



Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY SPORTSMEN LEAGUE ON THE INTERNET <http://www.acslpa.org>

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Gun Owners in PA Face Stiff Election Odds AGAIN in 2008

In 2006 the anger over the Rendell instigated Pay Raise resulted in over 50 House Seats changing hands or incumbents being voted out. It appears that 2008 will bring significant change AGAIN to the political landscape. The legislators listed below are either retiring or seeking other office thus creating an opportunity and a challenge for gun owners to elect freshmen legislators who embrace our freedoms.

- Rep. McIlhattan Rep. Yewcic
- Rep. Bennington Rep. Mantz
- Rep. Tangretti Rep. Raymond
- Rep. Steil Rep. Rubely
- Rep. Hershey Rep. Nailor
- Rep. Nickol Rep. Leach
- Sen. Armstrong Sen. Williams

There are additional House members considering retirement and/or advancement into other offices (i.e. PA State Senate or Congress that are as yet unconfirmed).

A quick review of these races reveals that gun owners are taking the lions share of hits in these districts.

The time is now to prepare to volunteer your time and efforts to helping candidates get elected that espouse our views and beliefs. It is a 'guaranteed' fact that the anti-gun groups are preparing and mobilizing to do the same.

Concealed Carry Permit Issuance Problems Growing in PA

Allegheny County Sheriff's Office Problems:

Despite a written guarantee from the Allegheny County Sheriffs' office from several years ago regarding notification of expiration and early renewals, this office has recently been refusing to allow 'early renewals' of Licenses to Carry Firearms.

We have also been receiving complaints about spotty notices being sent out for renewals as well.

We are currently exploring the reasoning behind these position changes and our options for addressing them. Early indications are that the PA State Police have adopted regulations that 'prohibit' early renewals by Sheriffs in contravention of Section 6109 in the Uniform Firearms Act.

We will have a more in depth report on this next month.

****Messages Below Were Posted on a Statewide Gun Owners Forum (PAFOA-www.pafoa.org):**

Small Victory and Allegheny County

One of my former trainees lives out-of-state, but has family in Allegheny County and has a LTCC. When he went to renew it in August, he was denied because he is not a "resident of Allegheny County." Rather than make internet posts and bark about his rights from the porch, he decided to fight it.

I went to the Sheriff's office to file an administrative appeal. Nobody there had a clue what I was talking about. In fact, I was told my client was "not denied" - they just refused to issue his renewal because "you have to live in Allegheny County." (????) I was also told the prior Sheriff "was wrong" to issue the permit in the first place.

I finally wrung a "denial appeal form" out of them, which is one page. It has about six inches of blah blah blah, and about two inches of space to explain why one is appealing. I threw that away, and send a letter to the Solicitor for the Sheriff's Department, laying out the law establishing the right of out-of-state residents to obtain a permit here, and under what conditions.

Lo, and behold, the Solicitor has now advised me he has recommended the staff at the Sheriff's office be reversed, and that my client's LTCC be renewed. The Sheriff now understands the requirements of the law. The total cost was well under \$1,000.

There are many ways to fight. Some work well, some not so well.

Biting the bullet and going through the legal system works much better than m'ing the cops or sitting on the porch and barking.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **elston32**

However, the fact that an individual who live out-of-state has to hire a professional to inform local law enforcement in-state law they should already know is really annoying and an unreasonable burden.

---elston.

Yes, it is. But it is much easier than having to choose between knuckling under or risking your life.

Too many people use the fact the system is not perfect (slow, expensive, stacked in favor or monied interests, sometimes gives bad results) as an **excuse** to do nothing . . . nothing, that is, but whine or bluster.

There will always be somebody (be it individual official or group) who will try to dominate. It may be unfortunante, but, in life, "always the big fish eats the little fish." The question is not whether it *should* happen, because it *will*. The question is how one can resist.

I think it is important to recognize that one of the great things about the United States is we can resist government excess or abuse **without** having to put it all on the line.

This is why I am so contemptuous of those who proclaim: "They can have my gun when they pry my dead, cold hands from around it!*" [* So long as I don't have to spend any money, miss any work, or risk getting my name on a list.]" Legal means of resistance are at hand, but these guys always have a reason not to put themselves out. They disregard a precious right to which we were all born (at the expense of those who went before us) simply because it is inconvenient. Then they attempt to cover thier sloth, selfishness and/or cowardice with a bumper-sticker slogan.

I feel very fortunate that it is not necessary for things to come to a choice between physical resistance or subjugation. I am grateful for this right in part because I know those who always have a reason not to put themselves out to defend thier rights in court or take a day off to attend a protest will ever risk their lives to help anyone, even themselves.

My client does not appear to have ever had a moment's doubt. It was just a matter of fact that he was going to fight. He was not happy, but he was not confused about what needed to be done.

If 10% of gun owners were like him, we would not have the problems we have.

<http://www.pafoa.org/forum/concealed-open-carry-121/14278-small-victory-alleggheny-county.html>

Delaware County Problems with CCW Licenses

I called 3 weeks ago and asked the status of my application for a LTCCF, was told it was in progress, its been 55 days so far and I have since found this forum and I've been up all night reading. I called back today and was greeted by a very nasty woman who said she could not check my status over the phone, I continued to ask how long the process takes and was told 45 business days, I told her the UFA of PA says that a decision must be made within 45 days, not 45 business days, and I was told "that law does not apply to this county". In shock I asked if the AG felt the same way she did and I was told to "contact whom ever I felt necessary to contact" <http://www.pafoa.org/forum/concealed-open-carry-121/12780-just-got-off-phone-delco-sheriffs-office.html>

Registration of Firearms (PSP Record of Sale Database) Issues/Problems—Philadelphia

BY PRED - original poster

#1 --I live just inside the city limits, and if you guys remember the police shooting at the Duncan Donuts,,,, That was about 1 mile from my house. About 2 days later I arrived home from work to find 6, Yes 6 ATF agents waiting for me, They asked to see all my guns, I asked if this was an AFT convention outside my house, and then asked if they had a warrant, NO they didnt, So I asked them why they were here, Response was the cop got shot with a 9mm, and I owned one,, I bought it about 1 year ago,,, I showed the crowd of ATF The one they asked to see, It was still in box,,,

For me to carry in the open would be insane in this area, I would get to know all the police and maybe the inside of their cars,, What is it like out there in the country??
PB

#17 --I feel as though I am glad to see that they are looking/canvassing the surrounding areas to see if the ones who have bought a 9mm still have it in their position, I am happy to comply with that, therefore I had no issue showing them what they were looking for, But they had to ask, I don't however it is their right to come into my house and inventory my firearms, I wasn't about to allow that, They even said as not to excite the neighbors if 2 of them could come in with me, HOW ABOUT the 4 outside all carrying exposed loitering in my drive exciting the neighbors?

After I told them that I would get what they were looking for, I told them I was carrying at that point of time, I asked if they would prefer me to unload it, They didn't mind me carrying concealed, and didn't ask to see what I was carrying, Or to see my CC permit, I guess they already knew I had one, I did get the cards of two of them, And have them in my safe now, They were pleasant and courteous throughout te whole thing, I told them that with what happened to the officer, and all the helicopters flying about all night long, and me with a 1/3 acre wooded back yard that backed up to some railroad tracks that I WILL be armed when in the yard day or night,,,,,,

It was all okay, And I am glad to help with showing them what they wanted to see,
 But keep this in mind---- Aren't the records supposed to be purged every 30 days? How did they know what I had a year later? They are not supposed to!
 So OC would be a big waste of time here, For me and the police, Plus there would be so many frightened people.
 I still carry each day,
 The AFT was good to me, and there was also a Philly violent crimes person with them, I have his name and # too!
 It's a tough place here, Looking to move to Sullivan county someday!
 PB

#43--When I said they were good to me, It was in reference to their attitude and composure,,, Hasseling me, Well It's their job to have 6 guys with Glock's? on their waists gathering in my driveway and asking to come inside,,
 They even went to the extent to park all the way down the end of my street which is one way in their unmarked cars.
 I know that they had no thoughts that it was me,,, But the first Q to see everything I owned by 6 of them is a bit unraveling,, It is all over and done with now, Crime will still happen, and the 9mm will still be one of the most popular calipers, and The AFT will still come to peoples houses, I dont they should fish as they were trying to do, But I will show them a particular item if they ask for a particular item to help in an investigation.
 If I had sent them off with out showing them the one,,, and demanded a search warrant, They would have been back with 20 of their friends and a search warrant for sure, Then It would have really been a bad/horrible experience for me,
 So I figure that sometimes it's better to roll over just a bit, Than to piss em off, and roll over a whole lot, And get your house searched thoroughly.
 Has this ever happened to anyone else?
<http://www.pafoa.org/forum/concealed-open-carry-121/14121-oc-philly-atf-hasseling-me.html>

Chambersburg man gets his gun permit back

Judge says no law broken when man carried firearm into polling place

By DON AINES chambersburg@herald-mail.com

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. - **Franklin County** Judge John R. Walker followed the law Tuesday in returning a concealed weapons permit to Gregory Rotz, but the judge said he would prefer the state ban firearms from polling places.

"Personally, I'm going to contact my legislator and see if they can write a law because, if you have people walking around voting places with firearms, you are beginning to look like a Third World country down in Venezuela or somewhere," the judge said after ordering the return to Rotz of the permit, which had been revoked by former Sheriff Robert Wollyung.

During a brief hearing, Walker ruled Rotz violated no law and should have his permit returned.

"Give it to him now, Mr. Redding," Walker told Patrick Redding, the solicitor for the Sheriff's Office.

Many of the approximately 50 people in the courtroom, mostly Second Amendment rights supporters, applauded as Redding handed the permit to Rotz's attorney, Steve Rice. A number of the spectators came armed and checked their handguns with sheriff's deputies before entering the courthouse.

Approximately 6,000 people have concealed weapons permits in Franklin County, according to the Sheriff's Office. A permit is needed in Pennsylvania to carry a concealed weapon, but not to carry one openly, said Sheriff Dane Anthony, who was on his second day on the job.

Carrying a weapon in a vehicle is considered concealing it, which is one reason many people get the permits, Anthony said.

Wollyung ordered the permit revoked after Rotz, 36, showed up at the New Franklin Community Center to vote in the Nov. 6 election, although Rotz was never charged with violating any law.

"I went to the polling place to vote, and I had my firearm with me as I do everyday," Rotz said after winning his appeal. A constable at the center confronted him and delayed his voting until county officials told the constable "that it was not illegal for me to take my firearm into the polling place," Rotz said.

"He had it in plain view, the people that were at the polls were scared ... I asked him to step outside," said Constable Gerald Spielman, who was at the courthouse Tuesday. "I asked him to step outside and I checked with the courthouse," Spielman said.

"I had no choice but to let him go into vote" once he learned there was no law forbidding firearms in a polling place.

Rotz said the Friday after the election, he received the first of two letters, as required by law, notifying him of the revocation.

The hearing attracted people from across Pennsylvania and at least one from Virginia who came to support Rotz. The Sheriff's Office said 15 handguns were handed over to deputies, with the owners ejecting clips and emptying cylinders.

"I don't believe in open carry. I think it's a tactical disadvantage" to allow others to know you are armed, said Douglas Boldt of Erie, Pa., vice president of the 6,000-member Pennsylvania Firearm Owners Association. Despite that difference in philosophy, Boldt said Wollyung had no right to revoke the permit.

"He has a God-given right to protect himself," said Boldt, who left his Heckler & Koch P7M8 in his vehicle.

"I support Mr. Greg Rotz. Enforce the law, not personal opinion" read the badges of many of those who attended. There were men from Pittsburgh, McKees Rocks, Johnstown, McDonald, Boiling Springs and Newville, Pa., as well as Mike Stollenwerk from Virginia, co-founder of OpenCarry.Org, a national Second Amendment rights organization.

If a person can lose a concealed weapon permit without having broken a law, he said, "then we've got a problem."

A number of state and borough police officers were in the courtroom, some not in uniform, though it was unclear whether they were attending as citizens or to bolster security. There were four or five deputies at a time in the courtroom.

"I would like to sincerely commend Mr. Rotz's supporters for their professionalism and cooperation with my office," Anthony said. A device called an unloading station was set up outside the building and the weapons were checked in at a table outside

Anthony's office. The supporters then re-entered the building through another entrance to go through the metal detector.

Rotz's supporters headed off to a restaurant after the ruling, but Boldt suggested they also go to a local range.

"Who wants to go shooting?" he said.

Philadelphia police again faulted for collateral damage

Philly Police Faulted for Shootings

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson is seen at a news conference in Philadelphia, Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008.

Johnson ends a tenure marked by concerns about violent crime and shootings by police, including a police shooting New Year's Eve that left four people inside a home, including a child, wounded.

For the second year in a row, city officials are being asked how police officers responding to celebratory New Year's Eve gunfire ended up shooting innocent bystanders.

This year, police chasing an armed reveler shot into a house filled with partygoers, leaving one man in a coma, a second wounded and a 9-year-old boy with a graze wound to the chest.

A year ago, police fatally shot a man in the back of the head as he tried to flee when neighbors started shooting guns into the air.

The latest shootings came as Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson ends a six-year tenure marked by public concern about gun violence and the police response to it.

Johnson has repeatedly been asked to answer questions about the department's use of deadly force, including two months ago when officers killed a distraught teenager wielding a clothes iron. City police fatally shot 16 people in 2007 and 20 the previous year.

"It seems that there's too much of a policy to shoot first and worry about the outcome later," said Bruce Ginsburg, an attorney representing two of the shooting victims. "It puts everybody in the city in danger."

Johnson, who retires Friday after 43 years with the department, defended his officers while promising an investigation of the New Year's Eve shootings.

"It's hard for you to say when an officer has a gun pointed at him, is he reacting too fast? We had one (officer) killed, we had six others who were shot" this year, he said Thursday at his final news conference.

Johnson's replacement, Charles Ramsey, has pledged to address the number of police shootings. Ramsey has noted that in his tenure as police chief of Washington, the number of such shootings fell by 77 percent.

Philadelphia police acknowledged this week that they arrested an innocent partygoer early Tuesday, based on his resemblance to the suspect who they say fired shots in the air, pointed his weapon at police and ran toward the string of row homes. Authorities later charged a 21-year-old man, who was apparently shot in the arm but did not seek treatment.

The party's host, Clinton Rogers, 30, told reporters that bullets started flying through the front door at him, friends and relatives just after midnight. Parents jumped in front of their children and two men who were shot ran upstairs, trailing blood.

The spray of bullets left Abebe Isaac, 33, in a medically induced coma after he was shot in the face. Michael Johnson, 32, remains stable after being shot in the side. Nyger Page, 9, was treated and released after suffering the graze wound.

Ginsburg represents Page's family and also that of Bryan Jones, who was shot to death by police as 2007 arrived.

Jones, 20, had set out on foot in the waning moments of 2006 to retrieve a young nephew from a party and was fleeing gunfire when he was shot.

Police have said officers responding to a report of gunfire were fired at by people on a porch and that an officer fired at Jones when he saw him reaching for his waistband. Jones, however, had no weapon and no criminal history, Ginsburg said.

"Nothing was learned about the unnecessary death of a young man last year," he said.

Ginsburg plans to file a wrongful death suit on behalf of Jones' family.

Jan 4, 2008 By MARYCLAIRE DALE, AP

http://www.examiner.com/a-1138099~Philadelphia_police_again_faulted_for_collateral_damage.html

Mall, church shootings bring criticism of 'gun free zones'

Reaction to last month's shootings at the Westroads Mall in Omaha, NE, and the New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO, was swift and to the point, and in some cases, not exactly what one has come to expect in the pages of newspapers around the country.

Pro-gun researcher and oft-published author John Lott weighed in, as did Vin Suprynowicz with the Las Vegas Review Journal, and so did Second Amendment Foundation founder Alan Gottlieb and Gun Week Senior Editor Dave Workman. Lott, writing on the Fox News website, noted that the Omaha Mall shooting was the subject of 2,794 stories worldwide.

Yet a critical fact was not covered, he lamented: These shootings happened in so-called gun free zones.

"Despite the lack of news coverage," Lott wrote, "people are beginning to notice what research has shown for years: Multiple-victim public shootings keep occurring in places where guns already are banned. Forty states have broad right-to-carry laws, but even within these states it is the 'gun-free zones,' not other public places, where the attacks happen."

Not known for pulling any punches in his criticism of the bias in news reports about firearms and self-defense, Lott demanded to know, "When will part of the media coverage on these multiple victim public shootings be whether guns were banned where the attack occurred?"

He noted that the press, while reporting on whether teachers can have firearms at school and doing spot reports on a growing movement by university and college students who want to carry defensive handguns legally on campus, "the media haven't started checking what are the rules where these attacks occur.

"Surely," Lott observed, "the news stories carry detailed information on the weapon used (in this case, a rifle) and the number of ammunition clips (apparently, two). But if these aspects of the story deemed important for understanding what happened, why isn't it also important that the attack occurred where guns were banned? Isn't it important to know why all the victims were disarmed?"

Lott blasted the media for not specifically pointing to the signs at the Westroads Mall that said guns are prohibited on the premises. And he spared no criticism for anti-gunners, who have lobbied and labored to create "gun free zone" restrictions, and for businesses that succumbed to the pressure.

"If a killer were stalking your family," Lott noted, "would you feel safer putting a sign out front announcing, 'This Home Is a Gun-Free Zone'? But that is what

the Westroads Mall did." Likewise, the sharp-tongued Suprynowicz unloaded on the "gun free zone" philosophy in a Dec. 16 column that was a verbal ear-burner. Suggesting that employers or business owners, or officials ought to be held legally liable for injuries or fatalities if they post buildings under their control off limits to defensive handguns, Suprynowicz delivered a blistering assessment of the downside of gun-free zones.

"If you frequent public buildings or work for an employer who bars you from carrying your otherwise legal self-defense weapon" he suggested, "consider advising your loved ones in writing that-in the event you should die under circumstances where you could have saved yourself and others with your handgun you want the proprietor sued personally.

"Guns save lives," he said. "Since banning guns costs lives, shouldn't the individuals who ban self-defense-not the victimized taxpayers-pay the price?"

Suprynowicz acknowledged that private property owners have a right to ban firearms on their property. However, he

stressed that government agencies should make it clear to the managers of buildings that are open to the public "that they will not be shielded from the financial repercussions should employees or customers die under circumstances where they could otherwise have defended themselves and others with their own firearms."

Gottlieb and Workman came out swinging with back-to-back opinion pieces that followed both the Omaha shooting and the incident at Colorado

Springs, the latter which ended abruptly when an armed private citizen acting as a volunteer security guard at the New Life Church confronted the gunman and shot him down.

After Omaha, they wrote, "victim disarmament zones are the handiwork of extremist gun control fanatics and their soul-mates in state legislatures who created these loopholes in right-to-carry statutes across the country."

"If there is a true outrage (about Omaha)," they stated, "it is the prohibition of legally concealed firearms at Westroads Mall. One hell of a lot of good that prohibition did for Hawkins' eight victims. Undoubtedly such bans make anti-gunners-who fought bitterly and hysterically against passage of a concealed carry law in Nebraska-feel good about themselves, but the reality is that such prohibitions cost lives."

The pair collaborated last year on the fast-selling *America Fights Back: Armed Self-Defense in a Violent Age*, which roared to the top of the charts on Amazon.com and sold out its first printing in 39 days. The timing of the shootings was incredibly coincidental with release of the book, which shreds the notion that "gun free zones" are safe.

In their Op-Ed about the Omaha incident, Workman and Gottlieb noted, "The strategy of gun control extremists is to rob people of their right of self-defense by stripping them of the tools to defend themselves. They alone are responsible for the gun free zone loophole that leaves us all vulnerable to this kind of senseless attack, and it is time that America tell these fools that we've had enough."

A week later, they were back in circulation again with an opinion piece analyzing the Colorado Springs incident.

"We must stop this 'victim disarmament' insanity in our work places, shopping malls and even our churches," they contended. "If necessary, we should pass legislation at the state and federal level that shields armed citizens from criminal and civil liability when lawfully acting in defense of themselves and others during attacks in public places.

"This is America," they concluded, "where self-reliance should be nurtured, not neutered, and where the heroism exhibited by (the armed citizen in the New Life Church incident) Jeanne Assam should stand as a warning that citizens are tired of being told to cower in fear and 'wait for help.' We will rise to the occasion and fight back."

The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008

***Federal Legislative Update:**

DC Fires Blanks In Automatic Weapons Suit

JANUARY 10, 2008--In a unanimous decision today, the [D.C. Court of Appeals tossed a long-running suit](#) by the D.C. government against more than 20 of the nation's largest gunmakers, importers, or distributors. The court found that the suit is now barred by federal law, but the decision noted that the District might have kept the suit alive if it had initially pursued another line of arguments. The case also included nine individual plaintiffs who had been shot or were survivors of gunshot victims.

In 2005, the court issued an *en banc* decision which reversed the dismissal of the case in D.C. Superior Court. While the appellate court affirmed the dismissal of negligence and public nuisance claims, it reversed the dismissal of claims that the gunmakers had violated the D.C. Assault Weapons Manufacturing Strict Liability Act of 1990. Under that law, gunmakers, importers, or distributors of assault weapons or machine guns "shall be held strictly liable in tort, without regard to fault or proof of defect, for all direct and consequential damages that arise from bodily injury or death" resulting from discharge of the weapons in the District.

But later that same year, Congress passed a law that prohibited a growing number of similar suits across the country, which essentially made the District's strict liability act moot. The federal law also required the dismissal of most pending gun liability suits nationwide, so the D.C. Court of Appeals tossed the District's suit today after rejecting a due process argument. The defendants had included Beretta U.S.A. Corp., Browning Arms Co., Colt's Manufacturing Co., Glock, Inc., Sigarms, and Smith & Wesson Corp.

However, the court noted that the suit may have continued if D.C. government attorneys had initially sought to prove violations of another local law that prohibits a gunmaker or seller from knowingly and willfully engaging in illegal sales of firearms. While it would have been much more difficult to prove complicity in illegal firearms sales, such an argument could have fit into an exclusion in the new federal law, the decision stated. Judge Michael Farrell wrote the panel decision issued today and the court's 2005 *en banc* opinion.

"The plaintiffs will view this as small comfort to them since they chose, as was their right, to pursue another cause of action with substantially reduced proof requirements," the decision stated. <http://legaltimes.typepad.com/blt/2008/01/dc-fires-blanks.html>

House Bill Filed To Modernize ATF Functions

Reps. Steve King (R-IA) and Zack Space (D-OH), have introduced HR-4900 the "Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Reform and Firearms Modernization Act of 2007." According to the National Rifle Association (NRA) the bill would roll back unnecessary restrictions, correct errors, and codify longstanding congressional policies in the firearms arena.

This bipartisan bill may be a vital step to modernize and improve ATF operations.

Of highest importance, the measure totally rewrites the system of administrative penalties for licensed dealers, manufacturers and importers of firearms. Today, for most violations, ATF can only give a federal firearms license (FFL) holder a warning, or totally revoke his license.

HR-4900 would allow fines or license suspensions for less serious violations, while still allowing license revocation for the kind of serious violations that would lock an investigation or put guns in the hands of criminals. This prevents the ill-too-common situations where ATF has punished licensees for insignificant technical violations-such as improper use of abbreviations, or filing records in the wrong order.

Among its other provisions, HR-4900 would:

Clarify the standard for "willful" violations-allowing penalties for intentional, purposeful violations of the law, but not for simple paperwork mistakes;

Improve the process for imposing penalties, notably by allowing FFLs to appeal ATF penalties to a neutral administrative law judge, rather than to an employee of ATF itself;

Allow a licensee a period of time to liquidate inventory when he goes out of business;

Reform the procedures for consideration of federal firearms license applications; Codify limits on disclosure of firearms trace data-which Congress has already limited through a series of appropriations riders over the past three years; Require ATF to establish clear investigative guidelines;

Clarify the licensing requirement for gunsmiths, distinguishing between repair and other gunsmith work and manufacture of a firearm;

Focuses ATF's efforts on violations of firearms, explosives, arson, alcohol and tobacco laws, rather than on broader areas such as gang or drug investigations;

Eliminates a provision of the Youth Handgun Safety Act that requires those under 18 to have written permission to use a handgun for lawful purposes (such as competitive shooting or safety training)-even when the parent or guardian is present;

Permanently bans creation of a centralized database of dealers' records; Allows importation and transfer of machineguns by firearm and ammunition manufacturers for use in developing or testing firearms and ammunition, and Restores a policy that allowed importation of barrels, frames and receivers from non-importable firearms, when they can be used as repair or replacement parts, as well as other housekeeping improvements.

The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008

Antis cry foul as Congress passes NICS bill (HR 2640)

by Dave Workman GunWeek Senior Editor

Over loud objections from some anti-gun organizations, Congress passed the NICS (National Instant Check System) Improvement Act of 2007, which contains some key new provisions long sought by gun rights advocates.

After many improving amendments, both the Senate and the House passed the bill originally filed as HR2640 within a two-

hour window. Passage was on a voice vote, precluding any record of how each member of Congress voted on the bill.

The Violence Policy Center (VPC), Legal Community Against Violence and Coalition to Stop Gun Violence were furious over the vote, issuing a press statement claiming the legislation had been "hijacked by the gun lobby." On the other side, some hardcore gun rights activists claimed the National Rifle Association (NRA) had "sold out" because the legislation was also supported by some of Congress' most virulent anti-gunners including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-MY) and Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY).

After the measure passed, Gun Owners of America the most ardent group criticizing the NRA's position was silent. Over the months of negotiations, GOA had

been congratulating Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn for putting a hold on the bill, which GOA had labeled the "Veterans Disarmament Act."

But when Coburn removed his hold, he had this to say about the legislation: "It is a balance, a balance for protection, but it is also a balance to preserve rights, especially for our veterans—the very people who continue to protect our rights. They are going to be preserved."

Neither Sens. Hillary Clinton nor Barack Obama both on the 2008 presidential campaign trail—were present for the vote.

The VPC's reaction represents a significant split in the anti-gun community, because the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence hailed passage of the bill as a means of "strengthening" the original Brady Act of 1993 that created the NICS system. (See Hindsight, Page 15 for additional comment on NICS improvement bill.)

Under provisions of the new bill, the FBI is permanently barred from charging fees for NICS background checks. All federal agencies that impose some type of mental health adjudication or commitment must now provide for "relief from disabilities," the first step toward restoring the gun rights of tens of thousands of

American citizens.

Perhaps most important, the bill contains a provision that will cover costs for "relief from disabilities" investigations by awarding attorneys fees to applicants who successfully challenge a denial of relief in court. Earlier this year, when the original legislation was being debated in the House, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) had urged that funding for these investigations be provided so that people filing appeals would not have to pay to have their rights restored when the disability had been wrongly imposed by a government agency.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb told Gun Week that getting the funding provision into the bill was a significant victory for the rights of American citizens, especially military veterans, who may have been wrongly disqualified by the NICS system from exercising their constitutional rights.

Meanwhile, VPC's Kristen Rand asserted that the bill "will waste millions of taxpayer dollars restoring the gun privileges of persons previously determined to present a danger to themselves or others."

Another critical element of the final legislation—and one that appears to have ignited anti-gun furor—is a (Continued on Page 7)

Schumer, McCarthy hail last minute passage of HR-2640 (Continued from Page 1)

requirement that if an agency handling a relief from disabilities appeal does not act upon that application within one year, regardless of the reason (including lack of funding), the appellant can then seek immediate review in federal court. The legislation goes even farther: if the appeal is successful the government agency would have to pay the plaintiff's legal fees.

Additionally, the bill requires that incorrect records that cause a "disability" for someone purchasing a gun must be removed from the system within a month. Also under the bill, agencies such as the Department of Defense or Veterans Administration must not only notify a person who has been disqualified for mental health reasons, they must also notify that person when the disability has been removed. , ,

Anti-gunners contended that this legislation would allow persons who had been adjudicated as mental defectives to have guns. Up to now, such a disability was a lifetime prohibition on firearms ownership. The VPC and other groups were furious because this relief measure is similar to investigations formerly conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for relief from disabilities to people convicted of certain crimes.

Passage of the legislation brought some surprising remarks from Congressional anti-gunners.

McCarthy—who was elected to Congress on a gun control platform following the murder of her husband and wounding of her son by Long Island commuter train gunman Colin Ferguson—declared, "Together, we have crafted a bill that will prevent gun violence, but maintain the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens."

"This bill will make America safer without affecting the rights of a single law-abiding citizen," Schumer added. [*The New GUN WEEK*, January 15, 2008](#)

47 senators back allowing CCW in national parks

PA Senators BOTH MIA

Forty-seven United States senators have signed a letter to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, asking that the Department of Interior change its policy and allow licensed private citizens to carry firearms for self-defense within the borders of the nation's national parks and national wildlife refuges.

The measure is being pushed by the Virginia Citizens Defense League, which noted recently that the National Rifle Association has been "instrumental" in generating the letter.

In their letter, the senators explain to Kempthorne that the prohibition on firearms in national parks "infringe on the rights of law-abiding gunowners." The letter reminds Kempthorne that the public is allowed to have guns on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the US Forest Service/ Department of Agriculture. Wildlife refuges are open to hunting, but concealed defensive handguns are prohibited.

"These inconsistencies in firearms regulations for public lands are confusing, burdensome, and unnecessary," the letter states.

The proposal would have national parks allow firearms to be carried consistent with the laws of the state in which the park or refuge is located.

According to The Missoula (MT) Missoulian, the state's two Democrat Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester are leading the charge to change the parks regulations. They were joined by the two Republican senators in both neighboring Idaho and Wyoming. *The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008*

Tiahrt provision part of budget

The combined federal appropriations measure for 2008 that was approved by the House and Senate before lawmakers left for their Christmas holiday break included the Tiahrt Amendment which New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his anti-gun coalition had been trying to kill.

The amendment authored by Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS), which has been renewed for the past three years, will continue to restrict the sharing of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives gun trace data to law enforcement agencies for another year. Bloomberg and cohorts had wanted the data for use in lawsuits against the firearms industry, including licenses gun shops around the nation. *The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008*

Anti-gunners Label HR-2640 Passage as a Trojan Horse

Some like to say that "the enemies of my enemies are my friends." Others suggest that we can learn from both our enemies and our friends.

These sayings come easily to mind when considering the sudden pre-holiday passage of HR-2640, the National Instant Check System (NICS) Improvement Act, which had been put on hold by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK). What passed was not the original bill, but one that included many improvements designed to assuage the fears of Coburn and others who didn't like the bill as passed earlier by the House. Once those amendments were adopted and the bill passed the Senate, the House concurred less than two hours later. As is common when Congress is rushing to catch a plane home, there were no roll calls. Passage was by voice vote. But that doesn't mean anyone was trying to hide from passage. Progunners and anti-gunners alike admitted that they voted for passage.

All of which seemed to make serious anti-gunners very unhappy.

The National Rifle Association (NRA), which had been listed as an early supporter of the measure, and which had labored to make the improving amendments, was quick to proudly announce its passage. NRA called it a pro-gun bill.

Anti-gunners, however, were decidedly split. A Dec. 19 Violence Policy Center (VPC) news release was headlined "Gun lobby hijacks bill intended to improve buyer background checks."

Passage Condemned

That press release reprised comments from leading national anti-gun organizations condemning passage of HR-2640. The

anti-gunners warned that the bill intended to improve the records available to the National Instant Check System (NICS), designed to weed out prohibited persons from among prospective gun buyers, would now do far more harm than good.

The VPC said the legislation that passed finally in a record two-hour time span as both houses of Congress rushed to wrap up business hastily before taking a holiday resuscitated "a failed government program that spent millions of dollars annually to allow persons prohibited from buying guns to regain the ability to legally acquire firearms."

VPC should know. They were the ones responsible for Congress denying funding for "relief of disability" which is authorized by law since 1992 and every year since. Obviously, VPC sees passage of HR-2640 as a threat to their efforts to deny more and more people gun rights throughout their lives.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) would be required to establish a 'relief from disability' program to allow persons now prohibited from possessing a firearm because they have 'been adjudicated as a mental defective' or 'committed to a mental institution' to apply to have their bar on firearms possession removed," the VPC whined.

"As a result of the bill, more than 116,000 individuals would be eligible to apply. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) used to run a similar program that, in addition to those with mental disabilities, even allowed felons to apply for 'relief'... Under the bill (HR-2640), states would also be required to establish such 'relief' programs to restore the gun privileges of those with mental health disabilities in order to be eligible for potential grant money to upgrade records submitted to the NICS," VPC continued.

Kristen Rand, legislative director of the VPC, said, "This bill was intended to be Congress' response to the mass shooting at Virginia Tech that left 32 people murdered. But rather than focusing on improving the current laws prohibiting people with certain mental health disabilities from buying guns, the bill is now nothing more than a gun lobby wish list. It will waste millions of taxpayer dollars restoring the gun privileges of persons previously determined to present a danger to themselves or others. Once a solution, the bill is now part of the problem."

The Dec. 19 VPC press release quoted Josh Horwitz, executive director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, saying, "It is ironic that the gun lobby has coerced the Senate into providing resources to rearm mentally disabled veterans during a time when the VA is struggling to provide adequate mental health care to those in need."

Then VPC quoted Robyn Thomas, executive director of the Legal Community Against Violence, commenting, "The bill's original intent, to increase reporting of state records to the NICS database, is an important objective that would improve enforcement of federal laws governing persons prohibited from possessing firearms. The changes made by the gun lobby risk undermining those laws, and we call on the House to have a full debate on the merits of this legislation."

Possible Hearing

This suggests that the anti-gunners are hoping to push through a 2008 Congressional hearing at which they hope to gut or at least amend-HR-2640 as passed.

Not all anti-gunners are unhappy with passage of the greatly amended HR-2640. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), one of the co-sponsors of the original HR-2640 which is not what the Senate passed and the House immediately concurred on, hailed passage, as did even Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY).

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence also hailed passage of HR-2640, perhaps feeling that by claiming a victory the anti-gun group's donors would be inspired to give more money for more gun control efforts.

Some pro-gunners are among those who considered passage of HR-2640 as a defeat for the firearms civil rights cause. Gun Owners of America (GOA) didn't like it in its original form and suggests that passage of the bill, even with its many improving amendments, is a sell-out to antigunners. Another group, the Second Amendment Sisters, immediately called on President Bush to veto it.

But the GOA statement presumes a lot. GOA has issued public statements decrying this legislation.

"The core of the bill's problems is section 101(c)(1)(C), which makes you a 'prohibited person' on the basis of a 'medical finding of disability,' so long as a veteran had an 'opportunity' for some sort of 'hearing' before some 'lawful authority' (other than a court). Presumably, this 'lawful authority' could even be the psychiatrist himself," GOA suggested.

Pro-Gun Opposition GOA, SAS and others-including some close friends-have never liked the background check, whether it was delayed by the original Brady Bill's five day waiting period or consummated "instantly" by the dealer's electronic or phone inquiry from NICS. However, the reality is that the background check has existed for almost ten years, and most pro-gunners will agree that felons and other prohibited persons should not have legal access to firearms. It is not likely to be abandoned.

Admittedly the original NICS system was flawed. States were not required to provide mental health adjudications to the FBI, and only about half of the states actually did. The Virginia Tech mass murders were linked to these "loopholes."

As Dave Workman's report beginning on Page 1 indicates, HR-2640-as amended-makes a lot of significant changes for the better.

As the ancient Roman poet Ovid noted, "We can learn even from our enemies."

Taking that saying into consideration the VPC offers us a worthwhile lesson when they said passage of HR-2640 is a "Trojan horse."

"Much has been made of the bill's bipartisan, triangulating support: Democrats! Republicans! The National Rifle Association! The Brady Campaign!," the VPC snarled.

"Beyond this cheery bon temps, little public attention has been paid to what the bill actually does beyond its title. And that's because if you start looking at the details of the bill-especially after NRA backed changes made by Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn-it becomes clear that the measure is nothing less than a pro-gun Trojan Horse," said the VPC. "That's why my organization, the Violence Policy Center, and other national gun control groups, have voiced their strong concerns

about the version of the bill that was passed by Congress. Concerns that Have been validated by none other than the NRA which, after the bill's passage issued a press release which crowed." [The New GUN WEEK](#), January 15, 2008

NEWS RELEASES:

CCRKBA BACKS PROPOSAL TO EASE CCW RULES FOR MILITARY STATIONED IN NEB.

1/10/08-BELLEVUE, WA – The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms today announced its support for legislation introduced by State Sen. Mark Christensen that would amend the state's concealed carry law to provide a residency exception to non-resident military personnel stationed in the state.

CCRKBA Field Rep. Timothy Tyrrell said this measure will benefit service men and women who have taken an oath to defend the country, and want to have the means to defend themselves and their families while on duty in the Cornhusker State. He noted that since Nebraska does not have a reciprocity or recognition provision in its concealed carry law, this change will allow members of the military to have the same ability to obtain a Nebraska permit, after 180 days of continued residence in the state.

"This is a good thing for members of the military stationed here," Tyrrell said. "It's a good thing that Sen. Christensen is doing."

Under Christensen's bill, LB826, military applicants for a Nebraska carry permit would have to meet the same qualifications as any other citizen who applies.

"Members of the military stationed away from home should not lose their right or ability to defend themselves just because they happen to be on duty in Nebraska," said CCRKBA Executive Director Mark A. Taff. "We look at this as a sort of housekeeping measure that probably should have been included in the state's original concealed carry law.

"Hopefully down the road," Taff added, "Nebraska lawmakers will pass some type of reciprocity or blanket recognition legislation that honors concealed carry licenses and permits from other states. In the meantime, this is a sensible first step and our hats are off to Sen. Christensen for sponsoring this bill."

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CCRKBA BLASTS VA GOV. KAINE FOR USING VIRGINIA TECH CRIME TO ATTACK GUN SHOWS

1/9/08-BELLEVUE, WA – Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine has fallen back on one of the oldest, and most shoddy, tactics in the gun grabber playbook by using the Virginia Tech tragedy to launch an attack on gun shows, when the crime had nothing to do with gun shows, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said today.

"Neither of the guns used by Virginia Tech killer Seung-Hui Cho was purchased at a gun show," noted CCRKBA Legislative

Liaison Joe Waldron. "Attacking some mythical 'gun show loophole' will do nothing to prevent criminals from getting their hands on guns illegally, because it has been shown statistically that criminals rarely get firearms at such shows."

Waldron was alluding to a study done for the Department of Justice that found less than one percent (0.7 %) of criminals imprisoned for using guns in crimes got their firearms from gun shows. The overwhelming majority get firearms from family, associates or on the street. However, Gov. Kaine wants to require background checks on all firearms transactions at gun shows, including private sales that are exempt under current federal statute.

"Virginia Tech was a tragedy of monstrous proportions," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "but there was absolutely no connection with gun shows. Cho purchased both of the guns he used from a federally licensed retail gun shop, he successfully passed a mandatory background check.

"Gov. Kaine already took action by ordering the State Police in Virginia to deny firearm purchases to people like Cho, who had been ordered by a court to seek outpatient mental health treatment," Gottlieb recalled. "It is disappointing, to say the very least, that the governor has grabbed a cheap headline by suggesting, even remotely, that adding restrictive regulations to gun show operations will somehow keep people like Cho from obtaining a firearm and committing a crime.

"We agree with Republican State Del. William R. Janis, who said this new proposal by Gov. Kaine is 'a largely meaningless gesture'," Gottlieb said. "But that's the nature of most gun control schemes. They are empty gestures aimed more at demonizing guns and honest gun owners than they are at preventing or solving actual crimes, and extremist gun control advocates know it.

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MICHIGAN CCW RECORD PROVES ANTI-GUNNERS LIED...AGAIN, SAYS CCRKBA

1/07/08-BELLEVUE, WA – After six years of expanded concealed carry in Michigan, the record speaks for itself: *No shootouts at traffic stops, a decline in firearms deaths and suicides, and violent crime is down.* Concealed carry works, and the hysteria pandered by anti-gun extremists who opposed the law has been proven false.

"Michigan's armed private citizens have provided the evidence we knew would come," said Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. "Lawful concealed carry reduces crime and does not result in mass mayhem as the anti-self-defense crowd wanted us believe. Six years ago, they pulled out all the stops, fabricated every dire prediction they could imagine, and essentially told lies about concealed carry and passed them off as truth, and too many in the media ate it up as if it were manna from Heaven."

A recent story in the Detroit Free Press revealed that "the incidence of violent crime in Michigan in the six years since the law went into effect has been, on average, below the rate of the previous six years. The overall incidence of death from firearms, including suicide and accidents, also has declined."

"Anti-gun rights extremists established a track record for prevarication in state after state where they rabidly fought right-to-carry statutes," observed CCRKBA Executive Director Mark A. Taff, "and in case after case, including Michigan, every one of their claims has been statistically refuted."

The newspaper quoted Woodhaven Police Chief Michael Martin, with the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, who admitted that police fears about passage of concealed carry were misplaced.

"Law enforcement has nothing to fear from legally-armed, law-abiding citizens," Gottlieb said. "Their concerns were wrongly placed, and now Michigan lawmen and women know what their colleagues in other states have learned. Armed citizens make a difference, and in many cases are the true first responders. Their presence can act as a deterrent.

"The experience in Michigan is like the experience in Texas, Ohio, Florida and other states, and it begs the question, if anti-gun extremists were so dishonest about this, what else have they been lying about?"

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News Briefs:

Texas homeowner cuts short life of 44-year-old career burglar

From the "Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Fires" file comes the story of Steven Dunbar of Harris County, TX.

If you haven't met Dunbar, 44, it's too late. Last month, he stopped a bullet inside the home of a man identified by The Houston Chronicle as Damon Barone, who never met Dunbar, either, except for the brief confrontation Dec. 14 after which Dunbar was left dying "halfway into Barone's master bedroom window," the newspaper explained.

Dunbar reportedly had a "long criminal history" with at least 12 felony arrests dating back 13 years, and half of those resulted in convictions. His background included beefs for drugs and theft.

It isn't clear what Dunbar was doing when he came through the Barone bedroom window, but it's a safe bet he wasn't there on a goodwill mission. Curiously, Barone's rottweiler—which was no doubt a strong visual deterrent to burglars—was recently poisoned, and the homeowner speculated that the animal was killed by someone planning a burglary.

Now, here's the interesting part of the story: When the cops arrived and started looking at the crime scene, they found bullet holes in Barone's fence, and he apparently didn't put them there. The newspaper said he heard two shots while he was reaching for his gun, and that it sounded like somebody was in some kind of struggle outside. Somebody thumped against the outside wall of the house, and a screen section on Barone's sliding glass door was torn off.

With his family to protect, Barone reacted quickly when he heard glass breaking in the bedroom. He went to his car and grabbed a pistol, and back in his bedroom, he saw "an upper torso" coming through the window, so he fired three rounds.

Barone quickly ran outside, then back into the bedroom where he spotted an arm still coming through the window, so he fired at where he expected the intruder's head to be.

All the time this was going on, his wife, small son and infant daughter were crouched in a bathtub, where he told them to hide.

Dunbar lived about three blocks from Barone's home. Barone had this observation: "With his extensive criminal background, it's amazing to me somebody hasn't already gotten him."

The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008

Hired shooters to kill elk inside national park

Hired sharpshooters, not specially selected sport hunters, will be killing up to 200 elk inside Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado beginning in 2009, if a plan for the operation is okayed by the National Park Service.

Gun Week earlier reported on this situation, and about the controversy surrounding it. Some Colorado outdoorsmen are not very happy with the selected option, which will pay for the animals to be killed at the rate of 200 elk annually. There may be up to 3,000 elk in the park, which can only sustain a population of 2,100 or less, according to the park service.

The New York Times carried a report about the proposed elk kill that said alternate suggestions, which included reintroduction of wolves and the sport hunting option, "were fractious and divisive." When Gun Week investigated the plan, a park spokeswoman noted that allowing hunting inside the park would require an act of Congress.

Hunters did manage to kill about 700 elk outside the park last year, and there are indications that more elk have moved out of the park, where they are fair game during the hunting seasons. If that trend continues, and more elk are killed by hunters, The Times report said, killing animals inside the park may not be necessary. *The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008*

Charges 'unlikely' in bungled Minneapolis SWAT invasion

Authorities quoted by The Minneapolis Star-Tribune said it is unlikely that a homeowner who fired at members of a police SWAT team that crashed into his house on bogus information from an informant will be charged with any crime.

A heavily-armed SWAT team charged into a home owned by Vang Khang, a member of the city's Hmong community, at about 12:30 a.m. Dec. 16. Several children were asleep in the home and Khang, apparently believing the invaders to be burglars, reportedly fired shots through a bedroom wall, hitting two officers, but not injuring either. Both officers were protected by body armor.

After the cops got things sorted out, the newspaper said, they apologized to Khang, and acknowledged that they had made a mistake. The informant had apparently given them bogus information about being the victim of a crime in the house.

The newspaper said the case will be reviewed by the Hennepin County prosecutor, but it is not likely any charges will come out of it.

Police had a search warrant for Khang's address, but it was quickly determined that the people they were looking for were not in the house. When they burst into the home, they did yell that they were police, but after the shots were fired, and fire was returned with nobody getting hurt, it became evident there was a language barrier. Children told their father that police were in the

house and that he should stop shooting. That's when they started sorting things out.

This raid turned out far better than one in late 2006 in Atlanta, GA, in which a 92-year-old grandmother was gunned down by police who kicked in her door. Kathryn Johnston was fatally shot when she exchanged gunfire with the narcotics cops, apparently thinking them to be home invasion robbers.

That case went bad from the beginning, as two of the officers involved quickly planted evidence and then tried to recruit a police informant to help them in a cover-up. The informant reported the plot, instead, and the two rogue cops ultimately were arrested and they pleaded guilty. *The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008*

Outrage follows double-killing in NC robbery

Public outrage followed in the wake of a double-murder Dec. 16 in Charlotte, NC, when it became clear that the victims were probably gunned down as part of the plan, even though they cooperated with the man who killed them.

According to The Charlotte Observer, police rounded up suspect Andrew Ramsey, 19, at a motel near where he allegedly murdered Jennifer Vincek, the clerk at a gas station, and one of her customers, identified as Jeffrey Peck. The newspaper said security cameras captured the crime on video, and police were able to identify their suspect from those tapes.

Vincek and Peck reportedly did everything they were told to do by the robber, who then shot them both. Ramsey allegedly stole less than \$100 in the caper.

The newspaper quoted Statesville Police Assistant Chief Tom Anderson, who asserted, "It wasn't a robbery gone bad. It was a clear-cut, premeditated murder. He did not hesitate."

Vincek left three daughters, ages 6 months to 7 years. Peck left a daughter and three granddaughters.

Ramsey was tracked down to the hotel and surrendered without incident. *The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008*

Off-Duty cop routs robbers

An off-duty transit authority officer in New York's Nassau County fired a few rounds in his backyard Oct. 31; an act that might have gotten a mere private citizen arrested in the Empire State.

Seems this unidentified officer, according to WNBC, heard noises at about 1:15 a.m. and grabbed his piece, then went to investigate. He found two guys with guns, wearing hooded sweatshirts, apparently in the act of stealing four tires from his car. According to the WNBC report, he ordered the pair to stop, but instead they advanced toward him and he opened fire.

At the sound of the gunshots, the two bad guys made tracks for a mini-van and sped away into the darkness.

Illegal sentenced for shotgun

If you're an illegal alien, it's illegal for you to have an illegal sawed-off shotgun.

Notice a pattern there? So does Sergio Chavez-Cruz, a 32-year-old Mexican national who will be a guest of the US penal system for the next 30 months, after which he gets deported, and

unless he develops a taste for prison food, he'll stay south of the border. Chavez-Cruz pleaded guilty in federal court in Boise, ID, to having an unregistered sawed-off shotgun in his possession, and according to The Idaho Press-Tribune, Chief US District Judge B. Lynn Winmill threw at least part of a book at him. If he ever tries to come back stateside and gets caught, Chavez-Cruz will face 20 years in prison.

He admitted that he was in the country illegally for the past eight years, and that he possessed the cut-off smoothbore. He has no prior criminal record, but it appears he made up for that with this one conviction. [The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008](#)

Bank robbery collegiate-style

From the "Earn Your College Degree in Prison" file comes the story out of Cincinnati, OH, where two students of higher learning recently demonstrated they skipped class on the day the professor talked about how bank robbery is illegal.

Meet Andrew Butler, 20, and Christopher Avery, 22, and make it quick or you will miss your chance. They're probably going to be incommunicado for a very long time, courtesy of the Ohio penal system.

Butler, according to Associated Press, is a theater major at the University of Toledo. Avery was studying engineering at the University of Cincinnati. Want to know why they started robbing banks? They couldn't pay for school.

A published report said Butler's scholarships and financial aid simply could not keep up with tuition increases. Avery reportedly could not afford summer school after a job at a grocery store evaporated.

So, what did they do to make ends meet? Well, they trotted into the Valley Central Savings Bank in Reading on July 17 and made off with \$130,000, which should have solved their financial problems. This was a day after they had tried, and failed, to stick up a check-cashing business in a botched caper that had them trying to put four rounds through the bullet-proof glass to no avail.

On the day of the bank robbery, they were spotted changing cars and somebody dropped a dime on them to the cops. [The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008](#)

Drumstick on police blotter

Police blotter stories usually published by many local newspapers seem loaded with stories that suggest many criminals and would-be criminals have bizarre thinking processes. Here's an example from The Jersey Journal.

Robert Payne, 36, holding a chicken drumstick tried to rob the Dairy Queen in Jersey City, NJ, cops said.

The Dairy Queen's cashier called the police and reported that a man eating fried chicken walked up to the counter and gave her a note saying he had a bomb and would detonate it unless she handed over all the money from the register. She called the police instead.

When they arrived in an unmarked car and saw a man matching the description she had given them-right down to the drumstick in his hand. The officers showed their badges and ordered Payne to surrender, but he ran. They chased him into an alley and arrested him, and he is now charged with robbery,

resisting arrest and making false public alarms. [The New GUN WEEK, January 15, 2008](#)

News Links:

08/01/08 'Antique Firearms' Targeted in New York State Measure

(CNSNews.com) – New York has some of the toughest gun control laws on the books, and now a new measure being debated in the state assembly would mandate that people who want to buy muzzle-loading pistols or muskets get a permit for "antique firearms."

<http://www.cnsnews.com/ViewNation.asp?Page=/Nation/archive/200801/NAT20080108a.html>

08/01/03 Right to Carry Guns

Here's a question for you...would you feel uncomfortable...if someone had a loaded handgun on their hip in plain view?

Tonight, more than a dozen people...who do have guns in their possession, met at a Millcreek restaurant to say you shouldn't be afraid...and it's your right to bear arms.

According to PA Open Carry.org...In Pennsylvania, any law-abiding resident 18 and older can carry a loaded handgun on their hip in plain view.

"our motto is a right un-exercised is a right lost...and so our exposure to the public is extremely important to allow people to know good guys do carry fire arms" - Steven Pfiste

"this is just to show there are people who do care about there protection and the protection of others." - Steven Pfiste

In Pennsylvania carrying a concealed weapon requires a permit, issued by the Erie County Courthouse, but no permit is required to simply have a gun in the open.

"speaking as a woman...It's very important for me to protect myself...my family and my property" - Michelle Harris

"people that don't carry or just are completely opposed to it look at us like we have 10 heads...like we're crazy gun nuts...we don't shoot up schools...malls." - Michelle Harris

"a lot of people like to reference in their articles...everyone's packing heat...it gives it a gangster status but that is not the case." - Steven Pfiste

If you'd like to know more go to paopencarry.org
<http://yourerie.com/content/fulltext/?cid=6170>

08/01/03 Customer pulls gun, stops robbery

Indianapolis - It was a busy night Monday at Buck's IGA on the 3000 block of South Meridian Street. "Charlie," who didn't want his image or name used with this story, was in line to check out.

A man police later identified as Dwain Smith reportedly ran into the store wearing a ski mask and yelling.

Cashier Dianna Brooks repeated what she says she heard. "I heard the guy say 'give me all your money' and the next thing I heard was Stacy saying 'somebody help me.'"

Charlie says he responded immediately. "When I heard it I automatically took mine (gun) out." And Charlie says he was ready to act. "If he had raised it (gun) up yes I would have shot him."

According to police reports, Smith jumped over the counter demanding the cash. Charlie pulled his gun and started for the commotion.

"He was turning against the other woman. He didn't actually see me coming up at first and then when he did, he turned around and I yelled at him to put down his weapon," Charlie explained.

"(The) next thing I know is Charlie is jumping over the, uh, courtesy booth into the courtesy booth," said Brooks.

Charlie says was face to face with the suspect. "He just stared and looked at me for a minute. I cocked it back and then, all of a sudden, he laid it down on the counter and put all the money down."

The suspect gave up the money and his gun and took off his mask. The people who work at Buck's say the suspect has been casing the place for days.

When police arrived, Charlie had the suspect on the floor. "(I) just held him until the police got there. (I) put my foot in his back and the gun to his head."

Dwain Smith is now in the Marion County Jail facing several charges.

http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=7565465&nav=menu188_2

08/01/02 Murder Rate Rises in New Orleans

The bloodiest city in the country in 2006, reeling from crime in its struggle to recover from Hurricane Katrina, got even worse in 2007.

New Orleans registered 209 homicides last year, a nearly 30 percent increase from the 161 recorded in 2006.

The FBI's rankings for 2007 will not be out until much later in the year, but New Orleans' population is thought to be 295,450, which would mean a rate of about 71 homicides per 100,000 people.

Even the most generous population estimate in 2006 put the number of people in the city that year at 255,000. That meant a real homicide rate of 63.5 per 100,000 residents. To compare that number with some other notoriously bloody cities, the rate for Gary, Ind., was 48.3 and Detroit's was 47.1.

The killings are drug-related or retaliatory for the most part, police have said. The upswing comes despite continued patrols by the National Guard and state police and the addition of two new classes of police recruits in the past year.

But beefed-up policing efforts can only do so much, said Rafael Goyeneche, executive director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of Greater New Orleans.

"The police and the criminal justice system is expected to clean up the mess, but they didn't create the mess," Goyeneche said. "They aren't responsible for the social problems of the city, the failure of the school system, the degeneration of the family unit. And until the city does something to rectify those problems, crime and murder will continue to be a problem."

There are hopeful signs, however, Goyeneche said, pointing to improved schools in the city since the 2005 storm, grass-roots efforts to tackle crime, and a growing effort to upgrade city life.

"This city is beginning to do some things that I've been waiting 25 years to see," Goyeneche said. "I think there is a renewed sense of purpose; people are focused and demanding more than what was in play before Katrina hit."

New York's and Chicago's 2007 homicide totals were the lowest in more than 40 years, and in Philadelphia, slayings dipped slightly after reaching a nine-year high in 2006. But in several other big cities, homicides increased, including in Atlanta, Miami, Dallas and Baltimore.

http://www.foxnews.com/printer_friendly_story/0,3566,319416,00.html

07/12/31 Don't celebrate the eve by firing guns, DA warns District Attorney Lynne Abraham warned

Philadelphians who plan to shoot guns in the air tonight to celebrate the New Year that **they face aggressive prosecution if caught.**

Joined at a late-morning news conference by Joseph Jaskolka, who on New Year's Eve in 1998 was struck and disabled by a falling bullet, Abraham also warned revelers of the devastating costs of the dangerous tradition.

"This is a sobering message on what should be a night of celebration," Abraham said.

She delivered the same message last year, and that night police received 402 reports of gunfire or someone with a gun, and officers arrested 19 people.

Jaskolka was 11 when he was struck in the head with a bullet in South Philadelphia. Now 20, he uses a wheelchair and attends Delaware Technical and Community College.

The gunman was never identified.

http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/20071231_Dont_celebrate_the_eve_with_skyward_bullets_DA_warns.html

07/12/31 Humane Society merging anti-hunting forces

The voice of America's anti-hunting forces is trying to become more powerful.

In what the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance is calling a "precisely-calculated effort," the Humane Society of the United States is attempting to consolidate all of the animal rights movement's political power under a single umbrella.

Humane Society director Wayne Pacelle reportedly told one publication that his organization may soon merge with at least three unnamed animal rights organizations.

"The HSUS is playing up a mainstream reputation in hopes of becoming the primary mouthpiece for the animal rights movement," said Bud Pidgeon, president of the Sportsmen's Alliance. "It is not difficult to convince a smaller group to unite with a multimillion dollar organization that will push its political agenda, be it to end hunting or eliminate animal research." "Sportsmen will no doubt see HSUS continue to grow in this way."

The Humane Society previously absorbed the Fund for Animals in 2005 and the Doris Day Animal League in 2006. It has 10.5 million members or supporters -- 3.1 million more than it had just five years ago.

The group has an annual budget of \$112 million, some of which it used -- for the first time ever last year -- to back or oppose candidates for public office based on their animal-related voting history.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/sports/s_545205.html

07/12/31 Bloomberg Moves Closer to Running for President

"Normally I don't think an independent candidacy would have a chance" said Mr. Boren, who is the University of Oklahoma's president. "I don't think these are normal times."

Mr. Bloomberg, who has tried to seize a national platform on gun control, the environment and other issues, has been regularly briefed in recent months on foreign policy by, among others, Henry A. Kissinger, his friend and the former secretary of state, and Nancy Soderberg, an ambassador to the United Nations in the Clinton administration.

Advisers have said Mr. Bloomberg, a billionaire many times over, might invest as much as \$1 billion of his own fortune (he spent about \$160 million on his two mayoral races) on a presidential campaign.

But they warned that while they were confident of getting on the ballot in every state, the process was complicated and fraught with legal challenges, and that Mr. Bloomberg would begin with an organizational disadvantage, competing against rivals who have been campaigning full time for years.

Still, the mayor said this month at a news conference, "Last I looked — and I'm not a candidate — but last time I checked reading about the Constitution, the Electoral College has nothing to do with parties, has absolutely nothing to do with parties. It's most states are winners take all. The popular vote assigns electoral votes to the candidate, and I don't think it says in there that you have to be a member of one party or another."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/31/us/politics/31bloomberg.html?ei=5065&en=2da39fd541678920&ex=1199682000&adxnln=1&partner=MYWAY&pagewanted=print&adxnlnx=1199369170-P015Y6sW7UUDIIJnl72wRQ>

07/12/30 Sen. Perata unharmed in carjacking

Oakland -- State Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata was carjacked at gunpoint from his state car in North Oakland Saturday.

Perata, 62, of Oakland was unharmed in the incident, which happened at about 1:45 p.m. as he was stopped in his state-leased red 2006 Dodge Charger at a red light at 51st Street and Shattuck Avenue.

"It's nothing that I want anybody else to go through," Perata said Saturday. "It just happened so fast. It certainly ruins your day."

Perata said he was waiting for the light to change when, out of the corner of his eye, he noticed a man walking up to him. The senator, who has campaigned against assault weapons and crime, said he mistook the man for a panhandler at first.

But then the man began pulling a mask over his nose and pointed an automatic handgun at him "gangster style" - holding it sideways - before tapping it on his window and bellowing at him, "Get out of the m- car."

"And after that, I just lost interest in his face and I just stared at the gun," Perata said.

Perata jumped out of the car, which police say may have been targeted for its 22-inch rims. The man got inside and took off. He

was followed by an apparent accomplice in a gold 2000 Chevrolet Camaro that had been stolen earlier Saturday, police said.

The two cars got onto Interstate 980, and witnesses said they saw the cars exit on Park Boulevard from eastbound Interstate 580, said Oakland police Lt. Lawrence Green. Green said police believe at least two men were in the Camaro when it pulled up alongside Perata. The senator told officers that he believed he saw the men at a Union 76 gas station minutes earlier on Broadway Terrace, so it was possible that they followed him to 51st and Shattuck before carjacking him, Green said.

Also taken was Perata's cell phone.

Perata said he was preparing to get onto the freeway when he was carjacked. The gunman was no more than 3 feet away, and at one point, Perata said, he feared that if the assailant panicked and fired a round, "that would have been the end of me."

The gunman was described as a black man in his late 20s, 5-feet-8, with a thin, muscular build, last seen wearing a black mask and dark clothing. Perata's vehicle has a state-exempt plate, 1166961, and the stolen Camaro's license plate is 5UBN288.

"Sometimes the holidays bring out desperate times for people, and he did the safe thing and just gave up the car," said Perata spokeswoman Alicia Trost. "It's just unfortunate, but we're very happy that he's uninjured."

Perata said he was grateful for the assistance of Oakland police officers, including Sgts. Todd Mork and Randy Bandino.

Perata, who has campaigned against crime in Oakland and the East Bay, joked that he started the day at age 62 but now felt somewhere between 70 and 75.

"I've been around this stuff for a while, but this is the first time I've ever had a gun pointed at me," said Perata, an Oakland Democrat who sponsored the assault weapons ban signed into law in 1999.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=c/a/2007/12/30/BANLU6QS3.DTL>

07/12/28 Gun-control advocacy group picks new leader

HARRISBURG -- Joe Grace, a lawyer and a former journalist, knows what it's like to be on the hot seat. He's been communications director for Philadelphia Mayor John Street for the past 2 1/2 years.

But with Philadelphia getting a new mayor, Michael Nutter, in January, Mr. Grace is changing jobs, and effective Jan. 14 he'll have another challenge as the new executive director of CeaseFire PA, a nonprofit group that says it is "dedicated to preventing gun violence."

CeaseFire PA has joined with Gov. Ed Rendell, another former Philadelphia mayor, in pushing for three new gun control laws from the state Legislature. One would limit gun buyers to one handgun a month; another would require owners to report lost or stolen guns to police within 24 hours; and another would let towns and cities enact their own gun laws, which could be stricter than state law.

Currently only the state Legislature can enact gun laws, and with the large number of target shooters, sportsmen and hunters in Pennsylvania, plus the political clout of the National Rifle

Association, many legislators don't want to vote for the gun control measures.

"We're hiring Joe Grace because it's time for CeaseFire PA to take its growing coalition in support of stronger handgun laws to the next level," said Phil Goldsmith, president of the group. "We need an experienced campaign strategist who understands what it takes to achieve results. Joe is that person."

Mr. Grace has also worked on several successful U.S. congressional races and was and was deputy campaign manager for Mr. Rendell when he first ran for governor in 2002.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07362/845032-100.stm>

07/12/28 Bloomberg ads target guns, politicians

Mayor Bloomberg, who has repeatedly said he's not running for President, yesterday placed full-page advertisements in newspapers in states hosting the nation's first presidential contests.

Bloomberg funded two full-page ads in The Des Moines Register in Iowa and the New Hampshire Union Leader to promote his anti-gun coalition.

The ads cost the billionaire mayor \$22,203. They feature him and a host of other mayors in his nonprofit group, Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

"Where do the presidential candidates stand on gun control?" the ads ask, featuring excerpts from a questionnaire that the gun coalition released on Dec. 9, asking for the candidates' responses by Jan. 2.

The questions in the survey include: "Do you support increasing the maximum penalty for illegal firearms possession from 10 years to 15 years?"

No answers have been turned in so far.

A spokesman for Bloomberg said neither the mayor nor other members of his coalition plan to visit either state before Iowa's Jan. 3 caucus and New Hampshire's Jan. 8 primary.

The coalition plans to post responses to its questionnaire on its Web site, but won't endorse any of the candidates.

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/28/2007-12-28_bloomberg_ads_target_guns_politicians.html

07/12/28 Police may soon see benefits of state's new gun crimes law

Metro law enforcement officials have been looking for a cure to Tennessee's weak gun laws since April, pushing for legislation that would increase jail time for gun crimes.

Now they have a possible remedy.

Beginning on Tuesday, the state's "Crooks with Guns" law will take effect — one that imposes mandatory minimum sentences without parole for individuals who use firearms to commit felonies, individuals who are in possession of guns while committing felonies or prior felons who are found in possession of illegal weapons.

"We pushed hard with the Legislature last session to try to put some real teeth with laser-like focus on prison sentencing for dangerous, repeat, violent offenders," said Metro Police Chief Ronal Serpas.

"Crooks with Guns" we believe is the first step toward holding those people who refuse rehabilitation efforts and who choose to make you their victim as their life's choice, to keep them in

prison longer," he said.

According to the legislation, on Jan. 1 anyone employing a firearm during the commission of a felony will face a charge punishable by "the service of 10 years in the penitentiary at 100 percent," meaning the defendant shall be required to serve the entire sentence and the sentence shall not be reduced for any reason.

Before the legislation was in place, according to Serpas, a defendant needed only to fulfill 30 percent of a prison sentence before getting the possibility of parole.

"We think [the bill] is going to help make Nashville a safer place by taking those repeat violent offenders and giving them real prison sentences instead of rolling them back out too quickly," the chief added.

In Nashville in 2006, 695 arrests were made on suspects for the use of firearms in the commission of a felony, a 7.4 percent increase from 647 in 2005, according to statistics provided by the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition.

The coalition, a statewide group consisting of police chiefs, district attorneys and sheriffs, pushed hard for the legislation with help from the bill's sponsor, Senate Republican Leader Mark Norris (R-Collierville).

The legislation does have a price tag however. It is estimated the cost of the new law — due to increased incarceration time for inmates — will be just short of \$24 million.

But it's a price that Norris earlier this year said was worth it.

"The notion that we need to shy away from legislation like this because of the projected cost, really rings hollow because, in fact, if we're successful at giving law enforcement the tools they need to do their job, their job will become simpler, and there'll be less people incarcerated," Norris said in March.

The total number of reported offenses involving guns in Tennessee is rising, according to statistics from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation — jumping from 17,450 statewide in 2003 to 18,662 in 2005.

<http://www.nashvillecitypaper.com/news.php?viewStory=58369>

07/12/27 Gun-packing man, 65, fights off 5 thugs

ORLANDO, Fla. -- A Central Florida man who collects cash for parking at a church fought off five armed men who had ambushed him and demanded cash.

The 65-year-old victim, who did not want to be identified, said he was collecting cash in the Parramore area before an Orlando Magic basketball game when someone put a gun to his head.

He noticed that that he was surrounded by four other men as well.

The man said he pretended to reach into his jacket for cash but instead pulled out his hidden gun and opened fire.

The men fled during the shooting and it was not known if any of them were hit by bullets.

The victim said he had a permit for the concealed weapon.

He said he has been a victim of crime before.

"A couple of years ago, eight teens attacked me with a pipe trying to rob me," the man said.

<http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071227/BREAKINGNEWS/71227025/1086>

07/12/23 Police in Metro Vancouver Seeing New Gang Fashion - Armored Vehicles

As if police don't have enough difficulty combating the ever growing arsenals of street gangs.... Vancouver Metro police are now reporting that gang members there are equipping their vehicles with bullet-proof glass, armored plating and high-tech surveillance cameras.

Police in Metro Vancouver have had their hands full for years trying, mostly unsuccessfully, to control gang-related violence and killings that make Vancouver look like Chicago in the Al Capone era.

Last week, they found something they hadn't seen before - street vehicles outfitted with armour, surveillance cameras and bulletproof glass.

Police forces in the city have had little success in arresting and charging people involved in the dozens of murders in the past several years.

And it appears they won't have any greater success in curbing these fortified vehicles.

It's not illegal to outfit your vehicle with bulletproof glass or surround it with armour as long as it's inspected and passes safety regulations and Insurance Corp. of B.C. licensing requirements.

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2007/12/23/police-in-metro-vancouver-seeing-new-gang-fashion-armoured-vehicles/>

07/12/22 Wisconsin Bill would limit seizing of guns

Legislators look to curb power allowed during emergencies

Madison - State lawmakers want to clip the power of the governor and local officials to seize people's guns during emergencies, saying that authority could trample the rights of citizens.

Legislators said they decided to try to curb those powers after seeing New Orleans police officers take guns from people during the recovery from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The Republican-run Assembly passed the bill this month on a bipartisan 84-13 vote, and the Democratic-led Senate is looking at doing the same soon.

"I just think it's important that if there ever is a disaster similar to Katrina, that citizens are able to defend themselves, their families and their property and not be worried about government coming and confiscating their firearms," said Rep. Scott Gunderson (R-Waterford), the sponsor of the bill.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=699568>

07/12/22 Albuquerque Shop Owners Say Recent Slaying Of Couple Motivates Gun Buyers

Recent violence has brought out gun buyers in strength this season, according to two area gun retailers. Shop owners say handguns and pump-action shotguns are the most frequently requested weapons for home protection. "There are two sounds out there that everybody knows: the rattle of a rattlesnake and the pump of a 12-gauge shotgun," said Jerry Ellenberger, owner of Los Ranchos Gun Shop. "Things get quiet real fast."

Business at Ellenberger's shop is up at least 12 percent this month over last year, he estimated. Many customers cite the Dec.

4 beating deaths of Tak Yi, 79, and his wife Pung, 69, and other violent crimes as their reason for buying guns, he said. Two travelling magazine salesmen - Michael Joseph Lee, 21, and Travis R. Rowley, 23 -- were indicted this week on first-degree murder, kidnapping, rape and other charges in connection with the killings.

"We'll have a 15- or 20-minute conversation before they even buy a gun,"

Ellenberger said of his customers, who frequently cite news reports of violent crimes. "I've seen a pretty good increase in those conversations lately." Bernalillo County Sheriff Darren White said anyone who buys a gun should seek training. "Buying a gun is a personal decision, and it's one I fully support. ... But if you're going to do that, you should get training on how to use it and store the gun." White said gun shops have a list of places that offer training. As for whether to keep a loaded gun at home, "it won't do you any good if it's not loaded," White said. "Then it's nothing more than a paperweight. But training will show you how to properly store a weapon safely." Some retailers, including Charlie Domenici, owner of Charlie's Sporting Goods, say they have seen no increase in gun sales other than the usual holiday gift buying. But Bob Rohlfs, a salesman at

Calibers Shooters Sports Center, said the Yi couple's killings have brought many new gun buyers to his store. Rohlfs said the shop has experienced similar spikes following other high-profile killings, such as the March 2006 shooting death of Bernalillo County Sheriff's Deputy James McGrane Jr. Rohlfs also said handguns and pump-action shotguns, especially those that hold multiple rounds, are popular with buyers seeking homedefense weapons. "You just hear the rack of a shotgun and people just know what it is," he said. Caption:

<http://www.abqjournal.com/cgi-bin/decision.pl?attempted=www.abqjournal.com/news/metro/271610metro12-22-07.htm>

07/12/20 ATLANTA- Today Governor Sonny Perdue recognized the Georgia Hunters for the Hungry program

and the success of the multi-agency initiative by serving the millionth meal to those in need at the Community Concerns Outreach Center in Atlanta.

"The success of the Georgia Hunters for the Hungry program is evidence of what can be accomplished when our state agencies and nonprofit organizations work together," said Governor Perdue. "Serving the millionth meal this holiday season reminds us all of the importance of giving to those in need by donating to our state food banks. It is our hope that through the continued success of this program, millions more protein-rich meals will be served to Georgians in need."

Ground venison prepared in the form of chili, lasagna and burgers, donated and processed through the Georgia Hunters for the Hungry program, has become a holiday staple on the menu of Georgia's food banks for the past 15 years. Representatives from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Georgia State Association of Food Banks, the Georgia Wildlife Federation (GWF) and the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) were on hand to celebrate this millionth meal milestone. The Georgia Hunters for the Hungry (GHFTH) program begins each September at the opening of deer season, offering hunters

across the state an opportunity to donate low-fat, low-cholesterol venison to benefit those in need. Participating processors collect and prepare the highly nutritious venison for statewide distribution through the Georgia State Association of Food Banks.

http://gov.georgia.gov/00/press/detail/0,2668,78006749_78013037_101264168,00.html

07/12/18 Minneapolis SWAT Team Raids Wrong House

MINNEAPOLIS — With her six kids and husband tucked into bed, Yee Moua was watching TV in her living room just after midnight when she heard voices — faint at first, then louder. Then came the sound of a window shattering.

Moua bolted upstairs, where her husband, Vang Khang, grabbed his shotgun from a closet, knelt and fired a warning shot through his doorway as he heard footsteps coming up the stairs. He let loose with two more blasts. Twenty-two bullets were fired back at him, by the family's count.

Then things suddenly became clear. "It's the police! Police!" his sons yelled.

Khang, a Hmong immigrant with shaky command of English, set down his gun, raised his hands and was soon on the ground, an officer's boot on his neck.

The gunmen, it turned out, were members of a police SWAT team that had raided the wrong address because of bad information from an informant — a mistake that some critics say happens all too frequently around the country and gets innocent people killed.

"I have six kids, and only one mistake almost took my kids' life," said Moua, 29. "We will never forget this."

No one was hurt in the raid Sunday, conducted by a task force that fights drugs and gangs, though two police officers were hit by the shotgun blasts and narrowly escaped injury because they were wearing bulletproof vests.

Police apologized to the family and placed the seven officers on leave while it investigates what went wrong.

Such mistakes are a fact of police work, some experts said. "Does going to the wrong address happen from time to time? Yes," said John Gnagey, executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association in Doylestown, Pa. "Do you corroborate as best you can the information the informant gives you? Absolutely. But still from time to time mistakes are made."

One of the biggest botched raids in recent years happened in Atlanta in 2006, when police killed a 92-year-old woman in a hail of nearly 40 bullets after she fired a shot at what she thought were intruders. Police had gone to her house on a drug raid, but no drugs were found.

Prosecutors said that in obtaining a search warrant, Atlanta police falsely told a judge that an informant had confirmed drug dealing there. The scandal led to a shake-up in the department, two officers pleaded guilty to manslaughter and civil rights charges, and the city faces at least two lawsuits.

Reliable figures on the frequency of erroneous raids are hard to come by. Federal agencies, including the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service, said they do not keep track.

A study last year by the libertarian Cato Institute said: "Because of shoddy police work, over-reliance on informants,

and other problems, each year hundreds of raids are conducted on the wrong addresses, bringing unnecessary terror and frightening confrontation to people never suspected of a crime." <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,317398,00.html>

07/12/18 U.N. Finds Fraud, Mismanagement in Peacekeeping

Task Force Says 'Multiple Instances' of Corruption Have a Cost of \$610 Million

A U.N. task force has uncovered a pervasive pattern of corruption and mismanagement involving hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts for fuel, food, construction and other materials and services used by U.N. peacekeeping operations, which are in the midst of their largest expansion in 15 years.

In recent weeks, 10 procurement officials have been charged with misconduct for allegedly soliciting bribes and rigging bids in Congo and Haiti. It has been the largest single crackdown on U.N. staff malfeasance in the field in more than a decade

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/17/AR2007121701914.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

07/12/17 Gun controls allow criminals to run roughshod over society

The founders chose the words "the people"; the same as in the First, Fourth, Ninth and Tenth amendments. Constitutional scholars agree that there is absolutely no doubt these restrictions on government were designed to protect individuals

http://www.sltrib.com/opinion/ci_7747447

07/12/16 How many more will die in 'gun-free' zones before the media start asking why?

Police have identified Robert A. Hawkins, 19, as the assailant who killed eight people with a semi-automatic rifle (not an assault rifle) at the Westroads Mall in Omaha Dec. 5.

Chalk up eight more deaths to "gun control."

The shooting was at least the fourth at an American mall or shopping center so far this year, including one in February in Salt Lake City.

Once again, the killer chose a "gun-free" zone

Rather, the first question here is whether our government agencies are making it fully clear to the managers of buildings otherwise open to the public -- such as Clark County's courthouses and public libraries -- that they will not be shielded from the financial repercussions should employees or customers die under circumstances where they could otherwise have defended themselves and others with their own firearms.

Nebraska issues permits "allowing" qualified individuals to carry concealed handguns. (The Second and 14th amendments reaffirm that carrying a weapon is a right, not a privilege -- states have no more legitimate power to require a "permit" for weapons carrying than they have to require a "permit" to attend church or publish a newspaper.)

Leaving aside this "permitting" scheme, Nebraska law allows property owners, such as the Westroads Mall, to post signs banning permit holders from legally carrying guns on their property.

("Some chains such as Bag 'N Save have posted signs, and shopping malls such as Westroads Mall have added 'no weapons' clauses to their posted codes of conduct," the Omaha World-Herald reported on March 28.)

If you frequent public buildings or work for an employer who bars you from carrying your otherwise legal self-defense weapon, consider advising your loved ones in writing that -- in the event you should die under circumstances where you could have saved yourself and others with your handgun -- you want the proprietor sued personally.

Guns save lives. Since banning guns costs lives, shouldn't the individuals who ban self-defense -- not the victimized taxpayers -- pay the price?

<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/12544531.html>

07/12/16 Majority in U.S. poll support gun ownership rights

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Nearly two-thirds of Americans say they believe the Constitution guarantees each person the right to own a gun, according to a poll released Sunday.

In all, 65 percent said they thought the Constitution ensures that right, and 31 percent said it did not. The question had a sampling error of plus-or-minus 3 points.

Men and people living in rural areas were most likely to say the Constitution guarantees the right to own a gun.

Nearly three quarters of men (72 percent) said they believed so, versus 26 percent who did not. More than half (58 percent) of women said they believed so, versus slightly more than a third (35 percent) who did not.

That question had a sampling error of plus-or-minus 4.5 points.

Among rural dwellers, 73 percent said they agreed, versus 64 percent and only half (50 percent) of city dwellers who thought the same.

That question had a sampling error of plus-or-minus 7 points. The Second Amendment to the Constitution says: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Some have interpreted those words to mean that everyone has a right to own a gun; others say the amendment protects only the right of citizens to form a militia.

The CNN/Opinion Research Corporation telephone poll of 1,002 U.S. adults was carried out December 6 - 9.

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/12/16/guns.poll/>

07/12/15 Home owner shoots and kills invader

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah (ABC 4 News) - A homeowner killed a suspect who broke into his home.

Two men and a woman attempted the robbery at 3575 South and 4400 West in West Valley City late Thursday night.

Two of the suspects got away but the homeowner managed to save his family from harm.

"All I've got to say is be careful out there with people out there, you never know who's going to do you wrong," said Richard who lives at the address.

A Trail of blood leads to Richard's house. It was from one of the two suspects who forced their way into his home and tried to rob

them.

He said it started with a simple knock on the door.

"I opened the door and there was a girl standing there," he said.

"They used a girl at the door while they hid and as soon as I opened up the door, they came rushing in."

It was 10:30 p.m. when the door blew open.

Richard didn't want to go into great detail but he did say his wife, a one year old baby and their two dogs were inside.

Police say the two men had their guns out.

"Once inside, the victims had dog tried to defend, suspects shot the dog and because of injuries, animal control had to euthanize it," Sgt. Chad Evans of the West Valley Police said. "They bound the female to a chair and took the male around the house to ID valuables, like cash."

Police said the suspects tried to tie Richard up but he managed to get one of their guns and killed one of them.

"I'm upset you know that they came into my house and did this," he said. "It's not justified what they did to me or to my family or whoever else they'd done it to."

http://www.abc4.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=1521ddb9-174d-40cc-9f01-a8228c8afdc5

07/12/14 Quebec willing to go it alone if Ottawa scraps gun registry

Premier Jean Charest wants Ottawa to delegate powers and money to

Quebec to maintain the gun registry in the province should the federal government

Move to abolish it. The province wants the right to enforce tougher controls over the transportation and storage of firearms. The two levels of government have held discussions and Quebec is waiting for an answer.

http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/Page/document/v5/content/subscribe?user_URL=http://www.theglobeandmail.com%2Fservices%2Fstory%2FAC.20071214.QUEBECGUNS14%2Fstory%2FNational&ord=23119877&brand=theglobeandmail&force_login=true

07/12/14 Here's more proof that 'disarmed' and 'victim' are synonymous

Has anyone ever wondered why people with guns who have kissed sanity good-bye never take out their uncontrollable rage on the nearest police station?

Nor do they drive off to the nearest Army base, shooting range or hunting club to vent their murderous frustration.

It should only take a moment's thought to understand why: Those places have people who have relatively easy access to weapons themselves.

It's one thing to be homicidal and suicidal, but it's quite another to consider that one's murderous intent could be brought to an untimely halt through the immediate application of superior firepower.

However, there are places that draw these people like magnets, and they, too, are easy to locate: They are the places where the possession of firearms is forbidden, and that fact is widely advertised.

Some of these places even go so far as to publicly display their vulnerability to mass murder through the posting of signs that say "No Guns Permitted" or "Gun-Free Zone."

Virginia Tech was proud of its "gun-free" status, and boasted about how safe a place it was once it posted signs forbidding firearms on campus.

Thirty-two people died there last April as the cost of that exercise in hubris and futility.

Other places where firearms are typically banned are stores, including shopping malls, government buildings, including schools, and places of worship.

We saw in the Columbine shootings how effective gun bans are for schools.

The 40 states (including Maine) where concealed-carry permits are readily available to law-abiding people report on average a 22 percent lower violent crime rate, a 30 percent lower murder rate, a 46 percent lower robbery rate and a 12 percent lower aggravated assault rate than the 10 states where the possession of firearms by honest citizens is greatly restricted. ...

<http://pressherald.maintoday.com/story.php?id=155166>

WOW, there is all the proof is that is need for me about shooting in the air, wonder where the rest of them went, very unlikely that only shot one.

07/12/14 Ex-Wilson man sentenced for shooting motorcycle

David Bauchat, the former Wilson man who last year shot a motorcycle parked in his driveway, said he went "way over the top."

"My intention was not to hurt anyone human," Bauchat, 37, said today, adding he meant only to harm the motorcycle. "Your honor, that whole day, if I could erase it, I would erase it."

Northampton County Judge Emil Giordano said he understood Bauchat's anger. Still, he said, he had to send a message that discharging firearms in residential neighborhoods won't be tolerated. He sent Bauchat, who now lives in Palmer Township, to serve six to 23 months in the county prison but granted him immediate work release. The judge also said Bauchat cannot own a firearm.

Bauchat on Sept. 11 pleaded guilty to terroristic threats, reckless endangerment, resisting arrest and criminal mischief.

His attorney, Philip D. Lauer of Easton, said Bauchat has been diagnosed as bi-polar and is taking medications and doing well. He had been drinking July 16, 2006, when he shot the motorcycle. Lauer said that after the shooting, which damaged not only the motorcycle but two other vehicles parked nearby, Bauchat went inside his then-home, at 2100 Butler St., and passed out.

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-motorcycle-12142007cn,0,2350134.story>

07/12/13 Goods for Guns program-Allegheny County

Sometimes, when people participate in the Goods for Guns of Allegheny County Inc.'s annual firearm buy-back program, they turn in weapons that still are loaded.

Situations like this are what the program is designed to combat, the accidental, incidental, or even intentional shootings by usually law abiding citizens, Philip Dacey, a former Pittsburgh police lieutenant and gun expert, said today.

Mr. Dacey is a leader among the all-volunteer Goods for Guns program.

The agency will hold its 14th annual gun buy-back program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow at two sites: the former fire station, now an Emergency Medical Services base, on the Boulevard of the Allies near Smithfield Street, Downtown; and the Homestead Police Department-Municipal Building on East Ninth Avenue.

All weapons to be exchanged must be operable. Only one weapon per person will be accepted.

Other weapons, ammunition or dangerous devices will be accepted for disposal only.

No questions will be asked at either site, organizers said.

A \$25 gift certificate will be given for sporting firearms such as rifles or shotguns. A \$50 gift certificate is available for handguns. Organizers also will give away gun locks and gun safety literature.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07347/841492-100.stm>

07/12/12 Hillary Locks and Loads

Ah, what a wonderful thing is democracy. It may have its flaws, but there's nothing better, particularly the pleasures of a national election with early contests in Iowa and New Hampshire. What else to make of the latest press release from Senator Clinton's campaign, touting Senator Obama's one-time support of "banning all handguns" as evidence that calls Mr. Obama's "electability" into question?

Well, it's a pleasure to welcome Mrs. Clinton to the Second Amendment side of the debate. It's a new development; back in 2000, when Mrs. Clinton was running for Senate, she backed the "Million Mom March" for gun control, and, according to CNN, told the Newspaper Association of America, "We have to do more to stand up to those who refuse to believe the reality that guns do kill and that common-sense gun measures can make a difference." When she ran for re-election in 2006, she earned a rating of "F" from the National Rifle Association's Political Victory Fund.

For some the gun issue is about the Constitution; for Mrs. Clinton, it's apparently about "electability." We're less concerned about her motive than amused to see our senator attacking Mr. Obama from the right over the right-to-keep-and-bear-arms — and in a year that has seen high-profile deadly shooting sprees at Virginia Tech, Colorado churches, and a Nebraska shopping mall. To those who say this is no way to elect a president, here's an example of the way in which the prospect of confronting voters in an election pulls a politician closer to a mainstream policy position.

<http://www.nysun.com/article/67905>

07/12/12 "Are Curio & Relic holders the next target of ATF"

Firearms manufacturers and dealers are currently being eliminated by the BATFE; with the dealers they began to weed out the individuals with licenses. Soon that wasn't enough, so they began to set their sights on Pawn Shops and other small gun

shops.

You have to realize that this is an agency that fears being shut down, so they have to justify their own existence. An Inspector cannot come into a gun shop, spend all day or several days searching through your books and then report back that they didn't find anything. So the inspectors will flatter you; as Inspector Caleb Rushing did to us in 2005 by telling us that we were one of the best small guns shops that they had inspected. They will minimize the violations that they are writing you up on, by telling you that it isn't a big deal. They neglect to tell you, that if you have 2 inspections that show any violations then they will consider that WILLFUL and they will revoke your license.

So with so many dealers and manufacturers gone, they have to focus on someone. And let's be honest they really are not focusing on Alcohol, Tobacco and Explosives like they are on Firearms. So the obvious choice will be Curio & Relics Licensees, C&R dealers would be easy targets for the ATF, much like the individuals who held a FFL were in the mid 90's.

Len Savage in his latest interview with Talkin' to America at the end of the interview states, "All of your Curio & Relic holders, beware, your next." So I have to ask this, what do "We the People" do? Do you stand by and say "It's not my problem" or do we finally say enough is enough?

- In Germany they first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.
- Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.
- Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.
- Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.
- Then they came for me — and by that time no one was left to speak up.

Pastor Martin Niemöller

<http://redstradingpost.blogspot.com/2007/12/curio-relics-holders-next-target-of-atf.html>

07/12/12 Ban on imitation Samurai swords

Imitation Samurai swords are to be banned after a spate of attacks in the UK, say ministers.

Calls for a ban came after a number of high-profile incidents in which cheap Samurai-style swords had been used as a weapon. The Home Office estimates there have been some 80 attacks in recent years involving Samurai-style blades, leading to at least five deaths

Anyone breaching the ban will face six months in jail and a £5,000 fine.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7139724.stm

07/12/12 Cal Thomas: An armed hero

I have been waiting for this to happen. For years we have witnessed the carnage when innocents were mowed down at schools, colleges, shopping malls and post offices. The unarmed (disarmed?) were easy targets for crazed gunmen armed with grievances, weapons and ammunition.

Now someone has shot back, probably saving many lives. **All of the gun-control laws that have been passed and are still being contemplated could not have had the effect of one**

armed, trained and law-abiding citizen on the scene like 42-year-old Jeanne Assam, a volunteer security guard at the New Life Church in Colorado Springs. The gunman, 24-year-old Mathew Murray, had been expelled from the Youth With a Mission, or YWAM, organization for health reasons, according to officials. Authorities say Murray vowed revenge in several Web postings, which copied abundantly from the manifesto written by Columbine High School killer Eric Harris before the 1999 school massacre.

Killers — ones with mental disorders, or terrorists — look for places with large gatherings to amplify their acts. That's why in recent years they have selected targets ranging from the World Trade Center, to Columbine, to shopping malls and now a megachurch. **On the rare occasions when an armed person has been on the scene before police arrive, such acts have been stopped before further damage could be done. When no armed person has been present, by the time police show up the killing is usually over and the gunman has shot himself.**

The point is that gun laws will not deter criminals with evil intent and police can't be everywhere they're needed. But killers can be stopped by law-abiding citizens with guns. As the Supreme Court considers its ruling on whether the strict gun laws in the District of Columbia are constitutional, it might remember Jeanne Assam and her courageous, proper and for now legal response to a lawless act. Though four were killed at the two locations and several others wounded, many more owe their lives to Assam, who should be the new poster woman for those who wish to preserve the right to keep and bear arms.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/stories/MYSA121307.02O.Cal.1902c58.html>

07/12/11 Bruce's History Lessons: The oh so controversial second amendment

When the Bill of Rights was ratified this week (Dec. 15) in 1791, the Founders never dreamed that centuries later the Second Amendment would become so controversial. To them, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed," was fairly straightforward language.

How wrong they were, as evidenced by the Supreme Court's recent decision to rule on whether Washington, D.C.'s strict firearms law violates the Constitution, "a decision," The Washington Post wrote, "that will raise the politically and culturally divisive issue of gun control just in time for the 2008 elections."

The main controversy is over the phrase "A well regulated militia," and its relationship to the statement "the people's right to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Gun-control advocates believe this language means that if you don't belong to a "regulated militia" your right to own a gun can be "infringed."

Gun-rights advocates counter by noting that the amendment does not grant a right; it recognizes a right already granted. The amendment does not say, "The people have the right to keep and bear arms."

It says, "the (already established) right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." And they have a point. As even the Supreme Court has acknowledged, the right to own firearms precedes the Bill of Rights.

Gun advocates also note that because the amendment gives the right to bear arms to the “people,” not the states, claiming that this right is dependent on anything the states do or don’t do — including forming militias — is ludicrous. After all, the Bill of Rights mentions no specific rights that the states possess, but several the people do.

Two additional points: In 1791, most state militias did not give guns to militiamen when militias were formed. Militiamen brought their guns with them — from home. Indeed, the amendment says they can “keep” their firearms, not merely “bear” them during military service.

Finally, (my hero) James Madison’s original Second Amendment language was as follows: “The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; a well armed and well regulated militia being the best security of a free country.” Written that way, he is saying that if the people don’t have the right to arms, there can’t be a militia. That Congress reversed the order does not change Madison’s intent.

Granted, all constitutional rights, including free speech and gun ownership, are subject to reasonable restrictions — you can’t yell “Fire” in a crowded theater, and felons can’t possess firearms. But the general right to own firearms is constitutionally protected. We will see what the Supreme Court thinks.

http://www.tribstar.com/schools/local_story_345180431.html

07/12/11 Power push for Sunday hunting

Depending who you ask, Pennsylvania’s long-standing prohibition against hunting on Sundays is a blessing or a curse.

Supporters of the ban -- including a good number of sportsmen -- say it allows hunters to spend Sundays at church and family functions, gives wildlife a break and offers hikers, horseback riders, bird watchers and others one day a week to enjoy the woods without worrying about gunshots.

"During hunting season, hunters have six days a week to be out in the woods and others have one. One day a week is fair, and I think, a nice balance," said Andrew Page, director of hunting campaigns at the Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest anti-hunting organization.

Opponents of the ban, however, decry the prohibition as unfair and an outdated remnant of the old "blue laws" that outlawed everything from shopping to watching movies on Sundays.

"You can do almost anything on Sunday you can do on any other day of the week," said Chris Dolnak, senior vice president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a firearms industry group. "If somebody doesn't want to [hunt on Sunday], that's their right. But to deny someone else the only opportunity they might have to take their kid out or spend a few hours in a treestand" is wrong.

Boosting their ranks

The NSSF has a strong ally in state Rep. Edward G. Staback, chairman of the House Game and Fisheries Committee and a staunch Sunday hunting proponent.

Staback, D-Lackawanna, is the prime sponsor of House Bill 779, which would repeal the Sunday hunting ban and empower wildlife officials at the Pennsylvania Game Commission to decide when, or if, Sunday hunting should be allowed.

Sunday hunting has been illegal in Pennsylvania since before

the Game Commission was created in 1895. In 1749, the state banned deer hunting on Sundays, and all Sunday hunting was outlawed in 1873. Since that time, the Legislature has authorized Sunday hunting for crows, foxes and coyotes only.

Thirty-eight states currently allow unrestricted Sunday hunting, including neighboring Ohio and New York. Sunday hunting is allowed in West Virginia on a county-by-county basis, while Sunday hunting continues to be prohibited in neighboring New Jersey and Maryland

Staback, himself an avid hunter, believes an expansion of Sunday hunting to include more popular game species such as deer, turkeys, squirrels and pheasants would help reverse a steady downward trend in hunting license sales. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of licensed hunters in Pennsylvania declined 9.7 percent, from 1.05 million to 945,892, according to commission figures.

"We have great numbers of people who would like to get back into hunting but have to work five and a half days a week and have given it up, simply because they don't have the time," Staback said. "We have young people who would like to get involved but are not, simply because their father doesn't have the time to take them.

An economic boon

In addition to potentially drawing more people to the sport, Staback noted opening up Sunday hunting would have a tremendous impact on Pennsylvania's economy.

A 2005 study commissioned by the state Legislature indicated that allowing unrestricted Sunday hunting during all seasons would pump almost \$630 million a year into Pennsylvania's economy, resulting in more than 5,000 new jobs and \$18 million in additional state tax revenue.

Allowing Sunday hunting only during the two Sundays of the statewide firearms deer season, the report said, would generate \$185 million in new spending, resulting in 1,627 new jobs and \$5.4 million in additional tax revenue.

<http://www.mcall.com/sports/outdoors/all-sundayhunting1211.6168479dec11.0.2703137.story>

07/12/10 The Second 'obsolete'? You jest

I read with wonder Lee Gaillard's essay ("The Second Amendment Is Obsolete," Dec. 4) and was struck immediately by the question of where to begin. Gaillard's work, like most such pieces on the Second Amendment, was long on emotional arguments and filled with errors of interpretation and fact.

Simply put, our Founding Fathers (in whom I still have faith) saw the need for the Second Amendment to protect citizens' freedom from a variety of potential threats. Concerned with more than just fending off foreign invaders and quelling insurrections, the Framers of the Bill of Rights saw the Second Amendment as an "honest broker" to stop or impede the rise of a despotic government within our own borders.

Our Founding Fathers, based on their experience with the British, were notoriously paranoid about having a standing army. There is a good reason why we didn't have a significant one until after the War of 1812!

Yet despite these historical facts, it is today's standing army that Gaillard cites as the protector of our freedom and the reason that we no longer need a Second Amendment. In today's world, I

agree that our military is no threat -- but in the future, under the control of an unscrupulous leader, it could be the instrument used to end freedom in this country, not preserve it.

Gaillard's defense of the District of Columbia gun ban was most astonishing, however.

The 31-year-old gun ban that is the center of the Heller v. District of Columbia case is the most draconian gun ban in the United States. Ownership of a handgun is essentially forbidden, because the required permits are never issued. Possession, even in your own home, of an operational rifle or shotgun is likewise forbidden. No other gun law in the United States, at the city or state level, comes close to this level of severity.

The result: Washington is one of the most dangerous cities in our nation. Statistics from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that D.C. residents suffer firearms homicides at a rate 2 1/2 times higher than the state in second place.

It would seem that the district's leaders would follow the simple premise that any law or ordinance passed would have the goal of accomplishing something good. In light of this, one must ask what the D.C. leaders were after with this law.

If their goal was to get their constituents killed wholesale, they have succeeded admirably. If their intent was to save lives, their experiment has failed, and the smartest thing they could do would be to repeal the law now and save their city the costs of legal fees in the Supreme Court defending this failure.

<http://www.star-telegram.com/245/story/348930.html>

Founding Fathers Intent:

"It will be of little avail to the people, that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man, who knows what the law is to-day, can guess what it will be to-morrow." -- *Alexander Hamilton and James Madison (Federalist No. 62, 1788)*