona State Court of Appeals ruled recently that people who manufacture and sell guns that later are used to kill someone cannot be held liable. In a unanimous decision, the three-judge panel threw out the claims of the families of three employees of an East Side Pizza Hut who were shot to death during a 1999 robbery. The court rejected the families' contention that the defendants had a duty to have procedures designed to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them or foreseeably might commit a crime. The case involves the path of a firearm used in the slayings, a .40-caliber semiautomatic pistol from Glock, Inc., which manufactured it and sold it to Centerfire, Inc., a retail outlet. An appeal to the State Supreme Court is expected.

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