

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



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TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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**CCRKBA REACTS TO
ELECTION RETURNS**

Democrats across the country, defeated in key congressional races last month, have only their party's leadership and long-term philosophy against gun rights to blame, said CCRKBA leaders.

In the weeks before the election, observed CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "Democrats dropped all pretenses in the wake of the Beltway sniper case. The old anti-gun extremism came out, alerting voters across the nation that no matter what Democrats say, or in the case of this year's campaign don't say, the party leadership still wants to trample individual gun rights as its response to violent criminals."

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron agreed. "Once it became obvious that restrictive gun control still captivates Democratic party leaders," he said, "gun owners became the critical element. Democrats tried to sound pro-gun but were, in many cases, treating state and congressional races like referendums on gun control. They lost some significant races."

"Gun owners clearly are in no mood to restore trust in candidates from a party that has, for the past 40 years, steadily and insidiously eroded their civil rights," Gottlieb observed.

Two weeks prior to the election, CCRKBA leaders observed that the nation's gun owners were "going ballistic" as the elections approached, and they were focusing their attention on anti-gun Democrats, whose fingerprints were all over new proposals to further restrict gun rights following the notorious Beltway Sniper murder spree.

High on the list of new gun control schemes is so-called "ballistic fingerprinting," a campaign championed by anti-gun extremist Schumer and Schumer's "Lady of Peace" bill that purports to close alleged "loopholes" in existing gun laws.

"Schumer sees loopholes in any law that allows honest citizens to actually own firearms," Gottlieb said. "In Schumer's world, the Second Amendment is a loophole, and he sees no reason why American citizens might want firearms for self-defense and to protect their families."

As for the "ballistic fingerprinting" proposal, a misnomer because the ballistic signature of a firearm created by tool markings in the steel can be changed intentionally or through repeated use, Gottlieb called it a "Trojan Horse," as currently promoted by its most ardent advocates.

CCRKBA, like other gun rights organizations and the Bush Administration, is not opposed to studying the potential effectiveness of ballistic imaging technology," Gottlieb stated. "But anti-gun Democrats are pushing this plan, not to solve crime, but essentially to create a de facto gun registry, which later could be used to confiscate many types of firearms commonly used for personal protection and home security."

'EXECUTE KILLERS, NOT GUN RIGHTS' SAY CCRKBA LEADERS

Public officials should pay more attention to executing murderers, not attacking the gun rights of law-abiding citizens, concluded CCRKBA officials following the arrest of John Allan Muhammad and John Lee Malvo in connection with the Beltway Sniper attacks.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said this applies especially to current Maryland authorities, including Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend.

Following the CCRKBA statement, Townsend was defeated in her bid to become Maryland governor by Rep. Bob Ehrlich.

Gottlieb said he hopes the murder suspects are first tried in neighboring Virginia, where the legal systems, and public officials, are tougher on criminals.

Noting that departing Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening imposed a moratorium on capital punishment, a move supported by Townsend, while working to destroy the gun rights of Maryland residents, Gottlieb said it is clear both Democrats are terribly misguided.

Gottlieb noted that Townsend had been blaming violent crime on the so-called "gun culture." She made gun control a cornerstone of her

gubernatorial campaign.

"Rational people hold individuals responsible for their acts," Gottlieb remarked. "It is irresponsible to blame an entire group of people for the crimes of one or two persons. Townsend knows this, yet she simply cannot set aside her extremist attitude about guns. She is obsessed with guns, when the real issues are justice and accountability."

During her unsuccessful campaign for Governor, Townsend's campaign ran a number of anti-gun advertisements on television stations in the Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D. C. areas.

Ehrlich on the other hand indicated he would like to review Maryland's gun control laws, including one governing the authority of the Handgun Roster Board, to determine whether or not they in fact are instrumental in reducing crime.

A Townsend ad attacked Ehrlich, stating he "criticized Maryland's laws for ballistic fingerprinting, saying they've done nothing to reduce gun crimes, and he would consider repealing them."

Also during the campaign, the *Wall Street Journal* attacked Townsend's tactics in an editorial, "The Gun Fear Factor."

"The most shameless exploitation so far has come from Maryland gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. As her polling lead on Republican Robert Ehrlich has vanished, her allies have stepped up attack ads in the sniper area... In one TV spot, which features sounds of gunfire and footage from Columbine High School, an announcer says, 'Tell Bob Ehrlich to stop siding with gun lobby extremists who threaten our neighbors.' Lt. Governor Townsend says she has no problem intensifying the ad campaign amid the recent shooting spree."



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA CATCHES COLLUSION IN GUN SHOW EX-

Smart sleuthing by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms blew the lid off reports about so-called “gun show loopholes” on a pair of Seattle television stations when the subject of both reports, identified only as a gun owner, was revealed to be the brother of a top official at Washington CeaseFire, a major Pacific Northwest anti-gun group.

When Seattle’s KIRO 7 news conducted a hidden camera purchase at a Southwest Washington gun show, their “buyer” was identified as “Justin,” who claimed to be an avid shooter. But Joe Waldron, CCRKBA executive director, recognized Justin as the same man who had appeared in a similar news story on rival KING 5 News about two weeks earlier. Waldron had a video recording of that story, and showed it to CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman, who is also senior editor of *Gun Week*.

Workman was working on a story about gun owner reaction to the KIRO “expose,” and was trying to identify and locate Justin for an interview. Once he had Justin’s last name, from the earlier KING broadcast, his search intensified, and led him to call CeaseFire, “in the off-chance they might know this guy,” he explained.

When Workman checked a CeaseFire news release to get the organization’s telephone number, he noticed that a DeAnna Martin was a contact for the group, and had served as interim executive director earlier this year. He called CeaseFire, and a receptionist identified Justin as DeAnna’s brother. The sibling connection was confirmed by a KING reporter who did the earlier story.

Neither KIRO or KING disclosed the link between Justin and CeaseFire during their broadcast reports.

KIRO is the local CBS affiliate, and KING is the NBC affiliate.

KIRO had promoted the broadcast for several days prior to airing the report. Leading into the report, a KIRO news anchor stated, “We show you how easy it is to skirt the law and walk away with a loaded gun.” Waldron said the purchase that was caught on camera was entirely legal, a fact acknowledged by KIRO investigative reporter Chris. Even Lewis County Sheriff John McCroskey, after viewing a tape of the undercover purchase, told a KIRO reporter that the transaction violated no laws, and did not concern him.

“I pointed out to them that it’s a gun show, and the sale was legal,” McCroskey said. “From their promo (for the story), it is clear they had an agenda.”

Halsne denied there was any agenda, other than to illustrate “what current laws allow.” He said he did not personally do the McCroskey interview.

“It is a big national debate,” Halsne said. “We simply went to show...the simplicity of purchasing this AR-15.”

But Halsne’s remarks during the televised report suggested otherwise to angry gun owners. After alluding to “bodies and blood-filled morgues from Washington, DC to Tacoma, Washington,” Halsne asserted, “Felon, guys angry at their wives, mental patients – all are welcome here at the Chehalis gun show.”

Later, Halsne stated, “KIRO Team 7 investigators discovered anyone can legally buy an AR-15 semi-automatic.”

Waldron said gun shows do not “welcome” felons or mental patients, noting instead that such people are barred from gun shows. He added that, “nobody walks out of a gun show with a loaded gun.” Loaded

firearms are strictly forbidden at gun shows.

He noted that not everyone can legally purchase a firearm, and he listed several types of disqualified persons who may not legally buy or possess any kind of gun. He called the KIRO story “sensational yellow journalism.”

Many gun owners promised to file formal complaints with KIRO.

Halsne told Workman in an interview for *Gun Week* that the KIRO news team was accompanied by people who were not employees of the station, but who do regularly attend gun shows. He did not directly answer whether any of them were members of, operatives for, or employed by Washington CeaseFire.

Workman said that evasive response aroused his “reporter’s curiosity” and sent him snooping in the direction of CeaseFire.

After viewing the tape, Sheriff McCroskey was astonished when the reporter apparently did not want to accept his explanation that the sale was perfectly legal.

“They acknowledged it was a perfectly legal transaction,” the sheriff said. “That didn’t seem to bother them. They just seemed to want me to be outraged that this perfectly legal transaction occurred. Well, I’ve got enough real crime to deal with. What law-abiding people do is not a concern to the police. We’re involved in (dealing with) crime, not in dealing with law-abiding citizens.”

“I’ve come to believe,” he added, “that there is an orchestrated effort to ignore (enforcement of existing) gun laws to make the matter appear worse, so they can pass more legislation to take the guns away from honest people.”

CCRKBA FIGHTS 'BALLISTIC FINGERPRINTING'

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRK-BA) has joined the growing opposition to demands by anti-gunners that so-called "Ballistic Fingerprinting" be required for every new firearm sold in America.

In the aftermath of the October sniper murders in Maryland and northern Virginia, anti-gunners exploited the incidents to demand more restrictions on gun ownership, including passage of a "ballistic fingerprinting" law. Under variations of this proposal, every gun made, sold or imported into the United States would have to be test-fired and a computerized ballistic record of the test filed with some federal agency, probably BATF.

CCRKBA opposes this approach as a back-door attempt to impose national firearms registration on the American people. CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder widely argued the ineffectiveness of this approach as a law enforcement tool, while CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron and Communications Director Dave Workman co-authored a nationally-syndicated op-ed column which revealed that a California Department of Justice study detailing the technology's shortcomings, had been suppressed by anti-gun Attorney General Bill Lockyer. Ballistics markings change over time. Such markings may be subjected to positive changes by alteration of the markings or by changing of the barrels of the guns involved.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Robert E. Andrews (D-NJ) has introduced such a measure, H.R. 408, which he terms the proposed Gun Ballistics Safety Act. It has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

In the Senate, Sens. Herbert H. Kohl

(D-WI), with Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Jack Reed (D-RI) and Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) as cosponsors, has introduced a similar measure, S. 3096, the proposed Ballistics, Law Assistance and Safety Technology (BLAST) Act.

"Every gun has a unique 'fingerprint,' the distinct patterns left on spent casings and bullets after they are fired," Sen. Kohl asserted. "What we need to do is create a comprehensive library of the ballistic images of all new guns sold in the United States as they come off the assembly line and a library of the images of all guns used in crimes. With those libraries in place, new technology would allow us to compare those 'gun prints' with bullets found at crime scenes, bullets like those found from the Washington area sniper's gun."

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, formerly Handgun Control, Inc., claimed on its website that "a National Ballistics Database would have provided law enforcement with a vital tool in the sniper investigations, and could have helped to catch the killer before so many people died. If a nationwide ballistic fingerprinting system had existed, police would have been able to trace the bullets to a specific gun."

Under the anti-gun Brady plan, a sample, fired bullet would be collected from every new gun sold in the United States. Sample shell casings would be collected from each semi-automatic firearm as well. Distinctive markings left on the bullet and casing by the unused barrel and semiautomatic ejector would be scanned into a computerized national firearms registry and linked to the gun's serial number.

Sarah Brady herself, chairwoman of the Campaign, stated that, "for years police have called for the creation of

such a database."

However, a document obtained by the Cybercast News Service from the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) contradicted Brady's claims.

"The FOP does not support any federal requirement to register privately owned firearms with the federal government," the document stated. "Without federally-mandated registration of the more than 200 million firearms in the United States today, such a database would be no more effective than the current National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) maintained by BATF."

The NIBIN system is restricted to comparisons of ballistics data associated with bullets, shell casings and weapons used in the commission of a crime. The FOP noted that, when authorities recover a recently fired bullet from a crime victim or scene, and later obtain the weapon, imaging technology can be used to confirm the link between the two pieces of evidence.

"In all cases, it is necessary that investigators recover a bullet or shell casing from the crime scene which is intact enough to allow forensic analysis to be able to identify the ballistic markings," the report stated. "The firearm must then be recovered in order for the gun and the bullet or shell casing to be conclusively linked."

The FOP even challenged the use of the terminology "ballistic fingerprinting" to refer to the investigative technique.

"Since ballistic imprints, unlike fingerprints and DNA, can be altered, either deliberately or simply through normal use," the police group asked, "how will we ensure the validity of the findings?"

POLICE CHIEFS SUPPORT CCRKBA GUN POSITIONS

Command law enforcement officers in the United States support a number of positions on the right to keep and bear arms and gun control similar to those espoused by CCRKBA members and supporters, according to a recent survey conducted by the National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACOP).

The officers, for instance, believe that pilots of commercial airlines should be permitted to carry firearms on board their aircraft. The NACOP survey indicates that 72.6 percent of the U.S. chiefs of police and sheriffs support the guns in the cockpit proposal.

NACOP sent its 15th annual nationwide survey questionnaire to 22,587 command officers, and received a 12.6 percent response.

In spite of the fact that a number

of high-profile, "politically correct" law enforcement executives have, over the years, taken unfriendly, negative, or even hostile positions on the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms, the NACOP survey results indicate that this is not necessarily an accurate reflection of general command officer opinion. In fact, the hostile police attitude toward the right to keep and bear arms appears to be a minority attitude.

When the officers were asked, as an example, if any law-abiding citizen should be able to purchase a firearm for sport or self-defense, 93.2 percent said "yes."

Some indication that the command officers may have little faith in "gun control" as a crime fighting idea came when 96.4 percent said criminals cur-

rently are able to obtain basically any type of firearm by illegal means.

When asked if, within the past year, their agency had been called upon to arrest anyone for making a false statement on an application to purchase a firearm, 92.9 percent said "no."

Over 85 percent support prosecution of convicted felons who violate state or federal firearm possession laws.

Nearly 95 percent said they thought that foreign or domestic terrorist threats or acts will increase in the country in the next year, and 98.5 percent said they believed there should be increased intelligence sharing by federal agencies with state and local police in connection with increased terrorist threats to our nation's security.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The 108th Congress convenes the first week of January. In addition, most state legislatures start their 2003 general sessions in January.

This is the time to update your address books and confirm the telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and postal addresses of all of your elected officials, from Washington, D.C. to your state capitol, to your county and municipal officials. As the 1st of January approaches, this also is the time to adopt a New Year's resolution to keep in close touch with your elected officials. By this time next year, they should recognize your signature on a letter, or your name when a staffer tells them you're on the phone...again!

You can start with the "blue" (government) pages at the front of your telephone directory to find the office telephone numbers (and sometimes even the addresses) of all elected officials. The Library of Congress' web site, <http://thomas.gov/>, also has direct e-mail links to all Representatives and Senators.

As a general rule, letters carry more weight than telephone calls, with e-mail ranking in between. A letter almost always will get you a written response, where a call may just end up as a note or "position statement" being collected by a staff member. Letters generally should be short and to the point. Like a letter to the editor, it should address one issue and preferably be no longer than one page.

But my representative (or senator, or delegate, or whatever) is anti-gun! Won't I be wasting my time?

No, not at all. Contacting them accomplishes two tasks: it makes them go on record on the issue – it's amazing how many elected officials campaign on a pro-gun, pro-sportsman platform (especially in last month's election), only to have to back down when a constituent displays a letter from the official supporting this or that gun control measure. The second task it does is let them know that not ALL of their constituents agree with their position on guns. If enough constituents put pressure on the officials, maybe their position will change.

Between the War on Terrorism, a possible war in Iraq, creation of a Department of Homeland Security and high visibility incidents like the October DC-area shootings, the 108th Congress and the 2003 legislative session promise to be an exciting time for all Americans, especially for gun owners. Now is the time to prepare to stand up and be counted!

CCRKBA HONORS COLUMNIST LARRY ELDER

Nationally syndicated columnist Larry Elder is the recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for December.

"In order for us to preserve the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms, we must win the public relations war regarding our freedom," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder. "Essential to our success in this fight is the public presentation of the truth about the right to keep and bear arms in a positive manner and in a recognized public forum.

"Larry Elder is one of the fine columnists on the scene today who has been able to present basic truths regarding the right to keep and bear arms and the gun control movement attacks on our right in a unique manner. He is contributing needed intellectual resources to our fight for freedom. He certainly is most deserving of this award."

In a recent column which appeared in *The Washington Times*, Elder addressed some of the obvious absurdities of the gun control advocates.

In response to some media and politicians' calls for additional gun restrictions following the Beltway Sniper attacks, Elder asked: "Why does Switzerland, a country that requires a military-style rifle, plus ammunition, in every home, enjoy a very low homicide rate? Why does Israel, a country where perhaps 10 percent of citizens possess permits to carry concealed weapons, enjoy a very low homicide rate? Why do gun control proponents fail to mention countries with homicide rates higher than ours, including Brazil and Russia, with very restrictive gun control laws?"

Reflecting on violent crime in the nation's capital, Elder asked: "Why does Washington, a district whose laws make it illegal to buy, transport or acquire a handgun, experience the highest per capita murder rates in the nation?"

He reminded readers that, "when citizens could purchase guns anonymously and with few of today's restrictions, they enjoyed a murder rate of 1.2 per 100,000 vs. the 5.5 rate

in 2000?" He also chided anti-gunners for no longer referring to England as a model of gun control, due to the soaring violent crime rate there.

Elder was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. He attended Brown University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1974. He then attended the University of Michigan, School of Law, graduating with his Juris Doctor in 1977.

Elder worked with a large law firm in Cleveland, Ohio, where he practiced litigation. He has written numerous articles for newspapers and magazines and has appeared in a sizable number of television shows.

Larry is the author of a number of books, including "Showdown: Confronting Bias, Lies and the Special Interests That Divide America," and "The Ten Things You Can't Say In America."

A registered independent, Elder describes himself as a "fiscal conservative" and a "social liberal." He hosts The Larry Elder Show on KABC 790 in Los Angeles.

JURY VOTES \$1.2 MILLION AGAINST GUN

A jury of six women in Palm Beach County, Florida has awarded the widow of teacher Barry Grunow \$1.2 million from a gun distributor.

This is the first lawsuit in the country in which a gun company has in any way been held responsible in a murder.

However, attorneys for the Valor Corporation will appeal, and legal experts believe the verdict will be overturned by an appellate court. The jury included three teachers, and four jurors later disclosed to the

defense that they wanted to absolve the distributor of liability, but finally compromised with the two hold-outs on a minimal award.

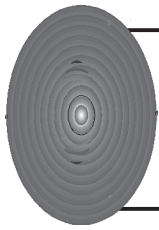
Pam Grunow's lawsuit accused Valor Corp of distributing a gun that was "unsafe, defective and lacked features that would have prevented a minor from using it."

The plaintiff alleged that the Raven handgun involved in the death of Grunow is unreasonably dangerous because it looks like a toy and often

falls into the hands of juveniles.

The case stems from the murder of Grunow by one of his students two years ago. Nathaniel Brazill shot Grunow to death in a West Palm Beach classroom.

The jury did not find any liability for Brazill, who actually pulled the trigger. Brazill stole the unloaded gun and ammunition from a cookie tin stashed in the dresser drawer of a family friend.



“The gun lobby did not win this election,” insisted Michael D. Barnes, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (formerly Handgun Control, Inc.) united with the Million Mom March, “but the net result is that its operatives now control Congress.” Barnes’ comments came the day after last month’s national elections. “We know that Americans overwhelmingly support sensible gun policies,” he added, “but will need to be vigilant to prevent our existing gun laws – like the Brady Law and the Assault Weapons Ban – from being abolished.”

Another anti-gun group, the Violence Policy Center, warned that “an underground ‘sniper subculture’ is brewing in the United States thanks to the aggressive marketing of so-called sniper rifles by gun manufacturers and lax gun control regulations.” Following the apprehension of two suspects in the Beltway sniper shootings, Tom Diaz, VPC’s senior policy analyst, said that similar incidents could happen unless federal and state lawmakers curb the sale of some long guns and place new restrictions on shooting schools that teach individuals how to use firearms. “From everything we see about the growth of books, the growth of websites, the apparent commercial success of these schools, we believe this subculture is growing,” he said.



During the controversy surrounding the sniper attacks, George Gray, acting director of the Center for Risk Analysis at Harvard University,

pointed out that “the risk of being shot or killed by the sniper is very, very small. There are greater risks out there that can occur in the everyday things that people do.” The *Washington Times* noted that the odds of being killed in a car crash is one in 5,877 each year, one in 191,992 of dying in a fall down stairs, one in 77,308 of drowning, one in 25,196 of being killed with the use of a gun, one in 96,471 of choking to death on food or another object, and one in 81,487 of dying in a fire. The Times indicated there was a one in 357,692 chance of being shot by the sniper and a one in 465,000 chance of being killed by the sniper.

According to a *New York Times*/CBS News poll conducted in late October, 41 percent of telephone respondents said the Democratic Party does “a better job dealing with gun control,” 37 percent said the Republican Party did, and 22 percent had no opinion. According to the Times, 1,018 adults throughout the United States were phoned at random. Of these, 795 said they were registered to vote.

For the first time since 1991, serious and violent crime in the United States increased last year, reported the FBI. According to the Bureau’s Uniform Crime Report, murder and non-negligent homicide rose 2.5 percent nationwide over the figure for 2000. This did not include the 3,047 deaths as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, which the FBI published in a special section. Robberies climbed 3.7 per-

cent, burglaries 2.9 percent, petty thefts 1.5 percent, and motor vehicle thefts 5.7 percent. Rapes increased by 0.3 percent but aggravated assault dropped 0.5 percent. Overall, crime rose 2.1 percent. According to *The New York Times*, “experts and law enforcement officials said the overall increase, after a decade of drops in the crime rate, appeared to reflect several factors: a faltering economy, cuts in welfare and anti-crime programs, as well as fewer jobs available, more inmates returning home from prison, an increase in the teenage population, and police resources devoted to antiterrorism efforts.”

The New York Times reported that “the FBI has initiated an unusual behind-the-scenes attack on another law enforcement agency, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, as part of an effort to protect its turf and responsibility for domestic security, law enforcement officials said today. An internal FBI draft full of criticisms of the firearms agency has circulated in the last week among law enforcement officials. Some of these officials say the draft is part of an effort by the Bureau to head off a plan to move the firearms operations from the Treasury Department to the Justice Department in a broad reorganization of domestic security. Some officials of the FBI, which is under the Justice Department, said such a plan could undermine its authority to investigate domestic terrorism. One official said the draft did not represent the Bureau’s views.”

