

# POINT BLANK

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



**March  
2005**  
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## **CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

*(a non-profit corporation)*

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## **CLASHES COMING IN CONGRESS**

As battle lines began to form once again on Capitol Hill, CCRKBA officials continued to press forward in defense of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms.

Gun-grabber groups are furious over the resurrection, and potential enactment this year, of the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. This legislation would eliminate harassing third-party lawsuits against legitimate firearm dealers, manufacturers and importers. It would prevent such businesses from being held liable for the criminal use of their products by third parties.

The idea had gained some momentum last year in Congress but was abandoned because of a confluence of amendatory and filibustering maneuvers in the U.S. Senate. This year, it seems possible that another attempt to move the legislation may have a greater chance of success, suggested CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Snyder.

"The gun grabbers really are going off the wall," Snyder said. "What could be more sensible and traditionally American than protecting law-abiding American businessmen and businesswomen from gun grabber attempts to drive them out of business and undermine and eventually eliminate the ability of law-abiding American citizens to obtain firearms for defense of life, liberty and property?"

The anti-gun Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence United with the Million Mom March announced that it is again opposing the measure. Chairwoman Sarah Brady predicted that, "within weeks, Congress will likely be considering legislation." She said it "was defeated last year," but now "the extreme gun lobby is pushing again." She said that it "would totally shut the doors to victims of our country's most irresponsible gun sellers."

"Unable to bring about their gun-free dream world through the legislative process, the gun grabbers are trying to use the courts to sue the Second Amendment to death," Snyder observed.

In another example of gun grabber frustration, Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) said resistance to H.R. 654, a bill by himself and Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) and others to ban .50 caliber rifles, is "insanity."

When anti-gun Representatives at a Washington, D.C. press conference handed out a list of 12 instances in which a .50 caliber rifle was used, threatened or intended for use in a criminal act, CCRKBA Alan M. Gottlieb responded, "It's usually people who were prohibited from owning any kind of firearm to begin with and, as a result, should have been prohibited from owning a .50 caliber already. There's no need to have a new law. They ought to just enforce the existing laws."

# TIME TO ACT AGAINST UN

For some years now, the United Nations has been promoting international gun control schemes against the law-abiding citizens of member states, including the United States.

"The pro-gun movement within the United States is fighting back," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder. "To counter this domestic pro-gun political strength, the gun control crowd is mounting an ambitious movement through the United Nations. They are attempting to make an end run around the American Second Amendment movement.

"They must be stopped," Snyder declared.

Last year gun control activists urged United Nations treaty writers to approve a system for tracking small arms sales around the world.

In January, at the beginning of a two-week UN conference, Amnesty International, Oxfam International and the International Action Network on Small Arms called for a legally binding global marketing and tracing treaty covering small arms and ammunition.

Gun-grabbing extremist Rebecca Peters, director of the International Action Network on Small Arms, made it clear last October that she would like to see a universal ban on private handgun possession, including here in the United States.

The contemplated treaty would set up a mandatory system to track firearms and ammunition from "factory" to "user" anywhere in the world, including the United States.

It would enable the gun grabbers to set up an international gun registration scheme and to accomplish through the United Nations what they have been unable to accom-

plish via the Congress of the United States.

It is not only in the area of gun control that the United Nations has developed into an international organization.

In recent months, the news virtually has been overflowing with report after report of United Nations scandals. This includes what Clifford May, president of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, calls "the steady drip of revelations about the UN oil-for-food program in Iraq, history's largest financial swindle. Lately, questions have arisen, too, about the impartiality of the UN investigation of this scandal. On top of that are disclosures about UN peacekeepers in the Congo sexually abusing girls as young as 13."

The Foundation is a policy institute focusing on terrorism.

"Where terrorism is concerned," writes May, "the United Nations has shown little interest. On the contrary, a General Assembly resolution virtually licenses the mass murder of civilians by those who claim to represent 'national liberation movements.'"

"What troubles the United Nations?" he continues. "Shashi Tharoor, a senior official, says it is 'the exercise of American power' that 'may well be the central issue in world politics today.'"

For the United States, though, and particularly for law-abiding American gun owners, it is the United Nations itself which is a real problem.

"We ought to dump it or at least defund it unless and until it straightens itself out," Snyder suggested.

*Point Blank* readers should con-

tact their Congressional representatives and demand action the UN problem.

They could also contact Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who reportedly says she has "a pure Second Amendment view of the right to bear arms," and let her know what they think ought to be done about the United Nations. Her address is Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520.



## POINT BLANK

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

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# CCRKBA BASHES CNN REPORT ON .50-CAL. RIFLES

After CNN broadcast a report about the potential terrorist threat of a .50-caliber rifle against commercial aircraft, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms took the network to task in a story that wound up in the *Washington Times*.

CNN correspondent Drew Griffin and anchor Paula Zahn detailed how a reporter managed to purchase a .50-caliber rifle, apparently illegally, in Texas for \$2,500 after making arrangements with the owner over the internet. The report pointed people to a website, and Griffin observed that, "On the internet, you learn all the new nuances and all the loopholes of buying a gun."

Griffin acknowledged, however, that the rifle has "really never been used domestically in a criminal event..." His story included footage of a .50-caliber round striking what was identified as the exit door of a Boeing 727 from 1,000 feet away, about 333 yards.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb and Executive Director Joe Waldron accused CNN of irresponsible journalism for providing "a road map" to potential criminals and domestic terrorists on how to obtain one of the large rifles. The typical .50-caliber rifle weighs in the neighborhood of 25 pounds and sells for between \$2,000 and \$7,000.

"In yet another media attempt to demonize a particular firearm, which CNN's own reporter, Drew Griffin, acknowledged has 'really never been used domestically in a criminal event,' this outrageous report still suggests to potential terrorists how such a gun might be put to criminal use," said Gottlieb.

Added Waldron: "The CNN report comes awfully close to being an attempt by a news organization to encourage an incident, just so CNN can later say 'We warned you'."

The *Washington Times* chided CNN, noting that the cable news agency is considered "clueless" by CCRKBA about national security and the Justice Department.

"This sort of journalism belongs right down there with the CBS debacle over the manufactured documents regarding allegations about President Bush's service in the Texas Air National Guard," Waldron asserted. "With so-called 'news' like this on the nation's airwaves, it is no wonder that the American public no longer trusts the media, and believes the press has a political agenda."

He accused CNN of "trying to

invent news."

"Essentially, CNN's Griffin and anchor Paula Zahn have literally told would-be terrorists, 'See what you might do with one of these firearms?'" Gottlieb stated. "Naturally, if such an incident occurs, CNN will quickly blame everyone but themselves. That's not simply disingenuous, it's despicable."

Gottlieb and Waldron noted an earlier story on the same subject appeared on the CBS program *60 Minutes*, suggesting that both networks are "guilty of planting this seed of an idea in the mind of some lunatic."

"They're all hoping to one day harvest a bumper crop of sensational stories about some airplane that comes under fire," Gottlieb concluded.



*Anti-gun zealots, Senators Schumer, Feinstein, Kerry and Kennedy, just after voting against your gun rights.*

## GET ANGRY AND GET ON THE PHONE!

Legislation to restrict, limit and destroy your right to keep and bear arms is being considered by Congress right now.

To let your member of Congress know that you oppose any new anti-gun legislation, follow these simple instructions:

1. Call 202-225-3121 and ask to speak to your U.S. Representative.
2. State that you oppose additional new gun control legislation.
3. State the even more needs to be done to protect your gun rights.
4. Call 202-224-3121 and ask for both of your U.S. Senators. Repeat steps 2 and 3.

Thank you. Remember, only you can help protect our gun rights.

## S.F. BUN BAN WOULD LEAVE CITY TO CRIMINALS, SAYS CCRKBA

The proposed handgun ban in San Francisco is taking more heat from the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, and the group is using an incident from nearby Oakland to illustrate its point.

"San Francisco gun banners would put residents at the mercy of thugs and drug dealers, and the proof lies just across the bay in Oakland, where a local resident there has had to defend himself for trying to help rid his neighborhood of criminals," noted CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron.

Oakland resident Patrick McCullough was surrounded on his property by a gang of about 15 young thugs, angered over McCullough's willingness to call police and turn in drug dealers and other street criminals in his neighborhood. Several in the crowd reportedly punched him, one apparently hit him with a tree branch, and a 17-year-old allegedly

reached for a gun. That's when McCullough drew his own gun and shot the teen in the arm. McCullough, who has no criminal history, was arrested on suspicion of felony assault. He was released on \$15,000 bail.

"Police reportedly see McCullough as a good citizen who stands up to drug dealers," said Waldron. "The chairman of a local crime prevention group is urging prosecutors not to charge McCullough. They do not want to see their community turned over to criminals, and prosecuting McCullough sends the wrong signal.

"Yet, across the bay," Waldron continued, "a handful of San Francisco supervisors are sending just such a signal by putting an issue on the ballot to ban handguns. And woe be unto any San Francisco resident who tries to defend himself or herself with a firearm."

Five supervisors voted earlier this year to place a handgun ban measure on the November ballot. The move has riled gun rights organizations, including the Pink Pistols, a gay firearms rights group that says such a ban will leave the city's gay population defenseless against gay bashing and worse.

"It's crazy," Waldron said about the ballot issue. "Bad enough that in Oakland, Mr. McCullough may have to defend himself in court for defending himself against a mob of thugs, but over in San Francisco, citizens won't even have that option."

"Gun bans have never accomplished anything, other than to create a safe working environment for criminals," Waldron concluded. "Lunatics may not be running asylums, but fools definitely appear to be in charge in San Francisco. Ultimately, the public will suffer for their folly."

## CCRKBA SUPPORTS CCW IN NAT'L PARKS

CCRKBA is supporting a campaign by Virginia-based gun rights group for a federal rule change that would allow licensed concealed carry in national parks, and they are not alone in that support.

The Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) is promoting the idea, which is apparently stirring some interest on Capitol Hill.

In addition to CCRKBA more than 35 state and local organizations are backing the proposal.

According to VCDL's Dave Yates, the group is circulating a national petition supporting amendments to

national park rules that would continue the general ban on firearms in the parks, but exempt persons who use firearms "for self-defense, or defense of another, pursuant to the law of the state in which the park is located..."

Under the proposed rule change, national parks would operate much like national forests are currently managed in terms of firearms laws. Regulations in each park would go along with the specific state firearm statutes. Parks would retain authority over hunting and trapping, and otherwise control the use of fire-

arms within their boundaries.

They note that some national parks have been crossed by highways. In theory, many of those drivers are armed, yet as soon as they enter national park land, they are in violation of the federal regulation.

"Current regulations," VCDL contends, "criminalize the unwary traveler who may not be aware that the highway he is traveling on can suddenly be controlled by the National Park System, with attendant firearm restrictions not otherwise commensurate with the laws of the state that the park is in."



# TOP COPS SUPPORT GUN RIGHTS

A majority of Police Chiefs and Sheriffs in the United States support the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, according to a survey report released recently by the National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACOP).

This finding is identical to previous NACOP surveys.

This is the 17<sup>th</sup> annual national survey. NACOP sent a questionnaire to 22,587 command law enforcement officers across the nation. According to 93.6 percent of the respondents, any law-abiding citizen should be able to purchase a firearm for sport or self-defense.

Nearly 73 percent (72.8%) oppose

the idea of preventing law-abiding citizens from purchasing more than one firearm per month.

Over 63 percent (63.1%) believe that a national concealed handgun permit system will lead to a reduction in rates of violent crime. This comports with recent studies conducted in some states.

When asked if anyone, within the officer's agency, has been called upon to arrest anyone who has made a false statement on an application to purchase a firearm, 92.2 percent answered "no."

As expected, the officers believe in throwing the book at criminals who violate gun laws. They were asked, for instance, if anyone, such

as a convicted felon, in violation of state or federal firearm possession laws, should be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney and, if convicted, receive a maximum prison term. Nearly 90 percent (89.7%) responded in the affirmative.

They evidently also think, though, that gun laws do little if anything to keep criminals from getting firearms. Over 96 percent (96.1%) maintain that criminals are able to obtain basically any type of firearm by illegal means. Just under half of the officers, 46.4 percent, believe that the application and training process to allow commercial airline pilots to carry firearms in the cockpit is too restrictive and burdensome.

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Representative Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland has once again introduced the proposed Citizens Self Defense Act of 2005.

The first pro-gun bill of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, H.R. 47 reaffirms the right of the individual citizen to obtain firearms for his or her security and that of his or her family and their homes, as well as the inherent right to use firearms in defense of self, family or home.

H.R. 47 goes one step beyond reaffirming what we already know to be true, our rights as enshrined in the Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights. It also establishes a cause of action in federal court should those rights be violated in any manner. That means an individual whose Second Amendment rights are violated may sue in federal court for damages, for injunctive relief, and for such other relief as the court deems appropriate. In addition, the court may allow the prevailing plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees as part of the costs.

While it is only three pages long, H.R. 47 is important in that it "sets the stage" for more pro-gun legislation. Once Congress goes on record agreeing that the right of self defense is a fundamental right protected by both the Constitution and public law, the foundation will be laid for expansion of the exercise of that right through such measures as nationwide concealed carry, etc.

H.R. 47 has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. In order to ensure the bill gets a hearing, it is important that as many Representatives as possible sign on as cosponsors. As this is being written, H.R. 47 has twenty-seven Congressmen as co-sponsors. Please write, e-mail or call your own congressional Representative and ask him or her to sign onto H.R. 47 as a cosponsor.

It also would be a good idea to write Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, phone (202) 225-3951, and ask him to schedule public hearings on the measure.

# MARYLAND LEGISLATOR IS GUN RIGHTS DEFENDER

Maryland State Delegate Michael D. Smigiel, Sr. is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for March.

According to CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder, "In Maryland, the so-called 'Free State,' gun owners generally have a tough time from the legislative standpoint. For quite a few years now, the political powers that be generally have been promoting a comprehensive anti-gun agenda and have enjoyed a lot of support from the dominant media in the state, including *The Washington Post* and the *Baltimore Sun*. When faced with this kind of a situation, it takes a lot of public courage as well as personal commitment for a politician to stand up in a forthright manner in defense of the individual right to keep and bear arms. Mike Smigiel is just such a politician. He most certainly deserves the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award."

Smigiel has introduced legislation in multiple sessions of the General Assembly to nullify a landmark measure passed in 2000 that required handgun manufacturers to test-fire all handguns sold in Maryland and send the spent shell casings to the state police. The police file the shell's ballistics markings in a database, which officers supposedly can use to match shell casings found at crime scenes.

This year, the repeal measure, House Bill 179, with bi-partisan sponsorship, has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Although gun control advocates support the 2000 law as a potentially effective crime-fighting tool, a recent Maryland State Police report said it is expensive and ineffective and ought to be repealed.

"The state police have indicated it's not working," said Smigiel, whose previous measures on the subject have died in committee. "We're wasting a couple million dollars which we could be putting to better use."

Smigiel, who represents Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne and Caroline Counties, also has gone to bat for a Cecil County resident seeking a gun permit from the Secretary of State Police.

"Let there be no mistake on where I stand on the issue of Second Amendment protections," says Smigiel. "I have always been and always will be a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. I collect weapons, sport-shoot at the range and keep firearms for self-defense. You can count on me to vote to protect the constitutional rights of all law-abiding citizens on this issue.

"That being said, I think that the main issue facing pro-Second Amendment Marylanders today is not only how do we continue to protect those few rights we have left but how do we eliminate the overly intrusive laws which currently exist in Maryland.

"The frustrating part for pro-Second Amendment advocates," he continued, "both in and out of the

legislature is that the liberal anti-gun rhetoric is not based on fact or reason but rather emotion. It is near impossible to convince liberal legislators to change their positions. Fortunately, positions such as these lead to indefensible votes by the anti-gun left."

He advises the Second Amendment community in the Free State to "watch close this session for more irrational votes based on emotion rather than common sense. While we may be unable to change the attitude of the ultra-liberal, anti-Second Amendment criminal apologist, we can identify them and target them for removal during election years.

"In the interim, I and other pro-Second Amendment legislators shall continue our efforts to roll back the intrusive laws that have been passed previously."

Born in 1958 in Baltimore, Mike served in the U.S. Marine Corps and has been a Member of the House of Delegates for over two years. He's Deputy Minority Whip and serves on the Judiciary Committee and has served on the Health and Government Operations Committee.

He received a degree in psychology and history from Elgin Community College in Elgin, IL in 1982, his BA in political science from Northern Illinois University in 1985, and his JD from the Northern Illinois University College of Law in 1989. He also was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1989.

Mike is the Founder of Mediation, Inc., an alternative dispute resolution center, and is a Director of the Bainbridge Naval Training Center Historical Association, Inc.

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# QUICK SHOTS

During his Senate confirmation hearings in January, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said he favors extending the expired federal so-called "assault weapons ban." Congress allowed the ban on the importation and manufacture of certain semiautomatic firearms and multiple capacity ammunition feeding devices to expire last Sept. 13. Gonzales said his brother Tony is a SWAT officer in Houston, TX and that "I worry about his safety and the types of weapons he will confront on the street. The President has made it clear that he stands ready to sign a reauthorization of the federal assault weapons ban if it is sent to him by Congress. I, of course, support the President on this issue."



Administrators at Kent State University in Ohio have refused to recognize a Second Amendment club as an official student group, according to the Leadership Institute's Campus Leadership Program. Officials at Kent State's Office of Campus Life refused to consider the Second Amendment Club's application for recognition, said student Luke Adams, who founded the club this past fall. "We asked Kent State to recognize our Second Amendment group," said Adams, "and they treated us like second-class citizens." The club had planned to educate students about responsible and safe gun use through education and events, such as trips to shooting ranges. "By banning the Second Amendment Club, Kent State limited their students' First

Amendment rights to free speech and assembly," said Jim Eltringham, Director of Public Relations for the Campus Leadership Program.



"One of the basic human rights that constantly has to be defended is the right to keep and bear arms," writes columnist Doug Giles. "Why did the original founders of this great American experiment toss this given, no-duh, entitlement into the Constitution? Well...it wasn't so that we would be guaranteed that we could hunt squirrels and woodchucks without serving time, as great as that is. It was for the purpose of defending ourselves against perps when the cops are running a little late, and for the purpose of protecting ourselves against the government should the system go south. What concerns me is how both the Federal and State governments, driven by rapid lawmakers, continue to be such a pain in the derriere with respect to the right to possess a firearm." Giles is the author of *Political Twerps*, *Cultural Jerks*, *Church Quirks*.



In the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State Senate by a 20-17 vote rejected SB 807, a bill that would have required background checks on all private sales at gun shows. Before the vote, some people opposed to gun shows cited fictional characters in a novel in their shameless attack on legal firearm transactions. Virginia State Senators Ken Cuccinelli, Ken Stolle,

Creigh Deeds and John Edwards led the opposition to the anti-gun proposal.



Since "several city supervisors in San Francisco want to ban handguns there on the mere presumption that such a law would prevent crimes, accidents and suicides," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, let the Board of Supervisors "take an important step for public safety" and close the Golden Gate Bridge. The bridge has been a popular suicide platform for more than 65 years. "It is an absolute certainty that closing the bridge would prevent suicides, and perhaps many accidents as well. And just for the sake of argument, one seriously might question whether any of the more than 1,300 fatal falls from the bridge since 1937 were cleverly concealed homicides."



In Wyoming, State Rep. Becket Hinckley introduced House Bill 298, to allow law-abiding citizens to carry concealed firearms without a license. The measure would leave in place the state's current concealed carry permit system for the purpose of reciprocity with other states. This bill has been referred to the House Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee. Another Wyoming bill, House Bill 271, would appropriate money from the General Fund to build and maintain a public shooting range in Laramie County. It has been referred to the House Travel, Recreation and Wildlife Committee.

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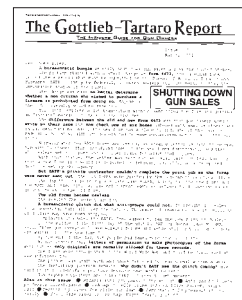
At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America's Constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Edited by David B. Kopel – Research Director at the Independence Institute and renowned gun-rights scholar – and contributors include Randy E. Barnett, Glenn Harlan Reynolds, John R. Lott, Joseph P. Tartaro, Gary Kleck, and others.

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