



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

# TIME OF THE COBRA



**August  
2003  
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Gun owners, beware! This is the time of the cobra. This is an era during which the gun grabbers, cobra-like, lie silently in wait.

They are hoping that America's gun owners let down their political and legislative guard during this period of apparent quietude.

The gun grabbers now are preparing a venomous strike at the life-blood of the right to keep and bear arms.

Headlines now are proclaiming throughout the land that, "Democrats Speak Softly on Gun Control," "Wary Of Losing Votes, Most Candidates Try To Keep Their Distance From A Loaded Issue," "Democrats Avoid Gun Control," "Democrats Shunning Gun Control," etc.

They're just playing possum. They're holding in their venom for the time being, just waiting for the hour to strike.

But here at CCRKBA we're not letting down our guard. We're asking American gun owners to join with us in promoting pro-gun legislative initiatives at federal, state and local levels of government.

The gun grabbers in the country have not dropped their anti-gun agenda.

As Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), recently elected House Minority Leader, has stated, her gang will wait and "revisit" the gun control matter "when the issue is ripe."

Right now in Congress, the gun grabbers are working to prevent the ban on certain semiautomatic firearms from expiring next year according to a sunset provision inserted in the law when the ban was enacted during the Clinton Administration. Not only that, they're actually working to expand the ban.

In mid-June, after President George W. Bush nominated Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for a judgeship on the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, Senate gun grabbers criticized the appointment because Pryor supported a court decision that requires judges to hold a hearing before they can order a person's gun to be taken away from him or her.

Also in the Senate, gun grabbers there are threatening to filibuster a measure, already passed overwhelmingly in the House, to shield law-abiding gun manufacturers and retailers from third party harassment lawsuits brought to put them out of business.

Gun grabbers at the federal level also are promoting new anti-gun regulations. In June, Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI) and Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D-NJ) proposed a so-called Firearms Safety and Consumer Protection Act to give the Justice Department outrageously broad powers to regulate the design,

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**CCRKBA:**

# GUN CULTURE ON THE UPSWING

Even though it is the opinion of some that private possession and use of firearms is outmoded, recent developments point in just the opposite direction, suggested CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder.

"Although it generally is felt," he says, "that Europe is an area of impossible gun control laws, a recent study indicates that firearm ownership itself is widespread there. One report even suggests that some individual European countries have produced a gun culture rivaling that of the United States."

European Union residents own a total of 67 million registered guns, but the real total probably is much higher than that, according to this year's *Small Arms Survey*. Ownership is most prevalent in Finland, France and Germany, reports Mike Wendling of the Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com).

"Contrary to widely accepted national myths, public gun ownership is commonplace," researchers wrote. "It may appear to some outside observers—especially Americans—that Europeans have blindly surrendered their gun rights."

However, according to the report, "the reality is that citizens of most European countries are better armed than they realize. Many—but not all—countries of Europe have a strong gun culture."

*The Small Arms Survey 2003*, funded by the Swiss government and 12 other nations, was carried out by the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

Researchers found that in the 15 E.U. countries there is an average gun ownership rate of 17.4 guns per 100 people. While that figure is lower significantly than that in the United

States, where ownership rates of 83 to 96 guns per 100 people are climbing to one gun per person, individual European countries are taking up gun ownership at rates nearly as fast as the United States.

Germans, for example, notes Wendling, "are buying almost as many new guns per capita as Americans."

The report also said that firearm regulations are most strict in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Poland. Officials across the continent agree that illegal or unregistered guns greatly outnumber known firearms, the researchers said. Finland has the highest per capita rate of official firearm ownership at 39 per 100 people, largely due to the Scandinavian country's hunting tradition. France and Germany aren't far behind at 30 guns per 100 people.

"The levels of gun ownership are going up in Europe more than people realize," said Aaron Karp, a senior consultant on the survey, who also teaches at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Karp told CNSNews.com that national culture affects ownership rates more than gun control laws do. "Countries have very different attitudes towards firearms," he said. "Laws tend to come after or reinforce attitudes already in existence."

Cultural differences are reflected in an increased European preference for long guns such as rifles and shotguns, except for France, where the long gun-to-handgun ratio is about the same as that in the United States.

Karp said that gun ownership has become a hot political issue. Crimes committed with the misuse of firearms are becoming more prevalent in Europe, even as the use of firearms

in wars and conflicts in the Balkans and Northern Ireland has decreased.

"European civil society has begun to acquire large numbers of automatic weapons," Karp said, and the study noted that firearms have been used in several recent high-profile assassination attempts. Karp said the survey figures showed a "modest" correlation between rising gun ownership and rising firearm crime in Europe.



## POINT BLANK

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

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# CCRKBA SAYS CCW LAWS COULD PREVENT TRAGEDIES

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron said that tragedies in the Midwest and the West possibly could have been averted had reasonable CCW laws been in place in California and Missouri.

Waldron took aim at California's antiquated, discretionary concealed carry law, noting that a legally armed citizen might have stopped a crazed man at an Irving supermarket before he was able to kill two people and slash three others in a recent morning attack.

"Joseph Hunter Parker was a madman with a deadly Samurai sword," said Waldron, "and he was pretty much at ease until police arrived. Had there been even one armed shopper in the store, the outcome might have been different."

Waldron noted that at least 35 other states have passed sensible concealed carry laws, including every state around California. Oregon, Nevada and Arizona all have reasonable concealed carry statutes, recognizing that a citizen's right to self-defense is one of the basic, fundamental human rights. These common sense laws mandate that any law-abiding citizen who meets the legal requirements must be issued a license to carry a firearm for personal protection. Reputable studies indicate that law-abiding citizens successfully defend themselves against criminal attack more than two million times each year.

"For whatever reason," observed Waldron, "California lawmakers prefer to remain in the dark ages, and keep their constituents relatively defenseless against criminal attack. Their reluctance to provide law-abiding citizens with the means to protect themselves from maniacs

like Parker is mystifying."

Instead, he said, "California residents faced with attack are forced to defend themselves against a dangerous sword-wielding lunatic, using nothing more than barbecue utensils, mayonnaise jars and the lids from garbage cans. This is simply unacceptable. Californians desperately need progressive, pro-active concealed carry reform, where personal protection is recognized as a right, not just a privilege for the politically connected. If Dianne Feinstein and Dan Perata could get carry permits, so should John and Jane Doe."

Waldron stated also that, "lawmakers in Sacramento who balk at the notion of armed self-defense should try to explain themselves to the families of Parker's victims. The time has long since passed for anti-self-defense politicians to admit they've been wrong. They should either change their philosophy about personal protection and concealed carry reform, or step down and make room for people who will."

In connection with the Missouri situation, Waldron charged that if that state had allowed its citizens to legally carry concealed firearms for personal protection, a recent shooting rampage in Jefferson City might have been stopped.

"Gov. Bob Holden should stop stalling and sign Missouri's concealed carry legislation today, in order to prevent similar rampages tomorrow," Waldron stated. Missouri citizens deserve the same self-defense rights that citizens in dozens of other states now enjoy, he added. "For Gov. Holden to turn his back on this important legislation, and the citizens he serves, is nothing short of dereliction of duty."

A disgruntled employee recently

shot and killed three of his co-workers and wounded four others at a Jefferson City manufacturing facility, according to the Associated Press. The gunman then drove a short distance and killed himself.

"I cannot think of a more graphic reason why licensed concealed carry should become law in Missouri than this horrible incident," Waldron stated. "If Gov. Holden uses this as an excuse to veto the measure, then he will have to explain just how it is that the shooting occurred in the first place."

Waldron emphasized that, "the gunman defied current state law, not only against carrying a gun illegally, but also the law against homicide. How would leaving Missouri's law-abiding citizens disarmed and at the mercy of such madmen prevent such crimes from occurring in the future? What about that, Gov. Holden? Are you going to continue to deprive Missouri citizens of the ability to defend themselves?"

Anti-gunners, Waldron stated, "would continue punishing Missouri's law-abiding citizens for the crimes of lunatics. This is the kind of illogical, hysterical reaction one might expect from gun control fanatics, but it should not be the response from the state's chief executive.

However, as Waldron had predicted, Holden vetoed the legislation, but Missouri lawmakers are scheduled to meet in September to override his veto.

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**[www.ccrkba.org](http://www.ccrkba.org)**

# CCRKBA RIPS U.N. ATTEMPT

CCRKBA has ripped ongoing attempts by the United Nations to undermine the traditional, individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

"We know what these characters are up to and our government must not let them get away with it," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder. "Using the façade of arguments that they want to restrict on an international level the commerce in firearms for the safety of innocents throughout the world, these United Nations people have been and are proposing that individual countries, including our own United States of America, adopt policies the effect of which would be to undermine if not outright eliminate the individual freedoms which we enjoy under the protection of the Second Amendment.

"This individual right is a great bulwark against international dictators and their attempt to use fanatic terrorists to tyrannize us," he added.

## THE COBRA

Continued from page 1

manufacture and distribution of firearms. In the month before that, Sen. Frank S. Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced legislation to ban large-caliber guns and to regulate severely the acquisition of firearms at gun shows.

Anti-gunners are on the move at the state level, too, with gun storage laws in New York to gun show transfer taxes in Illinois to large caliber gun bans in California to even placing fines in Maryland on parents whose kids play with toy guns.

So again: Watch out for the cobra,

Snyder's remarks came as the UN concluded the first Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Chairperson Kuniko Inoguchi of Japan said that a key element in "moving forward" was "new or amended national legislation, with over 90 countries now reporting that they had domestic laws to govern the illicit manufacture, possession and trade in weapons."

UN agencies have called for "a comprehensive, coordinated and cooperative response to the challenge" of "eradicating the illicit small arms trade." On deck for consideration are recommendations which add up to a comprehensive program for worldwide gun control, and call for a total ban on private ownership of

so-called "assault rifles." The UN is proposing that all small arms and light weapons which are not under legal civilian possession and which are not required for the purposes of national defense and internal security, should be collected and destroyed by states, including the United States, as expeditiously as possible.

They're proposing that all states, including the United States, should determine in their national laws and regulations which arms are permitted for civilian possession and the conditions under which they can be used, acquired and traded. All countries should ensure that they have adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the legal possession of small arms and light weapons and over their transfer in order to prevent "illicit trafficking."

# EMPT TO UNDERMINE GUN

Under the UN plan, countries would be encouraged to integrate measures to control ammunition into prevention and reduction measures relating to small arms and light weapons. They also want to prohibit unrestricted trade and private ownership of small arms and light weapons specifically designed for military purposes.

In one of their earlier reports, UN gun grabbers approved the actions of countries such as China, enacting measures to "strengthen legal or regulatory controls." China reported that some 300,000 "illicit" guns were seized and destroyed by officials acting in response to "new and more stringent national regulations that have come into force...on the control on guns within the country and on arms exports."

A few months ago, UN gun prohibitionists proposed a global tax on

arms sales, including a tax on gun purchases by individuals.

One of the most outspoken proponents of this idea is President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil. According to Constantine C. Menges, a senior fellow with the Hudson Institute, Brazil "is embarked on a course to build a radical coalition of Latin American states that will be pro-Castro, politically hostile to the United States, and ever more aligned with a Communist China that seeks to shift the geopolitical balance against America."

Menges, who served as a special assistant for national security affairs to President Ronald Reagan, writes in *The Washington Times* that, "for nearly 30 years, Lula has been a public supporter and admirer of Fidel Castro. In 1966, Mr. Castro founded the 'Tricontinental Congress' to increase collusion among anti-U.S. terrorists

from Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. In 1990, he joined with Lula as convener to rename this group the 'Forum of Sao Paulo,' which annually brings together many radical and communist political movements and guerrillas; as well as international communist and terrorist groups."

Participants include the Sandinistas, Cuban communists, Lula da Silva's Workers' Party, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Irish Republican Army, Chinese Communist Party, and representatives from North Korea, Iran, Libya and formerly the Iraqi Ba'athist Party.

One of the pro-gun congressmen fighting the UN gun grabbers is Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor and CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award winner who is scheduled to speak next month at the Gun Rights Policy Conference, co-sponsored by CCRKBA and the Second Amendment Foundation.

H.R. 1146, the proposed American Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, would end all U.S. participation with the UN and expel the organization from its taxpayer-subsidized New York headquarters.

"The UN increasingly wants to influence our environmental, trade, labor, tax and gun laws," says Congressman Paul. "American national sovereignty cannot survive if we allow our domestic laws to be crafted by an international body."

# CCRKBA HONORS ACTIVIST AQUILINO

Veteran gun rights activist John Aquilino of Hyattsville, Maryland is this month's CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month award recipient.

In nominating Aquilino for the Award, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder, noted, "I have known John for 30 years and throughout that time he always has been a staunch defender and promoter of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. He has served the right to keep and bear arms cause well at various level of activity - local, state, national and international. Most recently he has put his efforts into the promotion of the right among young people at the local level in the face of some bigoted, stupid and outrageous opposition but has continued, as always, to stand his ground in defense of our traditional American freedoms. He certainly is most deserving of this Award."

As a member of the St. Jerome Parish School Advisory Board in Hyattsville, John suggested a few years ago that the parish raise money for youth school projects through a shotgun raffle. The Council agreed. John and Chris Carroll, a fellow parishioner who is a direct descendant of John Carroll of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, formed the Catholic Sportsmen's Organization (CSO) to facilitate their projects. John says CSO "received IRS approval to raise funds for athletic and educational programs in the community as alternatives to youth gang participation and violence."

John and Chris proposed that CSO hold the Father's Day weekend raffle for a donated shotgun in connection

with a sporting clays tournament at the nearby Prince George's County Trap and Skeet range.

The first tournament, in 2000, says Aquilino, "drew some 40 new shooters. We donated about \$2,500-3000 to the Catholic Youth Organization, the parish scouting programs, and the community boys and girls club. We've been holding the tournament with raffle each year since. Our sponsors include the NRA Institute for Legislative Action, Glock, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Atlantic Guns, and about 30 small businesses and restaurants throughout the community."

The project really caught on in the community. "Since it was founded," according to Mary Shaffrey of *The Washington Times*, "the CSO has raised close to \$30,000 from a wide range of activities. Of this total, about one-third has come from the gun raffle-related events."

However, a few anti-gun people in the parish got all upset that the church was getting funds as the result of the gun raffle. At least one of them even left the church over the issue. As Shaffrey reported, the debate between CSO and the "raffle's opponents began three years ago when a few parishioners complained to the Archdiocese of Washington that accepting money raised in a gun raffle was tantamount to endorsing gun violence."

The raffle's opponents complained to the local pastor and to the archdiocesan officials. A major opponent, says Aquilino, is a woman, Lyn Taylor, who "led the effort that persuaded Monsignor Kevin Farrell, now Bishop Kevin Farrell, to forbid us to give the parish any funds raised by firearms related activities." Taylor subsequently lost a

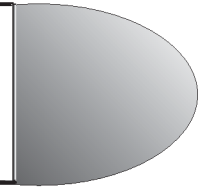
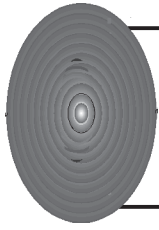
mayoral race.

Farrell, said, Aquilino, "made his decision without hearing our side of the issue. I protested to Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, stating that the accusation that our group is 'tainted by its association with firearms' is the same attitude of intolerance that nurtures prejudice based on race, creed, and national origin."

Aquilino's protest to McCarrick did not reverse the archdiocesan decision. (McCarrick's address is 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville MD 20782. The telephone number is 301-853-4500.)

That, however, did not stop John Aquilino. CSO held the raffle anyway, even though the money collected can not go to the church for which it originally was intended. CSO, Aquilino tells *Point Blank*, expects to contribute over \$3,000 "to the city to enable our older teens to have the area's only regulation 90-foot baseline baseball diamond complete with pitching mound, a facility totally lacking in the city."

The father of two, John Aquilino is a 1968 graduate of Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts. He worked at the NRA Institute for Legislative Action from 1976 to 1986. A writer, photographer and consultant whose former clients include Safari Club International, the firearms industry, Americans for Medical Progress and the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, he currently is a partner in the PEAT Institute, a consulting firm that provides strategies for industries and corporations targeted by radical animal rights and environmental groups.



A congressional report released June 30 found that federal law enforcement agencies still are unable to account for 824 of 1,012 lost or stolen firearms issued to their officers a year after the guns were determined to be missing. The Republican chairman and the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee both called the revelation “inexcusable.” Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) said that “neither the public nor I will condone having over 800 firearms missing from federal agencies” after the General Accounting Office released its report. Sensenbrenner continued, “Most disturbing, though, is that many of these firearms were not timely reported missing by the law enforcement officers themselves. That is inexcusable.”

“Hunting is part of the fabric of American history and today remains a cherished activity for millions,” writes Sid Evans, editor of *Field & Stream*, the largest circulation special interest magazine in the United States. After conducting a survey of the publication’s estimated 10.5 million potential readers over a three-month period on the magazine’s web site, Evans reported that 63 percent more women are hunting than 10 years ago, 83 percent plan on introducing their children to hunting, 85 percent believe states should use public funds to acquire more land for public hunting, and 64 percent are concerned equally about gun rights and land conservation.

Surprisingly, a lawsuit filed against the maker of the gun allegedly used by the Washington, D.C.

sniper suspects is being allowed to go forward based on “hypothetical facts” presented by lawyers for the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, a Pierce County, Washington court recently ruled. A statement by the gun’s manufacturer argued that, “the Brady Center’s attorneys are very loose with the facts.” Superior Court Judge Frank Cuthbertson determined that Bushmaster Firearms, Inc. of Windham, Maine, and Bull’s Eye Shooter Supply of Tacoma, Washington may be held responsible for the criminal actions of others in the suit filed by the families of eight murder victims and one survivor.

“A law making it easier for Minnesotans to carry handguns is putting some heat on businesses across the state,” writes Richard Gibson in *The Wall Street Journal*. “They must decide whether to allow the weapons on their premises and, if not, what to do about it. The law says those objecting to pistol-packing patrons can post signs that no guns are allowed. If they do, individuals who ignore those signs can be prosecuted, though the initial penalty is only a \$25 fine. But many merchants have been reluctant to declare themselves on the issue. One reason: Both proponents and opponents of the law have vowed to boycott businesses who don’t agree with them.”

When Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, scrambling to paint a “kinder, gentler” portrait of his party in an effort to attract the support of gun owners told a reporter, “You can walk into my office with a gun,” his statement was immediately challenged by CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron and CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman. They wrote an opinion piece that appeared in several newspapers.

“Dean is no longer governor of Vermont,” they wrote. “If he were, no law-abiding citizen would get anywhere near his office with a firearm, and he knows it. If by some earthquake of circumstance, he becomes the party’s nominee, no armed citizen would get within a mile of him, and if he were elected president, forget it, no matter what his party affiliation. The fact that he is now traveling around the country with a soft message on guns is interesting, but hardly convincing.”

Bur Waldron and Workman gave Dean credit for “trying to reach out to a constituency that many of his fellow Democrats have all but tried to destroy.”

“If Democrats want to attract gun owners, the party must distance itself from the extremists, in Congress and in the states,” they wrote. “The party must publicly repudiate the failed gun control measures they have imposed on millions of law-abiding citizens whose only crime is that they exercised a basic constitutional right.”

