

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



**September
2004**
Volume XXIX No. 9

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FOR THE RIGHT
TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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CAMPAIGN TO RENEW 'ASSAULT WEAPON' BAN MIRED IN MYTHOLOGY

By Joe Waldron and Dave Workman

Touring the country in an effort to renew the ten-year-old ban on so-called "assault weapons," the numerically-challenged Million Mom March has been conducting a campaign built largely on fiction.

As far back as 1988, gun prohibitionists figured they could fool the public into supporting a ban that has been essentially symbolic. Josh Sugarman with the Violence Policy Center put the campaign in its proper perspective, admitting, "The weapons' menacing looks coupled with the public's confusion over fully automatic machine guns versus semiautomatic assault weapons – anything that looks like a machine gun is assumed to be a machine gun – can only increase that chance of public support for restrictions on these weapons."

Contrary to myth, guns affected by this ban are not machine guns. They fire one shot with each press of the trigger, the same as any shotgun used by duck hunters, or rifle used by big game hunters.

These guns are not the "weapon of choice" among criminals. Studies, before and after the ban took effect, have shown that so-called "assault weapons" are used in less than 2% of violent crimes.

Ban proponents claim that after the ban expires Sept. 13, America's streets will be "flooded" with these guns. The "ban" only placed a freeze on production. Those rifles are still out there, legally for sale – albeit at premium prices because of all the media hype – and most of them are in the gun safes and cabinets of law-abiding gun owners. Banning their production did not eliminate them, and had nothing to do with a drop in homicide rates, as, apparently, neither do any other gun control laws.

Last October, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a review of 51 previous "studies" of gun control laws. Their conclusion? None of these laws reduced crime. That includes gun and ammunition bans, waiting periods, school "zero tolerance" laws, safe storage statutes, and licensing or registration.

On March 11, VPC's Tom Diaz admitted to National Public Radio, "If the existing assault weapons ban expires, I personally do not believe it will make one whit of difference one way or another in terms of our objective, which is reducing death and injury and getting a particularly lethal class of firearms off the streets."

Anti-gunners want to eliminate private gun ownership, period, no matter how they mask it, how they accomplish it, or which guns they get first. They should cut out all the hype and just be honest about it.

CCRKBA SEES GUN RIGHTS AS MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUE

As the national political campaigns moved into full swing, CCRKBA officials noted that the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms once again is a major issue in the campaign.

CCRKBA said that by offering rabidly anti-gun Rep. Carolyn McCarthy of New York a plum opportunity to promote legislation expanding the so-called "assault weapons" ban during its convention in Boston the Democratic Party once again showed its true colors to millions of American gun owners.

"For months," observed CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "Democrats have been out hustling gun owners for their votes, trying to portray themselves as pro-Second Amendment. Giving McCarthy a microphone proved Democrats haven't abandoned their failed gun control policies."

McCarthy's husband was murdered by a deranged racist gunman named Colin Ferguson, who also wounded her son in a shooting on a commuter train in 1993. Ferguson did not use a so-called "assault weapon" in that crime, but a handgun he purchased in California, a state with some of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation.

"Democrats may as well erase any credibility they may have gained among gun owners over the past two years," Gottlieb stated. "So much for John Kerry's pheasant hunting and skeet shooting ops with borrowed firearms, or any other lip service Democrats are offering gun owners back in their districts. Allowing McCarthy a forum to campaign against the firearm rights of millions of law-abiding Americans in the middle of

their national convention should tell firearm owners all they need to know about the true Democrat agenda."

Gottlieb urged all gun owners to review McCarthy's speech and the applause it elicited from the party leadership, "and then decide whether Democrats deserve to be trusted with their Second Amendment rights."

During the prepared version of her speech, McCarthy castigated severely President George W. Bush for not asking the Republican leadership in Congress "to take action and extend the ban. He has not done his part to protect our children. Or his part to protect our police officers...I know President John Kerry will fight for a ban on assault weapons. I know John Kerry will stand up to" the gun lobby.

Indeed, so gung ho for gun control were the delegates in Boston that almost nine out of 10 described themselves as supporters of gun control, according to a Boston *Globe* poll of a cross section of 400 delegates.

In an article headlined, "Gun Control An Emerging Issue," David Lightman, Washington Bureau Chief of the *Hartford Courant*, reported, "Democrats are confident they finally have a gun issue they can enthusiastically run with...The 10-year ban on semiautomatic, assault-style weapons ends Sept. 13, and because there is likely to be no congressional action before then to extend it, a presidential campaign issue is ready to ignite."

"Democrats can claim hypocrisy, because President Bush has said he supports extending the ban but has done little to follow up. They can run against the powerful National Rifle Association, which is aggressively opposing extension, and they can fight Senate Republicans, many

of whom are leading the charge to keep it from a vote. Republicans who oppose the ban are playing to the GOP base and counter that it is 'a phony deal. It's more symbolic than reality,' as Senate Judiciary Committee Orrin G. Hatch of Utah put it." Hatch, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor, holds a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award.



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.

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Correspondence and manuscripts should be sent to **POINT BLANK**, CCRKBA, 1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20005

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'ASSAULT WEAPON' BAN NOT DEAD ISSUE

As this issue of Point Blank was going to press, it appeared certain that the ten-year-old ban on so-called "assault weapons" was going to die, and by mid-month, Americans would once again be able to enjoy their right to own firearms demonized by the do-nothing ban.

However, leaders at the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms are not expecting the fight over semiautomatic rifles and shotguns to disappear from the political landscape. While the ban was being promoted by gun grabbers on Capitol Hill and in the press, CCRKBA took steps to counter the propaganda.

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron and Communications Director Dave Workman teamed up on an Op-Ed essay circulated to every newspaper in the country, stripping away the myths that gun grabbers have been using to push for renewal of the ban.

In their article, they noted, "As far back as 1988, gun prohibitionists figured they could fool the public into supporting a ban that, as history has shown, has been essentially symbolic. Sixteen years ago, Josh Sugarman with the Violence Policy Center put the campaign in its proper perspective, admitting, 'The weapons' menacing looks coupled with the public's confusion over fully automatic machine guns versus semiautomatic assault weapons – anything that looks like a machine gun is assumed to be a machine gun – can only increase that chance of public support for restrictions on these weapons.'

"Prohibitionists," they continued, "argue these firearms have no legitimate purpose. Thousands of competitive shooters, who participate in registered matches with these rifles

all over the country almost every weekend, would disagree. Most of these guns are suitable for home defense, many are legitimate collector's items, and others are used for hunting."

Pulling no punches, Waldron and Workman exposed the hypocrisy of anti-gunners by quoting Tom Diaz from the Violence Policy Center, who admitted to National Public Radio March 11, "If the existing assault weapons ban expires, I personally do not believe it will make one whit of difference one way or another in terms of our objective, which is reducing death and injury and getting a particularly lethal class of firearms off the streets."

They further noted that two important studies, independent from one another, have acknowledged that gun laws have not been shown to be an effective tool in the fight against crime.

Last October, they recalled, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a review of 51 previous "studies" of gun control laws. "Their conclusion," the authors noted, "None of these laws reduced crime. The CDC report admitted that '...the Task Force found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearms laws reviewed for preventing violence.' That includes gun and ammunition bans, waiting periods, school 'zero tolerance' laws, safe storage statutes, and licensing or registration.

"Just days ago," they added, "the *Washington Times* revealed that a report from the National Institute of Justice says, 'We cannot clearly credit the ban with any of this nation's recent drop in gun violence...Should it be renewed, the ban's effects on gun

violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement'."

In mid-August, the anti-gun Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, known formerly as Handgun Control, Inc., obviously upset about the prospect of the sunset, complained that, "some Americans are simply drooling at the notion of deadlier guns."

They cranked up the volume ever louder as the Sept. 13 deadline approached, attacking one gun company, ArmaLite, Inc., for allegedly "contemptibly catering to those who are desperate for extraordinary firepower."

They're frothing at the mouth and will do what they can to make this a major issue. No doubt, especially if Sen. John Kerry wins in November, anti-gunners will be clamoring for a new, expanded version of the ban.

"The renewal of the assault weapons ban," as Stephen Beale wrote for townhall.com, "is the cause du jour for liberals. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Miami Herald*, *New York Times*, *Portland Oregonian*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The Washington Post* – to name just a few – have all sounded a call to arms."

But Waldron and Workman put this battle in its proper perspective, when they noted at the conclusion of their essay, "Anti-gunners want to eliminate private gun ownership, period, no matter how they mask it, how they accomplish it, or which guns they get first. They should cut out all the hype and just be honest about it."

CCRKBA KEEPS PUSHING ARMED PILOTS MEASURE

Even though the 108th Congress seems to be winding down in anticipation of the November elections, CCRKBA continues on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to promote enactment of the proposed Cockpit Security Technical Corrections and Improvements Act.

The proposal, S. 2268, by Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky, and its companion piece, H.R. 4126, by Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, would direct the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to stop its foot-dragging with regard to implementation of the armed pilots program.

CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder said, "We are supporting the efforts of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance (APSA) in working for enactment of this necessary legislation."

APSA noted that, "almost a year

and a half ago, Congress ordered a reluctant TSA to arm America's airline pilots to defend their passengers from terrorist attack. Obstructive bureaucrats sabotaged the program, rejecting hundreds of applicant pilots on 'psychological grounds' and adding dangerous and nonsensical rules to deter new volunteers. Tens of thousands of pilots are now avoiding the armed pilot program and only two to three percent of our pilots are trained to fly armed, as government bureaucrats put their political agendas ahead of your lives.

"In one of the highest threat environments we've ever faced, and trusting a security system that let a college student get fake weapons onto airliners 100 percent of the times he tried, and with our critical air marshals covering only the smallest fraction of our flights, our pilots

and passengers are defenseless...A confluence of events has caused APSA's security consultants to believe Al Qaeda may be in the final stages of preparation for a major attack on the United States."

Congress, stated APSA, "is suddenly very interested in terrorism legislation and showing the American people they are engaged. We want them to see the Cockpit Security Act as the fastest, easiest way to prove to the public they are serious about fighting terrorism! To do that, we need to get the bill out of the House Aviation Subcommittee (Rep. John Mica of Florida, chairman) and the Senate Commerce Committee (Sen. John McCain of Arizona, chairman). If ever we needed strong grassroots support, now is that time! Pick up the phone!"

MO GUN OWNERS HAMMER HOLDEN

Last month's primary defeat of anti-gun Missouri Gov. Bob Holden should serve as an object lesson for other politicians who place political correctness ahead of the personal safety of their constituents, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms stated.

"Show Me State gun owners showed Bob Holden the door," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "Although they tried to downplay it, both the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and *Kansas City Star* acknowledged that Holden's veto of concealed carry legislation cost him critical votes. The governor and his political advisors should have seen this coming the instant that Missouri lawmakers

came back to Jefferson City last year to override his arrogant veto."

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron added, "It takes examples like Bob Holden to remind anti-gun politicians that they should never underestimate the fury of gun owners. Grassroots activism in the firearms community is alive and well, as the primary vote demonstrated."

For more than a year, Missouri gun owners have been waiting for this opportunity, the gun rights leaders noted. It was the first time in state history that an incumbent governor was ousted by a challenger from his own party.

"Bob Holden's veto last year got Missouri gun owners mad," Gottlieb

observed, "and gun owners got even. The governor's other leadership problems on education, the economy and social issues certainly crippled him, but his anti-gun philosophy was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back."

"You do not take a position that undermines the personal safety of your constituents, leaving them defenseless against criminals," Waldron stated. "Politicians who think they can give lip service to gun rights and personal protection, while voting or vetoing otherwise, should take a lesson from Holden's precedent-setting primary defeat. Gun owners are out there, in the tall grass, and they don't forget."

CCRKBA CALLS ON FOP TO SUPPORT PRIVATE CITIZEN CCW

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has called on the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to support national concealed carry for private citizens.

CCRKBA noted that gun owners strongly supported recently-passed federal legislation that allows working and retired police officers to carry all over the country as “a deterrent to crime and terrorism.”

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron observed that, “these citizens lobbied vigorously on behalf of the police in their effort to pass the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. It is only the right and proper thing to expect that active duty and retired police officers now benefiting from that law, along with police groups such as FOP, would step up to the plate and support national concealed carry for all legally-armed private citizens.”

“We all know that even retired policemen can’t always be there when they are needed to prevent or stop a crime,” Waldron said, “but the likelihood of legal intervention increases when you add several million law-abiding licensed private citizens to the equation.”

Dozens of states have enacted reciprocity agreements among themselves and a handful of states have passed “universal recognition” laws that simply honor concealed pistol licenses issued by all other states, Waldron said. The problem is that these state reciprocity agreements do not cover all the states.

“Private citizens have the same self-defense rights as working and retired cops,” he said. “After all, outside their jurisdictions, and after they’ve entered retirement, these officers are just plain citizens like everyone else. Citizens do not leave their self-

defense rights at state borders, no matter what they do for a living.”

Waldron said also that, “the vast majority of these citizens have received training in the use of firearms as a condition of obtaining their carry licenses. Many are competitive shooters who use their firearms far more frequently than working or retired police officers. They would only add to our level of community safety and homeland security.

“They have been staunch supporters of law enforcement and they understand that instead of society continuing to place the burden of safety just on police officers, all citizens should share that responsibility. How better could they do that than to promote a national safety act for citizens, with the well-earned support of this nation’s dedicated policemen and policewomen?”

MARYLAND STATE SENATOR RECEIVES CCRKBA AWARD

Maryland State Senator Alex X. Mooney of Frederick has been named the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award winner for September.

In nominating the Free State solon for the Award, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder, noted that, "in the State of Maryland, where the anti-gun forces for the past few years have been on the march in greater strength than they have been in some other areas of our country, it takes a lot of guts for a budding politician to stand up in a forthright manner and defend and promote the individual civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. Alex is just such a young politician. He most certainly deserves this Award, and with it we encourage him to keep up the good fight for traditional American values."

In early July, Sen. Mooney said that Maryland gun owners must begin to wield more political clout. He is the chairman of a newly-formed group that aims to register more gun owners to vote.

The Maryland Second Amendment Coalition went to work in late June at a Frederick gun show. Mooney and Co-Chairman Robert Culver of Montgomery Citizens for a Safer Maryland said they will be visiting other gun shows in the state to distribute voter registration forms and provide appropriate bumper stickers.

Mooney said that Second Amendment proponents "tend to be people who don't want the government to intervene in their lives as far as taking away their guns and generally tend to be people who don't turn to government" for services, reported

the Associated Press.

"Perhaps in return they don't feel the need to get involved in the government process as much," he said.

In a press release announcing the drive, Mooney said gun owners "need to become a major political force" in Maryland. "The 2AM Coalition will make gun owners aware that every day, liberal politicians are working in Annapolis (the Maryland State Capital) and in Washington, D.C. to take away their constitutional right to own a gun."

Mooney has opposed gun control measures such as Maryland's requirement that all handguns sold in the state be equipped with integrated trigger locks, and a proposed state ban on so-called "assault-style weapons" that failed by one vote in a Senate committee earlier this year.

Mooney has drawn the ire of anti-gun forces in the state. Leah Barrett, executive director of the anti-gun group Ceasefire Maryland, Inc., said the Second Amendment Coalition is merely a Republican publicity ploy. She said that during the debate about banning certain semiautomatic rifles, which Mooney calls "sport utility guns," gun rights activists packed the hearing room.

The purpose of the Maryland Second Amendment Coalition is to target like minded individuals and groups, and distribute voting information, to gather voter support for firearm friendly candidates in forthcoming elections. Interested parties could call Alex Mooney at (410) 841-3575, or Bob Culver at (301) 776-4488.

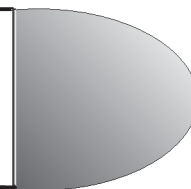
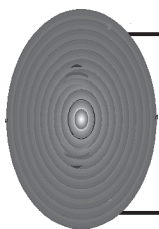
Mooney was born in Washington, D.C. and moved with his family to Frederick when he was an infant. He

graduated from Dartmouth College in 1993 with a degree in Philosophy. Shortly after graduation, he served as an aide to U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (MD). After Republicans took over Congress in the 1994 elections, Mooney worked as a legislative analyst for the House Republican Conference Committee. He later left Capitol Hill to work for a small conservative public policy organization, serving as vice president for Legislative Analysis of the Council for National Policy Action, Inc.

In 1998, Alex decided to run for the Maryland State Senate. After knocking on thousands of doors and working tirelessly making his case with the voters of the third district, Alex was rewarded with 63 percent of the vote and took office in January 1999, becoming the youngest and only Hispanic member of the Maryland State Senate.

He sits on the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. He has received the top business rating in the state by the Maryland Business for Responsive Government. He also has received the Maryland Taxpayer of the Year Award for voting consistently to protect the "little guy" by cutting burdensome government regulations and red tape on small businesses.

Alex and his wife, Grace Gonzalez, M.D., Ph.D., were married in 2002. Their son, Lucas Alexander Mooney, was born on July 13, 2003. Alex is a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. John's Catholic Church.



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger did the right thing when he vetoed a so-called “gun safety education” bill because of its potential to allow anti-gun propaganda to be taught in the guise of public safety, CCRKBA stated. The bill, SB1177 “was an attempt to politicize hunting and self-defense issues within schools in an open-ended manner, with no state guidance,” stated CCRKBA California representative Jim March. “On a cost basis alone, it was a disaster in the making.” CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said CCRKBA “opposed this legislation from the outset. It seemed clear to us that SB1177, authored by anti-gun rights zealot Sen. Jack Scott, easily would have been abused to promote an anti-self-defense message.”



A mid-July ruling by Ramsey County, Minnesota District Court Judge John Finley that the state’s two-year-old concealed carry law is unconstitutional is an affront to the state’s law-abiding citizens and should be quickly appealed by an appeals court, said CCRKBA. “Judge Finley’s ruling is a slap in the face to more than 30,000 Minnesota residents who have legally obtained concealed pistol licenses,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. “We urge Attorney General Michael Hatch to quickly appeal this decision and, in the meantime, make certain that a stay is granted so that Minnesota firearms owners can continue obtaining their licenses immediately upon completing the

requirements.” CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron said that, “no Minnesota resident should have his or her safety placed in jeopardy by this lower court decision.”

While there can be no doubt that police officers in Oshkosh, WI recently conducted a neighborhood search for a gunman who shot and wounded Officer Nate Gallagher with good intentions, CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb believes there remain serious questions about the seizure of firearms from one of the residences without benefit of a warrant. “We’ve received all the information we could get about this case,” said Gottlieb, “and we remain concerned that some innocent person’s firearms were removed from his home, without him knowing about it, and without benefit of a search warrant. Although these searches reportedly were conducted with the consent of the homeowners, taking someone else’s guns without telling him could be a serious legal breach, regardless of any concerns about catching an armed criminal.” The police returned guns to the one resident from whom they were taken without consent.

An Alameda County, California Superior Court jury early last month found that firearm manufacturer Beretta U.S.A. Corp. was not responsible for the tragic 1994 accidental shooting death of a 14-year-old boy. Kenzo Dix was killed when his friend

played with a firearm that was left unloaded and unlocked by an irresponsible parent. The jury deliberated only five hours before returning a verdict in favor of Beretta U.S.A. Corp., finding the pistol’s design did not cause the accident. The lawsuit was filed in 1995 on behalf of the parents of Dix by lawyers from Handgun Control, Inc., since renamed as the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. The anti-gun group tried to claim that Beretta was at fault for not having included a built-in lock and for not providing more warnings by having a different “loaded chamber indicator” feature than the one on the firearm.



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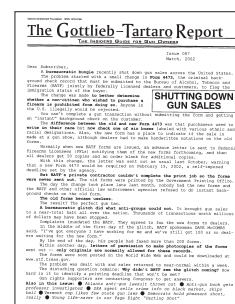
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