POINT BLANK

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

July 2010
Volume XXXV No. 7

IN THIS ISSUE

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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ENGLAND SHOULD REPEAL GUN LAWS, SAYS CCRKBA

"In England, Members of Parliament should begin to dismantle Britain's stupid, draconian gun control laws," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said. "In addition," he continued, "Americans should tell those who would follow the British system of firearms regulation in this country to go take a hike.

"The Cumbria massacre in which suspected gunman Derrick Bird reportedly killed 12 people and wounded 25 others, at 30 different locations, shows that these tough gun control laws do not prevent criminal violence. It shows instead that people who may have been armed if the law had not prevented them were made helpless and victimized because of it."

Snyder said that, "If Members of Parliament have half a brain, they'll consider legislation which will allow British subjects to carry firearms for their own personal protection and for the protection of others.

"If Members of Congress have the interests of their constituents at heart, they'll take up legislative proposals which would recognize national reciprocity for citizens with state-issued permits to carry concealed firearms."

"It is ironic," noted Snyder, "that a popular film currently being shown in Britain and the United States demonstrates what happens when decent people don't have guns and criminal types do. The criminals, who don't give a hoot about gun laws, have guns and the good people don't, and the good are unable to protect themselves from the bad.

Snyder said, "Whether it's through actual analysis or fictional drama, the truth is the same. Restrictive gun laws are bad public policy."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb noted that, "Like all victim disarmament laws and regulations, the laws now in place in England only created a risk-free environment for the gunman to carry out this despicable act. America knows from experience what happens when such killers are confronted by determined armed citizens. A gunman was stopped by an off-duty police officer out of his jurisdiction at Salt Lake City's Trolley Square in 2007. Another shooter was stopped in his tracks at a church in Colorado Springs that same year. An armed high school vice principal stopped Pearl, Mississippi gunman Luke Woodham. Two armed students stopped a gunman at the Appalachian Law School in 2002.

"When armed Americans fight back, shooting sprees are stopped. The architects of British gun laws, and those who would force such laws on the United States, should take a lesson from that. We don't know why Derrick Bird opened fire. We may never know. What we do know is that restrictive gun laws did not prevent him from shooting. From our experience, an armed citizen might have stopped him cold."

CCRKBA HITS PHONY ANTI-GUN TERROR BILL

(The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in McDonald v. Chicago that the Second Amendment is incorporated by the 14th Amendment. Please visit ChicagoGunCase.com for the ruling. We will cover this in depth in the August 2010 issue.)

In the case of *McDonald v. Chicago*, "the U.S. Supreme Court appears poised to nullify Chicago's draconian handgun ban," wrote CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb and CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman in a nationally-circulated opinion column.

The fatal shooting of a home invasion suspect by an 80-year-old retired Army veteran in Chicago's East Garfield Park neighborhood underscored the reasons on account of which gun owners filed a lawsuit to overturn the city's gun ban.

The suit seeks the nullification of Chicago's handgun ban.

It seeks also a declaration that the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms through incorporation via the Fourteenth Amendment protects citizens' gun rights from infringement by state and municipal governments.

Such a ruling would have national implications as many restrictive state and local gun laws could be subject to legal challenges.

Gun owners feel such a ruling would enable citizens throughout the country to challenge in court state and local officials who are adamant in their support of objectionable gun control laws.

Gottlieb said that, "The shooting of an armed home invader appears to be a clear-cut case of self-defense. The Chicago Sun Times quoted next door neighbor Curtis Thompson, who observed, 'It's a good thing they had a gun, or they might be dead.' Another neighbor, identified as Audrey Williams, told the newspaper, 'I'd have done the same thing. They say we've got to give up our guns, but that's crazy.'"

Two years ago gun rights advocates filed a lawsuit "to protect the self-defense rights of Chicago citizens just like this man," said Gottlieb. "Far too many people in Chicago have not been able to defend themselves. They have been unconscionably disarmed, and left in as much fear of being arrested and jailed for having a gun as they are of being robbed and murdered by armed thugs who have ignored the gun ban."

In another Chicago incident, early last month, an armed Chicago homeowner in the city's South Austin neighborhood shot a fleeing felon who had run from police with a large volume of narcotics, and crashed through the window of the gun owner's home. The homeowner reportedly had a Firearm Owner's Identification Card.

Gottlieb said this second incident in a week amplifies the justification for the lawsuit to overturn "Chicago's insidious handgun ban.

"The homeowner in this morning's incident, just like the 80-year-old Korean War veteran who fatally shot another thug last week, did the city a favor, and he apparently will not be charged, thanks to a state law that protects such people, even where handguns are banned."

Gottlieb pointed out that, "Armed citizens are doing more to fight crime than Mayor Daley has done in his entire time in office."

Gottlieb and Workman wrote that, "Daley's stubborn defense of his city's handgun ban shows him to be so out of touch with the public, and with the reality of his city's crime problem, that he may not even be jolted to good sense by a Supreme Court loss."

POINT BLANK

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

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POINT BLANK is published monthly by Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005.

Address Change: Write new address, city, state, and zip code on a plain piece of paper. Attach mailing label from an issue of **POINT BLANK** and send to CCRKBA, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005. Please allow four to six weeks for change to become effective.

CCRKBA OUTRAGED BY MEXICAN GUN PROPOSAL

"It is an absolute outrage for the President of Mexico to come here and tell a joint session of Congress to reinstitute the failed Clinton administration ban on the importation of certain semiautomatic firearms," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

During an official state visit to the United States, Mexican President Felipe Calderon told our Congress it is important to "consider reinstating the assault weapons ban."

The Hill, a Capitol Hill newspaper, in its Congress Blog, asked Snyder and others, "Now that Mexican President Felipe Calderon has spoken, what do think of his remarks?"

The publication quoted Snyder as stating, "It is an outrage for a visiting head of state to use the occasion to attempt to influence our legislature with regard to domestic legislation, especially legislation which is in conflict with our Bill of Rights, our Constitution, our Second Amendment. The Clinton era ban on the importation to the United States of certain semiautomatic firearms was allowed to sunset without reinstitution because it was not an effective crime-fighting initiative, and because law-abiding American citizens regarded it as an illegitimate infringement on Americans' civil rights.

"Calderon and some other internationalists, including some American officials, apparently would like to use an internationalist appeal to undermine Americans' individual rights. America's 100 million law-abiding gun owners, who own 200 million rifles, shotguns and handguns, and those who buy well over 10 million firearms a year, will oppose the Calderon idea, and any American politician who endorses it. The United States should continue to make and enforce laws to combat the illicit trade in arms but not infringe on law-abiding citizens' civil rights. Calderon, and maybe President Obama, and maybe Secretary of State Clinton, and maybe Attorney General Holder, and probably a number of American politicians, would like to use Mexico's troubles as an excuse for undermining Americans' gun rights. They must not succeed."

Calderon's proposal also drew opposition from the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

An NSSF statement professed disappointment that Calderon, "in the name of security, would urge our Congress to reinstate a failed ban on so-called 'assault weapons.' Let's be clear, semiautomatic rifles, demonized as so-called 'assault weapons,' are not machine guns but modern sporting rifles that are used every day by law-abiding Americans for the shooting sports, hunting and home protection. Since 2004, when the Clinton/Gore 'assault weapons' ban expired, modern sporting rifles have fast become one of the most popular types of firearms for law-abiding Americans to purchase.

"Firearms that Congress would label 'assault weapons' are functionally no different than any other semiautomatic civilian sporting firearm. They shoot only one shot per trigger pull, no spray firing as some allege, and use the same ammunition as other guns of the same caliber. What differentiates modern sporting rifles from other guns is cosmetic; for example, the type of stock on the firearm."

In 2008, some 29,000 firearms were recovered in Mexico, according to the NSSF statement. Of that 29,000, approximately 5,000 were traced to U.S. sources. "That means that more than 80 percent of the firearms recovered in Mexico were not traced to the United States," continued NSSF. "According to ATF, those firearms traced were originally sold at retail not recently, but on average 14 years earlier. This is completely inconsistent with any notion that a flood of newly purchased firearms are being illegally smuggled across the border into Mexico."

Snyder pointed out that, "For some time, it has been obvious that anti-gun politicians on the international scene, politicians such as Calderon, Obama, Clinton, Holder and others, seek to use an international avenue to cut through our Second Amendment and curtail if not outright eviscerate Americans' gun rights.

"That is one of the reasons such politicians are so outspoken in support of a United Nations international gun control treaty and an inter-American arms covenant. They would like to get the United States Senate to ratify these documents and then use U.S. commitment to these agreements as a basis for initiating, implementing and spreading various forms of domestic gun control within our own borders."

Snyder said, "We must not let that happen. We urge all Point Blank readers to contact both of their U.S. Senators and let them know they oppose ratification of these proposals.

"We ask CCRKBA Members and Supporters to give us your maximum possible contribution so that we may continue to work against domestic and international gun control and in ongoing support of our Second Amendment rights."

INTEL REPORT WARNS OF ARMED JIHADIST ASSAULTS

A professional intelligence analysis indicates that international terrorists seem likely to switch in their attacks on innocent targets from an emphasis on the use of bombs to an emphasis on the use of small arms.

It notes that "the number of people in the American public who are armed can…serve as a mitigating factor, though many past attacks have been planned at locations where personal weapons are prohibited."

"This analysis," commented John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, "presents gun rights supporters with the possibility of some new political and public relations developments.

"On the one hand, gun prohibitionists probably will cite the use of small arms by terrorists in the United States as an excuse for initiating or implementing further restrictive gun control measures on the general, law-abiding American public. On the other hand, the public's safety, as well as personal safety, may well depend on the ability of law-abiding armed citizens to effectively resist terrorist attacks."

Snyder said that, "If the analysis turns out to be accurate, and gun grabbers manipulate the use of firearms by terrorists in this country as a platform for launching attacks on lawful gun ownership in general, gun rights supporters will emphasize the unfairness and ineffectiveness of blaming the general population for the nefarious actions of those who murder and terrorize.

"People generally will come to realize that the last line of defense against such horrible terrorist attacks is the ability of law-abiding people, with firearms, to resist successfully such attacks."

The intelligence report, "From Failed Bombings to Armed Jihadist Assaults," appeared in a Global Security and Intelligence Report, published by STRATFOR.com and written by Scott Stewart. STRATFOR consults for international businesses.

According to the report, radical Islamists have been experiencing less success of late with bomb attacks than they have in the past, and have begun to turn to the use of small arms in their attempts to wreak havoc against their targets.

A domestic example of this is the attack carried out last year at Fort Hood in Texas allegedly by Nidal Malik Hassan.

An international example was the attack two years ago in Mumbai, India. Terrorists landed a boat at the harbor and shot at everybody in their path as they walked up to the hotel district. They barricaded themselves in a hotel for several days. Nobody there had a gun with which to stop them, except for a few police, some of whom had no ammunition. Before the situation was over, 125 people died.

"Armed assaults employing small arms are not a new concept in terrorism by any means," states the STRATFOR analysis. "They have proved to be a tried-and-true tactic since the beginning of the modern era of terrorism. A few examples are the Black September operation against the Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics; the December 1975 seizure of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries headquarters in Vienna, led by Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, aka 'Carlos the Jackal'; the December 1985 simultaneous attacks against the airports in Rome and Vienna by the Abu Nidal Organization; and the September 2004 school seizure in Beslan, North Ossetia, by Chechen militants. More recently, the November 2008 armed assault in Mumbai demonstrated how deadly and spectacular such attacks can be."

The report noted that in the United States "there have been several armed attacks that have killed people, such as the attack against the El Al ticket counter at the Los Angeles International Airport by Hesham Mohamed Hadayet in 2002, the shooting attacks by John Muhammed and Lee Boyd Malvo in the Washington area in September and October 2002 and the June 2009 attack in which Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad allegedly shot and killed a U.S. soldier and wounded another outside a Little Rock, Arkansas recruiting center. The most successful of these attacks was the November 2009 Fort Hood shooting, which resulted in 13 deaths. These attacks not only resulted in deaths but also received extensive media coverage.

"Armed assaults are effective and they can kill people. Due to the proficiency of U.S. police agencies and the training their officers have received in active shooter scenarios following school shootings and incidents of workplace violence, the impact of armed assaults will be mitigated in the United States…The number of people in the American public who are armed can also serve as a mitigating factor, though many past attacks have been planned at locations where personal weapons are prohibited, like the Los Angeles International Airport, Fort Hood and Fort Dix."

BATFE REDEFINES FIREARMS TRANSFERS

In a startling move, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) posted a ruling that declares any shipment of a firearm by a federally-licensed manufacturer (FFL) to any agent or business, such as an engineering-design firm, patent lawyer, testing lab, gun writer, or others, for a bona fide business purpose to be a "transfer" under the Gun Control Act of 1968.

This reverses a four decades long interpretation of the Gun Control Act.

Because of this new BATFE ruling, legitimate business-related shipments now will require the recipient to complete a Form 4473 and undergo a Brady criminal background check.

"This is yet another example of what can and does happen when Congress puts in the hands of federal bureaucrats the delineation of Americans' gun rights. As such, it provides another reason for reforming or eliminating BATFE," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director. "It's possible, too, that this new ruling reflects a determination on the part of Obama administration personnel to do whatever they can in an administrative way to put roadblocks in the way of citizens' exercising their Second Amendment rights."

In many cases, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), these new requirements will force shipments to a third party, thereby lengthening the process and the time that the firearm is in transit.

BATFE officials have acknowledged that this is a radical change from BATFE's long-standing interpretation that this was not a "transfer" under the Gun Control Act that was set forth in a 1969 ruling ("Shipment or Delivery of Firearms by Licensees to Employees, Agents, Representatives, Writers and Evaluators") and further clarified in a 1972 ruling.

In other words, NSSF charges, BATFE now is "saying its long-standing rulings, issued shortly after the Gun Control Act was enacted, were wrong.

"For more than four decades manufacturers have shipped firearms to agents for bona fide business purposes. ATF is unable to identify a single instance during the past 40 years where a single firearm shipped in reliance upon ATF's rulings was used in a crime. This unwarranted reinterpretation of the law will cause significant disruption and additional costs for industry members and increase the cost of doing business, while doing nothing to advance public safety."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Two years ago the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the District of Columbia's de facto ban on the possession of handguns and the requirement that all firearms be kept dismantled and unable to be used for protection in the home. End of story, right? Wrong!

Since announcement of the Heller decision, the District imposed new rules on firearm possession, prohibiting any semi-automatic firearm and creating a convoluted and difficult registration process for citizens wishing to exercise their Second Amendment rights. This is a direct slap in the face of the Supreme Court, not to mention the residents of the District.

In late April, Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Jon Tester (D-MT) and others and Representatives Travis Childers (D-MS) and others introduced the "Second Amendment Enforcement Act," S. 3265 and H.R. 5162 in the Senate and House respectively, to force the District of Columbia to recognize the fundamental rights affirmed by the Second Amendment.

S. 3265 and H.R. 5162 have a number of cosponsors. Now is the time to contact your Senators and Representative. Ask them if they have signed on as a cosponsor to these bills. If they have not, ask them to sign on and support passage of the bills. It they are already cosponsors, ask them to push leadership to take action on the bills. You can find your elected representatives in the "blue pages" in your telephone directory, at www.house.gov or www.senate.gov, at the CCRKBA web site at http://www.ccrkba.org.

NEW MEDIA ANALYST THE CCRKBA RIGHTS DEFENDER

One of the main reasons the right to carry concealed firearms movement has become so popular and prevalent throughout the United States is because the gun community has learned and become adept at using new forms of communication, maintains Brian Anse Patrick, the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for July.

"In developing his ideas, Brian has shown people in the gun rights movement how we have overcome elitist media opposition to some of our legislative objectives and, by implication, how we can expand and increase this effectiveness," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Relations Director. "He also warns the Second Amendment community about possible future pitfalls which may befall our movement from elitist forces. He certainly is most deserving of the Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award."

Patrick is Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. He holds a Ph.D. in Communications Research from the University of Michigan. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in research methods, group communication, propaganda and persuasion. His honors seminars on "Propaganda and Social Science" and "American Gun Policy" rank as the most popular courses in the University's Honors Program.

Dr. Patrick is the author of "Rise of the Anti-Media: In-Forming the American Concealed Weapons Movement."

In this study Dr. Patrick explains his thesis regarding the development of communications strength by the pro-gun movement, particularly the right to carry concealed movement.

For years, the general distribution of information and opinion on firearms, gun control and related matters has depended on a top-down, or vertical transmission by classes of interpretative experts, or persons in control of mass media operations, most of whom have been part of or loyal to an elite, an anti-gun elite.

In more recent years, though, with the development of new forms of communication not dominated by the anti-gun elite, such as that available through the internet and through special interest publications like newsletters, there have arisen a number of horizontal interpretative communities, or special interest groups, or pro-gun communities. These communities are able to communicate amongst themselves and throughout the general public and able to displace to a certain extent the dominance of the information dispersal system by the classes of interpretative experts operating in the vertical manner.

It is this change which has made possible the transformation of gun rights interests from being generally frowned upon to being generally accepted, appreciated and even extolled.

As Patrick wrote, "concealed carry succeeded because its proponents have largely bypassed traditional mass media news systems. Although they may employ traditional mass media to complement their informational strategies, they by no means rely on them. Their victories have come about because they have developed their own formal and informal communications networks and alternative media, especially, more lately, computer-mediated communication. These anti-media have, in the long run, as demonstrated by current political reality, proved more effective than the more loosely-targeted mass-mediated, top-down informational strategies of their opponents."

He warns, though, that anti-gun media elites "may well react with their own version of the College of Propaganda. Entertainment, education and news media may symbolically intertwine as never before in vertical communications. Already one can see how news media, mass entertainment, and large organizations pseudomorph horizontal computer-mediated communications, creating chat rooms and web pages with comment options and other forms of participation that are built to stimulate or siphon off the true associational and conversational urge. Overorganization may indeed win; human laziness, stupidity, and cupidity all weigh in on its behalf. Elites are elites usually for good reasons, being smart and adaptable. But when mass democracy relies on interpretative elites to inform the populace, it is these interpretive elites who really control, not the people, but always in the name of the people."

Brian is a Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) distinguished pistol shot. "I just love those hardball 1911s," he says.

He recalled that his father "owned and operated a small machine shop. My father was quite the sportsman, loved to deer hunt. We spent much time in northern Michigan, and built a house for a hunting lodge. I still hunt there and also still have and use his rifles, and have some of my own to boot."

An early June mass shooting in northwest England is more proof that restrictive gun laws do not prevent horrible criminal acts, CCRKBA said last month. Reportedly 12 people died and 25 more were wounded. Suspected gunman Derrick Bird, who apparently died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, was among the fatalities. "In 1996," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "the government cracked down on gun ownership, banning handguns and placing severe restrictions on long guns following the Dunblane Massacre of 16 school children by Thomas Hamilton. In 1987, with strict gun laws in place, Michael Ryan murdered 16 people in Hungerford. American gun prohibitionists frequently have held up the gun laws of Great Britain as their model. They have created the impression that English-style gun laws would prevent outrages in this country. This early June shooting spree, which apparently left victims in 30 different locations, should forever put the lie to this argument."

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In California, the State Assembly last month voted to ban openly carrying handguns in public. "Lawmakers approved the bill as some gun rights activists celebrated their constitutional right to bear arms by walking the streets with pistols strapped to their hips, like gunslingers from the Wild West," reported the Los Angeles Times. "Should the bill become law, that practice would become a crime…It currently is legal to openly carry a gun in public in Californian as long as it's not loaded. Some gun enthusiasts have been known to carry ammunition in a separate pocket, supporters of the bill said. The bill AB 1934 now goes to the Senate."

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Gun-grabbing New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has found yet another unique way to promote his anti-gun agenda. Four years ago, the anti-gun billionaire started distributing a pocket-sized "NYC Card" to the most active political donors in order to "inform them about New York City's state and federal priorities." Now that it's the fifth anniversary of the card, he's suggesting that card holders know about New York City's highest priorities and "call for action on these priorities." Among these "priorities" is a call to "urge the State to require microstamping technology in new handguns, which would help police identify shooting suspects, and urge Congress to close the Gun Show Loophole, which would help prevent criminals from buying guns without background checks. According to the FBI, New York City is the safest big city in America – and the city's strategy to reduce crime by cracking down on illegal guns has been a big part of that success. But more must be done to keep New Yorkers safe, including the statewide implementation of new microstamping technology, which imprints tiny markers on shell casings to help police officers connect crime scenes to perpetrators. In addition, it's time for Congress to require background checks for all sales at gun shows, which would prevent criminals and gun traffickers from having easy access to firearms."

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In Alabama, Calhoun County Sheriff's investigators say a Piedmont woman shot and killed a man who broke into her home in mid-May, reported the Anniston Star. Dale Micha Scott, 39, reportedly was shot several times and killed in the upstairs bedroom of a residence. Sheriff Larry Anderson said the woman who lived at the residence shot Scott with a handgun after he apparently broke into the home through a sliding glass door on the second floor. The woman's husband was at work and she was alone. "From everything we've seen thus far, there will be no criminal charges," said Anderson. "She was totally within her rights to defend herself. And in Alabama, a home owner does not have to have approval or a permit to own or possess a firearm in his or her own residence."

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Remember to register for the 2010 Gun Rights Policy Conference September 24, 25 and 26 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport sponsored by CCRKBA and the Second Amendment Foundation. Call (425) 454-7012 or email GRPC2010@saf.org.

Register TODAY!

September 24, 25 and 26, 2010

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2010 Gun Rights Policy Conference

Saving Freedom!

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Come meet national gun rights leaders and your fellow grassroots activists at the 25th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC 2010) in San Francisco, California. This is your once-a-year chance to network and get an insider look and plan pro-gun rights strategies for the coming year.

Past GRPCs have outlined victory plans and made public the latest firearms trends. They allow you a first-hand chance to hear movement leaders--and make your voice heard.

This year we'll take a look at critical issues such as: city gun bans, youth violence, "smart" guns, concealed carry, federal legislation, legal actions, gun show regulation, state and local activity. We'll also preview the upcoming elections and analyze the U.S. Supreme Court McDonald decision.

The full roster of GRPC 2010 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan M. Gottlieb, Joseph P. Tartaro, Wayne LaPierre, G. Gordon Liddy, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Ken Hamblin, John Lott, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, Reps. Bob Barr and Chris Cannon and many others. Check our web sites -- www.saf.org or www.ccrkba.org for updates.

CONFERENCE and HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF MATERIALS ARE FREE!

Books, monographs and other materials—enough to start a Second Amendment library are free, as are Saturday luncheon, Friday and Saturday evening receptions and morning and afternoon snack breaks. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendee. After you register, you will be mailed information about hotel reservations, invited speakers and a tentative agenda.

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