



Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

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

Contacts: Legislative Committee Chairman, **Kim Stolfer** (412.221.3346) - activist@fvi.net

Legislative Committee Vice-Chairman, **Mike Christeson** - acslvchair@yahoo.com

Philadelphia Council and Mayor Pass and Sign Into Law Illegal Gun Control Bills

(April 10th) Just moments ago at 3PM Philadelphia Mayor Nutter signed into law five ordinances passed by City Council in 'violation' of Pennsylvania law. These measures cover the following concepts:

1. limit handgun purchases to one a month
2. require lost or stolen firearms to be reported to police within 24 hours
3. forbid individuals under protection from abuse orders from possessing guns if ordered by the court
4. allow removal of firearms from "persons posing a risk of imminent personal injury" to themselves or others, as determined by a judge
5. outlaw the possession and sale certain assault weapons.

It is important to note that violations of these are but summary offenses however the true intent is to try to push the Courts to grant the power that the Legislature will not—Local Control of Gun Laws.

The real issue here is that, again, the Mayor and City Council are COMMITTING criminal acts that carry a punishment of Misdemeanor 1 level of punishment. This is a terrible example to be setting for their constituents and those they want to follow the law now. Instead of going to court over this the first action should see them dragged out of city hall in handcuffs!!

Once again it is going to be up to the gun owners of PA to step forward and fight this evil or it will spread like cancer throughout our communities.

Gun Owners March On Harrisburg Once Again!

On Monday April 7th gun owners once again rallied in Harrisburg to celebrate the 'Right to Bear Arms and the Constitutional protections of it.

Leading off the Rally was guest speaker Alan Keyes with host legislator Rep. Daryl Metcalfe guiding the rally.

Other featured speakers at today's rally included **Larry Pratt**, executive director, Gun Owners of America; **Alan Gottlieb**, chairman, Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms; **Jeff Knox**, director of operations, Firearms Coalition; **Kim Stolfer**, chairman, Firearms Owners Against Crime; **Melody Zullinger**, executive director, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and **Jon Mirowitz**, Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania.

In attendance were over 500 gun owners from all points of the state and many grassroots groups including: Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, CCRKBA, GunWeek, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, Law Enforcement Alliance of America, Lehigh Valley Firearms Coalition, Mothers Arms - Safely in Mothers Arms Inc., National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, PA Firearms Owners Association, PA Gun Collectors Association, PA Gun Owners Association, PA Rifle and Pistol Association, PA Sportsmen's Association, Pink Pistols, the Second Amendment Sisters and Unified Sportsmen of PA.

At the end of the Rally a drawing was held for a brand new handgun as a thank you to all of the gun owners who sacrificed their time to come to Harrisburg.

The grassroots lobbying began after the drawing with gun owners breaking up into teams and directing their energies to the House and Senate members on the issue of our Right to Bear Arms.

The legislature passed HB 1845 (without any gun control in it) unanimously while we were lobbying for our freedoms on this day sending it to the Senate for consideration.

Smiles after Heller SCOTUS arguments

by Dave Workman & Joe Tartaro

And now, a nation waits.

Call it cautious optimism sprinkled with a dash of pessimism her and there - among some gun activists, but in the wake of the

landmark Supreme Court oral arguments Mar. 18 on the District of Columbia v Heller case, gun rights leaders are anticipating a narrow win, but a win all the same.

Depending upon whom one asks the question, those who have followed this case are predicting everything from a 5-4 favorable ruling for individual gun rights, to a 7-2 ruling, perhaps with a couple of those affirmative votes offering concurring opinions, but also suggesting that the right to keep and bear arms is subject to "reasonable regulation." For the firearms community, simply erasing the notion that the Second Amendment only applies to some "collective right" of states to organize militias would be a significant victory. Striking down the 32-year-old handgun ban in the District of Columbia would also be an important precedent, opening challenges to similar laws in other municipalities.

The high court is expected to hand down a ruling in June on whether the Second Amendment protects an individual civil right that extends beyond service in a state militia, and whether the District's handgun ban violates that right. (See related comments in Hindsight, Page 15.)

The hearing was off to an energetic start that left no doubt where some of the justices would come down on the question of the Second Amendment's meaning, and whether the handgun ban would stand. Chief Justice John Roberts, responding to a remark by District counsel Walter Dellinger that states have adopted "reasonable standards" for regulation of dangerous weapons, asked, "What is reasonable about a total ban on possession?"

Dellinger said it is reasonable if the ban is on one kind of weapon, and Roberts fired back, "So, if you have a law that prohibits the possession of books, it's all right if you allow the possession of newspapers?"

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, expected by most observers to be a "swing" vote, clearly indicated his position in support of a broad individual right when he told Dellinger that the amendment supplements the delegation of authority over militias to Congress.

"And in my view," he said, "it supplemented it by saying there's a general right to bear arms quite without reference to the militia either way."

Later, in an exchange with Solicitor General Paul Clement regarding the 1939 Miller case that is often used by anti-gunners as "proof" that the amendment only supports the collective right of states to organize militias, Kennedy said the Miller ruling was "insufficient to...describe the interests that must have been foremost in the framers' minds when they were concerned about guns being taken away from the people who needed them for their defense."

Then in a subsequent exchange with attorney Alan Gura, lead counsel representing Dick Anthony Heller, the District resident challenging the ban, Kennedy observed, "I suggest that Miller may be deficient."

An amicus brief filed by the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) had specifically suggested that the Miller test be abandoned. It was the only such brief to suggest that course.

It was Kennedy who also suggested that the "operative" clause of the Second Amendment is the second part of the 29-word amendment, the part that says, "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," and that the "militia"

clause is a preamble explaining one of the reasons why that right is so important "to the security of a free state."

Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the National Rifle Association, was in the audience for the oral arguments, and afterwards, he observed, "I have every expectation that the court will soon restore the Second Amendment to the District of Columbia".

John Snyder, public affairs director for the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, told Gun Week, "My own feeling is that our side had the upper hand based on the questions and secondary questions that the justices posed and the way they were answered."

Alan Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), was also confident of a favorable outcome. He told Gun Week, "We anticipate that the court will rule once and for all that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental individual civil right, and that gun bans, even on specific types of commonly-owned firearms, do not stand up under even modest scrutiny."

On the other side, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence sent out an appeal for funds two days after the hearings that suggested they believe the District's ban is in trouble, and that their argument against the existence of an individual right is about to be shot down. The language of the appeal seemed both desperate and at the same time stubborn.

"Even if the District's ordinance is struck down," the appeal stated, "and regardless of how the Justices rule on the individual's 'right' to bear arms, their questioning clearly acknowledged the importance of and the need for reasonable regulations on guns."

The Brady appeal noted, "We need to be prepared for the outcome, whatever that might be." It also left no question that the gun control lobby will not simply roll over and play dead if the high court strikes down the ban and affirms an individual right.

Nelson Lund, a distinguished law professor at George Mason University who authored the SAF amicus brief, anticipates an affirmative ruling on the Second Amendment as an individual right and striking down the District gun ban by at least 5-4 and possibly 6-3.

Prof. Robert Cottrol, another distinguished law professor who teaches at George Washington University, also suggested a 5-4 affirmative ruling. He also thinks the majority may pick up two additional votes from the liberal justices.

The historic importance of the Heller case was apparent from the crowds who gathered for the oral arguments. Many of the spectators were law students and the section of the Court set aside for attorneys in the Supreme Court bar was packed.

The Supreme Court building is not geared for a large audience and some interested parties began waiting in line two days before the oral arguments were to begin.

What is significant is that much of the media reported that the Court was likely to decide in favor of an individual right interpretation regardless of what else their opinion might say.

David Savage, in The Los Angeles Times, wrote: "The Supreme Court justices, hearing a historic argument on the meaning of the 2nd Amendment, signaled they are likely to strike down a handgun ban in the District of Columbia and rule that homeowners have a right to keep a gun for self-defense.

"While that conclusion alone could elate many gun-rights supporters," Savage continued, "that may not have been the most difficult question in the case argued today before the court. That question is: If such a constitutional right exists, how may legislatures and city councils limit that right? And the profound disagreements Tuesday among the justices on that question suggest that the answer may come amid some serious shades of grey."

Tucson, AZ, attorney David T. Hardy, who co-wrote one of the amicus briefs with Hamline law Prof. Joe Olson, sent this account of events:

"I just got back from oral arguments, and I'm happy to say that we've almost certainly got the five votes we hoped for, and maybe a sixth ...

"Counsel for the District started out almost immediately-after being attacked by a few justices, including Kennedy, started claiming that the current law didn't ban self-defense. This was already contrary to their earlier claims and wasn't brought up below, and as the argument went on, he backed away more and more from defending the long gun part of the law. By the time it was his turn for rebuttal, he had all but abandoned the long gun part of DC's law and, essentially, asked that the Court uphold the pistol ban part provided that DC clarify its statute to ensure that self-defense is not curtailed by the long gun regulations." [The New GUN WEEK, April 15, 2008](#)

ATF takes heat over proposed tool inscription

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

Call it either a phenomenally arrogant, and stupid waste of money, or call it a clever way to remind field agents to seize property from criminals so it can be returned to the rightful owners.

Whatever you call it—and gun rights activists have been calling it a lot of things lately on chat lists—the proposal to purchase specially-engraved

Leatherman multi-tools for distribution to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agents ignited a firestorm because of the inscription: "Always Think Forfeiture."

However, Gun Week was advised that the purchase may not have taken place, and the bid request that went out last October may have been withdrawn.

According to ATF sources, the reminder to field agents to "always think forfeiture" may have positive results for gunowners and other crime victims, because forfeiture statutes are sometimes overlooked with cases against drug traffickers and other criminals. And until ATF or other agencies can legally take possession of weapons or other property seized during investigations, those items cannot be returned.

There are concerns that asset forfeiture laws have been abused, however, and that often law-abiding citizens, including gun collectors or dealers, have seen their property seized as part of an investigation, and may not get it back if such an investigation does not pan out.

Todd Reichert, a supervisory special agent and public affairs officer with ATF, told Gun Week that it is hardly unusual for ATF agents and other law enforcement officers to "recover firearms from some person who cannot legally own firearms" during an investigation.

"Let's say it's a convicted felon, a prohibited person, and we find four or five handguns in his apartment,"

Reichert explained "We find out if they used a straw purchase to get those guns, or if they are stolen guns...."

Once the origin of those firearms is established, ATF can use the forfeiture law to "transfer ownership of property between two parties," the criminal and the ATF, and this process essentially works the same way for any law enforcement agency involved in such an investigation.

A former Texas lawman, Reichert noted that criminals frequently get firearms as a result of a residential burglary. If the serial number of a stolen firearm is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database, when ATF -- or another agency runs a check, that gun will show up as stolen. That is when, Reichert explained, the process begins for return of the firearm to its rightful owner.

And here's where he offered some advice to gunowners: Keep a record of your firearm, a description including make, model and caliber, barrel length and, of course, the serial number.

ATF Special Agent Rich Marianos said that it is better to be able to return a stolen firearm to its owner than possibly have it destroyed by some police agency because the owner cannot be located. [The New GUN WEEK, April 15, 2008](#)

New report finds DEA losing more guns, but fewer laptops

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is losing more guns but fewer laptops than it was about five years ago, the Justice Department's inspector general said on Mar. 28, according to Associated Press (AP).

The latest follow-up report found that some of the same problems cited in a 2002 audit remain: Policies for storing weapons and laptops are not always followed and, when they are lost, officials don't regularly report them.

The report credited the DEA with a 50% reduction in the frequency with which laptops are lost and stolen. But the inspector general said officials often have no idea what information was on the computers when they were stolen.

Officials are required to document whether sensitive material was on a lost or stolen computer. But of the 231 laptops lost in the 5 1/2 years covered by the report, such documents were filed only five times.

"We asked DEA senior managers what the DEA did to determine the contents of the remaining 226 lost or stolen laptop computers. The DEA was unable to provide information regarding what was on the laptops," the report said, according to AP. "We believe the DEA's inability to determine what was on the many stolen or missing laptops was a significant failure."

Auditors said the DEA lost 22 firearms and had an additional 69 stolen over the 5 1/2-year period. The stolen weapons included pistols, rifles, shotguns, and a submachinegun.

The majority of stolen guns had been left in an official's car, despite a policy prohibiting leaving a firearm unattended in a vehicle. The report cited examples of guns stolen from cars parked outside restaurants, hotels, schools and gyms. Some agents had their guns taken from their cars while they were shopping or getting coffee. One firearm was stolen while the car was at the body shop.

The DEA, in a written response attached to the report, said it agreed with many of the recommendations and had already taken several steps to improve its reporting process. All laptops containing sensitive information are now encrypted, the agency said, and all lost or stolen firearms are routinely reported.

"The DEA has made significant improvements in its rate of loss for laptops," agency spokesman Garrison Courtney said, according to AP. "In those instances where weapons were lost or stolen, appropriate disciplinary actions were taken by DEA."

A PDF copy of the report can be found at: usdoj.gov/oig/reports/DEA/a0821/final. (Correct address for this report is: <http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/reports/DEA/index.htm>) *The New GUN WEEK*, April 15, 2008

Citizens balk at warrantless gun searches in Boston, DC

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

Residents of neighborhoods in Washington, DC, and Boston, MA, are not simply saying "No," but "Hell, No!" to voluntary warrantless searches of their homes by police officers looking for "illegal guns," according to news agencies in both communities.

When the program in the District of Columbia was announced just days before the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the challenge to the District's handgun ban, the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) had called the program an "outrage." SAF founder Alan Gottlieb has not changed his opinion.

In Massachusetts, the Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) is furious, while police officials seem shocked that residents in their communities are unwilling to allow officers to enter their homes without search warrants.

According to the Boston Globe, Lisa Thureau-Gray, managing director of that city's Juvenile Justice Center at Suffolk University Law School, said "The community doesn't want this."

"What part of 'no' don't they understand," she wondered, the newspaper said.

The Boston program is called "Safe Homes." Washington program has dubbed its program the "Safe Homes Initiative," but SAF's Gottlieb called that an "insult to our intelligence."

"If District residents allow this to happen," he said, "no home will be safe from warrantless fishing expeditions by police, because that's exactly what this thinly-disguised program is really all about."

He is concerned that this could set a dangerous precedent that other city police departments might try to copy.

But the projects—given laudatory opening announcements by local media—have hit brick walls in both cities, leaving police officials stunned. The Boston Globe said Commissioner Edward F Davis was surprised at the criticism.

Likewise, Washington, DC, Police Chief Cathy Lanier has also been taken aback by resistance to the searches, which police officials insist would be voluntary. In the District, Lanier has promised amnesty to any resident in whose home a gun is found. In Boston, police have promised to keep any gun find confidential, but will test any recovered firearms to determine whether they have been used in crimes, and if so, charges could be filed.

Police department spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll told the newspaper that this effort is aimed at getting guns out of the community, not making arrests.

Community leaders in the nation's capitol, according to NBC affiliate WRC in the District, have gone door-to-door in at least one neighborhood to caution residents about allowing police into their homes without warrants to search for firearms.

"I think people should not open your doors under any circumstances," said School Board Member William Lockridge. "Don't even crack your door, unless someone has a warrant for your arrest."

While the program is called Safe Homes, one columnist suggested it should be "dubbed homes outside the purview of the Fourth Amendment."

The Boston program is ostensibly aimed only at homes where youths involved in gang activities reside. Even that hasn't satisfied Bean Town residents, and because of that, the program's start has been delayed at least three times.

Back in the District of Columbia, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has distributed signs that residents can place in the windows of their homes. Those signs state, "To the Police: No Consent to Search Our Home." City Councilman and former Mayor Marion Barry argued that the plan violates the Fourth Amendment prohibition against illegal search and seizure. Others wonder whether it could violate the Fifth Amendment if a prosecution follows.

That sentiment was reflected in remarks by Sarah Wunsch, a staff attorney for the ACLU in Boston, who was quoted by The Boston Globe.

"People on the street may say 'This is great. I'm letting them in,' she noted, "but those are the people I'm concerned about, because they haven't been educated about the hazards."

Wunsch is worried that public housing residents might lose their homes if police find guns inside and report that to housing authorities. She told Gun Week that many people are not convinced when police insist these are only "consent searches."

"It is coercive," she said, "when three police officers and a clergyman show up on your doorstep."

She reiterated that many people don't know all the pitfalls that could arise if an unlicensed gun is found in their residence. If the housing authority were to find out about that, it could be grounds for eviction, Wunsch indicated.

She did note that some of the police officers involved in the program "are really nice guys and I think they're trying to do a good thing." *The New GUN WEEK*, April 15, 2008

Important March Supreme Court ruling clarifies treaty law issue

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) took note of a special benefit of a Mar. 25 Supreme Court decision in an editorial commentary published the following day. While the decision is not clearly linked to the right to keep and bear arms, it should be welcomed by gunowners concerned about the threat of global gun control schemes promulgated by the European Union and United Nations.

"Everyone waxing outraged about the big Medellin decision on Mar. 25 is focusing on the death penalty," said the WSJ, "but the Supreme Court did something else entirely: It insulated

American law from the international variety. And this modest and limited ruling should help restore those two qualities to US courts, which is no doubt one of the reasons the Roberts Court's political opponents are so livid.

"Though the case became a global cause célèbre, its sordid origins trace to 1993, when José Medellín, a Mexican national, murdered two Houston teenagers. He was sentenced to death by a Texas jury, but his lawyers argued on appeal that he hadn't had access to Mexico's consulate before he confessed to his crimes," the editorial reprised.

"This was a violation of the 1963 Vienna Convention, which holds that diplomats are supposed to be notified when their nationals are arrested. In response, the US government took steps to ensure states better comply in the future, both to fulfill its treaty obligations and serve the reciprocal interests of US citizens detained abroad."

The case also became a referendum on American commitment to international law and what treaties bind the US government and its 50 states. The Mexican authorities made the case a referendum on capital punishment and international legal norms, ultimately suing the US in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague. The ICJ ruled in Mexico's favor, ordering states to give Medellín and some 51 other nationals new hearings. The question before the Supreme Court was whether such international dictates must be enforced by sovereign state courts. An affirmative answer might have gone a long way toward validating the expansive claims of liberal legal theorists that US courts take instruction from the United Nations (UN), and other international legal norms.

"Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the 6-3 majority, ruled that the ICJ finding was not binding because the Vienna Convention is an understanding between governments, a diplomatic compact, *The Journal* continued. "It was never intended to automatically create new individual rights enforceable domestically by international bodies. Texas's violation was of diplomatic protocols, and calls for a diplomatic remedy."

Here's the important part about the differences in treaties super ceding the US constitution.

"Treaty obligations, in other words," said *The Journal* in explaining the decision, "do not necessarily take on the force of law domestically. Rather, Congress must enact legislation for whatever provisions—such as consular notification—that it wants to make the formal law of the land. This distinction matters because it establishes a fire wall between international and domestic law. It also protects the core American constitutional principles of federalism and the separation of powers. As Justice Roberts points out, the courts must leave to the political branches "the primary role in deciding when and how international agreements will be enforced."

Clearly, a president cannot enter into an international treaty—like the Arms Trade Agreement at the UN—without approval of Congress.

Medellín v. Texas also swatted away a claim of presidential power, *The Journal* noted. While the Bush Administration did not agree with Mexico's choice of venue, or the intrusion on US sovereignty, it attempted to allay the diplomatic ruckus by directing states to comply with the ICJ ruling in a 2005 executive

order. The Court ruled that the President's power, too, was limited by the Constitution. The authority to make treaty commitments did not extend to unilaterally asserting new state responsibilities or legal duties. Again, the executive could only make new laws in conjunction with the legislature.

"Devotees of using foreign law to overrule American politicians will squawk," *WSJ* concluded, "but the Medellín majority has delivered a victory for legal modesty and the US Constitution.

Chief Justice Roberts wrote the opinion in the 6-3 decision, with Justices Scalia, Kennedy, Thomas and Alito signing on, and Stevens concurring but with a separate opinion. Dissenting were Justices Breyer, Souter and Ginsburg. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

South Carolina seen poised to close access to CCW info

South Carolina is poised to become the 28th state to keep secret the list of residents allowed to carry concealed weapons, a move favored by gunowners but opposed by advocates of open government.

According to *The Charlotte Observer*, South Carolina is among six states with legislation pending that would close the information to public scrutiny, according to the National Rifle Association, which has advocated the measures that represent a battle between privacy and principle.

Gun enthusiasts such as Rep. Mike Pitts (R-Laurens), who sponsored the South Carolina bill, call the publishing of the gunowners' names an attack on the Second Amendment.

"Having a concealed weapon means I'm supposed to have it hidden," said Pitts, a retired law enforcement officer who teaches a handgun safety course to legislators and their families. "You're not supposed to know I've got one."

Open-government advocates counter the government should never dole out licenses in secret.

"You need public oversight," said Lucy Dalglish, executive director of Virginia-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "How else will you know if the state is issuing licenses in a fair way?"

But the legislature in gun-friendly South Carolina—where one in five legislators holds a concealed firearm permit, according to a recent review by *The State* newspaper in Columbia, SC—is ready to send the measure to Gov. Mark Sanford.

His spokesman, Joel Sawyer, said the GOP governor has not yet reviewed the legislation.

The bill would exempt the identities of permit holders from what's available through the Freedom of Information Act and grant access only to law enforcement or through a court order. The House, which passed the bill unanimously last May, is set to take up Senate changes to the bill on Tuesday. They include requiring the state to publish statistical information yearly on permit holders and applicants, a change Pitts supports.

Pitts said he was incensed by a column last March in *The Roanoke Times* that focused on concealed weapon permits as a way to highlight Sunshine Week, the annual observance of open government and public records laws. The Virginia newspaper's

online version included a link to the state's more than 135,000 permit holders and their street addresses.

Gun activists said the easy access could have alerted criminals about where to find guns because permit holders generally own more than one—or could have given abusive ex-spouses or stalkers the new address of their victims.

More than 61,300 South Carolinians hold permits to carry concealed weapons, according to the State Law Enforcement Division, which oversees the permit process. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

Sex offender killed in home invasion

A Brighton, TN resident fatally shot a home invader who turned out to be a registered sex offender in the process of attacking two women in their own home Feb. 19, according to The Memphis Commercial Appeal.

The dead man was identified as David Fleming, 44. He reportedly broke into the home of his victims at about 3 a.m., tying them up. One of the women escaped and went to the home of neighbor Keith Ingram, who armed himself with a semiautomatic pistol and rushed to the woman's house.

The newspaper said Ingram found Fleming in the act of assaulting the woman, but then Fleming turned his attack toward Ingram, who shot him once. Fleming stumbled out to the front porch and died. That's where deputies; from the Tipton County Sheriff's Department, and Brighton police, found him.

Ingram is licensed to carry a concealed handgun and has no criminal record. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

CO carry permit applications rise after shootings

Publicity about mass shootings—including one at Colorado Springs in which the perpetrator was shot by an armed citizen volunteering as a security officer at a church—are probably behind a sharp rise in the number of applications for concealed carry permits in the Centennial State, according to The Denver Post.

The newspaper reported recently that last year, 9,880 Colorado citizens applied for carry permits, compared with 6,649 people in 2006 and 6,670 private citizens in 2005. The Post said the surge has continued into 2008 in several counties, and unidentified law enforcement sources suspect that the spike in applications "is due to a rash of violent outbreaks at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and a mall in Utah."

Permit applications went up sharply in El Paso County after the Dec. 9 attack on the New Life Church in Colorado Springs. That attack was interrupted when a private citizen and member of the church, Jeanne Assam, shot gunman Matthew Murray, preventing what many believed would have been a bloodbath inside the church sanctuary. Assam was later honored with the Second Amendment Foundation's Eleanor Roosevelt Award.

The newspaper reported that permit applications went up 31% in December, 155% in January and 262% in February.

Adams County reported double the number of applications, and Jefferson County reported a 179% increase for February applications over the same month last year. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

CA cops probe on-the-phone woman's murder

An unidentified West Covina, CA, woman was murdered Mar. 19 while she was on the telephone with police dispatchers, pleading for help.

According to the Associated Press, the woman reported that someone was trying to break into her home in what was described as an "upscale" neighborhood about 20 miles east of Los Angeles. When police arrived, they found the slain woman's body, and paramedics pronounced her dead at the scene. She had been shot several times.

Police dispatchers heard the shots and then the telephone went silent. By the time deputies arrived, the killer had left.

A published report said that a man arrived shortly after sheriff's deputies did, and asked about his wife. Told that she had been fatally shot, he collapsed and claimed that she had just spoken with him on the telephone. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

Snow shovel justice

Resistance to criminal threats can take many forms as this February report from Associated Press reveals.

Certainly a couple of suburban St. Louis, MO, purse snatchers picked the wrong women to attack and even provided them with a weapon. The women fought back with the suspects' own snow shovel.

Outside a Schnucks grocery store, the two thieves tried to grab the purses of two women as they were transferring groceries from their shopping cart to their car.

One of the women grabbed a snow shovel from the suspects' pickup truck and smacked one of the men on the head. The other jumped into the cab of the pickup, attacked the other suspect and snatched the ignition key so he couldn't drive away.

Police later tracked the men to a hotel. The man struck with the shovel required staples to close the gash in his head before being carted off to jail with his partner. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

Tourist robbed for gas money

A bad sign for those who think high gas prices are okay was the story out of Orlando, FL, recently in which a tourist was robbed at gunpoint by a couple of thugs who were quickly rounded up, and subsequently told the police they pulled the crime for gas money.

According to WKMG and The Orlando Sentinel, the March 3 stickup happened outside a Days Inn, where the unfortunate victim was robbed of his money, cell phone and cigarettes.

But it appears that the robbery suspects, identified by the newspaper as Jerry D. Sims and Echano D. Coleman, had a vehicle that needed more than just gas in the tank. They were driving an SUV, which not only guzzled all of their gasoline, it also broke down within minutes after they tried to get away, and when they subsequently took off on foot, the cops collared both of them.

Perhaps next time, they'll drive a more economical car. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

How not to avoid drug test

A Pasco, WA, resident Daniel Kuch apparently didn't want to go to work Feb. 28, due to an upcoming drug test, so he took calling in sick to a new extreme and had a pal, identified by the Associated Press as Kurtis Johnson of nearby Burbank, shoot him in the shoulder.

Once he was sufficiently plugged, Kuch reportedly called the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to report that he had been wounded in a drive-by shooting while he was jogging. Well, that story went south in a hurry, after sheriff's detectives started asking the right questions and getting the wrong answers.

Ultimately, Kuch admitted that he had asked Johnson to pull the trigger, and now in addition to being out of work, Kuch and his pal are both in trouble. Kuch was booked into the county jail for investigation of filing a false police report, and Johnson was sacked for investigation of reckless endangerment. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

Iran gunrunner sentenced

Bid a farewell to Seyed Mostafa Maghloubi, an American citizen with poor judgment in international politics, because he'll be dining on US federal prison food for the next 31/2 years after pleading guilty last summer for his role in a plot to ship submachine guns to Iran for insurgent activity against the Iranian government.

Maghloubi struck a plea deal with federal prosecutors. He could have been sent to prison for up to 20 years.

He admitted taking possession of three Uzi full-auto submachineguns in order to ship those guns to a political faction opposed to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

Cop charged with gun thefts

From the "Only Cops Should Have Guns" file comes the report out of Tulsa, OK, about a veteran police officer who has been charged with stealing firearms from the police department and peddling them on the Internet.

According to Associated Press, Officer Buddy Visser was suspended without pay and faces both federal charges for possessing and selling the stolen guns and ammunition, and with fraud. [The New GUN WEEK](#), April 15, 2008

NEWS RELEASES

04/10/2008 SAF HAILS CALIFORNIA HIGH COURT VICTORY OVER S.F. HANDGUN BAN

BELLEVUE, WA – The California Supreme Court made the right decision in rejecting an appeal by the City of San Francisco that sought to uphold its handgun ban, the Second Amendment Foundation said.

SAF was joined in a lawsuit against the handgun ban by the National Rifle Association, Law Enforcement Alliance of America, California Association of Firearms Retailers and San Francisco residents. The lawsuit was filed just days after voters in the city passed Proposition H in

November 2005.

“How many times must the courts tell the City of San Francisco that it cannot pass this kind of a Draconian measure,” wondered SAF founder Alan M. Gottlieb. “This lawsuit essentially followed the same legal path as SAF’s earlier lawsuit against the city and then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein, which also struck down a gun ban. We plowed this legal ground more than 20 years ago, and nothing has changed. We are proud to have been part of a team effort this time around that reinforces SAF’s original victory.

“The fact that the State Supreme Court unanimously decided to reject the city’s appeal will hopefully send a message that it cannot place the burden of crime reduction on the backs of law-abiding citizens,” he stated.

“Frankly, we were disappointed that this legal battle ever had to be fought,” Gottlieb continued. “We told the city early in 2005, before the measure was placed on the ballot, that this issue had already been decided by the courts, and that if they pursued this ban we would bring legal action. We weren’t bluffing, and neither were our friends at the NRA, LEAA and the California Retailers.

“This lengthy legal battle should not have been necessary,” he concluded. “It took up valuable time in an already-clogged California court system, and it wasted a considerable amount of public money and resources when the outcome was predictable. If the city truly is seeking solutions to a crime problem, we would be happy to sit down and work with them. Crime is everybody’s problem, and we should be working together, instead of fighting each other in court, because it accomplished nothing.”

-END-

04/09/2008 CCRKBA HAILS PASSAGE OF BILL TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF GUN-OWNING EMPLOYEES

BELLEVUE, WA – The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms praised the Florida Legislature today for passing a measure that expands and protects the right of Sunshine State gun owners to have firearms locked in their cars while they are working.

The so-called “take-your-guns-to-work” measure prohibits business owners from banning firearms that are kept locked in cars by their employees when those vehicles are parked on company property.

“We believe this legislation will prevent unfair sanctions against workers who simply want to exercise their

constitutional right to have a firearm for their personal protection while traveling to and from work," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "Florida citizens who are legally licensed to carry have gone through background checks and a licensing process that certainly establishes their standing as law-abiding. These are not the kind of people who pose a problem in the workplace."

The legislation now goes to Gov. Charlie Crist. Gottlieb encouraged Florida gun owners to contact the governor's office and urge him to sign the measure into law.

"The Florida Legislature has taken a courageous and sensible step," said Joe Waldron, CCRKBA special projects director who resides in Tallahassee. "There is no reason why anyone should face discipline or dismissal for simply having a firearm locked in their car when they have a state-issued permit to carry that firearm elsewhere."

Contrary to a claim from the president of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Waldron said "good policy clearly won over politically-motivated, anti-gun rights hysteria."

-END-

Gun Owners of America E-Mail Alert

8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151
Phone: 703-321-8585 / FAX: 703-321-8408

<http://www.gunowners.org>

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

What happens tomorrow -- Wednesday, April 9, 2008 -- will probably determine whether or not you will be able to carry a gun in a national park.

The first key vote will be a vote to cut off debate on the motion to take up the "alternate" version of the "parks bill." That bill is S. 2739.

Why, you might ask, is such an arcane procedural vote so important?

To answer that question, it is necessary to look at a little history: Earlier this year, the first "parks" bill came onto the Senate calendar. It was not a good bill: In terms of private property rights, it was one of the biggest federal land grabs in American history. In addition, it would grant another liberal anti-gun congressman to the Mariana Islands.

But Senator Tom Coburn was able to use the Senate rules to secure a right to offer his gun amendment to that first bill -- an amendment which would affirm your right to carry a firearm for self-defense in most national parks.

The Senate Democratic leadership was terrified. If presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were required to cast an anti-gun vote on the eve of the presidential election, it could arguably cost Democrat states like Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Arkansas, and New Hampshire in November.

So Democratic leader Harry Reid (D-NV) came up with a plan: He would kill the bill on which Coburn had the right to offer his gun amendment. Instead, he would bring up a similar bill -- but one on which Coburn had not secured a parliamentary right to offer the gun amendment. Once the new "alternate" gun bill was pending, Reid would add so many amendments that the Coburn gun amendment could not be offered.

So, to recapitulate: The "alternate" parks bill -- S. 2739 -- exists for one reason and one reason only: to block consideration of a Coburn amendment to allow you to use a gun to defend yourself in a national park.

ACTION: Tell your Senator to vote against cloture on the motion to proceed to the parks bill. You can use the pre-written message below and send it as an e-mail by visiting the GOA Legislative Action Center at <http://www.gunowners.org/activism.htm> (where phone and fax numbers are also available).

-END-

News Briefs:

08/04/08 State House unanimously OKs gun package

A comprehensive gun-package bill unanimously passed the state House of Representatives yesterday by a 200-to-0 vote, adding muscle to the fight against straw purchasers and raising the penalties on gun-related crimes.

The passage of House Bill 1845 comes on the heels of last week's defeat of a highly publicized amendment that would have required gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms and, if they did not, face penalties if the gun were subsequently used in a crime.

http://www.philly.com/dailynews/local/20080408_State_House_unanimously_OKs_gun_package.html

08/04/08 Firearm owners rally in Harrisburg for rights

HARRISBURG -- Gun owners vowed to continue fighting to protect their Second Amendment rights during a rally Monday, but a gun control advocate criticized their raffle of a pistol in the state Capitol Rotunda as "unfortunate" and "insensitive" to victims of gun violence.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_561155.html

08/04/08 Sportsmen backing Obama bid

On a day when gun control was front and center in Harrisburg, U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., picked up support from three area sportsmen. Obama's campaign on Monday announced the formation of a Pennsylvania Sportsmen and Sportswomen for Obama Steering Committee.

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19462788&BRD=1282&PAG=461&dept_id=182121&rfi=6

08/04/08 Controversy: Mercenaries Training US Local Police Officers

There are many police and law enforcement officials who are concerned with the growing trend of using military-trained mercenaries to train and work with local police officers in the United States, but there are many who believe the events of September 11, 2001 dictate the need for a new paradigm.

For example, Kentucky's Lexington Police Department contracted Blackwater Security International to provide what's described as homeland security training. Meanwhile that city's Mayor Jim Newberry and its chief of police Anthony Beatty refused free training provided by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement federal program that prepares police officers to enforce immigration and border security as part of their duties.

Lexington is on the nation's list of so-called Sanctuary Cities in which police officers are prohibited from working with ICE or Border Patrol agents in the United States. Critics are angry over the use of local tax dollars to hire Blackwater personnel to train the police.

But Lexington isn't the only city using hired guns to help local police officers. In New Orleans, heavily armed operatives from the Blackwater private security firm, infamous for their work in Iraq, are openly patrolling the streets of that beleaguered city.

Some of the mercenaries were reportedly "deputized" by the Louisiana governor and were issued gold Louisiana State law enforcement badges to wear on their chests and Blackwater photo identification cards to be worn on their arms.

While they are working in Louisiana, Blackwater officials say they are on contract with the Department of Homeland Security and have been given the authority to use lethal force if necessary. Some of the mercenaries assigned to patrol the streets of New Orleans recently returned from Iraq, where they provided personal security details for the former head of the US occupation, L. Paul Bremer, and the former US ambassador to Iraq, John Negroponte.

Blackwater, which is based in North Carolina, is one of the leading private security companies providing security personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. Along with other companies such as Wackenhut Security, Inc., it has several lucrative US government contracts and provides security services—including bodyguard work—for many senior US diplomats, foreign dignitaries and corporations.

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/2549>

08/04/08 Pa. sportsmen, hunters oppose more gun legislation

HARRISBURG -- When the subject of handguns arises at the state Capitol, most of the recent attention has focused on

Gov. Ed Rendell and other gun-control Democrats from Philadelphia who are trying to reduce the plague of deaths from gun violence in their streets.

But supporters of the Second Amendment's guarantee of the right to have weapons struck back forcefully yesterday, organizing the third annual Right to Keep and Bear Arms rally at the Capitol.

Several hundred sportsmen, hunters and gun owners from around the state -- both Republicans and Democrats -- demonstrated their political power.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08099/871342-178.stm>

08/04/08 Gun-control bill passes House unanimously

HARRISBURG -- A bill to increase criminal penalties for possessing a firearm with an altered serial number passed the state House unanimously Monday, hours after a raucous gun-rights rally in the Capitol Rotunda.

The bill's prime sponsor, Rep. John Sabatina, D-Philadelphia, promoted it as the first meaningful legislation restricting illegal firearms to pass the House in decades.

The bill also would make more serious the crime of falsely reporting a stolen gun, restrict the seizure of guns and bullets by the government during emergencies and establish a voluntary registry of lost or stolen firearms run by the state police.

An attempt last week to amend the bill by making it a criminal offense for gun owners to fail to report a lost or stolen handgun was defeated by a 128-75 vote. That provision was designed to combat the use of straw purchasers to help criminals circumvent restrictions on who may buy a gun.

An amendment that did pass would allow people who fear for their safety to obtain a three-month emergency license to carry a concealed firearm, bypassing current law's waiting period.

http://www.eveningsun.com/ci_8850428?source=most_email

08/04/07 Gun-rights supporters rally in Capitol today

Hundreds of gun rights supporters and several dozen pro-gun lawmakers are expected to gather in the Capitol today for the third annual Right to Bear Arms Rally.

Featured speakers include Alan Keyes, former Republican presidential candidate; Larry Pratt, executive director of the Gun Owners of America; and Melody Zullinger, executive director of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. The event begins at 10 a.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.

At last year's rally some activists generated controversy when they held up a banner that said Rep. Angel Cruz (D., Phila.) should be "hung from the tree of liberty" for proposing a measure requiring gun registration.

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20080407_Gun_rights_supporters_rally_in_Capitol_today.html

08/04/07 Obama and Guns: Two Different Views

Something happens to Democrats on the gun issue when they run for president. For John Kerry during 2004, it was awkwardly posing in brand new hunting gear at a seemingly endless series of hunting photo-ops.

But in what will probably be the most improbable change, the Politico **reported** on Saturday that Barack Obama was making a big play for gun votes in Pennsylvania. It is not particularly surprising that this change is occurring with the crucial Pennsylvania primary soon approaching.

With about **one million** of the country's **12.5 million** hunters, Pennsylvania is number one in the nation in the amount of time its citizens spend hunting. With about **600,000** people with permits to carry concealed handguns, Pennsylvania also has more permit holders than any other state.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,347690,00.html>

08/04/07 More Expansive Gun Bill Passes

ATLANTA -- A controversial gun bill Republican sponsors called the most expansive and sweeping gun bill in the state's history passed the legislature, opening the door for Georgians to carry concealed weapons in more public places.

While they couldn't drink, licensed gun owners would be allowed to carry their guns inside many restaurants that serve alcohol if more than half of the profits come from food.

The gun bill also allows carriers with conceal carry permits to bring their guns to state parks, historic sites, recreational and wildlife management areas, and on public transportation systems like MARTA. It essentially makes those public places "gun zones." "Obviously, there's a right to have it, but you know, just because somebody's authorized to carry one doesn't mean they should have one," said Dan Nguyen, who rides MARTA daily.

"The gun should be kept inside private homes. That's it," said MARTA commuter Kenneth Gaiter. "What are they hunting for? What are they trying to prove?"

Backed by the National Rifle Association, the bill overwhelming passed through both the House and Senate late Friday night.

The measure also allows employees to leave their guns in their cars at work if their bosses agree.

Republican bill sponsors say the bill is the most expansive, the most sweeping addition to gun owners' rights in Georgia's history.

http://www.11alive.com/news/article_news.aspx?storyid=114035

08/04/07 This Year, a Toned-Down 2nd Amendment Rally in Harrisburg

Supporters of gun rights rallied on Monday morning in the rotunda of the state capitol.

The keynote speaker at the rally was former Republican presidential candidate Alan Keyes (in file photo above), who said that gun control advocates cast themselves as wanting to preserve life but, he says, they forget a 'harsh reality':

"And that is, whether you speak of nations, or of peoples, or of families, or of individuals, you cannot defend life if you give up the means of that defense."

Last year's rally was controversial because of a sign stating that a Philadelphia representative of color, Angel Cruz, should be "hung from the tree of liberty"

This year's speaker, Keyes, is a noted conservative of color. When asked if that were a response to what happened last year, the rally organizer -- Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler

County) -- said only that Keyes is a patriot known for supporting freedom issues who expressed interest in speaking.

<http://www.kyw1060.com/pages/1959123.php?contentType=4&contentId=1844750>

08/04/07 Wisconsin Postal Workers Attacked by Wild Turkeys

MADISON, Wis. — Rather than rain or snow, or even dogs, postal workers in a West Side neighborhood near Owen Conservation Park are being pestered by wild turkeys this spring.

Mara Wilhite, manager of the Hilldale Station Post Office, said she expected to deal with all manner of issues when she went to work for the U.S. Post Office. But that was not one of them. "Just when you thought you'd heard it all," she said. About five to 10 of the birds have been pecking at the postal workers as they make their rounds, and some of the birds have attacked the letter carriers with the sharp spurs on their legs. One of the birds went through the open door of a mail truck and scratched the driver.

Wilhite sought help in the matter from Eric Lobner, regional wildlife program supervisor for the state Department of Natural Resources.

Lobner said the behavior is clearly tied to the breeding season, which started recently and runs through about mid-May. Color plays an important role in turkey breeding, he said, with the color of the male's head during mating season changes from gaudy blue to white to red. Lobner speculated that perhaps the turkeys are attracted to the red, white and blue postal trucks.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,347409,00.html>

08/04/07 Florida Alert: Your Personal Protection Could Mean Your Unemployment

Attorney Tells Why HB 503 Needs To Pass

THIS EMAIL WAS SENT TO ALL FLORIDA SENATORS FROM AN ORLANDO ATTORNEY. PLEASE READ IT.... AND SHARE IT.

If anyone has ever had any doubts of the importance of the Guns-Locked-In-Your-Car bill, this letter should remove all doubt.

Dear Senator Webster (and colleagues):

Last week, I urged you to support SB 1130, the "Preservation and Protection of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in Motor Vehicles Act of 2008." I understand that the Senate has now adopted the House version of the bill, HB 503, and it will come up for a final vote next week.

I wanted to share with you a real-world example of why this law is needed.

In my practice as an attorney in Orlando, I received a call yesterday from a 61 year old woman, who was in tears. She had just been suspended from her job. Her employer, an insurance agency, advised her that they were made aware that she had a concealed weapon or firearm license and she kept a firearm

locked in her vehicle for self-protection. This was unacceptable to her employer and she was sent home. She was told that she could only return to work if she would write and sign a pledge that she would never again have a firearm locked in her vehicle at any time she was at the office or away from the office on company business.

<http://www.nraila.org/Legislation/Read.aspx?ID=3780>

08/04/07 Bill would protect gun owners, preserves and their noise

Legislation would bolster rights of gun range, hunting preserve owners, users.

Neighbors of existing gun ranges and hunting preserves would have no legal recourse against the sound of gunfire under a bill making its way through the state House. House Bill 2034, co-sponsored by Rep. Shane Schoeller, R-Willard, would give civil and criminal immunity to owners and users of gun ranges and hunting preserves.

The proposed law says gun users would be immune from prosecution or lawsuit for the "consequence of noise or sound emission resulting from the normal use of any such hunting preserve."

The legislation aims to beef up the rights of people who want to practice shooting rifles and pistols at licensed gun ranges. It comes as areas surrounding those rural establishments become more developed with new neighbors, Schoeller said.

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080407/NEWS01/804070357>

08/04/07 Gun-control opponents rally in Harrisburg

HARRISBURG -- Republican talk show host Alan Keyes didn't do too well when he ran for president in 1996 and 2000, or when he ran against Democrat Barack Obama for U.S. senator from Illinois in 2004.

But he was clearly the star of a boisterous gun-rights rally held in the Capitol rotunda this morning, as several hundred gun owners, target shooters, hunters and sportsmen from around Pennsylvania sent a clear message to state legislators -- don't interfere with a person's Second Amendment right to bear arms.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08098/871242-100.stm?cmpid=latest.xml>

08/04/07 Greater penalty for having gun with altered serial number passes

HARRISBURG, Pa. - A bill to increase criminal penalties for possessing a firearm with an altered serial number passed the state House unanimously Monday.

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/103-04082008-1515375.html>

08/04/07 BATFE Spends \$3 Million to Ruin Red's Idaho—Ryan Horsley seems confident that he will triumph over a government shakedown that has cost his family business about \$200,000 in legal fees, as he fights to keep Red's Trading Post, a fourth-generation firearms store, in operation.

http://www.americanfreepress.net/html/batfe_spends131.html

08/04/07 Gun owners rally at Capitol

The third annual rally was held to urge lawmakers to defeat gun-control measures and promote legislation protecting gun owners.

Rep Daryl Metcalfe, R-Cranberry, told gun owners to carry a message to the 75 House members who last week voted unsuccessfully to pass an amendment that would have levied a criminal penalty on people who lose handgun or have a one stolen and don't report it within 72 hours.

Its time to "educate those folks," said Metcalfe, who was backed by about 40 lawmakers of both parties at the rally. "A truly safe and liberty-advancing society is an armed society," he said.

Legislators who defeated that amendment "fought tooth and nail and stopped an attack on your freedoms," Kim Stolfer, of South Fayette, chairman of Firearms Owners Against Crime, told the group.

The gun supporters in the Capitol rotunda raffled off a new handgun at the rally, a move that should not be viewed as controversial, said Rep. Bill Kortz, D-Dravosburg.

"What I see as controversial is an attack on the Second Amendment," Kortz said.

Raffling off the Smith & Wesson M&P donated by a sporting goods store in Washington County is no different than raffling a football at a football banquet, Kortz said.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_561094.html?source=rss&feed=1

08/04/06 Hunting club brings scarred mind land back for deer habitat

For about 30 years, property then owned by a coal company along the Susquehanna County border with Lackawanna County matured with little to no maintenance. The end result meant deer had moved on to other places where it could find food more easily .

When ownership of that property changed hands about six years ago, members of the Richmondale Hunting Club knew it was time for a change. And with the help of the Quality Deer Management Association, the club has spent the last five years drastically altering those lands to produce food plots designed to bring in more deer.

"We try to deal with the culm piles and the rough terrain we have up there," said Jim Dovin, president of the RHC. "We took it upon ourselves a while ago to invest in some equipment. The club did and it worked out really well."

http://www.citizensvoice.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19458355&BRD=2259&PAG=461&dept_id=460522&rfti=6

08/04/06 Heston was the public face of gun rights *Actor stoked the fires of hot debate in times of political transformation*
WASHINGTON - As Moses, Charlton Heston thunderously rallied his people with the Ten Commandments in hand. The tablet of his political life was carved with something else — **the Second Amendment.**

Heston was not just the public face of the gun-rights movement but a good deal of the fire in its belly during a transformational time in the decades-old debate.

He lived to see Democrats running away from a cause they once embraced, scared off by the likelihood that they lost the 2000 presidential election in part because of their gun-control advocacy. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23985685/>

08/04/04 Ex-Marine Shot By Young Son Faces Firearms Charge

EAST HAMPTON — - The lawyer for an ex-Marine who was shot in the neck by his 9-year-old son inside his house said it was an accident.

But prosecutors and police, who seized dozens of unsecured guns and mounds of loose ammunition from Joseph Simonelli's house, say the situation — including a wide-open, chock-full gun cabinet in the boy's bedroom and numerous rifles and knives strewn about the room — was a disaster waiting to happen. Simonelli, 60, was arraigned Thursday on charges of criminally negligent storage of firearms, risk of injury to a minor, reckless endangerment, giving a false statement and falsely reporting an incident. He was being held, with bail set at \$10,000.

<http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-ehparrest0404.artapr04.0.6875718.story>

08/04/04 Obama Misfires On Concealed Carry

Obama Misfires On Concealed Carry Barack Obama says he won't take folks' guns away as long as they're hunters. But when the hunted are his constituents, well, that's different: He opposes concealed carry and the right to self-defense.

There's something about an election that brings out the sportsman in a Democratic presidential candidate. Recall John Kerry's sudden fondness for hunting four years ago.

And speaking in Idaho earlier this year, Barack Obama told the crowd, "We got a lot of hunters in the state of Illinois, and I have no intention of taking away folks' guns."

Except he does.

In a 1996 questionnaire, Obama wrote that he "supported banning the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns." He says now that the survey was filled out by an aide who misrepresented his views. Yet his record since then is consistent with that view. Never mind that Illinois and the other 49 states have a lot of two-legged predators

<http://www.investors.com/editorial/editorialcontent.asp?secid=1501&status=article&id=292204370724337>

08/04/04 'Bullet proof hoodie' condemned by gun groups

Gun control groups have condemned a new "bullet-proof hoodie" which claims to protect against street violence. The £300 Defender hoodie makes the wearer's upper body invincible to every bullet up to a high velocity rifle, its makers claim.

It was developed by Bladerunner, a London based company which also makes stab-proof tops. Barry Samms, the owner, said that a mother from Walthamstow, East London, had asked for the Defender after her son had been mugged three times.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article3682725.ece>

08/04/04 Amid criticism, DC police change plans to search homes for guns

WASHINGTON ([Map](#), [News](#)) - [District of Columbia](#) police have scaled back an amnesty program in which they planned to go door-to-door asking residents whether officers could search their homes for guns.

The Safe Homes program will instead be offered by appointment only at residents' request, [Chief Cathy L. Lanier](#) said. The program, aimed at high-crime neighborhoods, was supposed to begin March 24. It was delayed after a backlash from residents, [D.C. Council](#) members and the [American Civil Liberties Union](#). Critics complained that some residents could feel intimidated by officers asking to enter their homes.

The program's new start date is mid-June, which will give the police department time to train officers to conduct the searches and gather more input from the community, Lanier said.

http://www.examiner.com/a-1320526~Amid_criticism_DC_police_change_plans_to_search_homes_for_guns.html

08/04/03 Homeowner Shoots Suspect after 2 Break-Ins

HOUSTON -- A southeast Houston homeowner shot a burglary suspect Thursday afternoon after he was victimized twice in a week, officials told KPRC Local 2.

Thomas Williamson lives in the 6000 block of Bois D'arc. He said he stayed home from work on Thursday after a burglar hit his home twice in a few days.

Williamson said he looked out his window at about 1 p.m. and saw a man walk across his back yard. The man went into Williamson's garage and tried to steal an air compressor, worth about \$400, he said. The District Attorney's Office said charges would probably not be filed because Williamson was protecting his property.

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/15787233/detail.html>

08/04/02 Gun rally set for Harrisburg on Monday April 7

HARRISBURG -- At the state Capitol, things just keep getting better for gun owners, sportsmen and defenders of the Second Amendment.

Yesterday, by a lopsided, bipartisan margin, the House defeated a measure that would have required handgun owners to report to police if any of their handguns were lost or stolen. The measure was intended to stop "straw purchasers" from buying guns, selling them to criminals and later claiming the guns had been lost or stolen.

But many legislators thought it was just an unfair and unnecessary requirement on law-abiding gun owners.

Today, Second Amendment forces announced they will hold a "Locked and Loaded" rally Monday at the Capitol. It's also being called the Third Annual Right to Keep and Bear Arms Rally, and is being led by Reps. Daryl Metcalfe, R-Cranberry, and Marc Gergely, D-White Oak.

Groups to be in attendance include Gun Owners of America; Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms; Firearms Coalition; Firearms Owners Against Crime, which is led by Kim Stolfer of Allegheny County; and Pa. Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Some gun-control legislators have been trying to pass a bill that would limit gun purchases to one gun a month, but groups

such as those coming to the rally claim that would violate the Second Amendment's guarantee of the right to have firearms.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08093/869883-100.stm?cmpid=latest.xml>

08/04/02 [Murphy seeks to make home invasion a federal crime](#)

WASHINGTON - Connecticut Congressman [Chris Murphy](#) wants to make home invasion a federal crime and provide more federal resources to parole and probation officials.

As he announced his legislative proposals, the Connecticut Democrat noted that his state had two home invasions and murders in less than a year, one recently in [New Britain](#) and another in July in [Cheshire](#). Murphy's legislation would also seek to improve the [FBI's](#) tracking of home invasions across the country and create a national training center for parole and probation officials.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/connecticut/ny-bc-ct--homeinvasion-murp0402apr02.0.1530444.story>

08/03/29 Interest in Hunting, Fishing Dropping

Dropping Sales of Hunting and Fishing Licenses Mean Wildlife Agencies Are Looking for Money

Bob Shannon is an avid hunter, a fishing guide and owns a tackle shop, but he sometimes struggles to get his own son out into Vermont's woods and fields.

"He'll be sitting there with the video games," Shannon said of 9-year-old Alexander. "I finally had to lay down the law last summer: 'If it's a nice day, you're outside.'"

Shannon's challenge reflects a larger problem plaguing many state governments: Revenue from hunting and fishing license sales is plunging because of waning interest in the outdoors. "We're losing our rural culture," said Steve Wright, a regional representative for the National Wildlife Federation. "There are so many distractions, and we're not recruiting young people into hunting and fishing." Sales of Vermont hunting and fishing licenses have dropped more than 20 percent over the last 20 years, leaving the Fish and Wildlife Department pleading with lawmakers for extra funding.

Other states report similar drop-offs:

—Arkansas hunting license sales dropped from about 345,000 in 1999 to about 319,000 in 2003.

—*Pennsylvania sold about 946,000 hunting licenses in 2006, down from just over a million in 1999, and a peak of 1.3 million in 1981.*

—Oregon had 100,000 fewer licensed anglers last year than in 1987, and 70,000 fewer licensed hunters.

—West Virginia sold 154,763 resident hunting permits in 2006, a 17 percent decrease from 1997.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=4549782>

08/03/29 Warnings of lead in venison irk hunters

BISMARCK, N.D. - Thousands of pounds of venison donated to food pantries this year has become a contentious gift in three states.

Officials in North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa warn that the meat could be contaminated by lead from bullets. Hunting groups are calling it an overreaction.

"It's alarmist and not supported by any science," said Lawrence Keane, a vice president and lawyer for the Newton, Conn.-based National Shooting Sports Foundation, a trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry. "High quality protein is now taken out of the mouths of needy, hungry people."

North Dakota health officials on Wednesday told food pantries in the state to throw out donated venison, saying it may have lead fragments. Officials in Minnesota and Iowa followed with similar alerts, asking that venison in those states not be distributed.

Gov. John Hoeven said the alerts were issued as a precaution. He said the state has a "tremendous working relationship" with hunters, and the questions raised about venison are new.

Safari Club International's Sportsmen Against Hunger program donated 317,000 pounds of venison last year to the needy, said Doug Burdin, a lawyer for the Tucson, Ariz.-based group. The meat donated by hunters was enough for more than 1.2 million meals, he said.

"It's provided a lot of free meals to a lot of people," Burdin said. "Hunters are doing something they love and helping others at the same time. This is disheartening, and we certainly don't think this program should come to an end on the unscientific assessment that has occurred here."

Dr. William Cornatzer, a Bismarck physician and hunter, alerted health officials after he conducted his own tests on venison using a CT scanner and found lead in 60 percent of 100 samples. The North Dakota Health Department confirmed the results on at least five samples of venison destined for food pantries.

"This isn't just a food pantry problem. This is a nationwide problem," Cornatzer said Friday.

Hunters have alternatives to lead, he said. "I'm a big hunter. I've already purchased four boxes of copper bullets to next year," Cornatzer said.

http://realus.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080329/ap_on_re_us/venison_lead;_ylt=AsX7IwUSXNSXNBEF_Q3SLN0PLBIF

08/03/27 Pizza delivery driver shoots teens, police say

A pizza delivery driver shot two teens who tried to rob him east of downtown Detroit Thursday night, Detroit Police said. The teens, 14 and 16, were taken to local hospitals; their conditions were listed as temporary serious, police said. The delivery driver had a permit to carry a concealed weapon, police said. The teens had ordered a pizza be delivered to a vacant lot in the 600 block of St. Aubin St. about 9:55 p.m., police said.

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080327/NEWS01/80328001/1003>

08/03/26 AH District may not renew rifle team again

CLARKS SUMMIT - For the second year, the Abington Heights Board of School Directors nearly decided the fate of the high school's rifle team without representation from the team's members or its coaching staff.

In discussing new business at their Wednesday, March 20 public business meeting, board members opened discussion on the rifle team in preparation for the opening of athletic positions for the 2008-09 winter sports season. The team came under

scrutiny in May 2007 after a 5-3 vote eliminated the coaching position. The board first suggested the program cost too much based on the number of average participants, but it was later revealed that the cut was a reaction to an incident where a single student stole 900 rounds of ammunition.

After several visits to the board last year following the cut, long-time rifle team head coach Dane Bower, of Factoryville, defended the team's co-ed status and the opportunities provided to non-traditional athletes through the sport. An August motion to reinstate the team passed by a vote of 4-3, with board members Ken Heron, Louise Brzuchalski and Jody DeRitter dissenting.

On March 20, Brzuchalski, board treasurer, said that the team has no local competition, no nearby range to practice and is one of 46 districts of the 501 in the state that offer the varsity sport. "I just question the relevance of rifle in 2008," she said.

Board Vice-President DeRitter agreed, "In practical terms, we spend a lot of money for a small number of kids."

<http://www.theabingtonjournal.com/>

08/03/25 Police limit searches for guns

"Boston police officials, surprised by intense opposition from residents, have significantly scaled back and delayed the start of a program that would allow officers to go into people's homes and search for guns without a warrant."

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/03/25/police_limit_searches_for_guns/

08/03/25 Police launch gun program

The Metropolitan Police Department yesterday moved cautiously into its program to ask to search homes in the District for illegal guns while civil rights activists knocked on doors and used bullhorns to keep residents from participating.

"We shouldn't make the next casualty of street violence cherished civil rights," said Johnny Barnes, director of American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area. "We're very uncomfortable with police randomly banging on doors without probable cause asking for access."

The department initiated its program by distributing literature at police stations and Boys and Girls Clubs to gauge public interest. It plans to begin the searches in two weeks.

Police spokeswoman Traci Hughes said the Safe Home program attempts to reach parents or guardians who think or know their children have guns and will offer amnesty for certain gun- and drug-possession charges.

Although amnesty was assured, ACLU workers held a press conference and went door to door in the Washington Highlands in Southeast, the first neighborhood to be targeted under the program. The department also has scheduled searches in Eckington in Northeast and Columbia Heights in Northwest.

The ACLU workers distributed window signs that read: "To the Police: NO CONSENT TO SEARCH OUR HOME," and gave residents questionnaires for the officers to sign that ask whether social services or immigration authorities would be notified about what is found inside homes.

D.C. Council member Marion Barry said the plan violates the Fourth Amendment, which bars illegal search and seizure. He also said it infringes on parental responsibility.

"If there's a parent who has a son who has a gun in the home and they know what to do, [then] they can call the police," said Mr. Barry, Ward 8 Democrat. "It's not that hard."

Council member Jim Graham, Ward 1 Democrat, said he needed more information before taking a position on the searches, but would be "very surprised" if his constituents consented to them.

"If they were to knock on my door, I'd be puzzled," said Mr. Graham, who dealt with several shootings last year in his ward, which includes Columbia Heights. "It seems very unusual."

The ACLU and Mr. Barry also have said they are concerned about the department's pledge of amnesty because it has acknowledged that guns will be tested for links to other crimes and a positive identification could lead to an investigation or prosecution of the gun owner.

Miss Hughes said the goal of the initiative is to seize guns and not to catch criminals. She said drugs found in homes will be seized, but residents will not be prosecuted. She said officers also would not report certain other issues such as housing violations.

"We want to make sure that residents are comfortable," she said. "If they don't want us to be there, we won't be the

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080325/METRO/126475553/1004>

08/03/24 Scottsdale woman shoots at persistent intruder

A 74-year-old woman twice shot at a man after he made repeated attempts to break into her house, extort money from her and threatened to set fire to her garage, police said.

Hugh Turner, 52, was arrested by Scottsdale police about 2 p.m. Friday on suspicion of threatening and intimidation and other offenses at a house in the 27800 block of North 94th Street.

The woman alleged that Turner threatened to burn her house down after pouring gasoline in her garage about midnight on Thursday if she refused to give him money, police said.

After the woman complied with his demands, Turner fled but later returned about 4 a.m. Saturday and tried to break into an upstairs door using a ladder. The woman fired two shots from a handgun, but the man got away unharmed, police said.

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/112055>

08/03/24 Gun owners to rally over legislation

The last time gun owners became irate over gun control measures introduced in the state Legislature, a few thousand of them gathered for a rally in Harrisburg.

They're upset again, and Jerry Schutz, president of the Luzerne County Federation of Sportsmen, is hoping for a similar reaction. The county group oversees several hunting and fishing clubs. Last week, Schutz sent a letter asking members of the clubs to join him on an April 7 bus trip to the capital.

http://www.timesleader.com/news/20080325_24guns_ART.html

08/03/23 Gun statistics you seldom see It was the sort of incident that never makes it into the official crime statistics – that is, an incident in which a crime may have been prevented by a firearm. If someone breaks into your home, and you have a

justifiable fear that he might kill or harm you or someone else, you have a right to defend yourself with lethal force.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/gun-homeowner-year-2003954-police-irvine>

08/03/22 To Keep and Bear Arms

Nearly 135 years ago, the United States experienced what may have been the worst one-day slaughter of blacks by whites in its history. On April 13, 1873, in the tiny village of Colfax, La., white paramilitaries attacked a lightly armed force of freedmen assembled in a local courthouse. By the time the Colfax Massacre was over, more than 60 African American men lay shot, burned or stabbed to death. Most were killed after they had surrendered.

Though it caused a national sensation in post-Civil War America, this horrible incident has been largely overlooked by historians. It deserves fresh study today not only to illuminate the human cost of Reconstruction's defeat but also to enrich our understanding of constitutional history. Some of the most relevant lessons relate to the issue at the heart of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the case on the D.C. gun control law currently before the Supreme Court: whether the Constitution guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/21/AR2008032102540.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

08/03/22 Suspect Shot In Tattoo Parlor Robbery

Homicide Detectives Are Investigating PITTSBURGH -- A tattoo parlor on the corner of Fourth Street and Euclid Avenue in Dravosburg was robbed at 9:15 p.m. Saturday night. The suspect, who is described as a 6-foot-5-inch 250-pound male of unknown race, escaped on foot with \$200. But that's not all the robber left with.

The owner of the business told police that he believes he may have shot the suspect in the back. Shortly afterwards, police responded to a call from a man who said he was shot in the back at an address 1/2 of a mile away from the scene of the robbery.

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/15678692/detail.html>

08/03/21 Law Enforcement Officials dislike gun ban

"I think it's absolutely insane to think that we can take away a citizen's right to (have guns) and that is somehow going to make this country a safer place to live," said Martinsville Police Chief Mike Rogers. "We live in a very violent society with a lot of mean and crazy people who don't mind robbing and killing people, whether it's with their hands, a gun, a knife or a baseball bat."

Rogers said "I hope and pray" the Supreme Court will strike down the district's 32-year-old ban on handguns. The ban, which has been called the strictest in the nation, is being challenged by a Washington resident.

Supreme Court justices heard arguments in the case on Tuesday. It has drawn attention nationwide because the court has not conclusively interpreted the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right to bear arms, since it was ratified in 1791, The Associated Press has reported.

If the court upholds the ban, it could lead to more areas attempting to impose similar bans, said Martinsville Commonwealth's Attorney Joan Ziglar.

Rogers said he opposes the ban because from his point of view, it only hurts law-abiding citizens who own handguns for protection or for sport shooting.

"Anyone who's fighting to eliminate guns, I don't care what kind they are, has obviously never experienced someone kicking down the front door of their home at 2 o'clock in the morning," he said. "Ain't no need getting out of bed and running to get the broom handle. If someone is breaking into your house, they don't have water pistols with them."

Outlawing handguns only makes things easier on criminals, Rogers said, because those who are intent on breaking the law won't worry about whether a gun is legal or not.

Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry agreed that criminals will find ways to get guns.

"The people who are going to participate in crimes, they're not going to worry about your restrictions for access," Perry said. "They're going to get what they want."

He said that when localities begin doing things such as banning handguns, it makes it difficult for residents to know whether they are abiding by the law from one place to another. For instance, his office often receives calls from people wondering whether their concealed weapons are allowed in other areas, he said.

"It needs to be a consistent regulation across the board," Perry said.

He added that whatever the court decides, he will continue to stress the importance of keeping guns safeguarded and out of reach of children.

Two local prosecutors said they expect the court to strike down the handgun ban.

"I think the court will be pro Second Amendment" and strike the ban, Ziglar said.

Randy Smith, assistant commonwealth's attorney in Henry County, agreed that he expects the court will strike the handgun ban.

<http://www.martinsvillebulletin.com/article.cfm?ID=13055>

08/03/21 NY: 200 surveillance cameras at Van Dyke houses fail to stop rape suspect Once again a rapist was caught on videotape, and once again cops failed to see him, police sources said..

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/brooklyn/2008/03/21/2008-03-21_200_surveillance_cameras_at_van_dyke_hou-1.html

08/03/20 Southern California Woman Shot Dead While on Phone With 911 Dispatcher (Here is proof that gun control works)

WEST COVINA, Calif. — A woman was asking a 911 dispatcher for help when her pleas were interrupted by gunshots, then silence. She was shot to death.

The woman told the dispatcher someone was trying to break into her home in upscale West Covina, Los Angeles County sheriff's Lt. Dan Rosenberg said. "Deputies heard gunshots followed by silence and an open phone line," he said.

Deputies arrived at the house, 20 miles east of Los Angeles, a few minutes after Wednesday's late morning call.

The woman, whose name was not released by police, had been shot several times. Paramedics pronounced her dead at the scene.

"At this point we believe it was a burglary gone awry," <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,340008,00.html>

08/03/20 Florida Senate Panel OKs Guns In Workplace

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- A bill that would allow Florida residents to take firearms to work and store them in their vehicles is gaining ground in the Legislature after failing last year.

The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice approved the bill with a 7-1 vote. It would allow employees to keep guns in their cars at work, as long as the guns were locked in the trunk or glove compartment.

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/15651695/detail.html>

08/03/20 Gun ban obscures District's real crime problem

The D.C. Council imposed a handgun ban on its citizenry in 1976, ostensibly to save lives. The measure has not worked out as envisioned, predictably enough.

The nation's capital earned the dubious distinction of being the nation's murder capital in the early '90s, when the violence spiked because of the crack epidemic. The number of murders in the city peaked at 479 in 1991. There were 181 murders in the city last year, with more and more neighborhoods in the city undergoing gentrification and some of the violent crime spilling over into Prince George's County.

This is the demographic reality that no city lawmaker is apt to utter in public. City lawmakers are more apt to blame the murder rate on the easy accessibility of handguns in Maryland and Virginia, a thin argument that ignores the vagaries of the human condition. If a gang member or drug dealer wants a handgun, regardless of the law, you can be certain he can make a quick call to secure one in short order.

Alas, we humans find all kinds of creative ways, accidental or otherwise, to snuff out one another. No one, for instance, would argue that automobiles should be banned, although we know that 40,000-plus lose their lives on America's roadways each year.

Difficult as it may be to accept, the criminal element is destined to be armed. That leaves the law-abiding in a vulnerable position, especially in the tougher sections of the city where residents live behind multiple deadbolt locks on their doors and bars on their windows.

That hard truth is far removed from the debate. Residents of the city should not have to live in fear. They should not have to live behind bars, as virtual prisoners in their homes. They should have more recourse than an unloaded rifle or shotgun with a trigger lock on it, which is almost no recourse at all.

D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty wants the Supreme Court to keep the ban in place, because "more guns anywhere in the District of Columbia is going to lead to more crime." Mr. Fenty does not say how he knows this. But he means well, as do all gun-control advocates who ignore the evil that lurks in our midst.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080320/METRO/224329620/1004&template=printart>

08/03/19 OR: Medford teacher appeals ruling against gun in school The Medford teacher who was denied permission to take her pistol to school for protection is filing an appeal.

A brief sent today to the Oregon Court of Appeals on behalf of Shirley Katz argues that state law allows people with concealed weapons permits to carry guns in public buildings, and only the Legislature can change that, not the Medford School District.

"The only thing that's changed is more people have been killed in schools since we started this battle," said Katz's attorney, James Leuenberger of Lake Oswego. "The bloodshed will continue until responsible people are armed in schools."

A Jackson County circuit judge ruled last year that the Medford school district's employee policy barring guns on campus was not covered by the state law that bars cities and other governmental districts from regulating guns because it did not amount to an ordinance.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080319/UPDATE/80319023>

08/03/19 Supreme Court Majority Appears To Back Gun Rights

A majority of the Supreme Court today seemed to clearly indicate that the Second Amendment provides an individual right to possess a firearm and several justices appeared skeptical about whether the District of Columbia's handgun ban could be considered a reasonable restriction on that right.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/03/18/ST2008031802901.html>

08/03/19 81-Year-Old Man Shoots, Kills Home Invasion Suspect

TUCKER, Ga. -- DeKalb County police say they don't plan to file any charges against an elderly man who shot and killed an intruder.

The apparent home invasion happened around 11 p.m. Tuesday at the 81-year-old man's home, which he shared with his wife.

"Apparently the suspect was attempting to break into the home and had made entry and during the process woke the homeowner who was able to arm himself," said J.T. Ware with the DeKalb County police.

The man told authorities he and the intruder wrestled for control of the gun, which belongs to the homeowner. The gun then went off, fatally wounding the suspect.

Authorities say the man was taken to a hospital to be treated for injuries he suffered in the incident.

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/15638672/detail.html>

08/03/19 Opposing view: An unambiguous right

2nd Amendment bars regulation of people's ability to bear arms.

Compelled to take up arms to regain their liberties as Englishmen, America's Founders knew that even the constitutional republic they had established could threaten the freedoms for which they had fought. In the First Amendment,

they established a first line of defense — the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.

Knowing that words and parchment barriers alone would prove inadequate to restrain those elected as servants from becoming tyrants, they added the Second Amendment to secure "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms" — not to protect deer hunters and skeet shooters, but to guarantee to themselves and their posterity the blessings of "a free State."

Their foremost concern was the precipitating events of the American Revolution, wherein British troops in Massachusetts and Virginia seized American muskets, cannon and powder — actions the Declaration of Independence calls "a design to reduce (the colonists) under absolute Despotism."

Entrusting the nation's sovereignty to the people, the amendment breaks the government's military monopoly, guaranteeing to the people such firearms as would be necessary to defend against the sort of government abuse of their inalienable rights the British had committed.

Thus, the amendment's "well regulated Militia" encompasses all citizens who constitute the polity of the nation with the right to form their own government. The amendment's "keep and bear Arms" secures the right to possess firearms such as fully-automatic rifles, which are both the "lineal descendant(s) of ... founding-era weapon(s)" (applying a 2007 court of appeals' test), and "ordinary military equipment" (applying a 1939 Supreme Court standard).

No government deprives its citizens of rights without asserting that its actions are "reasonable" and "necessary" for high-sounding reasons such as "public safety." A right that can be regulated is no right at all, only a temporary privilege dependent upon the good will of the very government officials that such right is designed to constrain.

By Herbert W. Titus and William J. Olson are attorneys for Gun Owners of America, which filed a brief in the Second Amendment case the Supreme Court heard Tuesday

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/03/opposing-view-3.html>

08/03/18 Stunt man turned salon owner shoots robber

A would-be robber, "picked the wrong business and the wrong cowboy to mess with," when he entered a Phoenix storefront and pulled out a gun. That's because Rodd Wolff leads a double life. He is a movie stuntman. In training for roles in films like "Rambo III", "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" and "Miracle at Sage Creek", Wolff had to be able to shoot a gun while riding a horse. He got a chance to put those cowboy skills to use in the unlikely setting of the business he owns, a hair salon.

Wolff, his wife and three clients were inside Hair Productions at 25 Street and Indian School Road about 3:30 Tuesday afternoon when the suspect walked in wearing a wig and dark sunglasses. Because of previous crimes at nearby businesses, Wolff had established a code word his employees would use in the event of a robbery. He was in a back room when he heard his wife utter the code word three times. As the robber moved further into the salon, Wolff removed a gun that had been wrapped in a towel and ordered the man to drop his gun. When he did not comply, Wolff fired three shots, striking the suspect.

<http://img.azcentral.com/offbeat/articles/12n-0318salonrobber-CR.html>

08/03/18 How to Own a Shotgun in D.C.

A D.C. resident illustrates the ludicrous laws that bind her right to bear arms in the nation's capital, rendering her perfectly good firearm a pretty useless paperweight in the event of an attack on her or her personal property.

http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=3949036n

08/03/18 Fighting for our right to bear arms

DOES THE Constitution's Second Amendment give individuals the right to bear arms or is that right reserved exclusively for members of a "well-regulated militia"? That is the question the US Supreme Court will consider today in the case of District of Columbia v. Heller, a Second Amendment challenge to the District of Columbia's ban on all functional firearms.

I helped bring this case to court on behalf of six Washington, D.C., residents who want to keep functional firearms in their homes to defend themselves and their families should the need arise. But Washington's law bans all handguns not registered before 1976 and requires that lawfully owned shotguns and rifles in the home be kept unloaded and either disassembled or bound by a trigger lock at all times. There is no exception for self-defense. Washington, often known as the "murder capital of the nation," cannot defend its citizens and will not allow them to defend themselves.

This case requires, at a minimum, two findings from the Supreme Court: First, the Second Amendment secures an individual right to keep and bear arms - not a right limited to people engaged in state militia service. Second, the district's ban on all functional firearms violates that individual right and is, therefore, unconstitutional.

An outpouring of modern scholarship - much of it coming from liberal constitutional scholars, like Laurence Tribe at Harvard University and Akhil Amar at Yale University - supports the view that the right to keep and bear arms is an individual right. After all, the Second Amendment is in the Bill of Rights, the part of the Constitution explicitly designed to secure individual rights. And the text of the amendment refers to the "right of the people" - the same people mentioned in the First, Fourth, Ninth and Tenth Amendments. It is inconceivable that the framers - seeking to provide Americans with a means to resist tyrannical government - would fashion a right that can be exercised only in the context of a militia that is under government control.

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/03/18/fighting_for_our_right_to_bear_arms/

08/03/18 Elmer Smith: Vote on innocuous gun bill will put radical opponents in crosshairs THERE IT WAS, hidden between the codicils and caveats of an anti-crime bill.

Before you could say "NRA," gun-control advocates had snuck it onto the floor of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

It's what you have to do to get a public hearing on any legislation that represents even the slightest encroachment on the inalienable right to own a handgun in Pennsylvania.

Gun ownership is religion here. Any bill that would amend, modify or restrict our God-given right to pack a pistol is heresy.

So, they play this little game up there in the Legislature. Gun-control advocates raise the same half-dozen doomed measures every year while the House Judiciary Committee, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Rifle Association, lets them sit until the dust mites eat through the pages.

The beauty of the thing is that you can't even identify the gun-control opponents because they rarely have to actually vote against anything.

That's why advocates for a bill to require people to report lost or stolen handguns were declaring victory yesterday even though they still didn't have the votes yet to pass the requirement.

"This is a victory even if we don't get the 102 votes we need to pass it," said Johnna Pro, press secretary of the House Appropriations Committee.

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey told reporters in Harrisburg yesterday that Philadelphia police had confiscated 5,700 guns last year. More than 1,000 illegal handguns were seized in Pittsburgh.

http://www.philly.com/dailynews/local/20080318_Elmer_Smith_Vote_on_innocuous_gun_bill_will_put_radical_opponents_in_crosshairs.html

08/03/17 Critics take aim at gun buyback programs

Gun buyback programs from Miami to the San Francisco Bay are coming under fire by critics who question whether the bucks are reducing the big bangs. "It's like trying to drain the Pacific with a bucket," says Alex Tabarrok, research director at the Independent Institute, a think tank in Oakland. "More guns are going to flow in."

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-03-17-gun-buybacks_n.htm?loc=interstitialskip

08/03/16 SCTP Stars Shoot for Gold

Two former SCTP standouts will represent the United States at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. Corey Codgell has claimed the sole women's trap spot, and Vincent Hancock, 2007 World Cup record holder and Pan American Games gold medalist, will represent the U.S. in skeet.

<http://www.usashooting.com/viewRelease.php?id=114>

08/03/12 IL: Gun Owners Rally Against Weapon Legislation

Thousands of gun owners marched on the state Capitol Tuesday for Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day.

<http://www.week.com/news/local/16622471.html>

08/03/12 Safety in Defenselessness

In a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed piece, Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe urged the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the District of Columbia's gun restrictions. Tribe said that right does not rule out a decision to ban handguns while

allowing "rifles, shotguns and other weapons less likely to augment urban violence."

<http://reason.com/news/show/125426.html>

08/03/11 Criminal Counts - The costs of crime are far, far more than the costs of incarceration.

For more than two centuries, the political Left has been preoccupied with the fate of criminals, often while ignoring or downplaying the fate of the victims of those criminals.

So it is hardly surprising that a recent New York Times editorial has returned to a familiar theme among those on the Left, on both sides of the Atlantic, with its lament that "incarceration rates have continued to rise while crime rates have fallen."

Back in 1997, New York Times writer Fox Butterfield expressed the same lament under the headline, "Crime Keeps on Falling, But Prisons Keep on Filling." Then, as now, liberals seemed to find it puzzling that crime rates go down when more criminals are put behind bars.

Nor is it surprising that the Left uses an old and irrelevant comparison — between the cost of keeping a criminal behind bars versus the cost of higher education. According to the Times, "Vermont, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, and Oregon devote as much or more to corrections as they do to higher education."

The relevant comparison would be between the cost of keeping a criminal behind bars and the cost of letting him loose in society. But neither the New York Times nor others on the Left show any interest in that comparison.

In Britain, the total cost of the prison system per year was found to be 1.9 billion pounds sterling, while the financial cost alone of the crimes committed per year by criminals was estimated at 60 billion pounds sterling.*

The big difference between the two kinds of costs is not just in their amounts. The cost of locking up criminals has to be paid out of government budgets that politicians would prefer to spend on giveaway programs that are more likely to get them reelected. But the far higher costs of letting criminals loose is paid by the general public in both money and in being subjected to violence.

The net result is that both politicians and ideologues of the Left are forever pushing "alternatives to incarceration." These include programs with lovely names like "community supervision" and high-tech stuff like electronic devices to keep track of released criminals' locations.

Just how do you "supervise" a criminal who is turned loose in the community? Assigning someone to be with him, one-on-one, 24/7, would probably be a lot more expensive than locking him up.

But of course no one is proposing any such thing. Having the released criminal reporting to some official from time to time may be enough to allow the soothing word "supervision" to be used. But it hardly restricts what a criminal does with the other nine-tenths of his time when he is not reporting.

Electronic devices work only when they are being used. Even when they are being used 24/7, they tell you only where the criminal is, not what he is doing.

Those released criminals who don't even want that much restriction can of course remove the device and become an escapee, with far less trouble or risk than is required to escape

from prison.

One of the most insidious aspects of “alternatives to incarceration” programs is that those who control such programs often control also the statistical and other information that would be needed to assess the actual consequences of these programs.

They not only control what information is released but to whom it will be released.

When officials whose careers are on the line can choose between researchers who view incarceration as being “mean-spirited” toward criminals and other researchers who are much less sympathetic to criminals, who do you think is going to get access to the data?

A study of the treatment of criminals in Britain — A Land Fit for Criminals by David Fraser — has several chapters on the games that are played with statistics, in order to make “alternatives to incarceration” programs look successful, even when they are failing abysmally, with tragic results for the public.

Britain has gone much further down the road that the New York Times is urging us to follow. In the process, Britain has gone from being one of the most law-abiding nations on earth to overtaking the United States in most categories of crime.

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MWI2ZTk4ZDYyMzAwNWY5OGU0ZGE5MmE2YTM3Nm0NjY=>

08/03/11 Easing gun ban could reduce crime in national parks

THE USUAL suspects are clamoring to save us from ourselves and impose their myopic vision as the federal government prepares to loosen restrictions on firearms in national parks.

At the outset, let’s all agree that this is not 1965 and our national parks and forests — along with our cities — are not safe anymore, in large part because of liberal policies that tend to breed criminality. Statistics seem to bear that out.

“The National Park Service says there were 116,588 reported offenses in national parks in 2006, the most recent year for which data are available, including 11 killings, 35 rapes or attempted rapes, 61 robberies, 16 kidnappings and 261 aggravated assaults,” the Los Angeles Times reported in a story about the possible rule change.

Some would argue that in comparison to crime statistics in some urban regions, those numbers are not that bad — unless you just happen to be one of the statistics.

As it stands now, firearms must be unloaded and stowed when taken into national parks, making those areas, for all intents and purposes, gun-free zones for the convenience of the bad guys. Remember, criminals for decades have not obeyed gun bans, in parks or anyplace else. It is part of what makes them criminals.

One suggestion, and an entirely reasonable one in our view, has been to have the parks comply with the concealed-carry regulations of the states they are in — as they do now on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land. A good solution and none too soon.

“While park rangers now use bulletproof vests and automatic weapons to enforce the law, regular Americans in states where conceal-and-carry law exists are denied the opportunity for self-defense,” says Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla

http://www.voiceofthetimes.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1015&Itemid=9

08/03/10 Not every castle can have a moat

Texans have right to protect themselves

In a dangerous and threatening situation such as a robbery or other form of personal or violent crime, a person usually has few options.

Primarily, surrender, retreat or the use of self-defense are about it.

Fortunately, in Texas, residents have the right to protect themselves, others and their property.

In one of the first tests of the "Castle Doctrine" in the Amarillo area, a Randall County grand jury did not indict an Amarillo man last week for fatally shooting another man during an altercation on the Amarillo man's property.

http://www.amarillo.com/stories/031008/opi_9802991.shtml

08/03/10 Hunting, Shooting Gear Out-Drives Golf in Sales

A NEW NO. 2 . . . Fore! Hunting- and shooting-related equipment has out-driven golf in sales, according to data released by the National Sporting Goods Association. New statistics show that hunting gear and firearm sales topped \$3.7 billion in 2006, up 4.1 percent from the previous year. Only exercise equipment performed better, with sales of \$5.22 billion, according to NSGA's most recent "Sporting Goods Market" report. Golf equipment, which claimed the No. 2 spot the previous year, fell into the third spot with \$3.66 billion in sales. NSGA's sales projection for 2007 shows golf equipment and hunting and shooting equipment again running neck-and-neck to claim the No. 2 spot, with exercise equipment remaining at No. 1. Included in the hunting- and shooting-related equipment category are firearms (\$2.18 billion in 2006 sales), airguns (\$224.1 million), ammunition (\$977.1 million), knives (\$51.8 million), paintball guns/packages (\$220.9 million) and reloading equipment (\$52.0 million).

08/03/10 He wore feelings on his T-shirt

One day in December, Donald Miller III wore a gun to school. As you might imagine, it got him in trouble.

But the gun wasn't loaded; indeed, it wasn't a real gun at all. It was the image of a gun, printed on the front and back of a T-shirt — a shirt the Penn Manor freshman wore to honor his uncle, a soldier in the U.S. Army fighting in Iraq.

On the front pocket, in addition to the picture of the military sidearm, were the words: "Volunteer Homeland Security." On the back, superimposed over another image of the weapon, the words "Special issue — Resident — Lifetime License — United States Terrorist Hunting Permit — Permit No. 91101 Gun Owner — No Bag Limit."

They are, said Miller, 14, patriotic sentiments in a time of war. He feels pretty strongly about these things.

<http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/217898>

08/03/10 Rabid mountain lion attacks El Mirage boy

An El Mirage boy celebrating his 10th birthday with his family at an Arizona national forest was attacked by a rabid mountain lion Saturday afternoon.

Paul's uncle reportedly shot the lion, which was an older female, loaded it in the family's truck and took it to the family's home in El Mirage.

The family then reported the incident to the Arizona Game & Fish Department.

Babb said the family was in the right to shoot the lion, but said it was not proper protocol to transport the animal before calling wildlife officials.

"It should have been reported right away," he said. "That probably would have limited the exposure to the potentially rabid animal." <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0310glnwvlion0312.html>

08/03/06 In Congress, the Uphill Battle for Gun Control

Why it's been years since significant federal legislation

Four out of every 10 Americans own a gun. And nearly 3 out of 4 believe that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual the right to have a firearm.

Recent Gallup polls show that only 38 percent of Americans think the most important way to combat gun violence is through stricter gun laws; 58 percent believe more should be done to enforce current laws instead. And more than two thirds oppose an outright ban on handguns

<http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/politics/2008/03/06/in-congress-the-uphill-battle-for-gun-control.html>

Founding Fathers Intent:

"The constitutions of most of our States assert that all power is inherent in the people; that . . . it is their right and duty to be at all times armed. . . ." *Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Justice John Cartwright* (June 5, 1824), 16 WRITINGS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON 45 (A.A. Lipscomb ed., 1907).