

# POINT BLANK

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



**October  
2011**  
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## **CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

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## **FBI STATS CORRELATE WITH CCW POPULARITY**

"Recent FBI reports show a four-year drop in violent crime," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said. "This correlates with the popularity and enactment of state concealed carry laws," he added.

According to FBI statistics, murder dropped 4.2 percent last year from the previous year. Robberies dropped 10 percent and rapes five percent.

Snyder noted that, "Over the past 25 years, there has been an increase in the number of states that allow qualified citizens to carry concealed firearms. Forty-nine states permit this in one way or the other. Only Illinois does not.

"What's needed is a law to allow anyone who has a state issued permit to carry a concealed firearm to carry in other states. This could reduce further the rates of violent crime as criminals generally don't want to attack armed citizens.

"The idea meets with the approval of the nation's law enforcement command officers," Snyder indicated. "A survey of American chiefs of police and sheriffs conducted by the National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACOP) shows this. Seventy-nine percent think general national recognition of CCW permits issued by a state would facilitate the crime-fighting potential of the professional law enforcement community.

"Seventy-four percent of the command officers think qualified, law-abiding armed citizens can be of assistance to the professional law enforcement community in promoting justice and reducing criminal activity."

"Fortunately," Snyder continued, "there is a bill in Congress, H.R. 822, by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-FL), a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act.

"There are over 240 bi-partisan cosponsors of the bill, which Rep. Stearns introduced this year with Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC). Recently, the House Judiciary's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security held a public hearing on H.R. 822, a first for Rep. Stearns' proposal."

The subcommittee chairman, Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), said the legislation was needed to clarify state laws that are "confusing, vary widely and can subject otherwise law-abiding citizens to frivolous prosecution."

Chairman Sensenbrenner said also, "This legislation recognizes that the right to bear arms does not stop at the state level."

"H.R. 822 enjoys a lot of public and congressional support," said Snyder. "Citizens who believe in the right to keep and bear arms can take action. Citizens who want to see violent crime take an even further nose dive can take action. Now is the time for American citizen-voters to contact their Representative, both of their Senators and the White House to demand positive action on H.R. 822 as soon as possible."

# CCRKBA RIBS BLOOMBERG ON NEW YORK'S VIOLENCE

When at least 46 people were shot in New York City over the Labor Day weekend, CCRKBA took the occasion to ask Bloomberg how this outbreak of violence could occur in a city with some of the toughest gun laws in the country, laws to which he would subject the entire United States.

"Mayor Bloomberg has advocated New York-style gun control for everyone, everywhere," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "This included a 24-hour period from Saturday morning to Sunday morning during which 24 people were shot. That's a pitiful demonstration of the abject failure of Bloomberg's anti-gun policies."

"We probably will see Mayor Bloomberg adopt the 'Obama protocol,' blaming everyone else, or the gun laws in other states, when the sad truth is that New York gun control laws have failed consistently," Gottlieb continued. "After the Labor Day weekend, Bloomberg is going to have a hard time pandering his gun control agenda."

According to the *New York Post*, the Labor Day weekend saw an "epidemic of shootings" including one that occurred not far from where Mayor Bloomberg was marching in the West Indian Day Parade in Brooklyn.

"Michael Bloomberg's anti-gun agenda is not simply wrong for New York," Gottlieb observed, "it is wrong for the country. No better evidence of that can be found than in the Labor Day weekend shooting statistics. Maybe it's time for members of Bloomberg's 'Mayors Against Illegal Guns' to wonder just where his philosophy might take *their* cities, if they continue listening to his siren song of restrictive gun control."

Gottlieb stated that, "New York's mayor is the Pied Piper of Prohibition. Nearly four dozen shootings over a three-day weekend is proof positive that Bloomberg's tune is seriously off-key. It is time for Mayor Bloomberg and other gun control extremists to admit that their strategies have failed. He has been running around the country blaming gun laws in other states for his city's crime problems, but it is the laws of his own jurisdiction that have failed miserably, and he knows it."

As Gottlieb predicted, Bloomberg continued on his "war path against gun owners," noted Raquel Okayay in HumanEvents.com. Bloomberg "is exploiting an incident that occurred over Labor Day weekend between New York City police officers and one armed criminal gunman that resulted in the tragic shooting and death of an innocent bystander."

"Bloomberg is calling for federal involvement, regulation and enforcement of gun control rules in both New York City and in every city and state in the nation. Except he neglects to tell us that gun control rules do not reduce violent crime rates. Instead his real goal is to advertise and promote his personal project, 'A Blueprint for Federal Action on Illegal Guns,' rather than addressing the task of reducing crimes in the city that elected him mayor."

Mayors Against Illegal Guns, "the outfit created and funded by multi-billionaire Bloomberg," noted Okayay, "seeks to circumvent Congress through federal regulation of gun laws by means of seven federal agencies of enforcement. In their Executive Summary, they concede 'the coalition has identified 40 op-

portunities in six areas where the Administration could enhance enforcement of existing laws without congressional action.'

"It means having the Obama administration monitor, restrain and prevent private gun ownership, sales, and production without the consent of the people via their representatives in Congress, and worse, with an ultimate goal of participating in a full-fledged gun grab from innocent Americans, arguing all along that criminal behavior is not the cause of violent crime – gun ownership is."



## POINT BLANK

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

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# CONCEALED CARRY FEARS NOW APPEAR UNFOUNDED

One of the most popular issues within the gun rights movement has been and is the promotion of the right to carry concealed firearms by qualified individuals.

Highlighting this is Wisconsin's new concealed carry law. In June, Wisconsin became the 49<sup>th</sup> state to allow the carrying of concealed firearms. Also highlighting this is the ongoing congressional movement to pass a national reciprocity concealed carry law.

Under the new Wisconsin law, citizens at least 21 years of age may apply for a concealed carry permit. Applicants must satisfy a training requirement. Permit holders will be able to carry concealed throughout the state with some limitations.

Before Wisconsin's law was enacted, a number of individuals, organizations and media representatives bemoaned the coming of concealed carry as heralding a period of murder and mayhem. It was a version of the old "sky is falling" argument. Such fears have preceded the advent of virtually every concealed carry law in the various states of the nation.

Such fears, of course, have been unfounded. Gun rights advocates generally knew they were unfounded at the time they were expressed.

Now, though, we're beginning to see independent admission of the fact that the fears were unfounded.

In another northern Midwestern state, for instance, Michigan, the Detroit Free Press recently ran an article with a most revealing headline.

"10 years after concealed weapons law," it read, "unclear why many in state were gun-shy."

According to the article's first paragraph, "Ten years after Michigan

made it much easier for its citizens to get a license to carry a concealed firearm, predictions of widespread lawless behavior and bloodshed have failed to materialize."

The article by Dawson Bell and Gina Damron reveals that, "Today, nearly 276,000 – or about four out of every 100 adult Michiganders – are licensed. That's more than twice the number predicted when the debate raged over whether Michigan should join the growing ranks of 'shall issue' states."

Before July 1, 2001, applicants had to prove why they needed to carry a gun for protection, Bell and Damron recalled. "Since then, any nominally sane adult without a felony record qualifies. During the debate, opponents of the change warned of gun-toting, trigger-happy citizens loose on the streets.

"But violent crimes have been rare among carrying a concealed weapon license holders. Only two percent of license holders have been sanctioned for any kind of misbehavior, State Police records show."

As could be expected, though, anti-gun activists still say "changing the law was a grave mistake. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence web site describes state reforms like the one enacted in Michigan as a 'recipe for disaster,'" note Bell and Damron.

They note also that, "Michigan's prosecuting attorneys association led the push against changing the law in 2001. Today, Ionia County Prosecutor Ronald Schafer, president of the group, says it's hard to remember what the fuss was about. 'I think you can look back and say it was a big nothing.'"

Although the public controversy regarding the ccw issue in Michigan occurred only a decade ago, noted Bell and Damon, "it seems more like another lifetime, when one of the biggest issues facing Michigan's politicians and the public was whether to make it easier for ordinary citizens to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons. At the time, advocates and opponents raged, hurling arguments about bedrock constitutional freedoms and Columbine massacres at every corner.

"The reformers – who wanted Michigan to join the growing number of states where carrying a concealed gun is the right of any nominally sane adult without a felony record – sneaked the legislation through in a lame duck session (and managed to immunize it from potential referendum). They predicted it would usher in a new era of civility as criminals came to realize they weren't the only ones on the street packing heat. The opponents gnashed teeth about an impending bloodbath."

However, noted the reporters, "not much" has happened

They related that Sheriff Michael Bouchard of Oakland County said "he has always been a proponent of people being able to protect themselves. The troublemakers, generally, aren't the people who go through the process to legally own and carry a gun – it's the people who carry illegally who cause problems, he said.

"My position was, and still is, that the people we have a problem with guns aren't the people who are willing to follow the law and go through the hoops and training," Bouchard said."

# CCRKBA LAUDS BLAST AT ILLINOIS GOVERNOR FOR BLOCKING CCW BILL

"We applaud U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois for taking Gov. Pat Quinn of the Prairie State to task for working to prevent Illinois from joining with the 49 other states in allowing concealed carry in some way within the state," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

Congressman Kinzinger rendered his criticism of Gov. Quinn during a speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Snyder emphasized that, "All of the states except Illinois now have on their books laws allowing the carrying of concealed firearms in some manner. In most of those 49 states, a law-abiding citizen may carry a firearm without a terrible lot of unnecessary hassle, although in eight or so there are what some observers consider overly restrictive and sometimes intentionally impossible bureaucratic processes.

He pointed out that Congressman Kinzinger noted with disapproval that Illinois, "is the sole state that does not allow some form of concealed carry gun rights. We commend him for that and join in the chorus of gun rights advocates calling for an end to the Prairie State's commitment to recalcitrance."

Congressman Kinzinger, a Deputy House Republican Whip, stated in a press release that, "In May, Gov. Quinn took it upon himself to determine what's best for Illinois. Rather than listen to the voice of the Illinois constituency, Quinn made desperate 11<sup>th</sup> hour phone calls to sway Illinois Democrats to get his way and block vital legislation to allow concealed carry here in Illinois."

Rep. Kinzinger, from Manteno, Illinois, castigated Gov. Quinn and said he wondered how the opinion of the governor on the ccw issue could be more knowledgeable than that of 49 other state legislatures.

"(Does) he know better than top law enforcement organizations like the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Illinois Sheriffs Association, the Chicago Police Lieutenants Association and the Chicago Police Sergeants Association?" Rep. Kinzinger asked.

In midsummer, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin signed into law a concealed carry bill. That, said Congressman Kinzinger, meant that Illinois is the last state "to prohibit and deny law-abiding citizens' rights to protect themselves or their family."

Steve Stout of *The Times* reported that, "Illinois lawmakers have considered similar legislation several times, but it has always been defeated, largely due to opposition from a powerful Chicago metropolitan area anti-gun faction.

"Supporters of concealed firearms point to statistics that, to them, prove such a change would decrease crime. Opponents see it as a return to a 'Wild West' attitude where people would pack pistols to Little League games or church services, increasing the chances for gun violence."

In the ongoing ccw controversy, two Republican legislators from Morris, Illinois, State Sen. Sue Rezin and State Rep. Pam Roth, believe there is a real possibility of yet another concerted effort in the Illinois General Assembly to revisit the issue this fall or early next year.

State Sen. Rezin said one plan under consideration would exempt

the Chicago area, or perhaps Cook County, entirely from concealed carry legislation. She said, "This might be our best shot at seeing such a bill passed."

State Rep. Frank Mautino, a Spring Valley, Illinois Democrat, agreed. "I also think the best thing we could do is not make the new law stronger than existing home rule city ordinances," he said. "Any concealed carry law would be easier to pass that way. I believe that might very well happen."

In Ottawa, Illinois, Police Chief Brian Zeilmann declared that, "I am a strong supporter of the Second Amendment and I realize that law enforcement administrators are divided on this issue. I, myself, stand for it. Overwhelming statistic studies have shown that crime decreased in many states where (concealed carry) laws are in place. I'm in support of them."

Some groups, such as the Second Amendment Foundation, affiliated with CCRKBA, have filed lawsuits in federal court in Illinois, challenging the state's prohibition on constitutional grounds.

Illinois State Sen. Roth believes the Illinois courts may make the ultimate decision on the matter. "If the courts don't get it done, then we legislators will address the issue again," she said.

In any event, said U.S. Congressman Kinzinger, "Quinn doesn't get it, but 49 other states do. We must follow the example set by every other state in this nation and allow law-abiding citizens to own and bear arms. We must restore, defend, and preserve the constitutional right at all levels."



# CCRKBA AWARDEES EXPAND ATF FIREARM INVESTIGATION

Two CCRKBA Gun Rights Defenders of the Month, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) are expanding the congressional investigation of Project Gunrunner operated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives of the Department of Justice.

Grassley is Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Issa is chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The two said they are expanding their probe into the ATF firearms scandal, described by *The Wall Street Journal* as "a troubled anti-gun trafficking program."

Grassley and Issa indicated "that their investigation would intensify," according to the *Journal*.

The ATF's Operation Fast and Furi-

ous "allowed suspected gun smugglers to buy some 2,000 firearms, some of which have turned up in crimes on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border," reported the *Journal*. "Most have not been tracked down. When Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was fatally shot in December 2010, two assault rifles linked to 'Fast and Furious' were found at the crime scene."

In their letter, Grassley and Issa, according to the *Journal*, "zeroed in on a court ruling by the Phoenix office seeking to deny Mr. Terry's family rights under the Crime Victims' Rights Act, and expressed concerns about conflicts of interest in prosecuting the Terry case. 'Since your office directed and approved the daily tactical decisions in Operation Fast

and Furious, it is hard to avoid the perception that a conflict of interest exists,' the two wrote."

Grassley and Issa "want to know if federal prosecutors in Arizona sought to cover up any link between the Fast and Furious operation and the Terry death," reported *The Washington Times*. "They said Mr. Hurley learned almost immediately that guns allowed onto the street, in this case, had been recovered at the site of the Terry killing, saying he 'contemplated the connection between the two cases and sought to prevent the connection from being disclosed.'"

"Internal ATF emails suggest a decision was made to not disclose the source of the weapons found at the murder scene."

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

More than ever before, the next presidential election (and Congressional elections) will determine the course our country takes for the 21st century. We face serious challenges, both foreign and domestic. Which direction we take depends on YOU.

Thirteen months out sounds like a long time, but it's not. The 2012 federal and state elections will have a major impact on gun owners, for better or worse. Is your voter registration up to date? Correct address? How about family members? Co-workers? Hunting or shooting buddies?

In most states, the Secretary of State is responsible for managing the election process, to include voter registration. Registration is conducted locally at the county level. In many states, registration or corrections/updates may be done on-line. A search for "<state name> Secretary of State" will yield direct links to that office. Look for subheadings for "Elections" or "Voter registration." Information on voter registration will also be found in the blue "government" pages of your telephone directory.

This is also the time to think about getting more involved in the political process. While cash contributions are generally considered the mother's milk of the election process, campaigns rely on volunteers to do the tedious tasks that translate into votes on election day: doorbelling, envelope stuffing, get-out-the-vote telephone calls, etc. It's not glamorous. It's not exciting. But it's the kind of work that wins elections.

While the current media focus is on presidential candidates, it's time to start looking at local candidates as well. Most gun laws are local -- state and county -- in nature. The state legislatures or county commissions pass them. Identify candidates. Ask them where they stand on the issue of the right to keep and bear arms. And support those candidates who support your rights.

# MICHIGAN CONGRESSMAN NAMED CCRKBA DEFENDER

CCRKBA for October is naming Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI) the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month.

In nominating this United States Representative from the Great Lakes State, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, noted that, "In his public life, Congressman Mike Rogers has been a solid defender of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms. When a mad gunman tried to assassinate Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) last winter and did in fact murder innocent people and wounded others, for instance, Rep. Rogers forthrightly resisted attempts to place the blame on firearms and defended in a straightforward manner the gun rights of law-abiding American citizens. He truly deserves this recognition."

After the Rep. Giffords shooting, Rep. Rogers appeared on MSNBC-TV to discuss it and reaction to it. "If you want to solve this kind of thing from happening," he stated, "we have to intervene with somebody who has expressed tendencies toward violence, who has a pretty strong history of mental illness. And right now, we're not talking about that at all. Everybody is talking about, 'oh, this is about people having guns, this is about political speech.' None of that had a factor here. When you look at the evidence that has been collected up, this wasn't about politics...If we want to solve this from happening in the future, you can talk about all the gun laws you want – that's not going to do it. What we have to do

is intervene earlier in that cycle of violence when they have this kind of disability."

Rep. Rogers then was asked: "Why would a civilian need an oversized ammunition clip like the one Jared Loughner (the alleged culprit) used?"

"Well," responded Rep. Rogers, "you're getting right back to the point of the Second Amendment, and the Second Amendment has been clearly defined not only, I argue, in the Constitution, but by case law. And so why we would want to rehash this whole event when that was not the problem on that particular day – again, that, to me we're talking about the wrong thing."

Congressman Rogers is one of over 240 cosponsors of H.R. 822, the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011.

The bill would amend the federal criminal code to authorize a person who is carrying a government-issued photographic identification document and a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm in one state, and who is not prohibited from possessing, transporting, shipping or receiving a firearm under federal law, to carry a concealed handgun (other than a machinegun or destructive device) in another state in accordance with the restrictions of that state.

Congressman Mike Rogers of Michigan is Chairman of House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He has been a U.S. Representative since 2001.

He was born in Livingston County, Michigan June 2, 1963 and graduated from Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan in 1985 with a

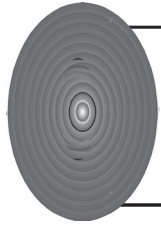


*John Snyder discussed Second Amendment issues with Congressman Rogers.*

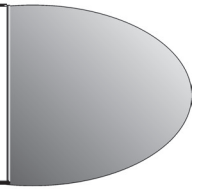
bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. He served in the United States Army from 1985 to 1989. He graduated from the FBI Academy and worked as a Special Agent with the FBI in its Chicago office, specializing in organized crime and public corruption cases from 1989 through 1994.

A consistent congressional supporter of Americans' Second Amendment rights, Rep. Rogers voted in 2005 for the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. This prohibits civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

He and his wife Diane live in Brighton, Michigan and have two children.



# QUICK SHOTS



B. (Byron) Jones, 54, the U.S. Attorney in Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been named by the Obama administration as Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives of the U.S. Department of Justice. He replaces Acting Director Kenneth Melson who has been reassigned in the midst of the ATF's Project Gunrunner Operation Fast and Furious scandal.



In Grand Rapids, Michigan, pharmacist Jeremy Hoven said he was fired from his job at Walgreens after he foiled a robbery by pulling out of his pocket a handgun for which he had a ccw permit, reported John Agar of *The Grand Rapids Press*. Now, writes Agar, "he's fired back with a federal lawsuit against Walgreens alleging wrongful termination." Hoven filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court, saying he had a right to act in self-defense and in defense of others. Two masked gunmen entered the store last May one morning around 4:30. Hoven started to call 911 when one of the gunmen jumped the counter and pointed a handgun at him. His attorneys said he "observed the gunman's finger jerking on the gun's trigger as it was pointed at him and he (Hoven) immediately backed up and drew his concealed handgun." Hoven "fired his handgun several times in self-defense and in defense of his coworkers," wrote the attorneys. The robbers fled. He was fired for violating Walgreens "non-escalation" policy in the holdup.



In Concord, New Hampshire, the Republican controlled State Senate shrugged off pressure from Gov. John Lynch and state law enforcement officials and voted to overturn the Democratic governor's veto of a bill that expands the ability of residents to use deadly force in self-defense. The State House soon followed with its veto override. Currently, citizens must attempt to retreat from the threat of deadly force if it is safe to do so unless they are threatened in their home or surrounding area. The new law allows residents to use deadly force in self-defense wherever they have a "right to be" without attempting to retreat. Republicans view the bill as giving law-abiding citizens greater security to defend themselves without fear of consequences. State Sen. Tom De Blois (R-Manchester) said, "This bill allows the average citizen to take responsibility for his own safety."



"Northeast politicians are rabid about gun control and are unafraid to act," writes Raquel Okyay in HumanEvents.com. "Let's take a look at the three U.S. Senators that have cosponsored the most recent anti-firearm legislation submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee, S. 436, Fix Gun Checks Act of 2011. This proposed duplicative law seeks to place the same legal restraints on the private sale and purchase of firearms that is encompassed in the federal

Brady Law, together with some new and so-called improved restrictions. Senators Charles E. 'Chuck' Schumer (D-NY), and Kirsten E. R. Gillibrand (D-NY), and John F. Kerry (D-MA), the cosponsors, proudly boast their urban-style anti-firearms positions without regard to the limitations set forth in the Second Amendment, to hell with the rest of the country. They base their anti-firearm goals, as always, on the false premise that less gun sales is equivalent to less violent crimes, when the stats say – not true."



Since enactment of the 1996 National Agreement on Firearms severely restricting gun acquisition and possession in Australia, that country "has apparently devolved into a namby-pamby society of effete urbanites, hen-pecked by anglophilic nannies and socialist, world-class politicians who revel in Australia's rugged history while criminalizing and quashing any hint of such thought or action in present day," according to Jeff Knox of The Firearms Coalition, a former CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month. Knox noted a report that the government recently had revoked the firearm license of Richard Hawkins, an 89-year old veteran of World War II, because the tool chest in which he locked up his two .22 rifles did not meet the government's security standards. This was discovered during a routine "safe storage audit." Knox further lamented that a magistrate ruled it was "not in the public interest" for Hawkins to "hold a firearms license."

