



...the *Right of The People* to Keep and
Bear Arms *Shall Not* be Infringed.”

– BILL OF RIGHTS, SECOND AMENDMENT
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

YOUR GUIDE TO THE SECOND AMENDMENT

*Including a State By State Compendium
of Laws Governing Firearms
Page 22*

**The
Washington
Times**



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“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Full disclosure right up front: I'm a proud life member of the National Rifle Association. I am on the NRA's board of directors and serve as chairman of the organization's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee. I have owned and used firearms most of my life, and I can read. Unlike some in Washington, I don't believe that the 27 words above - the Second Amendment of our Constitution - have anything to do with "gun rights." Guns don't have rights. I do. So do you.

Fifty-two years ago, like tens of millions of people before and since, I raised my right hand and took an oath of enlistment in our armed forces, pledging to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” I promised I would “bear true faith and allegiance to the same.” Notably, the words promise loyalty not to a political party or a particular individual but to the Constitution, which enshrines our liberties and the limits and responsibilities of those who govern us like no other foundational document on earth.

Unfortunately, in the aftermath of recent carnage in a Colorado movie theater and a rampage at an elementary school in Connecticut, some now insist that “We the People” must accept some alterations in how we interpret the “archaic” language contained in our Constitution. On Jan. 9, after a meeting with “gun safety advocates” and “victims groups,” Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., head of the “White House task force on gun violence,” said the Obama administration is “determined to take action” and then added: “The president is going to act. There are executive orders, executive action that can be taken. We haven’t decided what that is yet.”

Those words, “executive orders, executive action,” used in conjunction with constitutionally

America's gun owners are under siege on virtually all fronts. Congress is after us, and so are governors such as New York's Andrew Cuomo and Maryland's Martin O'Malley. They must think that when they run for the Democratic presidential nomination, a strong anti-gun stance will help them with left-wing primary voters.

It doesn't stop there, however, as the media, liberal legislators and both federal and state regulators are looking for new and often unique ways to please their liberal bosses by harassing gun owners, dealers and manufacturers.

One major national firearms retailer, for example, has been under fire for more than two years from the Obama administration's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It seems the company won't hire convicted felons, which the commission claims amounts to illegal racial discrimination. The federal government these days argues that policies that have what government lawyers call a "disparate impact" on racial minorities amount to impermissible discrimination - even when the policies themselves were not put in place for discriminatory reasons. Thus, the government argues that a higher percentage of minorities within the felony population than in the population at large means that any policy that discriminates against felons as a class is dis-

Preserving the Second Amendment

Obama 'determined to act' on gun restrictions

By Oliver North SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

protected rights and liberties, ought to alarm us all. They used to frighten Barack Obama. On Oct. 2, 2007, then-Sen. Obama railed against what he called the abuse of executive powers purportedly perpetrated by President George W. Bush in his administration's efforts to protect the American people from acts of terror by radical Islamists. Apparently, the current occupant of the Oval Office has overcome his early concerns about chief executives exceeding their authority.

When the Biden task force was announced three weeks ago, the president claimed that no policy proposals would be “prejudged.” Yet after the Jan. 10 White House meeting with firearms manufacturers, firearms retailers, sportsmen and a representative of the NRA, neither Mr. Biden nor

Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. even mentioned the NRA's call for increased prosecution of violent criminals and those who break existing federal firearms laws.

While the meeting was under way in the Cabinet Room, a teenager carrying a 12-gauge shotgun walked into a high-school classroom in Taft, Calif., and opened fire, wounding a classmate. Remarkably, neither the vice president nor any member of his task force mentioned the NRA's call for placing armed police officers in America's public schools.

Instead, Mr. Biden talked about growing public support for new “gun control measures.” As yet, they haven’t publicly addressed steps the O-Team may take to cut firearms imports through onerous

United Nations treaties and conventions. We are told by administration defenders, pundits, commentators of the left and “gun control advocates” that the American people want new restrictions on firearm design, limits on ammunition capacity and types, and universal background checks to regulate possession.

Hard evidence of public support for new restrictions on firearms ownership by law-abiding citizens is hard to find. A recent poll shows that 62 percent of the American people support the NRA's measure to have police protect schools. The city of Los Angeles isn't waiting for executive action or new legislation. Starting this week, at least one armed police officer will visit every public elementary school in the city.

More broadly, talk of new government restrictions has created a record-setting spike in gun sales across the country. Nearly every state has reported “traffic jams” in background check systems as tens of thousands of Americans line up to purchase firearms at gun stores.

The constitutional controversy created by the Obama administration also has backfired for those who sought to demonize the NRA as an extremist, fringe organization. Since the Biden task force was formed, more than 100,000 of our fellow citizens have joined the NRA, bringing membership to more than 4.2 million.

That's a good sign. The NRA is our nation's leader in firearms education, training and safety. It's also an effective, fervent advocate for our civil liberties. When the Biden task force delivers its "recommendations" Jan. 15, you can count on NRA members to defend our Constitution's Second Amendment. If you haven't joined us already, now is the time.

Oliver North is host of "War Stories" on the Fox News Channel and author of the new novel "Heroes Proved" (Threshold Editions, 2012).

January 14, 2013

U.S. agencies join war against gun owners

The Second Amendment in the cross hairs

By David A. Keene SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

criminy because its impact falls disparately on minorities.

Company officials pointed out to commission investigators threatening to charge the company with discrimination that they couldn't hire felons even if they wanted to, because federal law prohibits federal firearms licensees from hiring felons. The investigator's response was, according to a company official I talked to: "That's your problem, not ours." These are investigators and regulators who can read between the lines, know their bosses are anti-gun and will do anything they can to please them.

Perhaps an even more creative bureaucrat came up with the idea that resulted in the visit of two Homeland Security agents to the Fredericksburg, Va., home of Kristopher Gasior on March 8. Mr. Gasior is a gun collector, author and expert on Polish-made firearms. Mr. Gasior

owns a collection that includes a rare military rifle made by the Polish government in 1938, was captured by invading German forces the next year, and brought to the United States by a GI who took it from a German in the final days of the war.

The agents who came to his door didn't have a warrant, but Mr. Gasior's wife invited them in, and when her husband came into the room, they asked if he had the rifle. When he said yes and showed it to them, they seized it and gave him a receipt after informing him that they were taking it on behalf of the Polish government. They claimed it was a "one-of-a-kind rifle" that had been looted from the Polish government during the war.

Mr. Gasior, who is, after all, one of the world's experts on just this kind of firearm, argued that it was rare, but certainly not "a one-of-a-kind rifle." It was, he said, a limited-production model that was never in a museum, but was issued to Poles and

surrendered to the Germans along with similar rifles during the German invasion of Poland in 1939 and subsequently, captured by a GI and brought home as a souvenir. The agent replied that as far as the U.S. government is concerned, anything brought over the border at any time was within Department of Homeland Security jurisdiction and could be seized.

Collectors and veterans in this country are worried that owners of war trophies could be treated as Mr. Gasior was, and in the days since the incident, the National Rifle Association museum has received numerous calls from collectors worried that the Department of Homeland Security might use this newly declared power to go after firearms in their collections.

Misusing governmental power in this way might not upset you if you're not a gun owner or collector, but it should. It is indicative of the way in which the Obama administration is redefining the jurisdiction and powers of various agencies in its war on gun owners. That war is likely to continue even if Congress refuses to pass much of the anti-gun legislation President Obama says he wants.

David A. Keene is president of the National Rifle Association of America.

March 27, 2013

In the wake of the December school shooting in Newtown, Conn., politicians and journalists who hate to see guns in the hands of ordinary citizens turned into a raving mob who sensed that victory over their enemies was near.

Reality is now starting to set in. There are several reasons why we probably won't see any new laws and certainly no laws that will prevent school attacks. The first reason is that the American people are now seeing the hypocrisy and dishonesty of the anti-gun lobby.

For years, we have been promised that President Obama and his party would never move against lawful gun owners. Now that he is not facing any more elections, the promise is forgotten. Who doubts that this was the plan all along?

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, California Democrat, is about to introduce the most restrictive weapons ban in American history. Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York has said that confiscation may be an option. New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg is apoplectic at the thought of revolting peasants out there he can't control. All of these politicians are protected by armed guards who can use any guns they wish, but they don't think the public merits the same privileges.

Americans are too smart for gun control

History of restriction is one of utter failure

By Michael S. Brown SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

In NBC's Washington studio, "Meet the Press" moderator David Gregory, while criticizing the National Rifle Association proposal to put armed guards in schools, displayed a 30-round magazine that is prohibited in the District of Columbia. As a member of the media elite, he will never spend a day in jail. It was also revealed that he sends his children to a school that is protected by armed guards. Guns for me, but not for thee.

People are starting to remember that the history of gun control laws is one of utter failure. Ask Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago how his super-strict gun laws are working for him: 506 murders last year, and he is still demanding tougher gun laws.

The federal law that made schools gun-free zones was a proud accomplishment of the anti-gun lobby. Did they know that this would make schools magnets for homicidal lunatics? It seemed like harmless, feel-good legislation at the time, but

after seeing how frantically they exploit the deaths of schoolchildren to support their agenda, conspiracy theorists are wondering if it was part of a cynical plan to justify more laws. More likely they were just blinded by faith in their agenda.

Let's imagine that a law banning semi-automatic firearms is enacted. The Supreme Court has said that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to arms. However, the strange and twisted history of gun control efforts also created another Supreme Court decision called *United States v. Miller* in 1938. This was seen as a victory for gun control at the time, because it allowed the strict regulation of shotguns and rifles with barrels less than 16 inches long under the theory that they were not suitable for militia service. Guns that were suitable for militia service were fine. Today's so-called "assault" weapons, or what some call "freedom rifles," are perfect examples of guns that are well suited for militia service.

What will happen if new laws are passed and

withstand judicial review? The long history of American gun laws gives us a pretty good idea. You can be absolutely certain that none of the new laws would have stopped the Connecticut school attack. In fact, gun law proponents frequently say that this law would not have stopped the tragedy, but it is a step in the right direction. Why then are they using that particular attack to promote their law?

We also know gun laws are always written by people who hate guns. Ironically, they are the ones who know the least about guns, so there will be many ways around the laws. Only law-abiding citizens will be inconvenienced or have their lives ruined by inadvertent technical violations.

Many gun control laws have been tried in many places over the last few centuries. Aside from those that were obviously intended to disarm minorities prior to a campaign of genocide, none have ever had the desired effect.

The American people are not stupid. Even a furious campaign of emotional fireworks will not persuade the majority to support futile and counterproductive new laws.

Dr. Michael S. Brown, a radiologist, is a member of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership.

January 10, 2013

If you have listened to President Obama and Vice President Joseph R. Biden talk about guns in the past month, you have heard them express a decided commitment to use the powers of the federal government to maintain safety in the United States. You also have heard congressional voices from politicians in both parties condemning violence and promising to do something about it. This sounds very caring and inside the wheelhouse of what we hire and pay the federal government to do.

Yet it is clearly unconstitutional.

When the Founders created the American republic, they did so by inducing constitutional conventions in each of the original 13 states to ratify the new Constitution. The idea they presented, and the thesis accepted by those ratifying conventions, was that the states are sovereign; they derive their powers from the people who live there. The purpose of the Constitution was to create a federal government of limited powers - powers that had been delegated to it by the states. The opening line of the Constitution contains a serious typographical error: "We the People" should read "We the States." As President Ronald Reagan reminded us in his first inaugural address, the states created the federal government, and not the other way around.

Notwithstanding the Constitution's typo, the states delegated only 16 unique, discrete powers to the new federal government, and all of those powers concern nationhood. The Constitution authorizes the feds to regulate in areas of national defense, foreign affairs, keeping interstate commerce regular, establishing a post office, protecting patents and artistic creations, and keeping the nation free. The areas of health, safety, welfare and morality were not delegated to the feds and were retained by the states.

How do we know that? We know it from the language in the Constitution itself and from the records of the debates in the state ratifying conventions. The small-government types, who warned at these conventions that the Constitution was creating a behemoth central government not unlike the one in Great Britain from

Shooting up the Constitution

Feds have no legitimate role in regulating firearms

By Andrew P. Napolitano SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

which they had all just seceded, were assured that the unique separation of powers between the states and the new, limited federal government would guarantee that power could not become concentrated in the central government.

It was articulated even by the big-government types in the late 18th century - such as George Washington and Alexander Hamilton - as well as by the small-government types - such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison - that the

ment was included to assure that the Constitution itself would proclaim affirmatively that the powers not delegated to the feds were retained by the states or the people.

The Supreme Court has ruled consistently and countless times that the "police power," that is, the power to regulate for health, safety, welfare and morality, continues to be reposed in the states, and that there is no federal police power. All of this is consistent with the philosophical

colleagues in the government. If the feds have no legitimate role in maintaining safety, why are they getting involved in the current debate over guns? We know that they don't trust individuals to address their own needs, from food to health to safety, and they think - the Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding - that they know better than we do how to take care of us. Mr. Obama and Mr. Biden and many of their colleagues in government are the same folks who gave us Obamacare, with its mandates, invasions of privacy, increased costs and federal regulation of health care. They call themselves progressives, as they believe that the federal government possesses unlimited powers and can do whatever those who run it want it to do, except that which is expressly prohibited.

This brings us back to guns. The Constitution expressly prohibits all governments from infringing upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms. This permits us to defend ourselves when the police can't or won't, and it permits a residue of firepower in the hands of the people with which to stop any tyrant who might try to infringe upon our natural rights - and it will give second thoughts to anyone thinking about tyranny.

The country is ablaze with passionate debate about guns, and the government is determined to do something about it. Debate over public policy is good for freedom, but the progressives want to use the debate to justify the coercive power of the government to infringe upon the rights of law-abiding folks because of what some crazies among us have done. We must not permit this to happen.

The whole purpose of the Constitution is to insulate personal freedom from the lust for power of those in government and from the passions of the people who sent them there.

Andrew P. Napolitano, a former judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey and senior judicial analyst at Fox News Channel, has written seven books on the U.S. Constitution.

January 17, 2013



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

new government was limited to the powers delegated to it by the states, and the states retained the governmental powers that they did not delegate away. At Jefferson's insistence, the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to keep the new government from interfering with natural rights such as speech, worship, self-defense, privacy and property rights, and the 10th Amend-

ment principle of "subsidiarity," famously articulated by St. Thomas Aquinas. Aquinas argued that the problems that are closest to the people needing government intervention should be addressed by the government closest to those people. Its corollary is that all governmental intervention should be the minimum needed.

Now, back to Mr. Obama, Mr. Biden and their

The directives on gun violence President Obama signed Wednesday were meant to seem harmless. A closer look at the president's first memorandum reveals it to be a sneaky assault on congressional authority in order to fund gun-control propaganda.

Getting this done has been on the White House "to do" list for some time. In his 2013 budget submission, Mr. Obama deleted the prohibition that has been in effect since 1995 on the use of federal funds to advocate or promote gun control.

Mr. Obama is trying to steamroll the Democratic and Republican majorities that kept the ban intact by labeling the advocacy as research. "While year after year, those who oppose even modest gun-safety measures have threatened to defund scientific or medical research into the causes of gun violence, I will direct the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to go ahead and study the best ways to reduce it," said Mr. Obama. Under the terms of the memo, CDC may "sponsor" another entity to conduct the research, which is a handy way of

funneling taxpayer cash to sympathetic gun-control groups.

Earlier this week, anti-gun activists, including New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, spent a lot of time at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore discussing how the government-spending prohibition was hampering their plans. Daniel Webster, director of the Center for Gun Policy and Research at the school, backed the president's plan. "I agree that the CDC should be free to fund high-quality research into the causes and solutions to gun violence, one of the leading causes of premature mortality in the U.S. that affects not only deaths

and injuries, but mental health as well," he told The Washington Times.

Congress clamped down on the spending after President Clinton used the CDC and National Institutes of Health to create material advancing his theme of treating gun ownership as a public health issue, rather than a constitutional right. Millions in taxpayer funds were blown on junk science, such as \$2.6 million used to determine if teenagers who are shot are more likely to have been drinking and carrying a gun. An additional \$2 million went to figure out whether moving bars and liquor stores would prevent gun violence in communities.

By calling gun violence a "public health cri-

sis" on Wednesday, Mr. Obama echoed Mr. Clinton's model. It's a move that could cost lives, as shifting funding away from fighting disease creates severely misplaced priorities. In 2010, 780,213 Americans died from cardiovascular disease and 574,743 from cancer, compared with 11,078 firearm homicides. Under the Bush administration, the CDC already conducted a two-year independent study of the laws, including bans on specified firearms or ammunition; gun registration; concealed-weapons carry; and zero-tolerance for firearms in schools. The scientists concluded in 2003 that there was "insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearms laws reviewed for preventing violence."

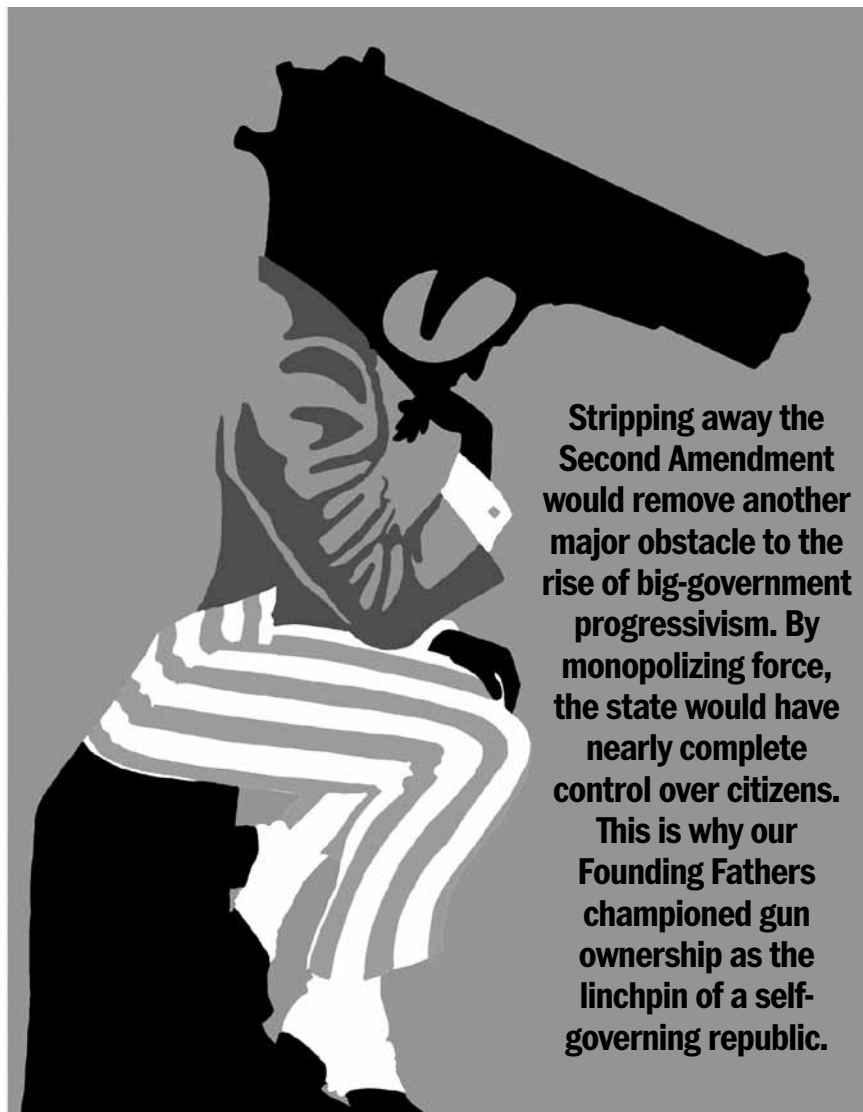
Congress must reassert itself and override this executive action so that more tax dollars aren't wasted. If Mr. Bloomberg wants more propaganda, he can pay for it out of his own deep pockets.

January 18, 2013

Nixing the rule of law for rule by Obama

New firearms rules are unconstitutional

By Jeffrey T. Kuhner SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES



Stripping away the Second Amendment would remove another major obstacle to the rise of big-government progressivism. By monopolizing force, the state would have nearly complete control over citizens. This is why our Founding Fathers championed gun ownership as the linchpin of a self-governing republic.

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM BRINTON

President Obama is abusing his power and usurping congressional authority. He is replacing the rule of law with arbitrary rule, ignoring the constitutional limits upon his power. This is the real meaning of his assault on the Second Amendment.

On Wednesday, Mr. Obama released his proposals to curb gun violence in the wake of the Sandy Hook massacre. Surrounded by schoolchildren, the president announced the most sweeping gun-control package in decades. His reforms have three policy objectives: implement universal background checks on gun owners, ban so-called assault weapons, and place strong limits on high-capacity ammunition magazines. In short, his goal is to roll back gun rights.

Moreover, the president is issuing 23 executive orders to combat gun violence. Their primary purpose is to bolster the federal government's system for background checks. The orders expand the nanny state, further undermining individual liberties. All gun owners will be registered in a national computer database. Hence, Big Brother will know which U.S. citizens own guns and how many. We are one step closer to achieving what liberals truly crave: the confiscation of all firearms. If the government can identify all gun owners and how many weapons they have, then an all-out gun grab becomes possible.

Mr. Obama's proposals would have done nothing - absolutely nothing - to prevent the shootings in Newtown, Conn. They are simply smoke and mirrors to advance the radical leftist gun control agenda. Shooter Adam Lanza's mother passed a comprehensive background check. The shooter killed his mother before taking her AR-15 rifle and several handguns to unleash his diabolical rage.

The sad truth is that the Newtown massacre occurred for one reason: An evil, mentally ill man snapped and slaughtered 20 children and six adults. Lanza should have been receiving serious psychiatric treatment. He wasn't. His mother should have properly secured and stored her weapons, and not had him practice regularly at the firing range. She didn't. That was the lethal cocktail that sparked the tragedy. The government cannot abolish bad parenting or severe mental illness - at least not in a free society.

There is only one policy prescription that

can help prevent school shootings: placing armed guards in every school. School districts

should hire trained professionals, especially former military personnel, who will patrol school

grounds and exercise deadly force if an armed intruder threatens students. This would serve as a massive deterrent, substantially reducing the likelihood of Sandy Hook-style massacres happening again.

Instead, Mr. Obama and his media allies are exploiting the dead children of Newtown to eviscerate the Second Amendment. Liberals' hostility toward gun rights is based upon their hatred of limited government and individual freedom. The Constitution clashes with their dream of utopian collectivism. Hence, a disarmed citizenry is fundamental to their drive to erect a powerful, centralized socialist state. Stripping away the Second Amendment would remove another major obstacle to the rise of big-government progressivism. By monopolizing force, the state would have nearly complete control over citizens. This is why our Founding Fathers championed gun ownership as the linchpin of a self-governing republic.

Moreover, it is why Mr. Obama is politicizing the Sandy Hook shooting. He realizes that comprehensive gun control will take America one giant step closer to a European-style social democracy. He wants to do this even if it means trampling upon the Constitution and usurping power.

His executive orders are illegal and unconstitutional. The president has no authority - not a scintilla - to unilaterally regulate or limit gun ownership or violate the Second Amendment. Such acts are strictly the purview of Congress and the courts. Moreover, his order using Obamacare as a vehicle to essentially deputize doctors, enabling them to ask patients whether they have firearms, is a blatant abuse of executive power. He is turning doctors into agents of the federal government.

Tea Party Republicans are finally waking up to Mr. Obama's game. Rep. Steve Stockman of Texas has warned that he may file articles of impeachment. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky is rightly comparing the president to a "king or monarch." Mr. Obama is acting as though he is above the law. He isn't.

Jeffrey T. Kuhner is a radio commentator in Boston.

January 18, 2013

A man in a light-colored t-shirt and cargo shorts stands in a field of tall grass, looking off to the side. He is holding a clipboard and a pen. A dark vehicle is partially visible on the left, with a "GLOCK PERFECTION" logo on its rear window. The background shows a hazy landscape with trees and hills.

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Even in the aftermath of unspeakable tragedy like the shootings in Newtown, Conn., gun control zealots advocate mindless and misogynistic policies.

"We have to take action," Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. urged in response to the Newtown horror. "The president is absolutely committed to keeping his promise that we will act."

In other words, to quote a frat boy from the movie "Animal House": "I think that this situation absolutely requires a really futile and stupid gesture be done on somebody's part."

Mr. Biden's statement may sound high-minded in theory, but new gun control efforts will prove ineffective and self-defeating. The Obama administration's proposals will fail to make Americans safer and, worse still, harm women the most.

In reality, guns make women safer. In a violent confrontation, guns reverse the balance of power. Armed with a gun, a woman may even have the advantage over a violent attacker. More than 90 percent of violent crimes occur without a firearm, according to federal statistics. When a violent criminal threatens or attacks a woman, he rarely uses a gun. Attackers use their size and physical strength, preying on women who are at a severe disadvantage.

How do guns give women the advantage? An armed woman does not need superior strength or the proximity of a hand-to-hand struggle. She can protect her children, elderly relatives, herself or others who are vulnerable to an assailant.

Using a magazine that holds more than 10 rounds of ammunition, she has a fighting chance even against multiple attackers. That is, she can protect herself unless she lives in a jurisdiction like the District of Columbia, which criminalizes possession of even an empty magazine that can hold more than 10 rounds.

Recently, NBC's David Gregory inadvertently exposed the absurdity of the District's gun laws

Gun control regulations disarm women

Self-defense is a womanly virtue

By Gayle Trotter SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

when he displayed a 30-round magazine on national television, embroiling himself in a police investigation. Last week, the D.C. attorney general decided not to charge Mr. Gregory. "Despite the clarity of the violation of this important law," he concluded, "a prosecution would not promote public safety." When David Gregory's magazines are outlawed, only David Gregory will have magazines. Why is it permissible to possess magazines to persuade people that guns are dangerous, but not for a woman to possess one to defend herself against gang rape?

Armed women benefit even those who choose not to carry. In jurisdictions with concealed-carry laws, women are less likely to be raped, maimed or murdered than they are in states with stricter gun ownership laws.

All women in these states reap the benefits of concealed-carry laws, which dramatically increase the risk that a would-be assailant faces.

In response to horrific incidents like those in Newtown and Aurora, Colo., politicians advocate more restrictions on gun rights. Hollywood celebrities somberly urge Americans to "demand a plan" to reduce gun violence.

Many of these politicians and celebrities already have a plan: They rely on guns to safeguard their own personal safety. Some critics advocate limiting violence in movies and television, but

Hollywood stars apparently do not concur, considering that most of them participate in graphic depictions of lethal violence on the screen.

President Obama said in his first inaugural address, "The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works." Instead of ineffective and self-defeating gestures, we

should ask the same question about proposed gun regulations.

Armed security works. That's why snipers stand guard on the White House roof. That's why Sen. Dianne Feinstein, California Democrat and a gun-control advocate, admits to having a gun permit.

Armed guards serve in the employ of the very actors who publicly advocate limiting gun rights. For instance, armed guards protected a suburban newspaper in New York after it published the names and residential addresses of gun permit holders. In fact, the newspaper's

More than 90 percent of violent crimes occur without a firearm, according to federal statistics. When a violent criminal threatens or attacks a woman, he rarely uses a gun. Attackers use their size and physical strength, preying on women who are at a severe disadvantage.

own reporter uses a gun for his protection. After publishing the story, the paper's editors disclosed that the reporter "owns a Smith & Wesson 686 .357 Magnum" and has "a residence permit in New York City."

While armed security works, gun bans do not. Anti-gun legislation keeps guns away from the sane and the law-abiding - but it does not keep guns out of the hands of criminals, as the National Rifle Association's Wayne LaPierre has observed. Nearly all mass shootings have occurred in "gun-free" zones. Law-abiding citizens do not bring their guns to gun-free zones, so murderous wackos know they can inflict more harm in these unprotected environments. The sane and the law-abiding become easy targets.

Politicians congratulate themselves for mandating gun-free zones, touting increased safety while actually making us more vulnerable to the next horrible monster in search of soft targets.

If we could simply legislate gun-free zones, why can't our politicians with the stroke of a pen remove all guns from banks, airports, rock concerts and government buildings?

We already have more than 20,000 under-enforced or selectively enforced gun laws on the books. Gun regulation affects only the guns of the law-abiding. Criminals will not be bound by such gestures, especially as we continually fail to prosecute serious gun violations or provide meaningful and consistent penalties for violent felonies using firearms.

In lieu of empty gestures, we should address gun violence by doing what works. By safeguarding our Second Amendment rights, we preserve meaningful protection for women.

Every woman deserves a fighting chance.

Gayle Trotter is an attorney and senior fellow of the Independent Women's Forum. The views expressed are her own.

January 17, 2013

In light of the tragic shooting in Newtown, Conn., partisan voices are only getting louder on the issue of gun control. Recently, Washington Post columnist Matt Miller argued that "everyone knows we need to reduce gun violence" and that "we still need to boost the economy."

Mr. Miller proposed a massive, \$100 billion gun buyback program, using the ballyhooed Australian buyback program as his template. According to Mr. Miller, this included banning semi-automatic and automatic rifles and shotguns, and conducting a compulsory buyback program. Unfortunately, the reasons underlying Mr. Miller's support for the Australian method of gun control collapse upon close scrutiny.

First, Mr. Miller says we need gun violence to go down. Yet according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, homicides have gone down since 2003 in America (albeit by a smaller margin than the average), and a Just Facts chart shows the homicide rate in America has gone down by approximately 50 percent in the past 20 years. Moreover, Reason's Nick Gillespie points out a few important statistics, including that the rate of student victimization dropped severalfold from 1993 to 2010, and school murders went down by almost 50 percent. "Serious violent" crimes dropped by half.

So it is clear that pervasive gun ownership in America has not prevented violence as a whole from decreasing. The Guardian has noted FBI statistics that show firearms are the weapon of choice for homicides in the United States.

Gun buyback program won't end violence

U.S. doesn't need another Cash for Clunkers fiasco

By Kavon W. Nikrad SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Those statistics, however, also show the use of firearms for murder has declined in the past few years.

It is also important to distinguish between good and bad violence. "Good" violence saves the lives of innocent citizens threatened by others. Just Facts notes guns are used far more often in self-defense than in committing crimes, according to a number of government and private-sector studies.

Regarding Australia's lack of gun violence, the aforementioned Just Facts graph also shows Australia's homicide rate has dropped. While America's rate has gone down by 3.9 percent, Australia's

rate has only dropped by 0.4 percent. This means that while America's gun laws became somewhat looser with the elimination of the "assault" weapons ban, and Australia's became stricter, America's homicide rate has dropped much faster than Australia's.

Granted, the U.S. homicide rate was already several times that of Australia's before Australia implemented gun control.

While many of those U.S. deaths can be attributed to guns, they can also just as arguably be attributed to factors such as gang violence and the war on drugs.

Mr. Miller's economic argument is further

flawed insofar as he is arguing that an infusion of cash into the American economy will help economic growth. Unfortunately, Mr. Miller is nearly paralleling the Broken Window Fallacy. Essentially, he argues that spending money in a way that is economically unnecessary is a good thing - much as economist Paul Krugman has argued that government spending money to prepare for an alien invasion would have a positive economic impact. Never mind the total and complete economic inefficiency of Mr. Miller's proposal - especially since he is proposing to "overpay" for guns at \$500 per weapon.

Perhaps most importantly with regard to Mr. Miller's economic argument, we simply can't afford more debt. Putting \$100 billion into the economy through government spending is going to have the same effect as Cash for Clunkers. It will provide a cash influx that will last for a short time, then leave things the way they were, all the while adding the spending plus interest payments to future budgets.

The Australian example of gun control has been widely discussed and praised. While it may have merit, the facts are clearly being left out, which is a dangerous thing when it comes to public policy.

Kavon W. Nikrad is editor-in-chief of the campaign and elections website Race42012.com and a 2011-12 policy fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

January 3, 2013



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN CAMEJO

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CLARK COUNTY, Nev. | Official Washington has the collective attention span of a fruit fly. This condition is exacerbated by the Obama administration's proclivity for declaring selective events and issues to be crises that require immediate action. The problem is aggravated because the loyal opposition is in nearly total disarray, and few in the so-called mainstream media have any idea what they are talking about.

That's the summary assessment of many attending the annual Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade Show here in Harry Reid's Nevada. The SHOT Show isn't a gun show. Nobody here can buy or sell a single firearm. There are guns here - and tents, boats, clothing, boots, camping gear, all-terrain vehicles, SUVs, bows, arrows, fishing tackle and all manner of police equipment - even high-tech wheelchairs for outdoor activities. The SHOT Show isn't open to the public - only to representatives of the industries above, professional outfitters, law enforcement officials and military suppliers and contractors.

My first SHOT Show, in 1992, was as the manufacturer of specialty armor and ballistic protective equipment for law enforcement and our military. This year, I came to represent the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee of the National Rifle Association (NRA). Freedom Alliance sent our outreach coordinator to explore additional outdoor activities to help America's military heroes recover from the wounds of war.

Trade shows are really nothing more than an opportunity for members of an affinity group to meet and exchange ideas on new products and services, challenges facing their industry, and what works and what doesn't to stay in business. There are more than 90,000 trade and professional asso-

ciations in the United States, and nearly all of them have gatherings with ample opportunities for fruitful conversations among like-minded people seeking solutions to common challenges. The nearly 36,000 people attending this year's SHOT Show are no different.

What was different this year was what was happening in Washington and, to a lesser extent, in

hundreds of thousands of our countrymen - jeopardized by hasty, ill-conceived regulations that will not achieve the goal of a safer society.

That's not to say there is universal opposition to what the White House announced on Jan. 16. In two days here at the SHOT Show, I've had hundreds of conversations with participants. A few observations:

This condition is exacerbated by the Obama administration's proclivity for declaring selective events and issues to be crises that require immediate action. The problem is aggravated because the loyal opposition is in nearly total disarray, and few in the so-called mainstream media have any idea what they are talking about.

Albany, N.Y., where Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed new "gun control" legislation into law Jan. 15. Nearly everyone I spoke with understood that New York's Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act and the 23 directives issued the following day by President Obama were going to affect their business. The common refrain was: "How is this going to stop bad people from doing bad things?" These are not cynical questions.

They are serious inquiries from serious people who see their businesses - and the employment of

There is widespread support for the NRA's proposal to put police officers in schools. All here endorse the idea of keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals and mentally unstable individuals who pose a danger to others.

The ideas of pursuing and prosecuting "straw purchasers" of firearms and giving longer sentences to those convicted of violent crimes have wide appeal. There were, of course, some who suggested that Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. might have to prosecute himself for straw purchases if it

turns out he authorized the ill-conceived "Fast and Furious" gunrunning scheme.

The NY SAFE Act requires law-abiding citizens to pass a background check before being able to purchase ammunition of any kind. One retailer points out: "There is no mechanism for making such a check - no form we can fill out, no way of complying. My lawyers have told us to stop filling catalog and Internet orders from New York Zip Codes until this is clarified. The people who drafted this law spent more time concocting a cute acronym than thinking about how this could put me out of business. Maybe that's their real objective."

At 3-Gun Nation's "Rumble on the Range" - where competitors are scored on speed and accuracy in firing a shotgun, a handgun and a rifle - one of the competitors, a U.S. Marine, observed: "This sport cannot happen with small-capacity magazines. Too bad Cuomo and Reid aren't here to explain why this is a bad thing." Citizens of the Empire State must now go elsewhere to practice and participate in three-gun competitions.

Finally, there were numerous complaints that "nobody in politics or the media knows what an 'assault weapon' really is." Perhaps. But there is an organization that does: the National Rifle Association. If the numbers are accurate, more than 100 million Americans own firearms. Yet only 4.5 million of us are members of the NRA. This would be a good time for law-abiding gun owners to join the organization that will fight for the right to keep them.

Oliver North is host of "War Stories" on the Fox News Channel and author of the new novel "Heroes Proved" (Threshold Editions, 2012).

January 21, 2013



Our Mission

The Virginia Citizens Defense League is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to advancing the fundamental human right of all Virginians to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by both the U.S. and the Virginia Constitutions.

Because of our record of success, other grassroots gun organizations across the nation have modeled themselves after VCDL.

Defending Your Right to Defend Yourself VCDL.ORG

What Others Are Saying About Us

"Virginia Citizens Defense League...is on a mission to root out every nugget of gun control it can detect in Virginia. It has been behind campaigns to make sure concealed weapons are allowed in local government buildings, even civic centers, and fought to open up state and local parks to concealed weapons."

The Daily Press - Nov 27, 2006

"...the Virginia Citizens Defense League, the commonwealth's dominant gun lobby."

Roanoke Times Metro Columnist Dan Casey - Jan 6, 2013



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The Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) inquiry into whether NBC's David Gregory possession on national TV of an illegal 30-round "high-capacity" magazine has been ongoing for three weeks. Meanwhile, U.S. Army veteran James Brinkley is still grappling with the fallout from his arrest last year on the same charge. Mr. Brinkley's story is just one example of at least 105 individuals who, unlike Mr. Gregory, were arrested in 2012 for having a magazine that can hold more than 10 rounds.

On Sept. 8, Mr. Brinkley says he intended to drop his wife and young children at the White House for a tour and then head to a shooting range to practice for the U.S. Marshals Service test. Just like Mr. Gregory, Mr. Brinkley called MPD in advance for guidance on how he could do this legally. Mr. Brinkley was told that the gun had to be unloaded and locked in the trunk, and he couldn't park the car and walk around. Unlike Mr. Gregory, Mr. Brinkley followed the police orders by placing his Glock 22 in a box with a big padlock in the trunk of his Dodge

If you're not David Gregory ... *D.C. prosecutes ordinary Americans for 'high-capacity' magazines*

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Charger. The two ordinary, 15-round magazines were not in the gun, and he did not have any ammunition with him.

As he was dropping off his family at 11 a.m. on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue, Mr. Brinkley stopped to ask a Secret Service officer whether his wife could take the baby's car seat into the White House. The officer saw Mr. Brinkley had an empty holster, which kicked off a traffic stop that ended in a search of the Charger's trunk. Mr. Brinkley was booked on two counts of "high capacity" magazine possession (these are ordinary magazines nearly everywhere else in the country) and one count of pos-

sessing an unregistered gun.

Despite the evidence Mr. Brinkley had been legally transporting the gun, his attorney Richard Gardiner said the D.C. Office of the Attorney General "wouldn't drop it." This is the same office now showing apparent reluctance to charge Mr. Gregory. Mr. Brinkley refused to take a plea bargain and admit guilt, so the matter went to trial Dec. 4. The judge sided with Mr. Brinkley, saying he had met the burden of proof that he was legally transporting. Mr. Brinkley was found not guilty on all firearms-related charges, including for the "high-capacity" magazines, and he was left with a \$50 traffic ticket.

Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan told The Washington Times, "We feel it was a valid arrest, and the appropriate charges were brought." Moments later, a spokesman for the D.C. attorney general's office, Ted Gest, called and provided the exact same quote. Mr. Gest added that, despite Mr. Brinkley's acquittal, the ruling "doesn't mean the judge is right, and we're wrong."

Mr. Brinkley believes the "Meet the Press" anchor is receiving special treatment because of his high-profile job. "I'm an average person," Mr. Brinkley said in an exclusive interview with The Washington Times. "There seems to be a law for us and a law for the upper echelon." Mr. Brinkley was publicly humiliated, thrown in jail and forced to spend money to defend himself for violating a law that millions of viewers watched the NBC anchor violate. If D.C. is going to have this pointless law, it should at least be enforced fairly.

January 7, 2013

When unspeakable tragedies happen such as the shooting in Newtown, Conn., people react by calling for the government to "do something" to prevent it from happening again. This reflex is usually well-intentioned. We all want our children to be safe at school. We all want to go to a movie or to the mall without fear of a deranged gunman opening fire. The danger lies in creating a lose-lose policy that makes the vulnerable less safe while infringing upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.

The 23 executive orders on gun policy President Obama signed recently are designed to make it more difficult to legally possess a gun in hopes of deterring those bent on mass murder from obtaining a weapon. These policies have one major, glaring flaw: Killers don't play by the rules. A madman with murder in his heart is not concerned with the laws surrounding a gun purchase when he is about to commit a heinous crime.

The truth is that gun control laws don't work as intended, and they are fraught with unintended consequences. A study by the federal government's National Academy of Sciences concluded that the 10-year-long "assault" weapons ban "did not reveal any clear impact on gun violence." Waiting periods, background checks, or "gun-free zones" do not deter gun crime.

Cities such as Chicago, which has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, have inordinately high rates of gun violence. Washington, D.C., where it takes an act of Congress to legally carry a gun, is known for its violent crime. It certainly isn't surprising much of this crime is committed with an illegally possessed gun. Why? Because criminals, by the very definition, do not obey laws.

It's alarming that law-abiding citizens who choose to exercise their Second Amendment rights are being targeted by Democratic politicians and pundits. It's wrong that the rare and random actions of a few severely mentally ill individuals are being politicized as proof that we need to disarm a free people. Before we violate their rights with a slew of new, overreaching and ill-conceived policies, we need to take into consideration whether these laws truly work.

A quick search of the most recent mass-shooting locations shows that almost all have occurred in a gun-free zone. The reason why should be obvious. Gun-free zones do little more than create targets of opportunity. If someone desires to kill as many people as possible in a short period of time,

Using children as props to abolish Second Amendment *Giving up our rights won't protect the children from anybody*

By Rep. Kevin Brady SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES



then it makes sense to choose a place where no one is likely to shoot back and end the spree. A "gun-free zone" sign means absolutely nothing to someone who is about to commit multiple murders.

However, there is evidence that conceal-carry permits reduce the death rate in situations like Sandy Hook. A quick search of less-publicized

recent shootings shows that shooters have been stopped in their tracks when confronted by brave individuals with weapons.

Examples include the recent shooting at a mall in Portland, Ore., a shooting at a hospital in Birmingham, Ala., and another at a movie theater in San Antonio.

It's evident that restrictions on gun ownership do not reduce crime. Yet I believe there are solutions to consider if the goal is to protect our children and decrease the number of people who are killed in these rare instances of mass murder. Trampling on the rights of peaceful gun owners is simply not necessary.

Hollywood - an industry that both fosters and profits from the culture of gun violence, and through campaign contributions now boasts of its cozy relationship with the White House - got a pass from President Obama. Their First Amendment rights are just as protected as our Second Amendment rights, and they are unlikely to stop producing such relentlessly violent fare. That means it is up to parents to protect their children from such "entertainment." Many industries have clear labels on their products, making it easier to tell at a glance if it contains objectionable material, but, ultimately, the duty is ours and cannot be left to another.

To further protect our children, perhaps it's time to do what Mr. Obama and countless other political and celebrity parents do: send our children to schools protected by responsible, armed personnel. Despite the hypocrisy, the very people decrying the idea of having trained law enforcement at schools wouldn't dream of sending their own children to a school without it.

It's also time to have a serious conversation in our country about the crimes committed by the mentally deranged. Violent behavior and severe mental illness have been definitively linked. We are ignoring this obvious contribution to the problem, and children have died needlessly because of our unwillingness to confront it. That needs to end now.

We've tried many things in our history that simply did not work to curb gun violence. Most of the president's proposals are continuations of ineffective policies.

I fail to see how disarming and violating the rights of law-abiding citizens will protect us from people who don't obey laws to begin with. We need to admit that in a free society, it is impossible to prevent all bad things from happening. We can do more, but such a utopia does not exist. It never has, and it never will.

Rep. Kevin Brady, a Texas Republican, is chairman of the Joint Economic Committee.

January 31, 2013

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An M.D. who was doing blood flow studies at the UCLA MEDICAL SCHOOL: "Nobody can argue with something you can measure. We can measure the ability of blood (94% water) to go through a membrane into the cells to the extremities.

Nothing is even close to your water! Your Hydrogen Bond Angle is 114 degrees!" We knew that it was saving diabetics from amputation and the Washington Post sent reporters to investigate and write an article on our website as far back as 1/27/92 when we were developing these machines. A man in Mexico (our Mexican Patent 239719) was running our water into a well giving it away: "10,000 people/day, cures anything!" Scientists ranging from the Los Alamos Nuclear Lab to Lawrence Livermore called the Ad Manager at The Washington Times (we have advertised there every week for 17 years) with an apology about the "impossible" results: "We are wrong. He is right. He has changed the properties of water!" Shills for the water industry with no degrees in this field can't argue with the results because they are MEASURABLE and yet you will see a "Water Scam Report" that violates the FTC Order C-3220. We filed our complaint with Joel Winston at the FTC and he sent us the final Order that we used in our older literature. Now, we are about ready to file again: Look at the VIRUS & BACTERIA DESTRUCTION CHART on our website. Each one has a different Destruction Time and NONE allow enough time to destroy them and change WATER PROPERTIES! DOLE FOODS tested our water on mold spores for 9 months and sent us a 7 page contract because a Dow Chemical caused serious problems! Go to "JEWISH VIRTUAL LIBRARY/BIOTERRORISM" and you will see that mold spores in small amounts dispersed by airplane could kill 1/3 of the population while also contaminating our water supplies!! Do you see why the DOLE results are important? 7 Muslims, MIT Chemical Engineers ignoring the No Trespassing Signs, were caught at 1 AM at the Boston reservoir! You know they have my machines and have read the Associated Press testing (2/10/08) about 57 drugs in municipal water supplies! Thousands of wells have been returned to purity using only 10 gallons of my water on each well, so you know they can reverse this technology to contaminate our water supplies with deadly consequences! Read the letter on the town letterhead from LaSalle, CO! ONLY 1000 gallons of our "light tap water" treated over 10 million gallons of e-coli in an "untreatable" 5 acre waste lagoon avoiding fines of \$10,000/day from the State! No other water product can do that and our countertop machines produce TWO types of water! Learn more...it may save your life!

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The week before his second inauguration, President Obama again exercised the one talent he has that will carve his name in infamy. He signed 23 executive orders violating our constitutional rights and putting the lives of more American citizens under his thumb. This time, the Second Amendment was at center stage.

During the signing, he was surrounded by four children, a clear play for our emotional response to the tragedy in Newtown, Conn. Unfortunately, his call for bans on guns will not actually solve the problem. If anything, it will make the problem worse.

The city of Chicago is famous for its attempt to keep citizens from owning guns. When asked about the city's high violence rate, Chicago Police Commissioner Garry McCarthy remarked, "We have a proliferation of illegal firearms." Mr. Obama's \$500 million gun violence package will do nothing to prevent the proliferation of illegal firearms.

What happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School was truly a tragedy, but Mr. Obama's response oversteps the bounds of his office. No tragedy can justify limiting our freedoms, especially when lives are on the line.

As National Rifle Association Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre says, "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." With more than 23 years of experience teaching basic and advanced techniques in saving lives, I am amazed at how heroically even the most timid person will behave when a human life is at stake. The only limiting factor is whether or not the potential lifesaver is adequately prepared.

No one thinks twice about applying the pads of an automatic external defibrillator to a stranger's chest and pushing a button on command to deliver an electrical shock to save a human life. Likewise, people recognize the need for the Heimlich maneuver when someone in a restaurant is choking.

So why do people have a problem deciding what to do when it comes to saving the lives of our children in the classroom, saving the lives of church congregations or saving the lives of theater patrons when someone threatens them with a gun? Do they not deserve the same consideration? Does it really take 23 executive orders or an act of Congress? Does it have to cost the taxpayers \$500 million?

The idea of arming teachers has received

Emergency response to gun violence

Should a loaded gun be placed next to the defibrillator?

By Dr. Constance Uribe SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

mixed reactions. Many teachers do not feel safe owning or using a firearm. Others want access to a gun in the classroom to protect their charges.

It is known that 350,000 people die from cardiac arrest every year, more than 33,000 die from auto accidents, and more than half a million die from cancer. Yet our government overlooks all

these deaths, and has suddenly taken on a quest to stop deaths from gun violence. Mr. Obama did not take steps to mandate CPR certification for everyone, to ban automobiles or demand a cure for cancer. The focus on guns ignores statistics showing that increasing gun ownership actually lowers crime.

Our schools, churches, theaters, stadiums and other venues where people gather should consider including another emergency item next to the defibrillator: a loaded firearm. A containment device can be installed in the wall, completely enclosed with a metal door and a hand-activated combination like other gun safes. It should be accessible from a central location and, in larger facilities, additional ones could be placed in offices of principals or managers.

Only designated employees would have access to them. Selected personnel should be trained in firearm safety and the laws regarding the proper use of the weapon in the unfortunate event it would ever be needed. This can all be done for less than \$500 million.

It is highly improbable that any armed criminal would dare enter a school or theater knowing that someone had the capability of defending the people inside. Burglars rarely enter a home with an alarm system. In times of emergency, the American people will defend themselves. A properly armed facility can halt a deadly attack or, at least, minimize casualties before first responders arrive at the scene.

The media have sensationalized the Sandy Hook, Aurora and Sikh Temple shootings, offering the president and members of Congress an opportunity to shine. These misguided leaders are now wasting time toying with the definition of an "assault" rifle and creating more ways to encroach upon our privacy. Capitol Hill sees an opportunity to legislate, to regulate, to control, and this esoteric fodder does nothing but expose the next school or theater targeted for some warped mind's 15 minutes of fame.

Mr. Obama and Congress should spend their time performing the duties as described in the Constitution and stop messing with our Second Amendment. Meanwhile, the public should install secured emergency firearms in public areas and develop training programs. As Americans, we will defend ourselves. We will protect our children. It is our moral obligation, and it is our right - at least, for now.

Dr. Constance Uribe is a general surgeon and author of "The Health Care Provider's Guide to Facing the Malpractice Deposition" (CRC Press, 1999).

January 25, 2013

The assault weapon myth

Obama, Feinstein and allies use fear mongering to push gun-grabbing agenda

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Gun grabbers aren't subtle. Flanked by uniformed police officers and a wall of black rifles, Sen. Dianne Feinstein on Thursday unleashed the most restrictive ever national "assault weapon" ban in the Senate. The California Democrat and the assembled anti-gun officials directly referenced last month's horrific shooting of children at Sandy Hook Elementary School no fewer than 45 times. They will let no tragedy go to waste.

The proposal would ban the manufacture, sale or transfer of 158 specific makes and models of guns, along with any semiautomatic firearm (rifle, shotgun or handgun) that has a detachable magazine and one cosmetic feature such as a pistol grip or folding stock. The bill also prohibits a magazine that can accept more than 10 rounds. No item falling into a banned category could be imported, and if a gun owner wanted to sell or transfer one of these, he would have to undergo a government background check. "We have done our best to craft a responsible bill to

ban these 'assault weapons' - guns designed for military use, bought all over this country and often used for mass murder," said Mrs. Feinstein of her ambitious proposal.

President Obama and his allies, such as Mrs. Feinstein, deliberately misuse the term "assault weapon" to confuse the public. Assault weapons are machine guns, automatic rifles that continue to fire until the trigger is released. These guns have been highly regulated since 1934 and are never used in crimes. The guns that this congressional bill targets are simply the standard semi-automatic weapons that fire one bullet with each trigger pull.

The best illustration of this deception is Mrs. Feinstein's placing of the "Armalite M15 22LR Carbine" on her list of items that she claims have the sole purpose "to hold at the hip if possible, to spray fire to be able to kill large numbers." This particular weapon fires a .22 long rifle cartridge, which has one-tenth the power of the standard military round and is generally suited for plinking tin cans or hunting small varmints. It simply looks like a military rifle, which fits Mrs. Feinstein's effort to eliminate items that look scary to her.

During the marathon news conference, politicians played on emotions rather than facts. We

know the new "assault weapons" ban would be useless because crime didn't decrease during the 10 years that the 1994 ban was in effect. In the eight years Americans have been free to buy any semi-automatic rifles, gun ownership has gone up while crime has steadily declined.

According to a survey conducted in 2010 for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, 90 percent of the owners of modern sporting rifles use them for target shooting, 80 percent for home defense and 60 percent for hunting. About 44 percent of owners are former military or law enforcement, who enjoy using a familiar rifle. The typical owner is over 35 years old, married and has some college education. These good Americans are the ones who will be affected by a ban, not the criminals who will continue to use whatever they want.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid should bring this measure to a floor vote soon so it can quickly be shot down.

January 25, 2013

DEATH TAX TIMELINE

A 'TEMPORARY' TAX IMPOSED FOUR TIMES FOR *DEFENSE* PURPOSES

1797 - to help pay for
buildup of the Navy

1802 - REPEALED

1862 - to help pay for
the Civil War

1870 - REPEALED

1898 - to help pay for the
Spanish-American War

1902 - REPEALED

1916 - to help pay for
World War I

2013 - NOT YET REPEALED

"Jim Martin deserves
particular credit for
leading the movement
to repeal the Death Tax."

- President George W. Bush

"One significant player in
advancing the 'Death Tax'
tag was **Jim Martin**, a
longtime activist who
founded 60 Plus."

- Excerpt from *Wealth and
Our Commonwealth*.



"One early and passionate
toiler was **Jim Martin**,
president of 60 Plus
Association, a seniors'
organization dedicated to
saving Social Security and
killing the Death Tax."

- Excerpt from *Death
by a Thousand Cuts*,
2001 edition.

Amidst gridlock, a BIPARTISAN opportunity for Congress to work together:

When Death Tax repeal last passed
the House in 2005, the vote was 272-
162 with 42 Democrats, including 8
members of the Congressional Black
Caucus voting aye. Over 70% of
voters want Congress to bury the
Death Tax. Edward McCaffrey, USC
law professor and self-described
"unrequited liberal", says the Death
Tax is a tax "liberals should love to
hate" because of its negative effect on
job growth and tax revenue!

"Seniors and small businesses
across the country applaud
Senator John Thune (R-SD) and
Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX)
for their introduction of the Death
Tax Repeal Act. Their leadership
will help us repeal the Death Tax
for a fourth and final time."

JIM MARTIN

Chairman, 60 Plus Association

**Visit www.60plus.org if you support our
efforts to bury the DEATH TAX**

Michael Bloomberg obviously knows a lot about making money, even about the politics of Manhattan, where his money speaks in the loud and unctuous voice liberals love. But he doesn't know diddly about life where the rest of us live it.

He threw a tantrum after Barack Obama's gun-control bill crashed and burned in Congress, stamping his polished wingtips on his Persian carpets, nursing a pout and behaving like a 3-year-old with a broken toy. This was excusable in a 3-year-old, but it's not the behavior you expect of the nanny.

When the wah-wah and the bitter tears subsided, the mayor of New York set out to fix everything with his billions. His money fixed the election laws in New York, so why couldn't his billions similarly manipulate a few elections in flyover country?

His honor, the fourth (or fifth) richest man in the world (not that there's anything wrong with that), is nevertheless a man of the people who rides the subway to work, although according to The New York Times two police department SUVs take him to a station some distance from his manse on East 79th Street so he can take the express train downtown. Doesn't everyone commute that way? He has other houses, in London, Bermuda and Vail, one or two closer to the streetcar line. Doesn't everyone?

His Honor just doesn't like guns. Guns, like a 16-ounce bottle of soda pop, frighten him.

Mike Bloomberg's gun accident



That's why he has a police detail to shadow him everywhere he goes, lest a wild Slurpee lunge at him from the shadows. Doesn't everyone?

The nanny, like the shadow, knows the evil that lurks in the hearts of men, so he set out to punish several congressmen who he thinks particularly deserve a good spanking. One of them is Mark Pryor, the Democratic senator from Arkansas who is threatened by the Republican wave that has transformed the politics of the last state of what was once the Solid South, and only yesterday the most reliable redoubt of the Democratic Party.

The mayor put out \$350,000 — a mere tip for the men's room attendant at the Hotel Carlisle for the fourth-richest man in the world — to produce a television commercial telling Arkansas voters what they already knew: Mark Pryor voted against the Obama gun legislation.

Pryor likes guns! Pour it on! With an enemy like Mike Bloomberg, who needs a friend?

The lugubrious Bloomberg commercial shamelessly exploits the death of Bill Gwatney, the popular chairman of the Arkansas Democratic Party, who was shot and killed in 2008 by a deranged man who walked into his office in downtown Little Rock, shook his hand, pulled out a revolver and shot him three times in the chest. He died several hours later. This, the Bloomberg commercial suggests, is just the grim future Mark Pryor's vote for guns assures everybody.

This was the unexpected break the senator was praying for. Only the terminally timid are frightened by guns in Arkansas, where a boy typically anticipates getting a .22-caliber rifle for his 12th birthday (and the stern lecture from his father that goes with it). The senator,

who voted for separate legislation to strengthen funding for mental health programs, gave it back harder to the mayor: "Mike Bloomberg didn't know Bill Gwatney," he said. "I knew Bill Gwatney. He was my friend and he was killed by someone with severe mental-health issues. The mayor's bill would have done nothing to prevent his death because it fails to adequately address the real issue and common thread in all these shootings — mental health."

The man most likely to run against Mark Pryor is a freshman congressman, Tom Cotton, who really, really does like guns. He's rarely photographed without one. He looks too good to be true. He grew up in small-town Arkansas, went to Harvard, gave up the law after 9/11 to join the Army, disdaining a posting as an Army lawyer to lead an infantry company in Iraq and then Afghanistan, where he received a Bronze Star for heroism in combat. He has run in 11 marathons and earlier this year was named "the fastest man in Congress" after he won a three-mile congressional minimarathon in under 18 minutes. At 36 and 6 foot 5 inches tall, he looks like a candidate consultants dream of.

He's a nightmare for Mark Pryor, the son of a senator and trying to survive as a Democrat in a newly Republican state. He has a long slog to re-election, but a genius from New York City just made it a little easier.

May 28, 2013

Chicago's deadly gun control lessons

Children die despite draconian laws

By Paul Miller SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

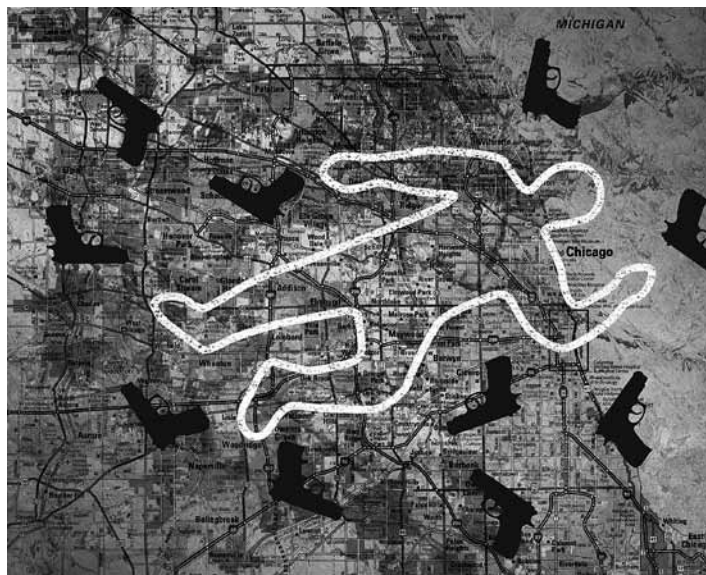


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

Fifteen-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was an honor student, volleyball player and majorette who one week earlier was performing with her high school band at President Obama's inauguration ceremony. On Saturday, first lady Michelle Obama flew to Chicago to visit Hadiya - paying respects at her funeral.

The King College Prep student was one of 42 homicide victims in Chicago during the month of January. Pendleton's story is an all-too-common tale in the Windy City. You wouldn't know it, though, due to the media and political efforts to control the conversation - using this deadly epidemic for the national cause of gun control instead of actually making life safer back in Chicago.

Last year, more than 500 individuals were murdered in Chicago. The public perception is that the violence is always gang related - criminal killing criminal. Gun control advocates use this point of view to combat critics who claim that Chicago, which has the toughest gun laws in the country, is an example that gun control doesn't work. What Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel don't want to discuss is that gang related or not, innocent children are being buried in their own backyard.

Fifty-six children - under the age of 18 - met violent ends last year in Chicago, while 133 individuals - nearly one-third of all the murdered victims - never saw their 21st birthdays. Still, the city and the state don't want to talk about the nightmare that Chicago's African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods have become. Nobody is asking how the disastrous economy of Illinois is contributing to violence on the streets of Chicago.

Illinois has an unfunded pension deficit of \$200 billion. It now lays claim to the worst credit rating in the nation. Single-party rule - controlled by public-employee unions - has cre-

ated a business climate that is benefiting neighboring states. The black unemployment rate average in 2012, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, was 24.2 percent. That is not a typo - the unemployment rate in Chicago's black community is almost 1 in 4. The overwhelming majority of the murders take place in minority neighborhoods, which implies this is not a gun control issue - "it's the economy, stupid."

In Illinois, nobody is talking about the "kick the can down the road" mentality that is kill-

ing our children - literally. Elected officials for over a decade have seen their policies fail time after time. They continue down the same path, knowing full well their policies do more economic harm than good. They are more concerned with power than people. The results are higher taxes, fleeing businesses and no jobs. Minority communities get hit the hardest.

Guns don't kill people - politicians do. With the start of the new year, Illinois officials, who take their cue from the Cook County Democratic Party machine, have ignored the

financial woes of the state. Driver's licenses for illegal immigrants and homosexual "marriage" have dominated the agenda this year. Regardless of your opinion on these issues, jobs and the economy must take priority.

Unemployment in minority communities is appalling. That story line in Chicago is the same from Detroit to Baltimore and Oakland to St. Louis. The most dangerous cities in the nation have minority communities that see no hope because they have little opportunity. The results have been the same throughout human history - poverty leads to violence and hopelessness equals suffering.

Mr. Emanuel is undoubtedly a man of his word. He is living up to his most infamous quote: "Never let a serious crisis go to waste." Ever since the horrific Sandy Hook school shooting in December, Mr. Emanuel has led a crusade for more gun control, targeting gun manufacturers and Second Amendment advocates at every turn.

What about the mayor's hometown? Chicago already has the strictest gun control laws in the nation, yet somehow, the city is the deadliest in the nation. We should be asking why. Maybe it's not just about firearms.

Like most issues in the national spotlight, common sense and decency take a back seat to political posturing and agenda-driven partisanship. I don't pretend to have all the answers about how to prevent gun violence. I do know that politicians whose actions prevent prosperity and opportunity from reaching these impoverished neighborhoods in order to protect their own power might as well be driving the getaway car.

Paul Miller is a principal of Pauliegroup LLC, a Chicago-area new media and political consulting firm.

February 11, 2013

Zimmerman's Guilt in Trayvon Martin's Death

L.R. Halsted

I was very interested in the tragic death of Trayvon Martin when it occurred roughly a year ago and I felt that George Zimmerman was guilty of second degree murder. I was quite surprised that the trial had been delayed so long after the killing of Trayvon and to hear that the Prosecution had practically lost the case against Zimmerman. Well, the Prosecution did lose the case and George Zimmerman was declared innocent of second degree murder!

However there are so many people, all across the country, that disagreed with the verdict, and so many blacks that felt that Trayvon had lost his life, being a black 17yr old youth, due to racial bias against the blacks, that I thought it might be enlightening to review my impression of the case to possibly illuminate any events that had taken place between the time of Trayvon's death and the start of the Trial that might help explain events in the Trial.

Trayvon was killed in a Private Community on a rainy evening while on his way to visit his father who lived in that community. Trayvon lived with his mother in different community. Initially I thought of three ways in which the shooting of Trayvon might have been avoided. The first was that Zimmerman should not have been carrying a gun. He had been advised not to in performing Neighborhood Watch Duty but he had a permit to carry one so he did and there was no major objection. My understanding of Neighborhood Watch Duty in that community was that it was performed by a resident, preferably unarmed, who would, upon noting an (apparent) stranger on a street in the community, approach the stranger in a friendly manner and politely inform him that, in effect, this is a Private Community and it is my duty to ask you why you are here and whether I might help you in some way. It was important to be friendly and polite with a stranger, and definitely



not to be annoying or antagonistic, as he might well be there to visit a friend who was a resident!

Zimmerman was fairly well known by Sanford Police, the local police force, as being quite interested in getting involved in police or law enforcement, sort of like a wannabe cop. He was performing Neighborhood Watch Duty the night when Trayvon was killed and had reported by radio to the local police dispatcher that he had spotted a suspicious character on the street and thought he might be black. The police dispatcher told him that they were dispatching a police car to Zimmerman's area and that Zimmerman should not follow the stranger, (who was Trayvon) but to wait for the police car to arrive. Zimmerman told the police dispatcher he was not following Trayvon but then he did not wait for the police to arrive and started following Tray-

von. Waiting for the police to arrive was the second way Trayvon's death might have been avoided!

The third way in which Trayvon's death might have been avoided, would have been for Zimmerman to quickly approach Trayvon in a friendly and polite manner and to ask him why he was present in this Private Community. Now Trayvon may not have been familiar with the community's Neighborhood Watch Program, but he probably would have readily replied that he was there to visit his father.

In closely following Trayvon, Zimmerman was annoying Trayvon and behaving as an antagonist or trouble maker and not acting in a friendly and polite manner. Trayvon probably kept looking back at Zimmerman so Zimmerman must have known he was being unfriendly. Trayvon was on his cellphone at the time talking with his

girlfriend and he told her of his being closely followed. His girlfriend urged him to run on ahead to get away from this annoying person and he did run and got well ahead of Zimmerman. But then Zimmerman caught up with him, jumped out of his vehicle, and angrily demanded to know what he was doing there. However Trayvon, knowing Zimmerman only as an antagonist, did not wait to even listen to him. He jumped on him, knocking him down, and caused him to suffer lacerations on his scalp and a broken nose.

It appears that there was a serious lack of witnesses to the fight between Trayvon and Zimmerman. Apparently Trayvon only learned that Zimmerman was armed during the fight and then he screamed his head off trying to keep Zimmerman from shooting him. During the trial there was serious concern and disagreement as to who did the screaming and which person was on top (of the two) when Trayvon was shot. This suggests that the Sanford Police were extremely negligent in not getting a detailed description of the entire fight from Zimmerman immediately after the shooting of Trayvon when Zimmerman knew the details and would probably relate them truthfully to a police questioner. It further suggests that a Trial Verdict should be legally questionable if there is new or overlooked evidence that suggests the verdict is false or may be false.

There is also the question as to whether Trayvon's Civil Rights have been violated and a new trial may therefore be justified. Certainly the fact that so many people are upset about the Trial Verdict justifies looking at the Civil Rights Issue although racial bias does not appear to be a significant factor. The fact that Trayvon's life was taken out of anger and through no fault of his own makes his death tragic and unnecessary! Therefore his death together with all the details does appear to be a Civil Rights Issue and another trial justified!

In all the noise caused by the Obama administration's direct assault on the right of every person to keep and bear arms, the essence of the issue has been drowned out. The president and his big-government colleagues want you to believe that only the government can keep you free and safe, so to them, the essence of this debate is about obedience to law.

To those who have killed innocents among us, obedience to law is the last of their thoughts. And to those who believe that the Constitution means what it says, the essence of this debate is not about the law - it is about personal liberty in a free society. It is the exercise of this particular personal liberty - the freedom to defend yourself when the police cannot or will not, and the freedom to use weapons to repel tyrants if they take over the government - that the big-government crowd fears the most.

Let's be candid: All government fears liberty. By its nature, government is the negation of liberty. God has given us freedom, and the government has taken it away. George Washington recognized this when he argued that government is not reason or eloquence but force. If the government had its way, it would have a monopoly on force.

Government compels, restrains and takes. Thomas Jefferson understood that when he wrote that our liberties are inalienable and endowed by our Creator, and the only reason we have formed governments is to engage them to protect our liberties. We enacted the Constitution as the supreme law of the land to restrain the government. Yet somewhere along the way, government got the idea that it can more easily protect the freedom of us all from the abuses of a few by curtailing the freedom of us all. I know that sounds ridiculous, but that's where we are today.

The anti-Second Amendment crowd cannot point to a single incident in which curtailing the

A divine right of arms

Tyrants cling to power by disarming the people

By Andrew P. Napolitano SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

freedom of law-abiding Americans has stopped criminals or crazies from killing. It is obvious that criminals don't care what the law says because they think they can get away with their violations of it. Those unfortunates who are deranged don't recognize any restraint on their own behavior, as they cannot mentally distinguish right from wrong and cannot be expected to do so in the future, no matter what the law says.

When the Second Amendment was written and added to the Constitution, the use of guns in America was common. At the same time, King George III - whom we had just defeated and who was contemplating another war against us, which he would start in 1812 - no doubt ardently wished that he had stripped his Colonists of their right to self-defense so as to subdue their use of violence to secede from Great Britain. That act of secession, the American Revolution, was largely successful because close to half of the Colonists were armed and did not fear the use of weaponry.

If the king and the Parliament had enacted and enforced laws that told them who among the Colonists owned guns or that limited the power of the Colonists' guns or the amount of ammunition they could possess, our Founding Fathers would have been hanged for treason. One of the secrets of the American Revolution - one not taught in public schools today - is that the Colonists had firepower superior to the king's. The British soldiers had standard-issue muskets, which propelled a steel ball or several

of them about 50 yards from the shooter. But the Colonists had the long gun - sometimes called the Kentucky or the Tennessee - which propelled a single steel ball about 200 yards, nearly four times as far as the British could shoot. Is it any wonder that by Yorktown in 1781, the king and the Parliament had lost enough men and treasure to surrender?

The lesson here is that free people cannot remain free by permitting the government - even a popularly elected one that they can unelect - to take away their freedoms. The anti-freedom crowd in the government desperately wants to convey the impression that it is doing something to protect us. So it unconstitutionally and foolishly seeks, via burdensome and intrusive registration laws, laws restricting the strength of weapons and the quantity and quality of ammunition and, the latest trick, laws that impose financial liability on law-abiding manufacturers and sellers for the criminal behavior of some users, to make it so burdensome to own a gun that the ordinary folks who want one will give up their efforts to obtain one.

We cannot let ourselves fall down this slippery slope. The right to self-defense is a natural, individual right that pre-exists the government. It cannot morally or constitutionally be taken away absent individual consent or due process. Kings and tyrants have taken away this right. We cannot let a popular majority take it away, for the tyranny of the majority can be as destructive to freedom as the tyranny of a madman.

Andrew P. Napolitano, a former judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, is the author of seven books on the U.S. Constitution, including his latest, "Theodore and Woodrow: How Two American Presidents Destroyed Constitutional Freedom."

March 7, 2013

New York's defiance of the Second Amendment

If one civil right is ignored, all civil rights are at risk

By Jeffrey Scott Shapiro SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Earlier this year in the wake of the tragic Sandy Hook Shootings, the state of New York defied the U.S. Supreme Court by passing the Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act, a complete ban on magazines that hold more than seven rounds.

Since there is no such thing as a seven-round magazine for most guns, the law as written is essentially a total ban on semi-automatic firearms. In fact, the SAFE Act was drafted so hastily that legislators failed to exclude law enforcement agents from the ban, thus making it illegal for police officers to carry semi-automatic firearms, too.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo declared the legislation the "toughest" gun law in the nation, but that's nothing to be proud of. The SAFE Act is actually unconstitutional. The Supreme Court made it clear in 2008 in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the Second Amendment protects firearms in "common use" and that citizens have a right to own such firearms for self-defense. Since semi-automatic guns are some of the most common firearms in the United States and nearly all of them carry more than seven rounds, they are constitutionally protected under the Second Amendment.

Earlier this month, I contacted the offices of New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Mr. Cuomo to ask them how the SAFE Act's prohibition on guns that carry more than seven rounds did not actually violate the *Heller* decision.

After making personal contact with aides in

both offices and three additional inquiries each, I received no response.

That's probably because Mr. Cuomo knows that the law is unconstitutional.

He is setting a dangerous example by defying the Supreme Court, immortalizing himself in the company of Southern governors like George Wallace who refused to racially integrate schools in the wake of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The message Mr. Cuomo is sending to other states is that when the Supreme Court speaks, its voice does not matter, and that's exactly what Wallace did in 1963.

It doesn't matter that this issue is about guns instead of race. After all, if New York can violate this civil right then other states can violate it, too. It may even open the door for them to violate other civil rights.

Imagine for a moment if Southern states took this as a cue that since New York is disregarding the *Heller* decision, then they can disregard the *Roe v. Wade* decision and illegally prosecute women for exercising their right to choose.

Obviously, if that happened, there would be

an outcry of injustice across the nation.

For some reason however, the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is not respected or treated with equal consideration as other constitutional rights. It is not taken seriously by liberal states or even the ultra-left Obama administration.

Democratic officials continue to delude themselves, pretending as if the *Heller* decision does not exist.

Shortly after the Supreme Court struck down Washington, D.C.'s gun ban in the 2008 *Heller* case, gun-control advocates in the District of Columbia went into shock. It took the District about three months to make actual, legislative changes that allowed residents to keep semi-automatic firearms in their homes.

For a short time, residents who kept semi-automatic handguns in their homes were still prosecuted under the flawed theory that a semi-automatic could hypothetically be converted into a machine gun and these guns, therefore, should be treated as automatic weapons, a class of firearms not protected by *Heller*.

This irrational, Orwellian type of logic allowed the District to continue enforcing the gun ban even though it had been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

As a result, the U.S. Congress threatened to pass a law that would make semi-automatic handguns legal in Washington. To avoid the embarrassment of being preempted by Congress, the D.C. Council passed emergency legislation allowing residents to keep semi-automatic firearms in their homes.

The District's short-lived defiance of the Supreme Court only lasted three months, but nearly five years later, the state of New York is arrogantly trying to do the same thing, sending a message to states across the union that the supreme law of the land does not need to be respected.

This message has more far-reaching implications than just guns. It is a crack in our entire constitutional system and places Americans everywhere at risk. If New York does not respect the Supreme Court's ruling about firearms, then all of our civil rights are at risk in every state.

The state of New York should reverse the SAFE Act immediately and comply with the Supreme Court and Constitution of the United States.

Jeffrey Scott Shapiro is a former prosecutor in Washington, D.C.

April 4, 2013

When Congress reconvenes next month, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is expected to bring gun control back to the Senate floor. If this occurs, I will oppose any legislation that undermines Americans' constitutional right to bear arms or their ability to exercise this right without being subject to government surveillance.

Restricting Americans' ability to purchase firearms readily and freely will do nothing to stop national tragedies such as those that happened in Newtown, Conn., and in Aurora, Colo. It will do much to give criminals and potential killers an unfair advantage by hampering law-abiding citizens' ability to defend themselves and their families.

Potentially on the table are new laws that would outlaw firearms and magazines that hold more than just a handful of rounds, as well as require universal "background checks," which amount to gun registration.

We are also being told that the "assault weapons" ban originally introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein is not happening. We can only hope. But in Washington, D.C., bad ideas often have a strange way of coming up again.

These laws are designed to sound reasonable, but statistics have shown that gun control simply does not work.

What constitutes reasonable? If limiting rounds and increasing surveillance were really the solution to curbing gun violence, why should we stop there? Because everyone knows that none of this actually curbs gun violence.

Gun control itself is unreasonable.

A duty to preserve the Second Amendment

The right to bear arms 'shall not be infringed'

By Sen. Rand Paul SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Chicago has some of the toughest gun laws in the entire country - and one of the worst gun-crime rates, with more than 500 homicides last year. Compare this to Virginia, where in the past six years, gun sales went up by 73 percent, while violent gun crime fell 24 percent. The types of firearms and clips the left is currently so intent on banning are used in fewer than 2 percent of gun crimes - and how many of those crimes involve registered weapons? Few to none.

For every national tragedy that happens, there are hundreds if not thousands of examples of Americans preventing similar killings from happening, thanks to the use of personal firearms. Last June, for example, a 14-year-old Phoenix boy shot an armed intruder who broke into his home while he was baby-sitting his three younger siblings.

The children were home alone on a Saturday afternoon when an unrecognized woman rang



their doorbell. After the 14-year-old boy refused to open the door, he heard a loud bang, which indicated that someone was trying to break into the house. The boy hurried his younger siblings upstairs and collected a handgun from his parents' room. When the boy rounded the top of the stairs, there was a man standing in the doorway with a gun pointed at him. The boy shot at the intruder and saved the lives of his three younger siblings.

There have been would-be mass murderers who have walked into schools, churches, shopping malls, movie theaters and other public places who didn't get very far because, thankfully, an armed citizen was nearby. There have been countless home invasions, armed robberies and other assaults in which lives were saved, thanks to citizens possessing private firearms.

These stories are heroic, but they don't become big headlines. We should all be glad that they don't become such headlines, thanks

to the unsung heroes who prevent them from becoming potential national tragedies.

For these reasons, I will oppose any attempt by President Obama, Mr. Reid or anyone else in Washington who works against Americans' right to bear arms. Sens. Mike Lee and Ted Cruz have decided to join in this effort.

We do this not only because it is right - but because it is our duty as United States senators.

When I stood up for the Fourth and Fifth Amendments during a filibuster a few weeks ago to address drones and executive power, it was not because I was partial to those amendments, important as they are. When I came into office, I took an oath to uphold the Bill of Rights.

I took an oath to uphold the First Amendment. I took an oath to uphold the Second Amendment.

The Second Amendment reads: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." It doesn't say "might be" infringed. Nor does it say "could be" infringed.

It read "shall not" be infringed. The current gun-control legislation being proposed unquestionably infringes.

For these reasons, I will work diligently to stop any such gun-control legislation. Our Constitution, individual liberty and personal safety depend on it.

Sen. Rand Paul, Kentucky Republican, is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations and Homeland Security committees.

March 29, 2013

Maryland educators are launching an assault on normal childhood behavior. In Talbot County, Md., two boys aged 6 were recently suspended for pretending their fingers were guns while playing cops and robbers during recess. This comes just after another 6-year-old at a Montgomery County school was suspended for the same thing. These suspensions were later reversed, but why are they happening in the first place? They seem to be part of a larger effort to condition our kids to reject guns and the Second Amendment.

It's tempting to call suspensions like these an overreaction to the December shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, but that's not the case. A couple months before Sandy Hook, my son, who is in elementary school in Howard County was playing "war" with friends when a recess monitor warned them to stop shooting with their fingers "because guns are violent."

"I don't get it," my son said to me that night at dinner. "We were just playing."

In a child's imagination, a thumb and forefinger make a handy play gun. Some adults, however, see a fully cocked finger and their imaginations run wild. Maybe they imagine today's finger-pointer coming back one day as a homicidal maniac and pointing a real gun at them. Maybe they see a future NRA member - another threat to their dream of a gun-free world. It's obvious they don't see a cop protecting them from robbers, or a soldier from our country's enemies.

Punishing kids for finger guns has nothing to do with school safety. Children know the difference between a finger and a gun as well as adults do. It has everything to do with "moral disarmament."

What's more, the idea of using schools as con-

ditioning grounds is not new. Thomas Sowell discusses it at length in his 2009 book "Intellectuals and Society." After the horrors of World War I, intellectuals of the time determined that "war" and "weapons," not other nations, were the real enemies. They promoted both military disarmament and "disarming of the mind." Nobel prize-winning author Anatole France urged French school teachers to promote pacifism and internationalism, saying, "In developing the child, you will determine the future." Prominent intellectuals from a number of countries, including many famous novelists, signed a petition banning military conscription, and students at Oxford pledged not to fight to defend their country. Conditioning a generation to reject arms to promote peace nearly consigned Britain, France



ILLUSTRATION BY M. RYDER

and the rest of the world to a very bleak future when World War II exposed the pacifists' folly. Yet, the world's progressives continue to champion policies that target guns and private gun ownership as a bigger threat to humanity than the world's tyrants.

In his 1999 article about the gun control movement, "The Armed Defense of Liberty," Alan Keyes wrote, "Perhaps more important than the physical disarmament the government is attempting is the moral disarmament that accompanies it. If we accept the view that the American people cannot

be trusted with the material objects necessary to defend their liberty, we will surely accept as well the view that the American people cannot be trusted with liberty itself. ... By disarming, we will confess to our government that we no

longer aspire to sovereignty, and wish our rulers to take up this burden in our stead. We will be signaling with great clarity that we wish to be comfortable slaves - and slaves, at least, we will soon become."

How fitting that these warnings about moral and physical disarmament come from two men whose family trees are rooted in the bitter soil of state tyranny. Slavery was America's Old World inheritance, and free people bearing arms ended it in the New World. Anyone familiar with the Federalist Papers knows the claim by some progressive academics that the purpose of the Second Amendment was to preserve slavery is nonsense. "The right of the people to keep and bear arms" is constitutional insurance against threats to life and liberty, including from abusive government at all levels.

Acting out pretend battles with friends in the schoolyard is probably better for a kid's social development than playing violent video games alone in the basement. To keep play from being interrupted by pacifist proponents of gun control, they could try keeping their thumbs down. A de-cocked finger gun is indistinguishable from a magic finger wand and equally effective. They can say they're only playing "Harry Potter." Parents of kids who have been sent to the principal's office for finger weapon violations, could use the opportunity to inform your educators that you refuse to let them disarm your child's mind. Today's playground warriors may be tomorrow's soldiers and upholders of the law.

Robert Small is a Maryland-based writer whose articles appear regularly in the American Thinker.

January 28, 2013

Since last December's terrible shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School, President Obama has been engaged in a personal war on guns. He felt that the general public was ready for stricter gun controls, including a ban on semi-automatic weapons and extensive background checks.

Guess what? Even in Mr. Obama's America, personal liberty and freedom of choice continue to trump government interference and a nanny-state mentality. The president has ignored the public's mood when it comes to guns - and it appears he's going to lose his personal war in a devastating fashion.

On April 17, the Democrat-controlled Senate was unable to muster the necessary 60 votes to pass Mr. Obama's offensive gun bill. In particular, the ban on semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines, as well as increasing background checks on gun purchases, all fell at the first hurdle.

While it was understood that most Senate Republicans would vote against these measures, it was interesting that a few Democrats defied Mr. Obama and joined their effort. As political strategist Stuart Rothenberg told Bloomberg News on April 12, "I think it's at the least embarrassing, and more than that, a bit of a problem, that Democrats can't get every Democrat."

That's not the way Mr. Obama chose to spin this embarrassing legislative defeat, of course.

Why President Obama will lose his personal war on guns

Concern for safety and the Constitution remains strong in America

By Michael Taube SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rather, he called it "a pretty shameful day for Washington," stating there "were no coherent arguments as to why we wouldn't do this. It came down to politics." Furthermore, he went on to say, "Ninety percent of Democrats in the Senate voted for that idea. But it's not going to happen because 90 percent of Republicans in the Senate just voted against that idea."

To be sure, it must be difficult for a president who supposedly walks on water to suddenly sink to the bottom of the ocean. Yet he helped create his own watery grave by playing politics with people's emotions, and proposing gun-control legislation less than a day after the Sandy Hook tragedy. The fact that he couldn't obtain his party's complete support for background checks proves his proposals simply didn't have the political momentum the White House thought they did.

For the Republicans, this is a huge moment. After months of being on the defensive, the

GOP has a real opportunity to bring down Mr. Obama's awful plan of increasing gun control - and promote more freedom for individual rights and property rights.

Many law-abiding citizens, including a significant number of hunters and gun collectors, feel they're being targeted by Mr. Obama and most Democrats. They're right, and they should be left alone. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution reads, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." While the times we live in are different - and the weapons being made are far more complex - the Founders were wise to support a person's right to own a gun. It's a matter of personal choice, and a strong defense of property rights in a country that so greatly cherishes freedom, liberty and democracy.

Many Republicans already realize this, and

some Democrats aren't going to support Mr. Obama's reactionary position to the Second Amendment and risk their political careers in the process. After the horrific Boston Marathon bombings, my sense is that even more Democrats will realize that public safety and security are far more important than a one-man campaign for increased gun control.

Here's what the GOP should do. It should criticize the White House plan for supporting gun control and condemning law-abiding citizens, and lead the charge to focus our energies on tackling the real problem: cracking down on illegal weapons.

For many years, there has been a steady flow of guns available on the black market for droves of would-be criminals, thugs and gangs. The mere existence of these weapons has increased drug trafficking and has helped heighten concerns over border security as well as international and home-grown terrorism.

The black market needs to be brought down immediately, and the GOP would earn praise from potential voters for focusing on this issue. It's a more realistic way to curb concerns with guns, rather than Mr. Obama's foolish and poorly thought-out gun-control plan.

Michael Taube is a former speechwriter for Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and a contributor to The Washington Times.

May 1, 2013

Six months ago, the nation was horrified that a deranged man entered Sandy Hook Elementary School and killed 20 young children and six educators. The man, Adam Lanza, happened to use a Bushmaster brand AR-15-style, semi-automatic rifle in the Newtown, Conn., massacre. Almost instantly, gun-control politicians and activists blamed the weapon, instead of the man.

George Kollitides, the CEO of Freedom Group, which owns Bushmaster, was blamed by some as being complicit in the killings. He has not commented on the controversy, until now. "It's very easy to blame an inanimate object. Any kind of instrument in the wrong hands can be put to evil use. This comes down to intent — criminal behavior, accountability and responsibility," Mr. Kollitides said in an exclusive interview last week. The killer's mother, Nancy Lanza, taught her son to shoot and is said to have given him access to the gun safes. "He killed the gun's owner, stole her car, stole her gun and then went to a school and killed innocent kids. No background checks could have prevented that. He illegally obtained the guns," he told me in his small New York office. "Only two things could have potentially stopped him: his mother locking up her guns and an armed guard. Even then, he could have driven his stolen car into a playground full of kids. He was intent on killing, which we know is already illegal."

Nevertheless, the liberal media is intent on blaming the gun company executive personally. Lawrence O'Donnell of MSNBC charged on Feb. 16 that the CEO is "the merchant of death who made the Bushmaster military-style assault rifle used to rip up the bodies of the 20 children and six educators." Mr. O'Donnell then put Mr. Kollitides' photo on the screen and said, "Leave it up there for a while. I want this merchant of death to be stared at by a national audience for as long as possible." The New York Times published an editorial in Jan-

uary that said Bushmaster's advertising caused criminal behavior, concluding that, "Given their financial success, gun makers have apparently decided that the risk of an occasional massacre is part of the cost of doing business."

Although he has had to add full-time security at his Connecticut home for his family, Mr. Kollitides is unapologetic about his company's rifles, which range in price from \$500 to \$3,000. "It has nothing to do with our marketing campaign and everything to do with a reputation for high quality and performance. Do you race a Ford Pinto or a Ferrari?"

Freedom Group, the world's largest privately owned gun and ammunition manufacturer, is the umbrella over 16 brands, such as Remington, Bushmaster, DPMS, Marlin, AAC and Tapco. It employs more than 4,000 Americans and is valued at \$1 billion. Like the rest of the firearms industry, Freedom Group saw sales skyrocket in 2012 as people anticipated President Obama going after guns in a second term and then another spike after the White House push for gun bans in the wake of Newtown. The company sold 1.4 million long guns and 2 billion rounds of ammunition in 2012, raking in \$932 million, a 20 percent increase over the previous year. Sales in the first quarter of 2013 have been \$320 million, a 50 percent increase from the same period last year. Freedom Group was put up for sale after Sandy Hook by its current owner, the private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management, as a result of demands from some of its larger investors, such as the

California State Teachers' Retirement System. Lazard has been taking bids for the auction.

Mr. Kollitides scoffs at Mr. Obama's call for a national ban on guns that look scary. "At the time of Sandy Hook, Connecticut had a pre-existing 'assault-weapon' ban, which like all gun bans, was based on cosmetic features, which once again proves the looks of a gun have nothing to do with its effectiveness. Any weapon in the hand of a criminal or those bent on destruction is dangerous. Bans don't work. Preventing access and punishment work," he said. In early April, Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy, a Democrat, signed into law an expanded "assault-weapon" ban (like the one sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, which only got 40 votes in the Senate), which reduced from two to one the number of features that would make the gun illegal. "You can only have one of five cosmetic features now — the guns still shoots the same bullets," said the gun maker's chief executive. "Can we design around that? Yes. Will we? It depends on what the consumer wants. Will the law make the people of Connecticut — where I live — any safer? No."

The gun company CEO opposed the Manchin-Toomey proposal in the Senate to expand background checks to private exchanges. The measure fell six votes short of passage in April, but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he wanted to bring it back up for a vote this year. To add pressure on senators who voted against it to change their votes, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has been spending mil-

lions of dollars on ads against Republican Sens. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Jeff Flake of Arizona, as well as Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor of Arkansas. On Friday, Mr. Bloomberg's group, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, is launching a six-month national bus tour from Newtown to protest in the states of those lawmakers who voted against the amendments.

"I'm clearly for preventing criminals and the mentally ill from getting firearms. I'm not against well-written background checks, but the devil is in the details," Mr. Kollitides said. "No matter how well intended, if legislators get the details wrong, we will end up with a backdoor registration, which is where some of the recently defeated federal legislation was taking background checks."

To reduce gun violence, Mr. Kollitides echoed the comments of most gun-rights groups and lawmakers on what has been proven effective. "The key is to prevent criminals and the mentally ill from getting firearms, and, when they do, punish them to the maximum extent of the law," he said, referring to the low number of prosecutions for firearms violations by the Obama administration. "A better mental health system. Accountability of neighbors and parents. I have three young kids; at the end of the day, I am a huge proponent of armed guards in schools."

With all the negative publicity that Bushmaster has gotten, has he ever considered changing the name?

Not at all, he said: "We want to make sure we make a quality product, a safe product, it doesn't misfire, it doesn't fall apart."

"However, it's inherently a dangerous product. When you load it, unsafe it, point and pull the trigger, it's going to have a devastating affect on anything in its path. That's why we need to emphasize safety, accountability and responsibility."

June 14, 2013

It may not stick, but the Obama administration might be getting a late education in the value of guns. When President Obama first exploited the tragedy at Newtown for more gun control, Wayne LaPierre, the CEO of the National Rifle Association, suggested putting armed guards in the schools. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York, certain Democratic members of Congress and the cable channel MSNBC hooted at the idea, calling it everything from “irresponsible” to “shameful.” These folks are now recovering from the early attacks of hysteria.

In an interview at the White House, hosted by Parents magazine and posted on Facebook, Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. said that when he wrote the “Biden crime bill” in 1994 as a senator from Delaware, it included the provision for putting police officers in schools. “We found that those school resource officers were of value in many schools,” he told the audience. “We haven’t been funding them of late. We think they should be funded.”

Colorado Democratic legislators are passing a hail of new anti-gun laws that prevent the most vulnerable from defending themselves in places often targeted by rapists and mass killers. Similar bills are being rolled out by Democratic legislators in other states, headed to Congress. According to Independence Institute research director and Denver University law professor Dave Kopel, many of these bills were written by deep thinker New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg’s anti-gun group, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and promoted by their lobbyists at the Colorado Capitol.

“The bills are a model for what they’ll try to push in Congress,” said Mr. Kopel at a recent Leadership Program of the Rockies event in Colorado Springs. “Colorado is a pawn for the Obama-Biden plan.”

He added, “Biden called wavering Democratic legislators and told them we have lots of campaign cash for you next time you’re up for election, so you can go against your district.”

Mr. Biden, vacationing in Aspen, called undecided Democrats to say, “He’s watching us and if we had a chance to move these bills forward what an important signal it would send to the rest of the country if a Western conservative state passes such legislation,” said Democratic state Rep. Tony Exum Sr. of Colorado Springs.

Obligingly, the Democrat-dominated Colorado House passed four measures on Feb. 18. The bills limit magazines to 15 rounds, require background checks for private transfer of firearms, impose a tax on gun buyers and repeal current law allowing concealed carry on college campuses.

Earlier, the Colorado House defeated a bill allowing teachers to conceal carry at schools. The Democrats insisted teachers would shoot their eye out. Failing that, they’d accidentally shoot innocents or be taken down by students wrestling their guns from them. Apparently, liberals think teachers (the majority of whom happen to be women) are too incompetent or ditz to trust with firearms. The Columbine massacre was no learning experience for liberal lawmakers.

The new law neutered the good intentions of the 300 teachers who had just graduated

The NRA was right

Biden says cops in the schools is a good idea

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

One Republican freshman already has started that process in the House. Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina introduced legislation last week that would restore funding for the Cops in Schools program, which dispenses grants to local law enforcement agencies to hire new officers for school duty. “We’re trying to find something that had bipartisan support, that is outside politics, that can make our schools safer,” he told The Washington Times. “When funded in the past, school resource officers had a positive effect in reducing gun violence. It’s a common sense, practical measure to protect our kids and teachers in school.” He has talked to several Democrats and got a “favorable response.” He’s

optimistic that he can get co-sponsors from the other side of the aisle once Congress returns from recess.

The program began under the Clinton administration, awarding \$753 million to hire more than 6,500 school resource officers around the country between 1999 and 2005. Congress never shut down the program, so it will only require the Appropriations Committee to shift funding to resume it. Mr. Meadows’ legislation would allocate the initial \$30 million of unspent funds originally allocated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This won’t be enough for every school, but it can be a critical part of a broader solution to gun violence

in schools. According to the latest Department of Education survey, 28 percent of the nation’s 23,000 schools already have armed guards. By a 2 to 1 margin, Americans favor armed security guards and police in more schools, according to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center.

Gun control advocates use “gun-free zones” as the only policy prescription for schools. It’s a proven failure. With the exception of the attack on former Rep. Gabby Giffords in Arizona, all the recent mass shootings occurred in zones where the law-abiding were disarmed. Killers won’t be deterred by a “no guns” sign on the door. Many of these shootings could have been prevented by an armed officer at the front door. School officials should decide for themselves whether such guards are right for their schools.

February 22, 2013

Colorado anti-gun laws target the most vulnerable

Women and students left defenseless

By Joy Overbeck SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

from the free firearms class offered to them by Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, Colorado’s largest grass-roots gun rights group.

“Teachers have been beating down our doors to receive firearms training,” said Director Dudley Brown. “They don’t want their students to be victims ... they want the next Adam Lanza to face the barrel of a .45.”

State Rep. Joe Salazar, a Democrat, made international news during a recent debate over the law banning concealed carry on Colorado college campuses. He said women may “feel” they’re going to be raped when they are actually not in danger, and they may “pop out

that gun and pop a round at somebody.” Besides, campuses have call boxes and whistles, he added.

The next day a clutch of women passed out whistles in the halls of the statehouse and were promptly escorted out by cops (cops with guns). The law denying women the right to defend themselves on campus passed the Colorado House.

Clearly, Mr. Salazar and the other Democratic legislators don’t know

the statistics on campus rape. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 20 percent to 25 percent of women report rape or attempted rape during college. New York University’s study reported that 1 in 5 women was raped during their college years, yet only 5 percent of these crimes are reported to police.

Meanwhile, we know that virtually all of the recent mass shootings, from Columbine to Aurora to Sandy Hook to Virginia Tech, have taken place in a posted gun-free zone.

When Democrats aren’t forbidding women to defend ourselves altogether, they’re telling us what weapons we should buy and how many rounds they’ll allow us. Mr. Biden told a woman on a Facebook chat to shelve her AR-15 and just shoot a double-barreled shotgun off the porch to scare bad guys away, as he advises his wife, Jill. “You don’t need 30 rounds to protect yourself,” he assured Kate Ernest.

A double-barreled shotgun holds only two shells, and that may not do the trick. How lucky for Jill that she has Secret Service protection instead of her husband’s advice to rely on. Oh, and porch-blasting is a felony in Delaware, Joe.

Is any self-defense not outlawed? The woman-hating liberal academics at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs came out with 10 “rape prevention” recommendations for women, which included vomiting, urinating and telling the attacker she has a disease. These were posted mere hours before they vanished from the Internet.

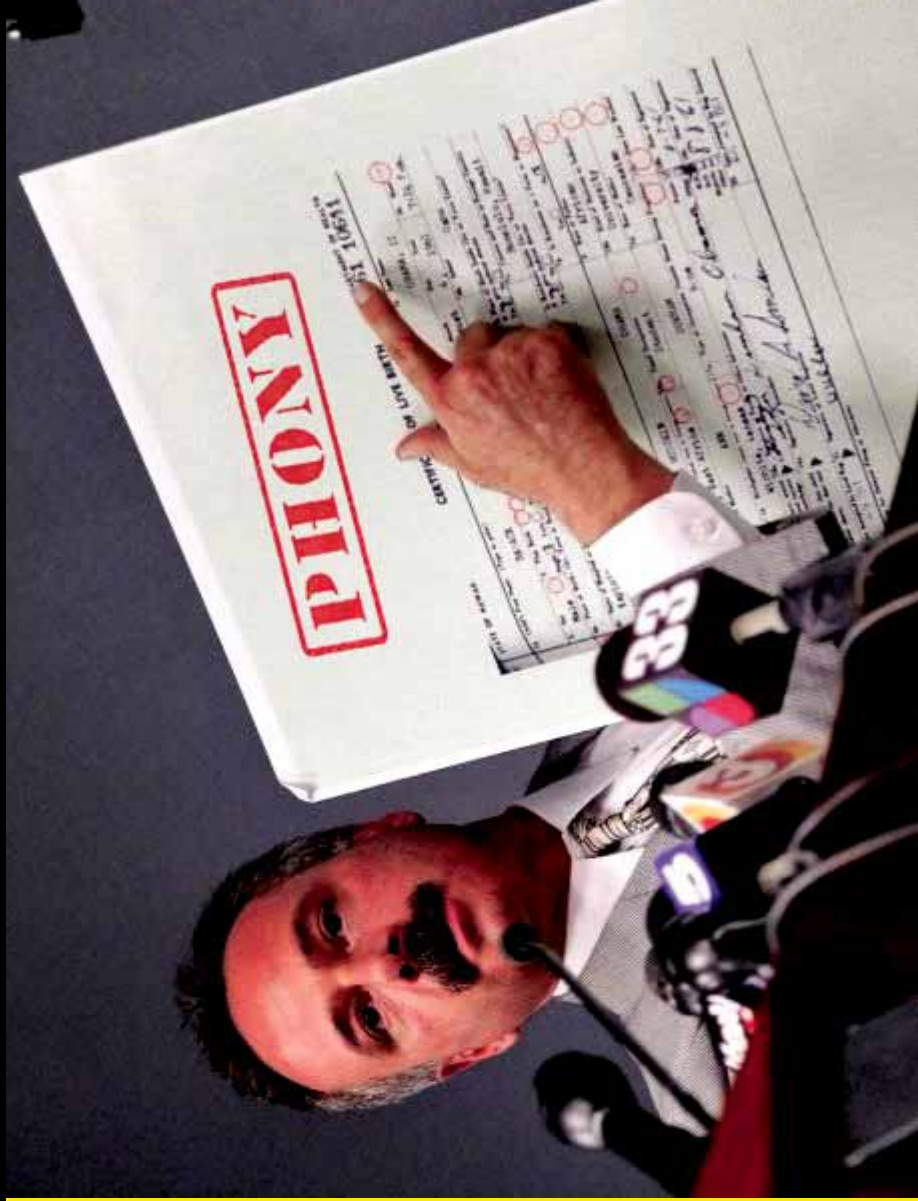
What Democrats don’t get is that it’s the threat of the gun that deters would-be attackers. Hence the Aurora shooter bypassed theaters closer to where he lived and chose a theater with a no-guns-allowed policy. Killers may be crazy, but they aren’t stupid.

With this new legislation, Democrats are labeling school campuses “shooting galleries.” They’re so concerned about women’s health they make a big deal of free birth control, yet they don’t care if we’re alive to use it.

Joy Overbeck is a Colorado journalist and author.

February 28, 2013

PUBLIC NOTICE



**LT. ZULLO EXPOSES SCANDAL OF ALL SCANDALS
THE OBAMA BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS A PHONY**

On May 31st, 2013, Lt. Mike Zullo, on behalf of Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio; spoke before a group of law enforcement officers at the Ameristar Casino in St. Charles, Missouri about the issue of Barack Obama's eligibility.

Lt. Zullo started with a blockbuster statement: "After 21 months and 22 hundred hours on the birth certificate itself, Sheriff Arpaio made an announcement in Maricopa County in March, 2012 that we had probable cause to believe the birth certificate presented via the web and a press conference, purported by Barack Obama to be his official birth record – proof positive of his birth in Hawaii - to be a 100% forgery."

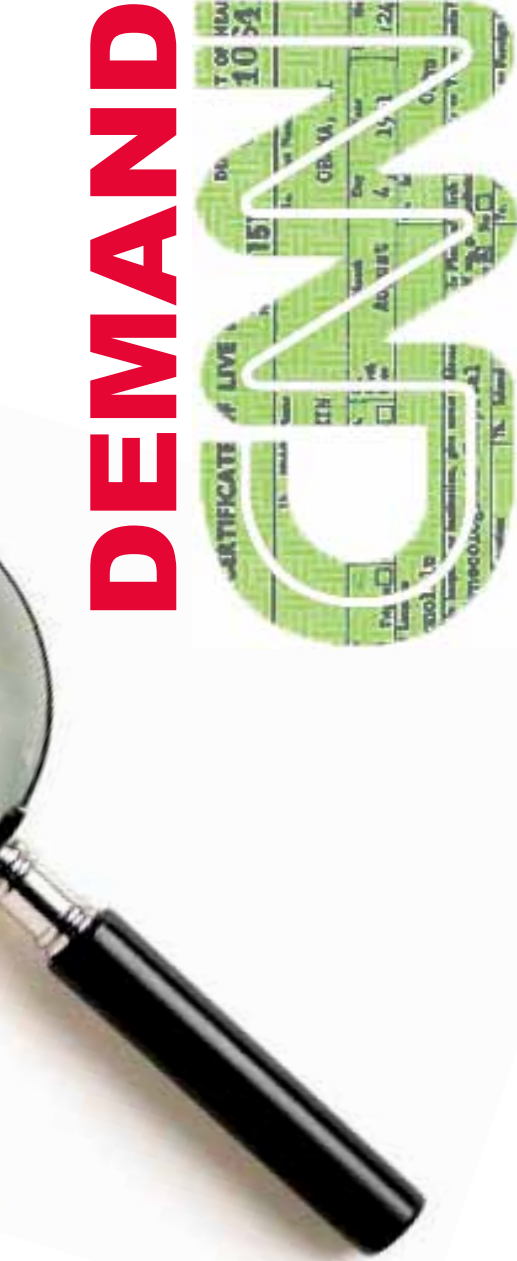
Zullo said that Sheriff Arpaio ".... continued after that, working tirelessly on that document if you want to call it that. It is not a document, Zullo noted; it is a pdf file. It is a computer generated image. It is NOT a birth certificate. You can't use it to get into Little League, you can't use it to get a Social Security card, and you can't take it into a courtroom and use it as proof of your identification. It is absolutely nothing!

THE PERFECT CRIME SCENE

1. ON APRIL 27TH OBAMA RELEASED
2. WITHIN HOURS SAID TO BE FORGED
3. SHERIFF ARPAIO LAUNCHES INVESTIGATION
4. PROBABLE CAUSE OF FORGERY
5. CCP DECLARES: 100% FORGERY
6. MEDIA RIDICULES AND TOTAL BLACKOUT
7. SPKR BOEHNER STONEWALLS INVESTIGATIONS

What does that mean? It means in a period of 21 months, using every forensic test known to man, Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his forensic investigators have conclusively proved that what Barack Obama offered to the American people as his "official long form" birth certificate is a composite. Any further rhetoric about "conspiracy" from either the left or a complicit media must fall on deaf ears. This so-called "conspiracy" is over. The "conspiracy claims" by the honest Americans merely seeking to know the whole TRUTH have been legitimized by the evidence.

With more and more Americans looking at the forensic evidence Sheriff Joe Arpaio has compiled, Barack Hussein Obama; who has betrayed the nation, is just about one question away from being forced to explain why he stole the Presidency with a phony birth certificate posted on the web for all to see....hoping America would buy into it.



SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

CALL NOW (404) 827-1500, select option 1 www.cnn.com/feedback

WHY CAN'T SHERIFF ARPAIO SEE THE ORIGINAL?

Barack Obama's "House of Cards" is tumbling as the scandals mount. Benghazi, Fast and Furious, The Dept. of Justice going after conservative reporters (like Fox's James Rosen) by making them believe they will be targeted for arrest if they continue to investigate the Obama Administration's wrong doing, the IRS' targeting conservative groups and denying or greatly delaying their applications for 501(c)4 tax exempt status, and the NSA data mining the 1st Amendment rights of every American citizen. None of these scandals would have materialized without the first one – the phony Obama birth certificate. When White House spokesman Jay "Baghdad Bob" Carney referred to the myriad of Obama scandals, he called them "phony scandals." Talking to MSNBC about the scandals, Carney said: "Republicans cherry-pick information...from only one side of the story...the full facts show the story is quite different." After being nailed by MSNBC for lying to the American people, Carney referred to MSNBC's position as "...pushing the line of the Republicans who want Washington to be focused on scandals." Betrayal doesn't seem to be singularly an Obama thing. It is a contagion that has spread throughout his whole administration.

**Demand Boehner investigate the scandal of all scandals (202) 225-0600
Latest CCP Video Presentation at www.ObamaReleaseYourRecords.com
See Sheriff Arpaio's evidence and donate at www.mcsoccp.org**

SPONSORED BY CITIZENS WHO BELIEVE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

"Trust but verify" President Ronald Reagan

COMPENDIUM OF STATE LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS

The following chart lists the main provisions of state firearms laws as of the date of publication. In addition to the state provisions, the purchase, sale, and, in certain circumstances, the possession and interstate transportation of firearms are regulated by the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 as amended by the Firearms Owners' Protection Act of 1986. Also, cities and localities may have their own gun ordinances in addition to federal and state restrictions. Details may be obtained by contacting local law enforcement authorities or by consulting your state's firearms law digest compiled by the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

STATE	GUN BAN	EXEMPTIONS TO NICS ₂	STATE WAITING PERIOD - NUMBER OF DAYS		LICENSE OR PERMIT TO PURCHASE		REGISTRATION		RANGE PROTECTION LAW
			HANDGUNS	LONG GUNS	HANDGUNS	LONG GUNS	HANDGUNS	LONG GUNS	
Alabama	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Alaska	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Arizona	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Arkansas	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
California	X ₁	—	10 ₅	10 _{5,6}	X _{10,11}	—	X ₁₂	X ₁₃	X
Colorado	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Connecticut	X ₁	—	14 _{5,6}	14 _{5,6}	X _{9,11}	—	—	X ₁₃	X
Delaware	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	3 ₆	—	—	—	—	—	X
Georgia	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Hawaii	X ₁	P, RTC	—	—	X _{9,11}	X ₉	X ₁₂	X ₁₂	—
Idaho	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Illinois	X _{1,7}	—	3	2	X ₉	X ₉	X ₁₄	X ₁₄	X
Indiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Iowa	—	P, RTC	—	—	X ₉	—	—	—	X
Kansas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Kentucky	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Louisiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Maine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Maryland	X ₁	—	7 ₅	7 _{4,5}	X _{10,11}	—	—	—	X
Massachusetts	X _{1,7}	—	—	—	X ₉	X ₉	—	—	X
Michigan	—	P, RTC	—	—	X _{9,11}	—	X	—	X
Minnesota	—	—	7 ₉	X ₉	X ₉	X ₉	—	—	X
Mississippi	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Missouri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Montana	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Nebraska	—	P	—	—	X	—	X ₇	—	X
Nevada	—	RTC	7	—	—	—	X ₇	—	X
New Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
New Jersey	X ₁	—	—	—	X ₉	X ₉	—	X ₁₃	X
New Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
New York	X ₁	—	—	—	X _{9,11}	X ₉	X	X ₁₅	X
North Carolina	—	P, RTC	—	—	X ₉	—	—	—	X
North Dakota	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Ohio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Oklahoma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Oregon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Pennsylvania	—	—	—	—	X ₉	—	—	—	X
Rhode Island	—	—	7 ₅	7 ₅	X ₁₁	—	—	—	X
South Carolina	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
South Dakota	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Tennessee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Texas	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Utah	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Virginia	X ₁	—	—	—	X ₁₀	—	—	—	X
Washington	—	—	5 ₈	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Wisconsin	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	X
Wyoming	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
District of Columbia	X ₁	—	10	10	X	X	X	X	X

COMPENDIUM OF STATE LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS

Since state laws are subject to frequent change, this chart is not to be considered legal advice or a restatement of the law.

All fifty states have passed sportsmen`s protection laws to halt harrassment.

STATE	STATE PROVISION FOR RIGHT-TO-CARRY CONCEALED	CARRYING OPENLY PROHIBITED	RIGHT TO CARRY RECIPROCITY AND RECOGNITION	OWNER ID CARDS OR LICENSING	WORKPLACE PROTECTION LAW	STATE FIREARMS PREEMPTION LAWS
Alabama	M	X ₁₈	TR	—	—	X
Alaska	R ₁₆	—	OR	—	X	X
Arizona	R ₁₆	—	OR	—	X	X
Arkansas	R	19	CR	—	—	X
California	L	X ₂₀	N	—	—	X
Colorado	R	X ₂₁	TR	—	—	X ₂₁
Connecticut	M	X	N	—	—	X ₂₃
Delaware	L	—	CR	—	—	X
Florida	R	X	TR	—	X	X
Georgia	R	X	TR	—	X	X
Hawaii	L	X	N	X	—	—
Idaho	R	—	OR	—	X	X
Illinois	D	X	N	X	—	—
Indiana	R	X	OR	—	X	X ₂₄
Iowa	R	X	OR	—	—	X
Kansas	R	—	CR	—	X	X
Kentucky	R	—	OR	—	X	X
Louisiana	R	—	TR	—	X	X
Maine	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Maryland	L	X	N	—	—	X
Massachusetts	L	X	N	X	—	X ₂₃
Michigan	R	X ₁₈	OR	—	—	X
Minnesota	R	X ₁₈	CR	—	X	X
Mississippi	R	—	TR	—	X	X
Missouri	R	—	OR	—	—	X
Montana	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Nebraska	R	—	TR	—	—	X
Nevada	R	—	CR	—	—	X ₂₃
New Hampshire	R	—	TR	—	—	X
New Jersey	L	X	N	X	—	X ₂₃
New Mexico	R	—	CR	—	—	X
New York	L	X	N	X	—	X ₂₃
North Carolina	R	—	TR	—	—	X
North Dakota	R	X ₂₀	TR	—	—	X
Ohio	R	17	CR	—	—	X
Oklahoma	R	X ₂₀	OR	—	X	X
Oregon	R	—	N	—	—	X
Pennsylvania	R	X ₁₈	CR	—	—	X
Rhode Island	L	X	N	—	—	X
South Carolina	R	X	CR	—	—	X
South Dakota	R	—	OR	—	—	X
Tennessee	R	19	OR	—	—	X
Texas	R	X	CR	—	—	X
Utah	R	X ₂₀	OR	—	X	X
Vermont	R ₁₆	19	OR	—	—	X
Virginia	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Washington	R	X ₂₂	CR	—	—	X
West Virginia	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Wisconsin	D	—	N	—	—	X
Wyoming	R	—	CR	—	—	X
District of Columbia	D	X	N	X	—	—

COMPENDIUM OF STATE LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS

With extensive gun control laws on the books in America, there are two challenges facing every gun owner. First, you owe it to yourself to become familiar with the federal laws on gun ownership. Only by knowing the laws can you avoid innocently breaking one.

Second, while federal legislation receives the most media attention, state legislatures and city councils make many more decisions regarding your right to own and carry firearms. NRA members and all gun owners must take extra care to be aware of anti-gun laws and ordinances at the state and local levels.

Concealed carry codes:

- R: Right-to-Carry "Shall issue" or less restrictive discretionary permit system (Ala., Conn.) (See also note #19.)
- M: Reasonable May Issue; the state has a permissive may issue law, but the authorities recognize the right to keep and bear arms.
- L: Right-to-Carry Limited by local authority's discretion over permit issuance.
- D: Right-to-Carry Denied, no permit system exists; concealed carry is prohibited.

Reciprocity and Recognition codes:

- OR: Outright Recognition
- CR: Conditional Reciprocity
- TR: True Reciprocity
- N: No recognition

Notes:

1. "Assault weapons" are prohibited in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. Massachusetts: It is unlawful to sell or transfer handguns not on the Firearms Roster. The City of Boston has a separate "assault weapons" law. Some local jurisdictions in **Ohio** also ban "assault weapons." **Hawaii** prohibits "assault pistols." **California** bans "assault weapons", .50BMG caliber firearms, some .50 caliber ammunition and "unsafe handguns." **Illinois**: Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Morton Grove, Winnetka, Wilmette, and Highland Park prohibit handguns; some cities prohibit other kinds of firearms. **Maryland** prohibits "assault pistols"; the sale or manufacture of any handgun manufactured after Jan. 1, 1985, that does not appear on the Handgun Roster; and the sale of any handgun manufactured after January 1, 2003 that is not equipped with an "integrated mechanical safety device." **Massachusetts**: It is unlawful to sell, transfer or possess "any assault weapon or large capacity feeding device" [more than 10 rounds] that was not legally possessed on September 13, 1994 and the sale of handguns not on the Firearms Roster. The City of Boston has a separate "assault weapons" law. The **District of Columbia** bans "assault weapons", .50BMG caliber firearms and ammunition, "unsafe firearms," and "large capacity" (more than 10 rounds) ammunition feeding devices. **Virginia** prohibits "Street Sweeper" shotguns. (With respect to some of these laws and ordinances, individuals may retain prohibited firearms owned previously, with certain restrictions.) *The sunset of the federal assault weapons ban does not affect the validity of state and local "assault weapons" bans.*
2. **National Instant Check System (NICS) exemption codes:**
RTC-Carry Permit Holders Exempt From NICS
P-Holders of state licenses to possess or purchase or firearms ID cards exempt from NICS.
3. **NICS exemption notes:** **Alaska**: Permits marked "NICS Exempt". **Arkansas**: Those issued on and after 4/1/99 qualify. **Kentucky**: Permits issued after 7/12/06 qualify. **Michigan**: Licenses to Purchase a Pistol and Concealed Pistol Licenses (CPL's) issued on or after 11/22/05 qualify. **Mississippi**: Permits issued to security guards do not qualify. **North Dakota**: Those issued on or after 12/1/1999 qualify.
4. **Maryland** subjects purchases of "assault weapons" to a 7-day waiting period.
5. Waiting period for all sales. **California**: 10 days; sales, transfers and loans of handguns must be made through a dealer or through a sheriff's office. **Maryland**: 7 days; purchasers of regulated firearms must undergo background checks performed by the State Police, either through a dealer or directly through the State Police. **Rhode Island**: 7 days; private sales can be made through a dealer or the seller must follow the same guidelines as a sale from a dealer.
6. The waiting period does not apply to a person holding a valid permit or license to carry a firearm. In **Connecticut**, a certificate of eligibility exempts the holder from the waiting period for handgun purchases; a hunting license or a permit to carry exempts the holder for long gun purchases. **California**: transfers of a long gun to a person's parent, child or grandparent are exempt from the waiting period. Persons who are screened and cleared through the Personal Firearms Eligibility Check are still subject to the 10-day waiting period and background check provisions.
7. In certain cities or counties.
8. May be extended by police to 30 days in some circumstances. An individual not holding a driver's license must wait 60 days.
9. **Connecticut**: A certificate of eligibility or a carry permit is required to obtain a handgun and a carry permit is required to transport a handgun outside your home. **Hawaii**: Purchase permits are required for all firearms **Illinois**: A Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOI) is required to possess or purchase a firearm, must be issued to qualified applicants within 30 days, and is valid for 5 years. **Iowa**: A purchase permit is required for handguns, and is valid for one year. **Massachusetts**: Firearms and feeding devices for firearms are divided into classes. Depending on the class, a firearm identification card (FID) or class A license or class B license is required to possess, purchase, or carry a firearm, ammunition thereof, or firearm feeding device, or "large capacity feeding device." **Michigan**: A handgun purchaser must obtain a license to purchase from local law enforcement, and within 10 days present the license and handgun to obtain a

certificate of inspection. **Minnesota**: A handgun transfer or carrying permit, or a 7-day waiting period and handgun transfer report, is required to purchase handguns or "assault weapons" from a dealer. A permit is valid for one year, a transfer report for 30 days. **New Jersey**: Firearm owners must possess a FID, which must be issued to qualified applicants within 30 days. To purchase a handgun, a purchase permit, which must be issued within 30 days to qualified applicants and is valid for 90 days, is required. An FID is required to purchase long guns. **New York**: Purchase, possession and/or carrying of a handgun require a single license, which includes any restrictions made upon the bearer. New York City also requires a license for long guns. **North Carolina**: To purchase a handgun, a license or permit is required, which must be issued to qualified applicants within 30 days. Persons with a Right-to-Carry license are exempt. **Pennsylvania**: No private sales. All handgun purchases must go through a licensed dealer or the county sheriff.

10. A permit is required to acquire another handgun before 30 days have elapsed following the acquisition of a handgun. In **Virginia**, those with a permit to carry a concealed weapon are exempt from this prohibition.
11. Requires proof of safety training for purchase. **California**: Must have Handgun Safety Certificate receipt, which is valid for five years. **Connecticut**: To receive certificate of eligibility, must complete a handgun safety course approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety. **Hawaii**: Must have completed an approved handgun safety course. **Maryland**: Must complete an approved handgun safety course. **Michigan**: A person must correctly answer 70% of the questions on a basic safety review questionnaire in order to obtain a license to purchase. **New York**: Some counties require a handgun safety training course to receive a license. **Rhode Island**: Must receive a state-issued handgun safety card.
12. Registration/Licensing requirements. **California**: A person moving into California has 60 days to file a registration form with the Department of Justice. **Hawaii**: Must register any firearm(s) brought into the State within 3 days of arrival of the person or firearm(s), whichever occurs later. Handguns purchased from licensed dealers must be registered within 5 days. **Illinois**: A new resident must obtain FOI card as soon as possible when moving to the State. **Massachusetts**: A new resident has 60 days to obtain a FID card. **Michigan**: After establishing residency, a new resident must obtain a license to purchase and certificate of inspection for each handgun. **Nebraska**: **Omaha** handgun owners must register their firearms with the local police. **Nevada**: **Clark County**: A resident must register their handguns after being in the county for more than 60 days. **New York**: A license must be obtained before acquisition and relocation
13. "Assault weapon" registration. **California** had two dates by which assault weapons had to be registered or possession after such date would be considered a felony: March 31, 1992 for the named make and model firearms banned in the 1989 legislation and December 31, 2000 for the firearms meeting the definition of the "assault weapons in the 1999 legislation. In **Connecticut**, those firearms banned by specific make and model in the 1993 law had to be registered by October 1, 1994 or possession would be considered a felony. A recent law requires registration of additional guns by October 1, 2003. In **New Jersey**, any "assault weapon" not registered, licensed, or rendered inoperable pursuant to a state police certificate by May 1, 1991, is considered contraband.
14. Chicago only. No handgun not already registered may be possessed. Must get FOID card after receiving drivers' license.
15. New York City only.
16. **Vermont, Alaska and Arizona** law respect your right to carry without a permit. Alaska and Arizona also have permit to carry systems to establish reciprocity with other states.
17. A person with a concealed handgun license may transport a loaded handgun in a vehicle if it is in a holster.
18. Carrying a handgun openly in a motor vehicle requires a license. **Minnesota**: Persons with a CCW permit can carry openly.
19. **Arkansas** prohibits carrying a firearm "with a purpose to employ it as a weapon against a person." **Tennessee** prohibits carrying "with the intent to go armed." **Vermont** prohibits carrying a firearm "with the intent or purpose of injuring another."
20. Loaded.
21. Municipalities may prohibit open carry in government buildings if such prohibition is clearly posted.
22. Local jurisdictions may opt of the prohibition.
23. Preemption through judicial ruling. Local regulation may be instituted in **Massachusetts** if ratified by the legislature.
24. Except Gary and East Chicago and local laws enacted before January 1994.

THE THIRD CENTURY NRA

WWW.NRA.ORG/WT

SO MANY SEE the NRA only as the gun lobby. For decades, the legislative and judicial initiatives of the organization have been crucial in the fight to protect the Second Amendment for America's law-abiding citizens. But the NRA is much more dynamic and diverse, with a membership that is advancing all aspects of safe, responsible, empowered gun ownership into the mainstream of popular culture. As we continue into a third century of service, NRA is proud to celebrate a future defined by an ever-growing group of energetic, accomplished individuals who believe in this freedom and this country.

FACES OF THE NRA



JESSIE DUFF



JOSH POWELL



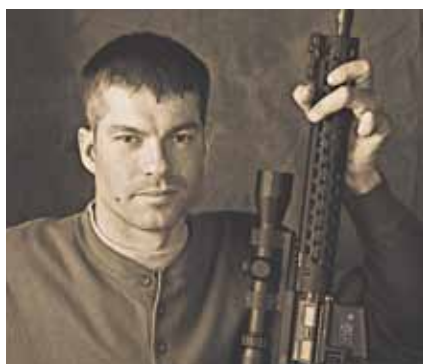
COREY COGDELL



COLION NOIR



NATALIE FOSTER



JR SALZMAN



CAM EDWARDS



JON MICHAEL MCGRATH

“IT'S AMAZING TO ME THAT SO MANY OF THE GUNS WE USE TODAY—RIGHT DOWN TO THE 1911 RACE GUNS I USE TO EARN MY LIVING—ARE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED SINCE THEY WERE INVENTED OVER A CENTURY AGO.”

An avid hunter, too, Jessie Duff is also co-host of the 'Friends of the NRA' series on the Outdoor Channel.

JESSIE DUFF

FIRST PERSON

At age 27, with dozens of national and world championship titles across five different shooting disciplines, Jessie Duff is one of the most accomplished shooters—male or female—in America today.

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @JESSIE_DUFF AND @FRIENDSOFNRA

AS TEAM CAPTAIN FOR Taurus International's shooting team, my job is to be on the range and competing. But my mind wasn't always set on being a professional shooter. I grew up around firearms and loved to go to the range with my dad, a World Champion Cowboy Action Shooter.

It wasn't until I was 15 that my dad encouraged me to try my hand at competition. I've been hooked ever since!

Aside from cheerleading, I didn't get involved in competitive sports in school. But through competitive shooting, I found my niche—a place where I could grow outside of the typical “athlete” mold.

I first started competing in Cowboy Action Shooting, a sport where you get to dress up in period-correct clothing and shoot guns like you

see in old cowboy movies. You even get to give yourself an alias—mine is Jasmine Jessie, and my dad is Easy Rider. Getting to dress up and accessorize, and still getting to shoot, was one of my favorite parts! My first match was the Georgia State Championship, where I won my first state title. Granted, there were only a few shooters, but it showed what I could do with some actual training.

I had an amazing coach from the start, through my dad and some other accomplished shooters, as

well. I set realistic, achievable goals for myself. And through the help of my father, I reached every one of those goals!

After shooting in the cowboy world for about six or seven years, I was introduced to more modern guns and shooting sports. Along the way, I became fascinated with firearms, their history and the role they've played in helping shape our country. The technology that has gone into them and how it's still sufficient today amazes me. I compete mostly with a 1911 pistol—which earned its name because it was invented in 1911. It is essentially unchanged from a century ago.

You could say the same thing for our freedom that protects gun ownership. Our country's laws were written more than 200 years ago, but they still hold American freedom together. Growing up, I never really thought much about the Second Amendment or how it affected me. As I've grown, and with shooting being my passion and way of life, I realize how truly important the Second Amendment is.

But now, with that right under heavy attack, it's like the old saying, “You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.” The right to keep and bear arms was put in the Bill of Rights for a reason: To protect us as a country, to protect us as individuals, and to protect the freedoms that make America the greatest country in the world!

Josh Powell is a strong advocate for gun owners' rights and a master class sporting clays shooter who has competed all over the world.

“ WE MUSTN'T GIVE IN TO THIS IDEA THAT LETTING GOVERNMENT TAKE JUST A LITTLE BIT OF OUR LIBERTIES WILL SOMEHOW MAKE US BETTER OFF. ”



FIRST PERSON

JOSH POWELL

OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED ON ONE PRIMARY PRINCIPLE—individual liberty.

This simple principle has led to the rise of a nation, and with it an incredible amount of innovation in less than 250 years. It's no surprise that Americans top the list of human innovators. When free people are left to pursue their passions, ideas and concepts with no guarantees, the results are nothing short of spectacular. Just a few notable accomplishments include the light bulb, automobile, microchip, mobile phone and the Internet.

These successes are not a result of Americans being smarter, but merely that America provides a platform for success and attracts the world's finest minds and risk takers to embark on invention, ideas and dreams.

Our country has accomplished this with one simple standard—freedom. In America, we agree that you are in charge of your own accomplishments. It started as a simple concept. We won't tax unduly, regulate or oppress. On the contrary, we will encourage you to pursue your dreams and ideas.

Now, our freedoms are under attack from

both within and without. We mustn't give in to this idea that letting government take just a little bit of our liberties will somehow make us better off. That somehow they know what's better for you and me. That somehow taking a little bit more freedom will make us all safer.

As I write this from Chicago, I am sadly reminded of these freedoms that are under attack. The freedom and choice to protect oneself is not recognized here, where we have the most oppressive firearms laws in the country. Ironically, this oppression has resulted in one of the highest murder rates in the country. Worse yet, among 90 federal districts, this city ranks dead last in the country in prosecuting gun crimes.

It's a truly odd combination that leaves many guessing and asking, "Exactly what problem are we trying to solve?" Rather than prosecuting criminals—really putting our boots on and addressing what's at the heart of all this—politicians offer half measures of one new law on top of another that never get

enforced, slowly pecking away at our freedoms. To infringe on our right of how we choose to protect ourselves—the most basic of rights—is unacceptable. It is a fundamental responsibility of survival born within us. As a basic human right, it should never be voted on, discussed or amended.

Freedom comes with no guarantees, no ribbons for participation. It doesn't guarantee you are special, or that you will have the American dream dropped in your lap. No, freedom simply gives you the opportunity to find a way, or to make your own. It does not come without risks or failures along the way.

Freedom is not perfect. It's messy. It's hard work. And it's the best system the world has to offer.

Our country finds itself in a fog of blame and division, but we will find a way. The beacon leading us is cloaked in freedom and our innate ability, as individuals, to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps and get to the job at hand.

We will win. Freedom always does.

COREY COGDELL HIGHLIGHTS:2012 ISSF World Cup Tucson: **Women's Trap Gold Medal**2010 CAT Games: **Women's Trap Gold Medal**2010 Fall Selection Match: **Women's Trap Champion**2009 Shotgun Fall Selection: **2nd Place**2009 National Championships: **1st Place**2008 Olympics: **Women's Trap Bronze Medal**

COREY COGDELL

Trapshooting champion Corey Cogdell has won medals all over the world, including the bronze medal in the 2008 Olympic Games.

FIRST PERSON

“WHEN I OPEN MY
SAFE, I SEE HUNTING
PARTNERS, TOOLS THAT
DEFEND MY LIFE AND
A SHOTGUN THAT HAS
TAKEN ME AROUND
THE WORLD.”

ONE THING I'VE LEARNED over the past few years is that people see guns in different ways.

When I open my gun safe, I see hunting partners, tools that defend my life and a shotgun that has taken me around the world. The latter, of course, is my Krieghoff K-80 12-gauge over/under shotgun. It's my competition gun. Another shotgun helped me win a bronze medal at the Beijing Olympics, but I took this one to the London Olympics and have used it to win World Cup medals. I train five or six days a week with my Krieghoff K-80, and it never quits on me. This shotgun is my baby!

My Kimber Pro Crimson Carry II, chambered in .45 ACP, is the fun gun in the safe. It's a semi-automatic handgun that's a joy to shoot. I've been shooting handguns for several years now with my good friend Ryan, who is an International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) national champion. IDPA is an action-pistol sport that involves shooting a combination of paper and steel targets as quickly and accurately as you can. Ryan taught me to shoot my .45 much more accurately by using a two-thumbs-forward grip and a modified isosceles stance that helps control muzzle flip. I love challenging myself with different forms of shooting and seeing how quickly I can pick up a new sport.

Then there's my Kimber Pro Carry II handgun, chambered in 9mm. This handgun is a great size to carry on my body or in my purse while I'm out and about. I believe strongly in the right of citizens to defend themselves. Being a woman, that goes double, as criminals often target women. With this handgun I feel

protected, when I would otherwise feel vulnerable.

Next is my Krieghoff Semprio slide-action rifle, chambered in .300 Win. Mag. I took this rifle on my first African safari. I backpacked in Namibia for a week with this gun on my shoulder—hiking over huge mountains and sleeping under the stars. I also got water poisoning and felt like I was going to die. When I look at this rifle, I remember all those great memories, and I remember pushing through sickness to finish a successful hunt.

Last but not least, I have to mention my Beretta Xtrema 12-gauge shotgun. This is my go-to gun when I want to sit in the rain calling ducks or freeze in a ground blind listening for geese coming to a field—a beautiful sound that gives me chills. However, some of my favorite memories with this gun came while I sat under a shade tree with some of my best girl friends in southern Alabama waiting for doves to fly. We talked about an amazing pair of shoes we saw at the mall, we laughed about a blind date I'd been set up on, and we talked about the new pink camo pattern I want to get on the AR-15 I have been dreaming about.

That's how I see some of my guns. I think competitive shooters, hunters and those who want to defend their lives have similar views and memories of their firearms. I have to remind myself now and then that some Americans don't see guns this way at all.



I don't have what you would call a traditional firearms background. I didn't shoot my first gun until I was in my early 20s. One day a good friend of mine asked if I wanted to shoot his gun. Curiosity got the best of me, and I've been chasing that first high ever since.

Soon, I started learning everything I could about firearms. I shot more, entered competitions, made videos about guns and consumed myself with firearms. I did this not because guns filled some void or to compensate for any shortcomings, but because the science, mechanics and history were simply fascinating to me.

As my passion grew, I realized that firearms suffer from a very over-generalized and antiquated stigma. Countless people own firearms and use firearms, but they don't talk about them publicly for fear of being judged crazy or paranoid.

I made it a point to take gun ownership out of the shadows of taboo, with the associated stereotypical caricatures, and show it for what it truly is. Firearms are safely utilized for sport, recreation, collection and self-defense by millions of individuals from very diverse backgrounds.

Fact is, everyone has the right to effectively defend himself or herself. There is nothing evil or violent about a responsible, law-abiding citizen with a firearm.

COLION NOIR

FIRST PERSON

A Second Amendment advocate and YouTube sensation, 29-year-old Colion Noir is also a new contributor to NRA News.

I've always had a very passionate personality. There is no middle ground when I am into something—I just have to share it with the rest of the world, even if the world could care less. It's like a mutated form of narcissism: If I love it, you and everyone else should love it, too. And if you don't, let me tell you why you should!

Recently, I have seen an almost systematic push to vilify anyone and everyone who advocates on behalf of our Second Amendment rights, as if we are somehow actually promoting more violence and murder. This line of thinking is simply absurd. Firearms have been one of the most effective means of self-protection throughout our country's history.

I intend to continue doing all I can to protect our right to self-defense utilizing guns, while also showing the world how fun, amazing and fascinating firearms can be. I want people to understand that concealed carry is a lifestyle that encompasses so much more than simply carrying

a firearm.

I don't take myself too seriously. I just happen to be a guy talking about these things, and people want to hear about them.

I have many amazing supporters who have been with me from my first YouTube video. And now I have a group of new supporters who defend their rights—and defend me—to the best of their abilities. I owe it to them to continue doing what I do. They have allowed me to be a voice for a very diverse group of people who share my passion for our Second Amendment rights, and I take that responsibility very seriously.



NATALIE FOSTER

FIRST PERSON

Natalie Foster is the creator of the popular GirlsGuideToGuns.com website, and one of the newest commentators from NRANews.com

H

OLLYWOOD PIQUED MY interest in shooting. The roles Angelina Jolie, Kate Beckinsale and other actresses played make shooting look empowering, fun and even glamorous. I wondered what it would be like to shoot a handgun like Jennifer Garner, or a shotgun like Milla Jovovich. Like many women of my generation, I have been influenced by these strong female roles and wondered if I could handle a firearm as well as they do on screen.

Guns were a part of our home growing up, but shooting was an activity that only the men and boys participated in, so I paid little attention.

I was taught the basic

safety rules, of course. To me, though, guns were just decorations on a wall.

After moving to Los Angeles and working in the film industry, I decided it was time I learned to shoot. And in an effort to build a stronger bond with my father, I asked him to teach me.

The first time I went shooting, I was hooked. I'll confess that I felt empowered and a little bit glamorous, even covered in dirt from being out on the range all day. I felt strong, capable and confident. I wanted to shout it from the rooftops and share it with every woman I could, which I did digitally after starting my blog. I knew there were other women who had also been influenced by this strong female messaging and had jumped at the chance to learn to shoot. Through Girl's Guide to Guns, I wanted to create a place where we could talk about our experiences.

Little did I know the impact those old wall decorations would have on my life. For me, becoming a shooter was the first step to taking charge of my personal safety. I took firearms classes and learned self-defense tactics to be able to take care of myself in a hostile situation. The firearms community embraced me, as they have countless other

women, and equipped me with skills and knowledge not only to deal with, but also avoid, threats that might come my way.

It was also through my work in the film industry that my appreciation and desire to defend the Second Amendment was deepened. This time it was not movie stars, but some of the most impoverished people in the world that changed my life.

I worked on documentaries and a feature film dealing with the subject of injustice against women and children, specifically in developing countries. I traveled to areas of the world where women's rights are limited and oppression runs rampant. I saw firsthand what living in an unarmed society means.

My experiences there ignited my passion for our Second Amendment. It is the right to bear arms that allows us to defend ourselves—especially the most vulnerable in society. It is one of the many ways our country demonstrates that we value life.

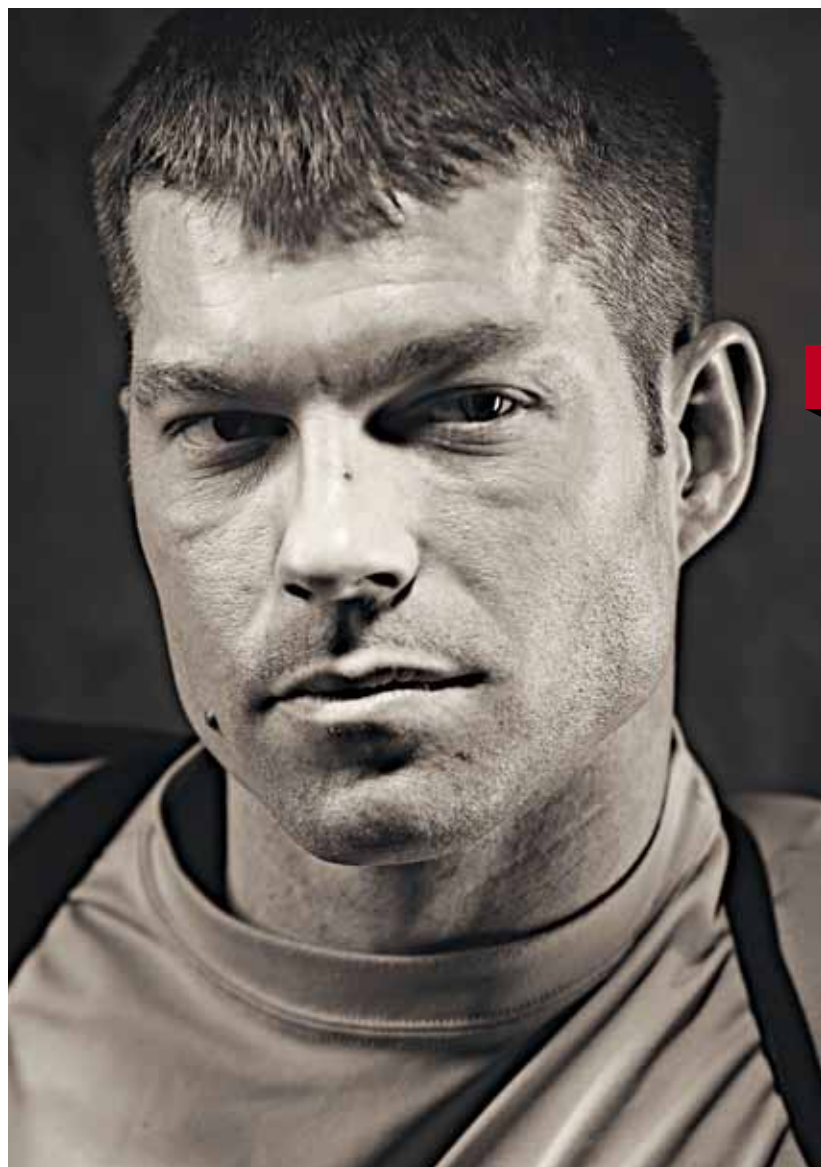
In my travels, I have learned the important role our country plays in freedom and peace for the entire world. America is not perfect, but I firmly believe we are still the last, best hope of mankind. And it is our Second Amendment freedom that defends all of our other freedoms.

As the leader of the free world, we must continue to stand for these values. It was the foresight of our Founding Fathers and the genius of the Second Amendment that allows us to do just that.

“FOR ME, BECOMING A SHOOTER WAS THE FIRST STEP TO TAKING CHARGE OF MY PERSONAL SAFETY.”



GIRLSGUIDETOGUNS.COM



A Purple Heart recipient and avid gun-rights advocate, J.R. Salzman is also an eight-time lumberjack champion named by ESPN “among the preeminent outdoor athletes” of the last decade.

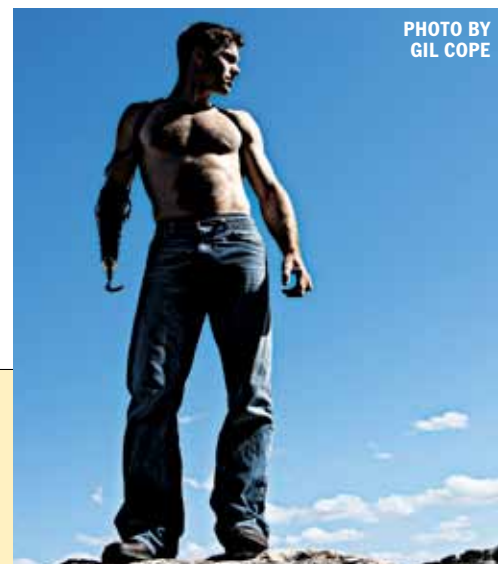


PHOTO BY
GIL COPE

FIRST PERSON

J.R. SALZMAN

I DON'T NEED A GUN. Anyway, that's what I'm told by those who know nothing about them, and those who are protected 24/7 by armed bodyguards or police. For a person like me—who first learned to shoot a gun at the age of eight, and has used guns to defend my life and the lives of my fellow soldiers—telling me I don't need one is a pretty tough sell.

“ I DIDN'T UNDERGO
EIGHT SURGERIES AND
SPEND NINE MONTHS
AT WALTER REED ONLY
TO GET KILLED BY
SOME NUT JOB AT A
SHOPPING MALL. ”

@JRSALZMAN
WWW.JRSALZMAN.COM

Guns have always been a part of my life. Whether it was hunting with my father, taking a trip to the local range, or shooting pop cans with my BB gun every day after school, guns were not something to be feared or chastised. Guns were simply a tool—and one to be respected. I learned as a youngster that a gun will not fire itself, nor will it load or aim without human intervention.

From my military service in Iraq, I know what it's like to be shot at, and I know the sound a bullet makes when it flies past. I know what it's like to point a loaded rifle at someone with my finger on the trigger and make a split-second decision on whether or not I'm going to take a life. Owning guns and being a gun rights advocate is not a decision I take lightly.

After carrying both a M9 Beretta pistol and an M4 Colt rifle with me every day as an infantryman in Iraq, I'd prefer to leave my guns at home in the safe. I don't enjoy carrying a concealed pistol, nor do I get a rush out of it. When I'm in my car it digs into my hip, and it just isn't very comfortable. Plus, I have to be cognizant of everything I'm doing while carrying. But I've realized concealed carrying is a bit like going to the dentist—it may not be the most comfortable experience, but I could regret it if I don't. After all, the average police response time nationwide is more than 10 minutes.

I carry a gun because we live in a world where evil people commit unspeakable acts—where mentally ill individuals kill their parents and schoolchildren, where disturbed individuals open fire inside theaters, where homegrown terrorists shoot up rooms full of my fellow soldiers. I carry a gun because the common denominator in all of those scenarios is that the victims were unarmed, existing in social constructs called

“gun-free zones.” I was fortunate enough to survive an Iranian shape charge in Baghdad with only the loss of my right arm and half my left hand. I didn't undergo eight surgeries and spend nine months at Walter Reed only to get killed by some nut job at a shopping mall.

I carry a gun and encourage others to do so—especially women. We live in a country where a woman is sexually assaulted every two minutes. Despite that appalling DOJ statistic, the anti-gun crowd has moved to prevent women from being able to defend themselves with a gun, telling them they're not capable of handling one, or might accidentally shoot the wrong person. I'd like to see them say that to my sisters, who were killing deer at age 12 with rifles far more powerful than an AR-15, or say that to the women I served alongside in Iraq, who operated real “assault weapons” like a .50-caliber machine gun.

I've never understood the argument that guns are to blame for gun violence, yet cars are not blamed for drunk driving and spoons are not blamed for obesity. And I've yet to find someone who can tell me exactly how me giving up my gun will make everyone safer, despite criminals not giving up theirs.

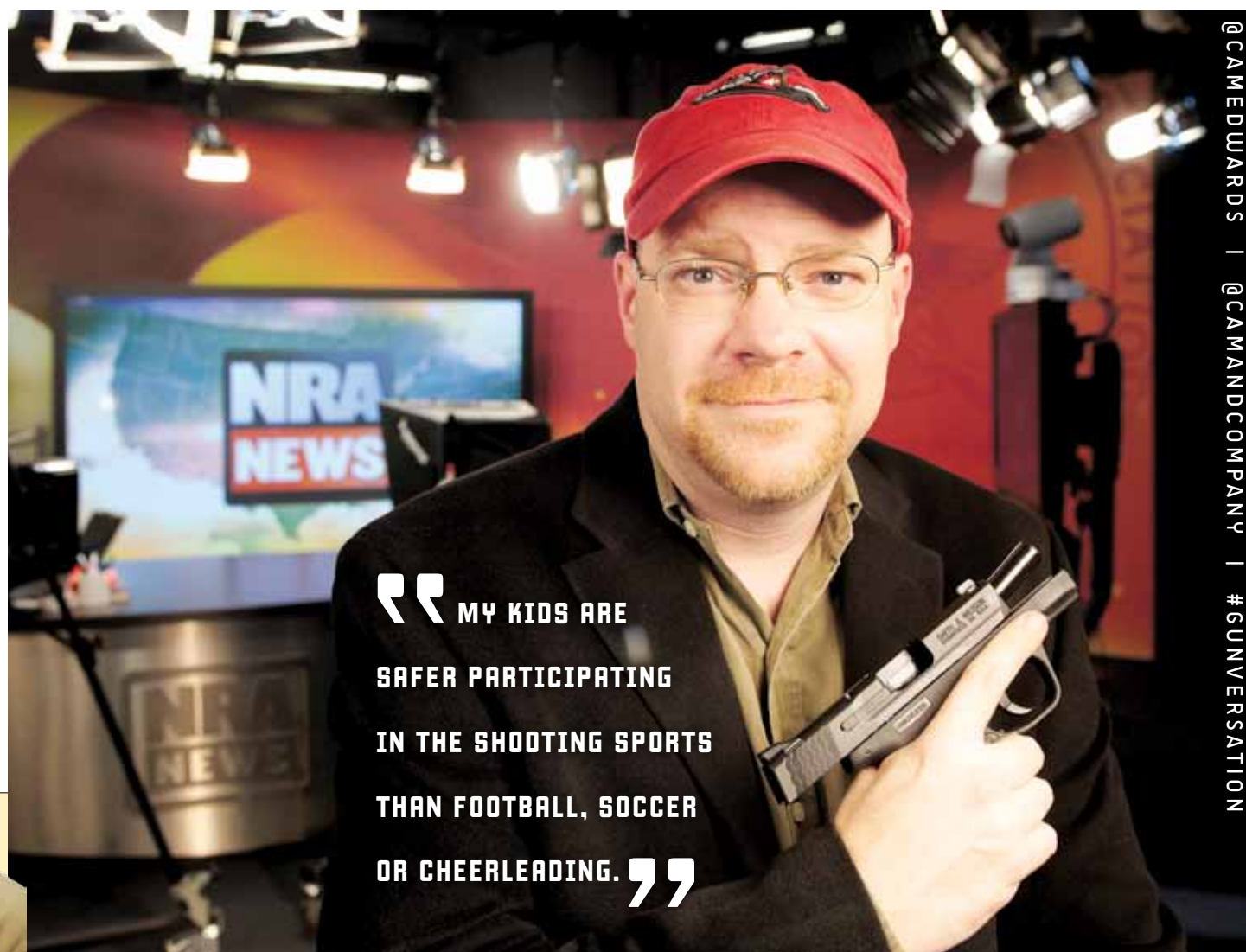
President Barack Obama has said he supports “common sense” gun control measures. In northern Wisconsin where I come from, “common sense” apparently has a different meaning. It means knowing how to safely handle a gun, knowing that if you kill an animal you eat it, and being aware that if you break into someone's house with the intent to harm or steal, you'll likely meet the business end of a gun.

It most certainly doesn't mean punishing the law-abiding for the misdeeds of criminals.

Cam Edwards is a shooter, parent and host of Cam & Co., aired every weekday on NRA News.com, Sirius/XM Radio and the Sportsman Channel.



FIRST PERSON



“MY KIDS ARE SAFER PARTICIPATING IN THE SHOOTING SPORTS THAN FOOTBALL, SOCCER OR CHEERLEADING.”

@CAMEDWARDS | @CAMANDCOMPANY | #GUNCONVERSATION

CAM EDWARDS

“

AN WE GO SHOOTING TODAY, DAD?”

I love hearing those words, although lately I’ve been doing a mental accounting of how much ammo we have on hand before I reply. Still, I’ve never had to tell my kids “no.” We’ve occasionally been forced to use BB guns, but when your kids want to spend time with you, you find a way.

I didn’t grow up around guns, but I’m glad that my kids are learning to be safe and responsible when it comes to firearms. I’ve come to realize that we’re not just fighting for our right to keep and bear arms; we’re fighting for the right to raise our children as we see fit.

All too often as host of Cam & Co. on NRA News, Sportsman Channel and SiriusXM Satellite Radio, I cover stories of parents who are forced to push back against school systems and government agencies who seem to think

that responsible gun ownership is cause for alarm. I’m sure the sight of my son holding a rifle would horrify the cultural elites and helicopter parents, because they seem to think that there’s absolutely no way a kid could ever be responsible around a gun.

They couldn’t be more wrong. Over the years, I’ve met dozens of junior shooters, and they’ve all impressed me with their maturity and confidence. My kids are safer participating in the shooting sports than football, soccer or

cheerleading (although they can participate in any of those sports, too), and it allows my wife and I to spend time with our kids away from the television set and video games. I’ve seen stories making the sensationalist claim that gun manufacturers are “peddling” guns to kids. I wonder if these reporters realize how ridiculous that is. Behind every child learning to be responsible around firearms is a caring parent who knows their child is better off with knowledge, education and experience.

I’ve found that parenting philosophy, so common among gun owners, extends far beyond firearms education. I want my kids to reach adulthood ready to take on the world, not be terrified of life beyond their front door. It’s not my job as a parent to make sure that my kids always host the coolest birthday party or get the trendiest clothes. It’s my job as a parent to ensure that one day my children will be functioning adults, capable of navigating an uncertain and quickly changing world with the lessons they acquired growing up.

When we shoot together, they’re not only learning about their rights, they’re learning self-confidence, attention to detail, focus, discipline, the importance of training and experience, and the satisfaction to be found in simple pleasures. These aren’t old-fashioned values—they’re timeless.

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MR. MCGRATH GOES TO WASHINGTON This summer, skeet shooting star Jon Michael McGrath is busy working in Washington, D.C., as an intern for Rep. Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla.

@JMMCGRATH2



A college student and world-class shotgun shooter, Tulsa's Jon Michael McGrath has won 22 world skeet titles, nine national titles and the Gold Medal at the 2011 World Cup in Sydney, Australia.

“ I BELIEVE EVERYONE HAS A GOD-GIVEN TALENT OR TALENTS. I WAS BLESSED WITH EXCELLENT EYESIGHT AND HAND-EYE COORDINATION. ”

FIRST PERSON

IN THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA, we are descendants of pioneers. We know our neighbors and help when it's needed. I grew up like most boys in my area of the country. I played Little League baseball and participated in Cub Scout activities in Tulsa, Okla. I moved on to Boy Scouts and attended my first summer camp, where I had the opportunity to try a number of new activities. (I later earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2009, but that's a different story.)

I was first introduced to shooting clay targets at that Boy Scout summer camp. At the time I didn't know it would change my life forever. When I returned home, I asked my dad to take me to a shotgun range. The next week, we went to the shotgun range, where I had the opportunity to shoot my first round of skeet. That was a turning point for me—and the beginning of a tremendous journey.

Along the way, I have been fortunate to get to live and train at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. My teammates were some of the most motivated and positive people you would ever want to meet. We came together from all areas of the country and varied backgrounds to form TEAM USA, showcasing our skills on the world stage.

I believe everyone has a God-given talent or talents. I was blessed with excellent

eyesight and hand-eye coordination. In the Olympic sport of men's skeet, reaction time is extremely important, so my gifts helped me to be successful.

The National Rifle Association has played a big part in my journey. When I was 14 years old, I was selected to participate in an NRA Advanced Shotgun Camp near Williamsport, Pa. I met kids from around the country who were just like me and wanted to excel in the sport of skeet shooting.

Each year the NRA holds its Annual Meetings & Exhibits, where attendees can see all the latest shooting-related products and visit with the top marksmen of the day. This year, a record 86,000 people attended the 142nd Annual Meetings, and I have attended the event for several years. It is always a highlight for me.

I'm now a junior at the University of

Oklahoma, studying energy management and finance, with plans to attend law school after graduation. I've always wanted to know more about how government operates from the inside, and this summer I am fortunate to work as a congressional intern in the Washington, D.C., offices of Rep. Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla. This is providing me with an opportunity to have a better understanding of government. I am interested in learning more about transportation, infrastructure and commerce issues during my internship.

The shooting sports have opened my eyes and helped me realize that there is a lot to learn out there. I'm forever grateful for that summer scout camp where I was first introduced to shooting clay targets. The shooting sports have truly helped shape my life.

[illegible]

*Acquiring personal protection requires
steely resolve in dicey District*

October 6, 2011

Inside D.C.'s gun registry

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The D.C. Gun Registry office is not where you go for help getting a legal gun; it's where you go to get more confused by bureaucracy.

After going thorough the magnetometers at D.C. Police headquarters on Wednesday, the first door I saw said "GUN REGISTRY." That was easy, I thought.

I went through the glass doors and entered a narrow office with a desk in front manned by a single female uniformed police officer.

"I'm here to get a gun," I told her. I was the only one there. Her name tag said "D.A. Brown."

"You want to register your gun?" Officer Brown asked.

"No, no, I don't have a gun yet. I mean I'm here to get a gun permit," I said.

"This is D.C., you can't get a gun permit. You can't be carrying a gun around with you. It's for home protection," she said. I was totally confused. I asked what was the difference. "You can't carry it around like I do," she said, pointing at the gun in her holster. "You can't get a license. You can buy a gun and register it."

She started putting piles of paper on the desk between us. "Here's everything you need to know," she said. "You fill out this form. This one has a trick question so be careful. This one you give to Sykes."

"What do I do first?" I asked picking up all the papers.

"You get a gun and then get it registered," she said.

"Oh, okay, well where do I go to buy the gun?" I asked.

closed officeThe officer seemed very annoyed with my questions.

"You can go to any licensed dealer in another state or on the internet," she said. "But you can only get a gun on the DC approved list."

"Where do I see the list? And can I get any gun?"

"You can get a Glock if that's what you want," she said. I'd heard of a Glock on TV. "You just buy it. Then give the form to Charles Sykes downstairs and he'll go pick it up for you and transfer it. And if you get a semi-automatic, you can only get a 10-round magazine."

"A ten what?"

"Magazine, magazine, where the ammunition is," she said, clearly tired of the question. "Look it's all in the packet here. I'm only telling

you these things to help you, but you need to go through the packet."

I thanked her and sat outside her door for a while to go through the piles of paper. A few minutes later, Officer Brown came out and handed me another piece of paper. "Here, you need to take a safety class, these people teach them. It's all in your packet but here are some names."

I added the paper to the pile and kept reading. In all the time I was there, only one other person came into the office. It seems there is no rush in Washington to register legal guns. At 3:15pm, she walked briskly out of the office, carrying a large black folder. She locked the door and posted a sign that said: "OUT OF OFFICE BE BACK SHORTLY."

Since I still didn't know what to do next, I set out to find the one man in Washington who can actually get me a gun, Charles Sykes. His company was not housed inside the government building.

October 7, 2011

D.C.'s only gun source

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Room 1140 on the DMV hallway is marked with a small sign "CS Exchange" and a taped-up paper that warns away anyone who might be looking to fight parking ticket. Behind the nondescript brown door is the private office of Washington D.C.'s only legal gun broker: Charles Sykes.

You can't just go out and legally buy a gun in the nation's capital. If you purchase a pistol from another state, whether in person or over the Internet, you can't ship it to your residence in the District, nor can you drive it back over the Potomac river.

In the 21-page packet of papers given to potential gun owners from the Firearm Registration Section, there is not a single word to explain how one would go about bringing a purchased gun into the city after registering it. The one clue the police do provide is a Xerox copy of Mr. Sykes's business card stapled to the registration form.

Last week, I went to find his office, which is also in the same massive government building as police headquarters. The door was closed and locked. I waited in the hallway awhile until a gruff man came up to me and asked, "What are you doing?"

"I'm just waiting to talk to Mr. Sykes about getting a gun," I said. He stared at me hard.

"Do you have an appointment?" he asked. I said that I did not, but I was just hoping to talk to him briefly.

"I am Charles Sykes," he said. "I only see people who have an appointment. But you're here, so come in for a minute." He led me into his run-down government office.

I asked him about the gun ownership process, and, after a few min-

utes, he relaxed and spoke more openly. A dealer since 1994, Mr. Sykes is all too familiar with the rules and regulations put in place to slow or stop law-abiding citizens from owning guns. "I don't understand why they try to make it so difficult for the honest people from getting a gun the right way," he told me.

Until the District's gun ban was repealed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008, Mr. Sykes's business was limited to transferring guns for police officers and security businesses. He said that since the high court's decision in the Heller case, the city has only registered about 1,500 guns, about half of which were new purchases. So while gun sales have been skyrocketing in the rest of the country, D.C. residents have been buying at a rate of about 250 a year.

Despite having a complete monopoly on gun transfers in the District, Mr. Sykes said, "I'm not making much." He charges \$125 to pick up the gun and do the transfer. The demand is not there for Mr. Sykes to devote an entire day to the work of selling or transferring guns. He works by appointment for about four hours in the midday. He does other work in the evenings to supplement his income.

During the 45 minutes that we spoke, no one else came to the office. "You don't see a big line outside that door? It's not like it's a sale on iPads or iPhones where people camp out the night for the door to open in the morning to get in here," he said, laughing.

Last May, Mr. Sykes lost his lease when his office building was sold. The city then took advantage of a stray word in the law to classify his business as a "firearms retail sales establishment," which made it almost

impossible for him to relocate. The designation meant he couldn't be within a football field's distance from a school, church, apartment, house or library. In this tightly packed city, that left no reasonably priced options. The city gave him a small-scale map of where he could set up shop, but the map didn't even have street names on it.

Thanks to a pending lawsuit, however, city officials realized the court could rule against them for wholly denying residents the ability to buy a gun within the law. When Mr. Sykes proposed the idea of leasing government space, they relented and agreed to a spot downstairs from the police headquarters. There are six newly framed licenses on his wall that showcase what was required to set up shop inside the government building. He re-opened in August with a one-year lease.

Recently, I asked D.C. City Council Chairman Kwame Brown whether he supported the Second Amendment. "I don't support having more guns in the District of Columbia," he replied "I don't think we need more guns in our streets."

Mr. Sykes shook his head when he heard this. "In all other cities, you can have guns. Why do they say, 'We don't want guns in the nation's capitol?' They are here. And you can go a lot of different places and get them just like that," he said, snapping his fingers.

Clearly, the city's political leaders have deliberately made owning a legal handgun a difficult process. But, I'm determined to get through all their barriers. My next step is to tackle the paperwork and forms required by the registration office.

October 11, 2011

Who's eligible for a gun in D.C.?

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The right to keep and bear arms only applies to certain people in the nation's capital. One of the 17 steps that I still have in order to register a gun in Washington, D.C. is filing out a "Statement of Eligibility." The form contains 10 yes-or-no questions intended to weed out those ineligible to legally possess a pistol.

Some of the barriers to gun ownership are expected. It's easy to choose 'no' for: conviction (or indictment) of a violent crime or weapons offense; conviction in the past five years of serious drug charge, assault, threat to do bodily harm; acquitted of a criminal charge by reason of insanity or alcoholism; or committed to a mental hospital in the past five years.

The five-year limit makes me wonder. Can Marion Barry — the former D.C. mayor and current councilman — register a gun? He was charged with smoking crack cocaine. But the conviction was just a misdemeanor and 20 years ago, so he's in the clear.

Moving on: "Do you suffer from any physical defect which makes it unsafe for you to possess and use a firearm safely and responsibly?" What about a bad knee from running? Long hair? What about being only 5'2" tall? I checked off 'no.'

Number 7: "Have you ever been found negligent in any firearm related mishap causing death or injury to another human being?" Since I have never owned a gun, this one was easy.

But I wondered if this meant that you could shoot yourself in the foot and still get a gun? Plaxico Burress would benefit from this wording.

The next qualification makes it clear that D.C. doesn't want to give guns to non-violent but seedy characters. If you've been convicted of prostitution or "operating a bawdy house," which I Googled to learn means running a brothel. So the pimps can't get guns, but the D.C. Madam may be allowed to bear arms since her conviction is outside the statute of limitations. (Correction: The D.C. Madam died in 2008.)

Also, if you've ever been convicted of "vagrancy," you're out of luck. I'm not sure why hanging around the 7-Eleven parking lot too long makes you unqualified to have a gun, but someone in the city government does.

I went back to Google to figure out what "abrogating strikes" means. I went through three page of search results, and I still don't know. It's something union-related so as a conservative, I'm sure I haven't done it.

Straight check marks in the "no" column down the page. When I picked up the big packet of paperwork at the DC Firearms Registry, the police officer told me to be careful filling out the eligibility form because there was a "trick question" on it. I've reading the questions slowly to be sure that I could get to the next stage in this process.

Next question 9 asks, "Have you provided accurate and true facts on your application for a Firearms Registration Certificate?" Bingo! The trick question is found second to last. I check my first "yes."

The last question was easy. I've never been in the military so not dishonorably discharged either.

I sign my name to affirm that I have given accurate information on the document. I'm about to check this off my to-do list when I read the bottom, which requires the signature of a notary public. Now my to-do list is back to 17 steps to do. They just keep putting up more walls to getting a legal handgun in D.C. I'm off to the bank to get this notarized so I can move on to the next form in the stack of paperwork.

October 14, 2011

Learning to shoot a gun

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

At the same time as I trudge through the Washington, D.C. bureaucracy in my attempt to get a legal handgun for self defense, I need to learn how to safely operate and shoot a gun.

I have no experience with guns. Although my father had a handgun while I was growing up — Baltimore is less safe than D.C. — he hid it from us and never talked about it. I only know that he had it because as a kid, I found a revolver under the driver's car seat. He told me never to touch it, and that was the end of the discussion.

In contrast, my editor's father taught the rules of gun safety and took him to a shooting range at 10 years old. So my editor offered to teach me the basic safety rules and skills and then shoot his guns at the range. Since he can't legally bring his guns to our office in Washington, I went to his house in Virginia for the lesson. It's remarkable how different the gun laws are once you step over the Potomac River.

He started by handing me a Kahr K40 in 40 caliber by the handle and telling me to "always check to see if the gun is loaded, even if someone tells you it is." He then showed me how to take out the magazine and then pull back the slide to check if any bullets were in the chamber. I had to pull hard to move the heavy steel slide. "Know what is behind where you are aiming," he said. I pointed the gun a pile of phone books on the floor.

He scolded me: "Finger off the trigger. Never touch the trigger until you are ready to shoot." He then handed me a bunch of red bullets, explaining that they were fakes called snap caps, and made me fumble around with the magazine until I could figure out how to correctly fit them into it.

My editor then taught me how to aim by aligning the front and back sights. Then he had me practice pulling the trigger with the fake bullets. Finally, he showed me some variations for stance and grip. Now, it was time to do this for real.

We packed up three guns, boxes of bullets and protective gear and drove to the headquarters of the National Rifle Association

(NRA) to use their shooting range. The folks at the NRA have been very supportive of my gun series. We met up with the media staff and went to their state-of-the-art new shooting range which is under a parking garage.

The NRA shooting range is so sleek and modern, you'd expect Jack Bauer on "24" would be in there. Each booth had a touch pad to control the target. The 150-yard range ended on a special slope designed to slow down the bullets and then hold them to be recycled. The climate-controlled air unit took out the gun powder smell.

Before I started, I was required to take a test on the rules of the range and gun safety. I'd studied the guide in advance so I could be ready, but I still needed the rules list to answer the questions. I got 100 percent. I was given protective eye gear and ear muffs and put them on as we went through the double set of doors to the range.

My editor gave me a 22 caliber Browning Buckmark to start. I wasn't thrilled because it didn't look as cool as the other guns, but he insisted I learn with it. He put up the target and handed me a full magazine to load into the gun. He reminded me to keep my finger off the trigger until I was ready to shoot. I asked a female NRA aide who was about my size for help on the grip. She showed me how she held it — left hand holding right hand.

When I felt ready, I held the gun up to the target, closed my left eye to line up the sights then slowly and nervously, pulled back on the trigger. POP! "I did it!" I yelled excitedly, turning around slightly.

"Don't turn around," my editor said. "Keep shooting until the magazine is empty." Pop. Pop. I pulled the trigger repeatedly, trying to carefully line up the gun after the kickback each time. After 10 rounds, I'd hit about half in the red. I was thrilled.

"Now try to group them, get the shots as close together to each other as you can," my editor said. I shot another 10 bullets and had improved already. This was easier than I expected.

He then gave me the 9mm Sig Sauer P226 to shoot. This was the gun I liked the best because it was big and secure in my hands. I loaded and pulled hard on the trigger. BOOM! I looked around nervously after the first round; this gun was heavy and loud and had a huge kickback.

"Keep going," my editor said. Boom! Boom! I finished the 10 rounds and was disappointed that only about three went into the red. Not bad, but not as good.

Finally, I picked up the Kahr which was designed for concealed carry. It was the smallest gun we had so I mistakenly thought it would be the easiest to shoot. I pulled the trigger and saw a huge flash of fire. I was scared, "What is this?" I asked, without looking back or moving the gun. No one responded. I had to finish the round.

BOOM. BOOM. I did not like this. My hand hurt. The explosion on each shot scared me. I shot until there were no more bullets and didn't get a single one in the red of the target. I put the gun down.

"That's it, I'm done with it. I want to go back to the .22," I said. I finished off two more rounds and got good grouping with the last one. I was thrilled.

In the end, I learned the basics to start safely using a handgun. I have a long way to go in practicing to feel comfortable to own and use one in my home, but I had fun and will be going back to the range.

I also now have a better sense of the issues to consider when buying a gun. I need one more powerful than a 22 caliber to keep the bad guy down after the first shot, but one that I can control and handle at my size.

So now, I have to go back into the maze of D.C. requirements to get through before I'm allowed to legally own a gun myself.

October 31, 2011

Washington's unsafe, gun safety class

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

To legally own a gun in the nation's capital, you have to take a gun safety class from a D.C.-certified instructor. Whether you have owned your guns (in another state) for 20 years or never touched one before (like me), you must take four hours of classroom instruction and one hour at the shooting range before Washington will let you register your gun.

This requirement has become my biggest source of frustration in getting a legal handgun because the city makes finding a class so difficult.

The safety class is not offered by the police so you have to find a "certified firearms instructor" to teach it.

In the large stack of papers handed to me at the D.C. Gun Registry office, there were two pages listing certified instructors. At the top of the page is a clarification: "It should be noted that these individuals do not work for, nor do they represent the Metropolitan Police Department."

So who are these people? I have no idea.

The list has 47 random names with phone numbers. The numbers are mostly D.C.'s 202 area code, which doesn't help to figure out where they are located because the city's laws ban the class from being taught inside the Beltway. The list does not give the instructor's address, background information, website or certification. It is less informative than a phone book.

As a woman facing the prospect of going alone to this class in neighboring states of Virginia or Maryland, I'd like to find someone who seems legit. The way I see it, I'm calling a strange man and saying, "I'm unarmed. I know you are armed. And yes, I'd like to meet you in a strange place." Feeling safe is the reason I want the gun in the first place.

I looked through this list for weeks for a hint as to where to start. I searched Google for all the names with a 703 area code (Virginia is closer), but none came back with any results.

I called Christopher Miller because at least a shared last name was a hint. The number went to a security company and the re-

ceptionist said Mr. Miller was teaching a class. She gave me his cell phone number and email. He never returned any of my messages.

A little more searching and I found that the city posted the same paper list online with some affiliations given. However, of the 45 instructors, 20 were listed as "independent." I Googled several of the local companies but found nothing. So the online list wasn't any more informative.

The police department was no help. When I started this gun ownership process, I got my paperwork from Officer Brown at the registry office. She gave me a piece of paper with copies of business cards on it and told me that the names were good instructors for the gun safety course.

The card for Atlantic Guns gave the president of the company, Stephen Schneider, and in handwriting the name "Art Keiser" scratched out. Neither of these men are on the list of certified instructors.

I called the store and was told that no one affiliated with them teaches a class, but referred me to a company called Worth-A-Shot owned by Donna Worthy, which may have D.C.-certified instructors. However, Mrs. Worthy's name isn't on police lists, which haven't been revised since September 9, 2009. The other names on the business cards were Ricardo Royal, Larry Wheeler and Eric Sahota, but only Mr. Royal is on the list of certified instructors.

I called the gun registry office and asked about finding an instructor from their paper handout. Officer Harper told me that "all of the names on that sheet are also on that list that was given to you." Not true, but I was looking for answers, not conflict.

So I asked the officer about my safety when going to meet the other men on the list. "We give them a license to say it's okay for them to teach firearms safety. They are licensed through the Metropolitan Police Department," he said, which told me absolutely nothing.

But he helpfully added that, "At some point, there was a criminal background check done on them."

What about knowing their location? "If they have an address, you can go on the Internet and Google it," he said. Of course, the list doesn't have addresses. He said that it didn't matter since they mostly would teach the class at a shooting range. That was helpful.

I added that I'd Googled about 10 names for general information, but found no results. "That's why we put that list together, ma'am. We try to make it convenient for you." Huh?

As for picking an instructor from the list of 47, he suggested "calling several of them, writing down the prices and location, then pick the one that best fits your pocket and your time." What's the appropriate price range for the class? "That I don't know," he replied, before correcting himself.

"Well, I can't say that I don't know," Officer Harper said. "I don't give the information out. That's between you and them. We don't set the prices." I don't know if I should be charged \$30 or \$300 for the class.

Then I called on the big guns. When I was at the National Rifle Association (NRA) to learn how to shoot at their awesome firing range, I discussed the safety class hurdle with ILA Executive Director Chris Cox.

I explained to Mr. Cox how a woman alone going to a gun safety class at a known place like the NRA would go far to helping ease this difficult D.C. registry process. But, I told him, the D.C. course was not available at the NRA range. He was surprised and started talking to his staff about getting someone certified to teach the course, possibly free of charge.

In the meantime, I still need to find someplace safe to take this class. I'm calling Worth-A-Shot because, I figure, it's worth a shot.

November 7, 2011

Taking the D.C. gun safety class

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It took weeks of research and dozens of phone calls to finally find a suitable place to take the required gun safety class to register a handgun in the nation's capital. Thanks to a referral from Atlantic guns, I found Donna Worthy — even though she's not on the list of certified instructors given out by Metropolitan Police Department.

Mrs. Worthy is a retired Baltimore police firearms training instructor. She is now the owner of Worth-A-Shot, which is located in Millersville, Maryland, about a 45 minute drive from Northwest D.C., without traffic. When I pulled up to her office, I immediately liked that it had a bright and clearly marked storefront.

Inside, Mrs. Worthy and two other employees greeted me, wearing uniforms with the company logo. I'd talked to a lot of possible instructors for this course, and they all taught in their homes and seemingly without any business structure. In contrast, Worth-A-Shot is a real, professional, storefront business. Unlike the option of taking the class in some stranger's basement, I felt safe.

This safety issue wouldn't be a concern for most men, but for many women, it feels as if the city forces us into uncomfortable and possibly unsafe environment to take this "safety" class. Clearly, the D.C. politicians who came up with this half-baked process weren't concerned about women or their particular needs. Fortunately, Mrs. Worthy's well-run business addresses these concerns.

Mrs. Worthy led me to her large classroom, with rows of desks and the course lesson on overhead projector. She taught my class herself, but she has a team of male and female instructors for the various classes she offers.

Her specific methodology had been honed through years of teaching. The first thing she asked me was why I wanted the gun. "Self defense," I told her. She explained that she would tailor the class to my needs, which would be different than someone who was registering a gun for, say, hunting.

It's noteworthy that D.C. gun class requires everyone to master shooting a handgun, even if you are registering a shotgun. This makes absolutely no sense, but then, what does in this maze of D.C. gun restrictions?

We started with D.C.'s mandatory part, which was reading over the gun ownership rules, restrictions and laws. This same packet of paper was given to me by the registry office, so I don't know why the city makes the instructors read it out loud and review with me like it's new, but it does. We went through the packet word-for-word. There are a

bunch of convoluted rules that I will need to memorize for the written test the District forces all applicants to take.

There is just no way to stretch the packet of paper and the simple rules to fill the required four hours. I'm quite sure that most instructors sign the forms and let you off with less time. Mrs. Worthy makes up the extra time by throwing in her basic firearms fundamental course, which she normally charges for \$100 in the class and \$100 at the range. She charged me \$225 for the D.C. course (\$150 if I waited for a group class). I learned a lot from this bonus lesson.

After the paper work, Mrs. Worthy turned to the required fundamentals. She had five guns lined up on the table - a Glock 17 9mm, a plastic model of the Glock 17, a Glock 26 9mm, an old Smith and Wesson 38 caliber revolver and her own pink concealed carry weapon - a Ruger LCP in 380 caliber. She pointed out that her guns did not have the D.C.-mandated, ten-round limit on the magazine, as mine must have.

First she taught me how to load and unload the gun. She corrected me repeatedly when I picked up the magazine off the floor after releasing it from the gun. "What you are trained to do is what you will do under a high-stress situation," she said. "We've had police officers on duty who stopped to pick up their shell casings because that was their habit from the range. You just have to let the mag drop."

She taught me to rack the slide three times to make sure there was no bullet in the chamber. (The second time is to make sure a second bullet isn't stuck on the side. The third time is in case you mistook a bullet flying out.)

I'd already mastered the basics from my editor's lesson, so the new things I learned from her included loading the gun while holding it upright in front of me. "No one can see if the slide is open from in front of you. So if you're caught with an unloaded gun, the bad guy doesn't know it until you have loaded," she explained.

She taught me how to hold the gun with the sides of my hands pushed together in a line. She had me practice not holding all the pressure in my dominant right hand, but to balance evenly. "Let me see your right hand," she said. I held out my palm, and she laughed at the telltale red waffle marks. Also, she showed me to hold the gun by pulling backward with my right hand, while pushing forward with my left.

Mrs. Worthy had me stand with two feet forward, shoulders straight, chin up (the hardest part, I kept lowering it later at the range),

arms straight from the shoulder. She taught me to shoot higher or lower by moving my wrists, not my arms. We practiced this over and over by aiming at a bullseye on the projector screen.

"Your eyes can only focus on one thing at a time. Keep focused on the white dot on the front sight. The rear sight and the target should be out of focus," she said. "And when you're at the range, don't stop to look at your target, just keep focusing on the front sight and shooting." After four long hours in the classroom, we were ready to go to the firing range.

She packed up the guns on the class table. We drove separately about 15 minutes to a range in a strip mall that she uses for her class. Inside, Mrs. Worthy said that D.C. tells the instructors that they need to verify that the resident can safely handle a gun. "That means you can basically hit the paper," she told me. "But, I want more for the people I teach. I want you hitting bullseyes."

She did just that. The target was 25 feet away and, at first, I was hitting a lot of white. She had me switch guns with every five or so rounds to help figure out what kind of gun I wanted to buy. I hated the small carry gun because it had a lot of kick and was hard to handle. I was terrible with the revolver, barely hitting the silhouette at all.

But after going back and forth with the two Glocks, I was much improved. She kept correcting my mistakes - keeping my chin up, slowing down trigger pulls for a "surprise" and balancing the gun in both hands to avoid the telling waffle marks. After an hour, I was feeling good. And I felt comfortable with the gun. I hit almost all in the center of the red, some well grouped in the dead center.

By the time I shot all the bullets in the box, I'd decided that I liked the full-size Glock best because it was easiest to control and gave me the best results. Mrs. Worthy recommended that gun for me because it is doesn't have a lot of bells and whistles that I might forget about in the middle of the night.

(She had repeatedly told me that accuracy goes down 70 percent from the static environment at the range to the real-life, life-or-death situations.)

Mrs. Worthy filled out the D.C. safety class form, copied it and put it in a red Worth-A-Shot folder. I felt like I'd just graduated from... well a long bureaucratic test.

November 14, 2011

Interstate Travel for a D.C. Gun

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

In all my struggles so far with the red tape the District requires before I can get my hands on a legal gun, the safety class requirement was the most time-consuming, expensive and difficult to fulfill. I finally took a class and have the signed form. But the more I dig into this regulation, the more I wonder: How can it be constitutional for D.C. residents to be forced to go to another state to exercise their 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms?

In order to register a gun for self defense in the home, the city requires residents to take four hours of classroom instruction and one hour on the shooting range with one of the firearms instructors they have certified.

But, here's the kicker: the instructors aren't allowed to teach any part of it — even the classroom — within the city limits.

Therefore, residents must go to another state - at their own expense - in order to fulfill the requirements of D.C.'s gun laws. Also, D.C. citizens have to take a day off work to do it since the whole trip and class time takes at least seven hours to complete.

The District also makes finding an instructor as difficult as possible. At the gun registry office, the police give out a two-page sheet listing the 47 firearm instructors approved to teach this class. I called them all.

Over half — 27 — went straight to voice mail. Most were individual cell phones and not a company that could set up the appointment. For the voice mails that were corporate sounding, none gave an option to get in touch with the instructor listed on the D.C. forms.

On the bottom of the police phone list, it says "Revised on Sep-

tember 9, 2009." This two-year lag was apparent when 7 of the 47 numbers I called were out of service. Two instructors, Michael Morgan and John Cutler, told me that they no longer teach the course and shouldn't still be listed on the form. Going through the list, three said they don't have a class scheduled for the next few months.

The most absurd conversation I had was with instructor Stuart Asay, whose cell phone number begins with a Colorado area code. He said that his company taught the class in the Rocky Mountain State and Atlanta, but he had no plans to teach the class in D.C. any time soon.

I was utterly confused and asked why he would teach a class for D.C. residents to register a gun only in those far away states. He told me that the classes were "in demand" in those places.

Since less than 500 guns are registered a year in D.C., I can't imagine how there would be a demand for flying so far to take a class that is available in neighboring Virginia and Maryland. I asked him repeatedly to explain his rationale to me, but to no avail. If I happen to be in Georgia or Colorado and want to take the class with him, he charges \$150 for it.

I finally found four instructors — all in Maryland — who were willing to teach the gun class. I would have to drive anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour each way to take the class.

I've yet to find a class offered near a Metro stop. I don't know what a D.C. resident without a car would do to take the class.

Of these four, the cheapest class I found cost \$130. The others range from \$175 for a group or \$200 to \$250 for individual.

All the instructors teach out of their own homes, or more specifically, as one said, "in my basement." The police do a criminal background check on everyone appearing on their list, but I still don't feel safe going alone to an armed stranger's basement.

It seems the D.C. politicians who came up with this requirement never considered the impact on a woman trying to register a gun. Forcing us to go to a strange man's house in another state to take a gun safety class is not something the police should be requiring.

For men who have a lot of experience with guns, I'd suggest taking the class with Ricardo Royal. He's near Annapolis and charges \$200. He seems the most well-versed on knocking out this class requirement. He told me he's been petitioning local politicians for years to let him teach the class within the city limits.

"I just keep asking them to at least let me teach the classroom part in D.C., not even the firing range," Mr. Royal told me. But the city officials won't allow him.

In the end, I went back to a referral from a gun store to take the class with Donna Worthy, who isn't on the list at all. When I met her, she told me that the police at the registry office "said they were adding me on the next update, that was last year." She has called repeatedly to ask to be included, to no avail. Read my story about her class here.

I am going to ask local officials in D.C. how this gun safety class requirement can be constitutional if it can't be completed within the city.

November 17, 2011

I bought a gun, but...

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

While my new gun was being transferred to the District from Virginia, I returned to D.C.'s Gun Registry Office to turn in my registration application. As you will see in what follows, this should have been simple step, but it took all day. Like everything else in my effort to get a legal handgun in this city has been far more complicated and time-consuming than it needed to be.

My gun dealer in Virginia provided the UPS tracking number of my package so I knew that it was going to be delivered to our city's one gun dealer sometime on Wednesday. Late morning, I took the Metro down to Judiciary Square and walked over to the Metropolitan Police headquarters.

“THE PROCESS”

Like every time I've been to the gun registry office, I was the only one. People aren't lining up to be put through the hassle and expense needed to legally register a firearm. I approached the counter that comes up to my chest and saw a female police officer sitting at her desk. When she looked up, I recognized Officer Brown.

“Hi, I bought a gun, but it hasn't come in yet to Sykes, so I want to take the written test while I'm waiting,” I said, referring to Charles Sykes, D.C. only gun dealer, who transfers the firearms into the city.

In the mandatory ownership class, four of the five hours are spent going over the gun-control law in D.C. which are also written out in the registration packet. This mind-numbing exercise more than prepared me for this written test on the District's gun laws, but I'd studied my papers on the Metro just as a refresher of the more obscure regulations.

“You get your paperwork from him, and then you come up and start the process,” Officer Brown responded.

“I can't take the test in the meantime?” I asked.

“You can't do anything until that 219 is filled out by him,” she said holding up a form from about ten feet away from me.

“I called yesterday and talked to an officer, and he said come in anytime between 9am and 5pm,” I protested.

“Did he know you didn't fill out your 219 yet?” she asked.

“No, as I told you, I don't have the gun yet,” I said.

“You're not going to do anything until I get the 219 from Charles Sykes. He needs to fill this out to start the process,” she answered.

“Why?” I asked, frustrated by this nonsensical conversation.

“That's the process,” she said.

I pulled out the registration packet list of instructions that she was quoting from and said, “It doesn't say that in here. It doesn't say you have to do these things in order.”

“But it is the process,” she said. (I am not exaggerating this conversation.)

“But it doesn't say that anywhere,” I protested.

“You're going to go to Sykes and get this all filled out,” she said as if I'd said nothing. “Because I need to check your gun to be sure we can approve your weapon.”

“Why do you need to check my gun before anything else?”

“The process,” she said again. “We may not approve it. I have to look at it and be sure it's on the list.”

“What if it's not? I just wasted \$250 on a safety class?” I said, referring to the mandatory five-hour gun ownership class. “Because I was required to do that to get the form signed before coming in here, isn't that right?”

“At this time, I'm not trying to fuss over the issue,” she said. “Before you spend any money with us, I have to be sure the weapon...”

“I already spent \$250...”

“Not with us, that's not my part of it,” she said. “I'm talking about the process.”

She picked up the phone and asked someone to come talk to me.

“That's fine, I'll leave,” I said.

“That is the process,” she said again as I walked out the glass doors.

TRACKING MY GUN AT THE DMV

I gave up, and decided to try to track down my gun. Mr. Sykes's business is now inside the same massive government building as the police and on the same hallway as the DMV's ticket payment and hearings.

Mr. Sykes only does gun transfers by appointment. I didn't know if he was there, but I rang the buzzer on the door marked “CS Exchange.” He opened the door and recognized me. “Don't you ever make an appointment?” he said, shaking his head while smiling. “Well you might as well come in if you're here.”

We stood in his front office talking awhile. The buzzer rang again. Mr. Sykes opened the door and I spied a man in brown pants and a brown shirt. His back to me, he was pulling a hand truck of boxes. “Is it my

gun? Is it my gun?” I asked excitedly.

“Hush, let the man in the door,” said the gun dealer, as he held the door open. The man turned around and was wearing a UPS hat. The delivery man handed a box to Mr. Sykes. “Hold it now, let's see what we have here. Slow down, come back to the office and let me see what this is.”

We walked back to the small office, and he sat down at his desk. He carefully and slowly opened the package. I saw a black Sig Sauer box. Mr. Sykes pulled out an inch-thick old hardback book and started hand writing notes.

“Let me see it!” I pleaded. “Please just take it out of the box so I can just look at it. I've only seen photos, come on!” Mr. Sykes held up the P229 two-tone. He let me hold it, and I was in love. The gun came with two D.C.-legal, low-capacity, 10-round magazines.

Back to business, Mr. Sykes handed me a couple of papers to fill out, including the 219 that Officer Brown wanted so much. At the bottom of the form in all caps and bold, it said: “THIS IS NOT A LICENSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED FIREARM.” No mistaking that I don't have the right to bear arms in this city.

I'd already filled out the D.C. eligibility form, but it needed to be notarized. Mr. Sykes once told me that he was a notary and would take care of that form, gratis, which he does this for all his clients. While I was there, he called the FBI to do a background check. I passed. He gave me the receipt for the gun from the box.

After filling out the papers, it was time to pay him \$125. I was about to write a check, until he said he only accepts cash and money orders. Thankfully, there's an ATM machine in the hallway outside ticket payments so I was able to pay him on the spot. It was almost 3pm, so with my completed forms in hand, I headed back to the police station.

DC GUN LAWS: THE TEST

Officer Brown was gone when I got back, replaced by a female civilian staffer and Officer Hall, who seemed to be the boss of the registry office. The woman was extremely polite and clearly new to her job, as Officer Hall directed her every move. “How has the registration process been for you? It is as easy as you like?” she asked, without any sarcasm.

I felt bad hurting her feelings, but I said, “It's been horrible. So much worse than I expected.”

“Are you from another state where it's easier?” she asked innocently. I told her that I'd never owned a gun before.

She took my papers and handed me the gun test, which consisted of 20 multiple-choice questions covering the laws in D.C. While there were two ridiculously difficult questions about some obscure facets of the regulations — one about antique guns — the rest were easy after mandatory four hours of study.

Check, sawed-off shotguns are illegal here. It was easy to remember that there's no right to bear arms in the nation's capital - not open carry and certainly not concealed carry.

If I transport my gun, I need to put both the gun and ammunition in the trunk. Since I have an SUV, the gun has to be inside a locked container in the far back and separate from the ammunition. (I don't understand where I should then put the ammunition. It has to be in a separate location, out of reach, but specifically not in the glove compartment or console. I'll figure that out when I want to take it to shoot outside the city limits to shoot.)

It is illegal to possess ammunition that is not the same caliber as my registered gun. It's also illegal to buy ammunition in the city unless from a licensed firearms dealer, and our only dealer, Mr. Sykes doesn't sell it. I'm not sure how or where to get ammo for my gun.

I have to keep my registration certificate with me at all times if I have my gun. (It would be easier to do this if it came in a card-size for my wallet instead of a large paper form. I will just have to put the certificate next to the gun to remember to take with me when I leave the city.) Also, if anyone under the age of 18 could gain access to my gun, I have to have it in a locked box or carry it on me at all times.

“MOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE”

I checked all the boxes on the test, only to be handed more forms to sign. I only skimmed the “Background Investigation release form” and the “Notification of fingerprinting services fee” because I was drowning in paper.

SIGWhile I was sitting out of sight behind the counter filling out the papers, I overheard a phone conversation with Officer Hall and a District resident who was clearly frustrated with the gun registration process.

The police officer was trying to calm the person down, but clearly

having the opposite effect. “Some states are even tougher than D.C. - California I believe,” he told the caller. I wanted to yell out, but held my tongue. I kept writing my name while Officer Hall continued to politely listen to the caller and answer his questions, but ceded no ground regarding the difficulty of the process.

After he hung up, he said to the woman in the office, “I always say, ‘When in Rome, do what the Romans do. And if you don't like Rome, move somewhere else.’”

I was appalled. I stood up and held out the forms. “All done, now what?” I yelled out.

“You passed your test,” the woman told me. “You got one wrong, so that's a 95 percent. Good job.” I confirmed that the question I got wrong was about the antique guns.

BACK TO THE DMV TO PAY MORE FEES

Officer Hall handed me a slip of multi-sheet paper. “Here are your fees. Take it to room 1157 and pay this and bring back the receipt to get your fingerprints done. The forms checked off the box for \$35 for fingerprints, \$13 for gun registration, \$12 for ballistics.

Once again, I walked around the building to the DMV and got in line with everyone else there to pay parking tickets. After getting through the first line, I got in another line for the cashier, but there was no one at the desk.

After ten minutes, I asked the teller next to the empty desk if anyone was working there. She said he was on break and would be back “soon.”

Others were mumbling, looking around irritably, pacing. Finally I found someone who looked to be a manager. I told her the problem. She went to the back, and suddenly a man appeared at his desk to take our money. When it was my turn, I handed him the paper and \$60 in cash (the DMV also doesn't take credit cards or checks) and got my receipt for payment.

For the third time in one day, I headed back to the police department. Entering the registry office at 4:30pm, I was worried that they wouldn't finish the process with the office hours ending soon. As I was still the only person in the office, Officer Hall knew where I was in the process. “Got the receipt now?” he asked. I handed him the yellow paper, and he told me to follow him into the back of the office.

FINGERPRINTS AND “COOL DOWN LAW”

In the back of the office, past the Keurig coffee maker and the police jacket on a hook, was a computer with a foot pedal. Officer Hall held my right thumb onto the computer and slid it side-to-side until my thumbprint was clear on the screen.

The machine dinged “good print” and he tapped the foot pedal and held my right index finger to the screen. We did this for all my fingers plus all four fingers at once. I thought, if I ever commit a crime, they sure will find me now.

Back at the front, they went through my papers. “Do you have your passport photos?” the woman asked.

Oh no, I thought, they aren't going to accept my application. I apologized and explained I'd forgotten to take them. Officer Hall, to my surprise, said it was okay to just bring the photos “next time.”

So what's next?

“Now we have the ‘Cool Down Law’” said the police officer. “You have ten days for us to approve your registration.”

I'd been working on getting a gun for months. If I cooled down any further, my body would be frozen in suspended animation like Walt Disney.

He paused, and I thought we were finished. “But If you have your receipt and it shows you bought your gun earlier, we can count those days to the cool down,” said Officer Hall. Now I know why Mr. Sykes gave me the receipt instead of leaving it in the box. I showed it to him.

“Says here you bought it on Monday, so that means your period ends, the 26th, 27th...” As he counted out the days in the month, I wondered what he would do if I'd let the gun sit in Mr. Sykes office for two weeks and then handed him the receipt. Would Officer Hall have to approve my registration on the spot?

“February 3rd,” he said. “So you have eight days. You can call on the 2nd and find out if we approved your registration, but don't come back until the 3rd.”

At a little before 5pm, I left police headquarters with less paper, but no gun. Frankly the seven days left of cooling off is just getting me more fired up about D.C.'s gun-control laws.

January 23, 2012

Transferring a gun into D.C.

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

I bought my new 9mm Sig Sauer from a dealer in Virginia and needed to get it into the District. When it comes to firearms, a distance of 70 miles might as well be thousands of miles across international borders.

There is no open-carry right in the nation's capital. It is against the law to possess a firearm in a public space unless traveling directly to or from a lawful, firearm-related activity, such as registering, hunting, shooting with it at a practice range. So a D.C. resident must use the city's one legal gun dealer, Charles Sykes, to physically transfer the gun into the city.

Mr. Sykes works about four hours a day to handle transferring the few hundred new guns registered each year. He charges the same transfer fee - \$125 - whether he picks up your gun at a local store or he receives it in the mail. Either way, he holds the gun until you can provide the certified registration certificate.

His business is located inside the same building as Metropolitan Police Department, which is convenient for residents, though inconvenient when it comes time to mail the gun. The U.S. postal service does not deliver to the police headquarters in D.C. Mr. Sykes, therefore, recommends guns be sent to him via UPS or FedEx, so that the guns are "passing through as few hands as possible."

I bought my gun from Mark Attanasio of Immortal Arms in Culpep-

er Virginia. When I made the purchase on the phone, the dealer offered to deliver the gun to Mr. Sykes. I had a feeling that he couldn't do that, but he believed that his Federal Firearms License (FFL) would suffice.

After sorting through the D.C. gun laws, Mr. Attanasio called me back. "I'm a FFL licensed dealer and I can't drive it into the city to Sykes, another licensed dealer," he told me, astounded. "But I can send it to him and pass through who-knows-how-many unlicensed hands." I'm watching first-hand how gun-control restrictions aren't based on common sense.

Mr. Attanasio was supposed to switch the standard 13-round magazine in my gun for a D.C.-legal, 10-round one and convert to E2 grips. Then he sent the gun to Mr. Sykes through UPS. It cost \$43 to ship the short distance because guns have to be sent overnight delivery and require "adult signature."

After my gun gets to Mr. Sykes, I still need to pass a written test, get paper work filled out and signed, get approved for the registration and endure a 10-day waiting period. It is illegal for Mr. Sykes to release the gun to me before all of these steps have been completed.

I wondered what would happen if I didn't pass the registration requirements? I paid \$781 for a gun and, generally, such purchases are non-refundable. Mr. Sykes has seen this happen before.

"Registration is not 100 percent. The FBI may say yes, but D.C. says

no. Or D.C. says yes, and the FBI says no," the long-time gun dealer explained. "I just send it back to where it came from. Then it's up to you to work it out to get your money. But I'll tell you, the average company is not going to want to talk about returning a gun that's been out of their possession for three or four months."

When I first went to the gun registry office and was told about the written test on the laws, I asked the officer what happens to the gun if you don't pass the test. "That doesn't happen very often," she said. "And we let you take it over once without paying." This was not very reassuring. So if you fail anywhere along the line in the registration process, you're out hundreds of dollars and the right to keep arms.

I put a lot of thought and effort into making sure my purchase was exactly what I wanted for another reason. You are stuck with what you picked as long as you live in the city.

The law in D.C. says you can't pawn a gun or sell to anyone who isn't a licensed dealer. That sounds like standard practice until you realize that the only licensed gun dealer in the city is Charles Sykes, and he doesn't buy and sell. He only transfers. If you buy a gun in this town, there's no returns or exchanges. So you better be sure you will like it.

January 24, 2012

Emily got her gun!

By Emily Miller, Senior Editor for Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

I finally got my gun in Washington, D.C. I brought it home today from the District's firearms' registry office.

After months of aggravation, hundreds of dollars in fees, countless hours jumping over hurdles, I am now a gun owner and finally exercising my second amendment right to keep arms (bearing arms is still illegal in the nation's capital).

When I first started the "Emily Gets Her Gun" series, I thought I would be waiting in long lines and filling out lots of paperwork. I never could have imagined that the D.C. gun laws made it so unearthly difficult to get a legal handgun. However, I also never could have believed that this newspaper series would encourage change in Washington's gun laws.

The bad guys buy guns off the street in five minutes, and the city has no record of the transaction. Law-abiding citizens have to take a five-hour class that is only taught outside of the District, pay \$465 in fees, sign six forms, pass a written test on gun laws, get fingerprinted, be subject to a police ballistics test and take days off work.

Five minutes and no fees for an illegal gun. Weeks and almost \$500 in fees for a legal gun. Which option do you think most people in this city are choosing?

Of course, I went the legal route and this final day at Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) headquarters was as much a pointless waste of my time and city resources as the other days spent in this registration process.

After the 10-day waiting period ended, I called the registry office and was told that my application was approved. I made an appointment for 11 a.m. on Wednesday with the city's only legal gun dealer, Charles Sykes, to give him the approved form. I took the Metro and went to MPD headquarters a half hour early in order to pick up the forms. Like every other time I have been there, I was the only citizen in the registry office.

"Hi Officer Brown," I said with much friendliness, knowing this will probably be the last time I have to talk to her. "I'm Emily Miller. I'm here to pick up my gun registration."

"Did you bring your two passport photos?" she asked. As not many people are registering their guns, the officers seem to know the exact status of each application. I handed over the \$20 worth of photos. In a new law proposed by Phil Mendelson, chairman of the D.C. council's Judiciary Committee, the police will be required to take our photos on site, like it is done at the DMV.

"Sign this," she said pushing a piece of paper over the desk that came up to my chest. It was a form that said that, under the 2008 law, the MPD "has initiated an Expiration Date for all registrations approved as of June 21, 2010." She had filled in the block to say that my gun registration expires on February 2, 2015.

As I've documented, this law also stated that anyone who registered a handgun or a long gun since 1976 would have to renew their registra-

tion by Jan. 31, 2012. It also says that the police have to send out re-registration reminders to those estimated 60,000 gun owners in D.C. by December 31, 2011.

The MPD did not send out the reminders, but all these legal gun owners are now in violation of the gun laws. I have asked the police department for more information on what gun owners should do and will report more when I get any information.

I signed the expiration date form, then I waited about 15 minutes. Officer Brown came back to the desk with the application, with the top white sheet ripped off and my photo stapled to the yellow copy. "Is this my certificate?" I asked. "Do I have to carry all these papers with my gun?"

Officer Harper answered. "Just this top sheet. But if you want to add photos to the other pink sheets, you can use that too." I thought, this flimsy piece of paper is ridiculous. It should be a laminated card that can go in your wallet.

I sat back down and waited. And waited. About ten minutes passed and the phone rang. Officer Brown answered it. When she hung up, she said, "Officer Harper called from Mr. Sykes's office. He's waiting for you."

"He didn't tell me he was leaving, or that I was supposed to go with him," I said. She looked neutral. I grabbed my papers and headed down one floor to the gun dealer's office next to where you pay the DMV for parking tickets.

Officer Harper was sitting in a chair while Mr. Sykes was on the phone explaining the registration process to a potential gun owner. Most first time buyers use him as their resource in navigating the system. Over the past few months, I learned more about the process from Mr. Sykes than from MPD. Plus, he offers his customers beef jerky, twizzlers and a bottle of cold water from a small refrigerator.

Mr. Sykes took my registration certificate and filled out some forms. He pulled my gun out of the Sig Sauer gun box and told me to check the serial number against the one on his form. I loved holding my gun, just for a moment. The new E2 grips on it really make it fit well in my hand.

Then Officer Harper took my gun and put it in a black envelope. "What exactly do you do with it now?" I asked.

"We take a photo of it. Then we shoot two rounds and keep those as like "fingerprints" for the gun," he said. I'd heard from a D.C. gun owners that he believes his pistol was shot up to 50 rounds during the test. And another resident thought the police broke his gun. None of these people have filed a report, so I was interested in following up on the rumor.

How long does the test take? "Twenty or thirty minutes," said Officer Harper. Can I watch? "No." Can I listen? "Not unless you have super power hearing." Is it done in the basement? "Yes."

With that, he left. I thanked Mr. Sykes for getting me from the girl who thought carry permits were legal in D.C. to an actual gun owner. Back to the registry office, all was still quiet. Office Brown looked to be

doing paper work. True to his word, Officer Harper was back in a short time with my gun. I reached out to check it before leaving, and Officer Brown startled.

"Not out here, you can't. Come to the back of the office," she said leading me about 30 feet away from the door. I can understand this precaution. If I was walking by a D.C. government office and saw someone pull out a full-sized 9mm and rack a gun, I'd probably scream.

In the back, there was this metal container at a 45 degree angle to the floor and about knee high. She told me to hold the gun inside the metal thing and then rack it. I did and the gun looked fine.

Back out front, I had to show that the gun was being taken home in a locked box. I pulled the gun lock provided with my new Sig out and looped it through the handles. I put the key in my bag. As soon as I did, Officer Brown took it away from me. She wrapped the box in a brown plastic bag and walked out the door. She didn't say why, so I just followed.

People coming through the magnetometers at the police station stared as Officer Brown carried my gun box in front of her like she was passing a tray of hors d'oeuvres. After she went through the turn stiles, she handed me the box. I thanked her.

I pushed open the glass doors of the police department for the last time. Outside, I held my gun above my head out of absolute delight. Victory! I'm now a gun owner.

It is against the law in D.C. to have a gun in an open space. One exception is taking your gun to and from the registry office and then in a locked box or back pack. Since there's no parking around the police station, I always take the Metro, which is what we call the subway in D.C.

I told Officer Harper that I was going home by Metro, and asked if that was a problem. "Nope, how you get home is up to you," he answered. So I took my black Sig box and headed down to the turnstiles. I put the card through, and passed with my gun. The train came quickly, and I jumped on it.

I was a little worried about being robbed, so I sat down with my black box on my lap, holding it close. One woman stared at the lock on the box, but it seemed more out of curiosity, as if wondering if I was carrying diamonds or CIA secrets.

I then took my gun straight home, where I have been practicing my stance in front of the mirror. I love my gun.

Now, this series is far from over. As I've found, the hurdles placed before gun owners do not end here. I need to figure out the laws on getting ammunition and transporting the gun to a state that allows practice shooting.

Most of all, I intend to keep pushing the Council of the District of Columbia to rewrite the its laws to make them fair and constitutional for law-abiding Americans.

February 8, 2012

“...the **Right of The People** to Keep and Bear Arms **Shall Not** be Infringed.”

– Bill of Rights, SECOND AMENDMENT
The Constitution of the United States

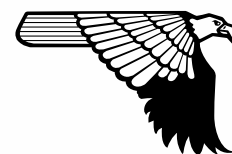


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