

# WOMEN, GUNS

## & THE SHOOTING SPORTS



**The Washington Times**

Commemorative Section

*The 2014 NRA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis*



# NRA & Women

## Growing the shooting sports together

By David Keene

The National Rifle Association of America has grown since its founding in 1871 to more than five million members and is known to the man and woman on the street as the nation's chief defender of the Second Amendment.

The NRA is that, of course, but it is much more. Until the 1970s, in fact, the NRA didn't lobby, employ lobbyists or endorse candidates. For nearly a century it was involved in running competitive firearms matches, training international competitors, providing safety training to shooters and hunters in this country and working with young people interested in the shooting sports.

It wasn't until the beginnings of what political analysts have come to call the "culture wars" in the late 1960s that the right to bear arms became controversial and those hostile to the Second Amendment began a serious campaign to limit or ban the right of Americans to own firearms and engage in the shooting sports. NRA members had a choice. They could remain silent as their counterparts had in countries whose citizens had lost the right to own firearms or had them severely restricted or they could organize and fight back.

The NRA then, as today, was made up of Americans from all walks of life and political persuasions. Democrats, Republicans, veterans, law enforcement officers, factory owners, union members, farmers and small business



David Keene

owners stood up and made the NRA into the political force that it remains today, but in doing so neither they nor the NRA leadership ever forgot that they were fighting the political wars into which they had been dragged not for their own sake, but to allow their members and millions of other members to not only own firearms, but to continue to use and enjoy them.

As a result, even today most of what the NRA does has nothing to do with politics or advocacy, but with the original mission of the association. There are NRA programs to provide safety training for young people; NRA instructors work with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4H shooting clubs around the country to teach young people firearms safety and to welcome them to the shooting sports. There are today more than 90,000 NRA certified firearms instructors engaged in safety, shooting and self-defense training. The NRA continues to run and manage the most prestigious competitive shooting matches in the country and works with state and local governments as well as with private shooting clubs to make sure there are safe ranges available to anyone who wants to use them.

In recent years these efforts have made firearms ownership safer and more widespread than at any time in US history. At one time, most NRA members and gun owners were men who had begun hunting with their fathers or grandfathers as boys or veterans who learned how to handle guns in service of their country. But that has changed. Today the NRA ranks are growing as more and more women join and become active in the shooting sports.

We celebrate some of these women in this paper today and recognize that they represent millions of others. Women who take to the field and often bring home more impressive trophies than anyone; women who first buy a firearm for self-protection and eventually get involved in competitive shooting or end up hunting with their sons and daughters.

These women have reshaped the shooting sports. They've made their way to the top ranks of the competitive world. Some of them are international big-game hunters, more hunt waterfowl and deer in this country and even more are as well trained and capable of handling firearms to protect themselves and their families as the men who have traditionally been seen in that role. And all of them are having fun.

*David Keene, Opinion Editor of The Washington Times, is the former president of the NRA and remains on the organization's board.*



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# Education overcomes fear

By Gabby Franco SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES



As a child, I was known for being a drama queen. I was an emotional little girl, not the strongest in town and not a good eater. I was tiny. On the other hand, I was active. My parents tried to keep me and my youngest sister involved in sports and other extracurricular activities. I was introduced to swimming, gymnastics, volleyball, dancing and modeling, but nothing caught my complete attention until my dad took me to the shooting range for the first time. It was different. I wanted to try it, but a year had to pass before my dad allowed me to shoot. I was 11.

After five years of fun, training and competition, I was an Olympic shooting athlete. My firearms were an air pistol, which I shot at 10 meters, and a .22LR, which I used to shoot at 25 meters. The best weapon I had, however, was the combination of knowledge and discipline I learned from this sport, which led me to be one of the strongest shooters in Venezuela.

My adolescent life was filled with the following:

#### **Safety and Common Sense:**

I was taught that my pistols could hurt me and others; therefore, I must be careful while training. There were rules I had to follow and common sense I had to learn: Never hurt others; and my pistols are not toys.

#### **Responsibility:**

I was allowed to bring my pistols home to dry fire, which I did every day for one hour after doing my school homework and before going to sleep. My pistols were never shown to any of my friends. It was prohibited, and the reason was obvious: My pistols were not toys.

#### **Mediocrity Is Not Rewarded:**

I never received a consolation award nor a participation ribbon. Sometimes I won and sometimes I lost, and that was the rule of life. From an early age, I learned that my goal as a target shooter was to hit the bull's-eye every single time. Even though it was difficult, I was taught to always try hard to reach my goal.

My parents, my coaches and the shooting sports made me who I am today. In shooting, I learned to never give up and to always look for success — to go for the bull's-eye. I learned that I am the only one responsible for my actions and that I need to visualize in order to succeed. As the one who pulls the trigger, I must always shoot my best.

# GUN

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# NRA 2014

## NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

April 25-27, 2014 ★ Indianapolis, IN  
Indiana Convention Center

With over 600 exhibitors covering over 400,000 square feet of exhibit hall space, educational seminars, celebrities, and fun filled special events, bring the whole family- there will be something for everyone! Spend the day exploring the products from every major firearm company in the country, book the hunt of a lifetime in the exclusive outfitter section, and view priceless collections of firearms in the gun collector area. You'll also see knives, wildlife art, shooting accessories, hunting gear, ATV's, and much more!

<b>NRA Gun Gurus</b>	<b>Thursday, April 24</b>
<b>National Foundation Banquet and Auction</b>	<b>Thursday, April 24</b>
<b>NRA-ILA Leadership Forum</b>	<b>Friday, April 25</b>
<b>NRA Country Jam IV</b>	<b>Friday, April 25</b>
<b>NRA-ILA DINNER and Auction</b>	<b>Friday, April 25</b>
<b>17th Annual National Firearms Law Seminar</b>	<b>Friday, April 25</b>
<b>8th Annual NRA Women's Leadership Forum Luncheon and Auction</b>	<b>Friday, April 25</b>
<b>Annual Meeting of the Members</b>	<b>Saturday, April 26</b>
<b>Stand and Fight Rally</b>	<b>Saturday, April 26</b>
<b>National Prayer Breakfast</b>	<b>Sunday, April 27</b>
<b>1st Annual NRA Women's New Energy Breakfast</b>	<b>Sunday, April 27</b>
<b>NRA Youth Day</b>	<b>Sunday, April 27</b>

### Attendee Information

Exhibit Hall Hours:  
Friday, April 25 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday, April 26 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sunday, April 27 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Registration Hours:  
Thursday, April 24 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Friday, April 25 8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday, April 26 8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sunday, April 27 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



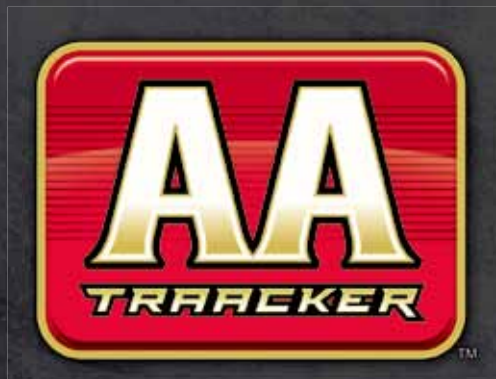


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SOMETHING THAT’S TAKEN ME  
**THIRTY YEARS AND  
2 MILLION ROUNDS**  
TO DEVELOP.”

*Richard Rhode*

**Richard Rhode**

*Father and Coach of 5-time Medalist, Kim Rhode*



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“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, Jessie Duff co-hosts 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, as well as my dad and some other accomplished shooters.

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 fact that the technology that has gone into firearms is 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!





**GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA**

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## Michael Bloomberg is late to the party with his anti-gun push

By Michael Hammond

(CNN) -- Like a 3-year-old who thinks he's just discovered the wheel, billionaire Michael Bloomberg is reveling over his startling new gun control tool: the grass roots.

This is where it hurts to be the neophyte on the block.

Bloomberg: We will fight the NRA with common sense

In the 1980s, when "handgun control" was at its prime, its objective was to compete with the Second Amendment movement in organizing the grass roots.

When "handgun control" become politically incorrect, the reformulated Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence pronounced that its objective was to match pro-gunner's formidable grass-roots efforts with its own.

Michael Hammond  
Michael Hammond

In fact, efforts in 2013 to pass Obama's gun control policies were fueled by perhaps the biggest "grass-roots" organization that the "left" has mustered: Obama's "Organizing for America."

Yet, this effort, too, fell short.

It's not for lack of trying that gun control has failed. Nor is it for lack of arrogance. In fact, Bloomberg, who just announced that he will drop \$50 million on so-called "gun safety" efforts, showed the arrogance of a dilettante breezing into a New York restaurant by proclaiming he doesn't need God's permission to enter heaven.

Said Bloomberg: "If there is a God, when I get to heaven, I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close."

(Beware anyone who thought they would be enjoying "Big Gulps" in the afterlife.)

But Bloomberg's "arrogance of wealth" may be precisely his downfall. Gun owners are smarter than Bloomberg.

In 2013, after the Newtown incident, our members were more than capable of reading Bloomberg's duplicitous background check legislation and understanding what it actually did: open a back door to gun registration.

Gun owners also watched, incredulously, when Bloomberg's minions cheered New York and Connecticut's massive gun bans and gun registration requirements -- only to deny, in Washington, that they supported either of these things.

Furthermore, gun owners understand that they have everything on the line. They understand that, in places such as New York City, the government has been sending letters demanding the confiscation of guns in violation of a 2010 city ordinance.

And they understand that, for them, this is more than a "billionaire hobby" like a yacht or private plane.

Gun owners are not hypocrites. They resent it when Bloomberg insists on his 17-man armed security detail for himself while denying them the right to protect themselves or their families.



So my message to Bloomberg is this: Spend it all. Spend all of it.

Bloomberg's hatred and hypocrisy has only energized our people, who have enacted 70 pro-gun state laws since Newtown -- twice the number of Bloomberg anti-gun laws that have been enacted around the country.

Let billionaire Bloomberg sweep into Alaska and Arkansas and pretend he can buy the people in those states. He will only energize other gun groups who will be forced to oppose red state Democrats.

And the prospects of a sweeping Republican victory will be even greater.

Join Gun Owners of America at [www.gunowners.org](http://www.gunowners.org)

## 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. ”

W

NE 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.



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*Olympic shotgun gold medalist Kim Rhode is the only American athlete to ever win an individual medal in five consecutive Olympic games.*

FIRST PERSON

# KIM RHODE

**A**fter winning gold at the 2012 Olympics in skeet, and after watching the American flag raised and hearing the U.S. National Anthem, I was tossed into a whirlwind of media. One interview, for me, pointed out an all-too-common misunderstanding some have with guns. CNN's Piers Morgan referenced the murders in the movie theater in Aurora, Colo., and asked me, "As someone who's a professional marksman, what do you think about the whole debate that's raging again about gun control and so on?"

**"You don't hear NASCAR drivers interviewed about drunk driving deaths. So why do they have to link gun owners to criminals?"**

I answered that it saddens me, and my heart goes out to the victims and their families. But then I told him it's troubling to me that the news so often

blurs the lines between what bad guys do with guns and what we do as a sport, because really, the sport of shooting is about responsibility, discipline and focus—that's what I represent. I don't know why an Olympic athlete who just won a gold medal with her shotgun has to answer questions about an evil act committed by a troubled individual.

According to the FBI, baseball bats and other blunt objects are among the most used weapons in violent crimes. Yet you don't see the MLB batting champion interviewed about people being hurt or killed with a bat. You don't hear NASCAR drivers interviewed about drunk driving deaths. So why do they have to link gun owners to criminals?

Most people who own guns don't see their shotguns, rifles and handguns in the negative way Morgan and some others see them. Like me, they go to ranges with friends and family to

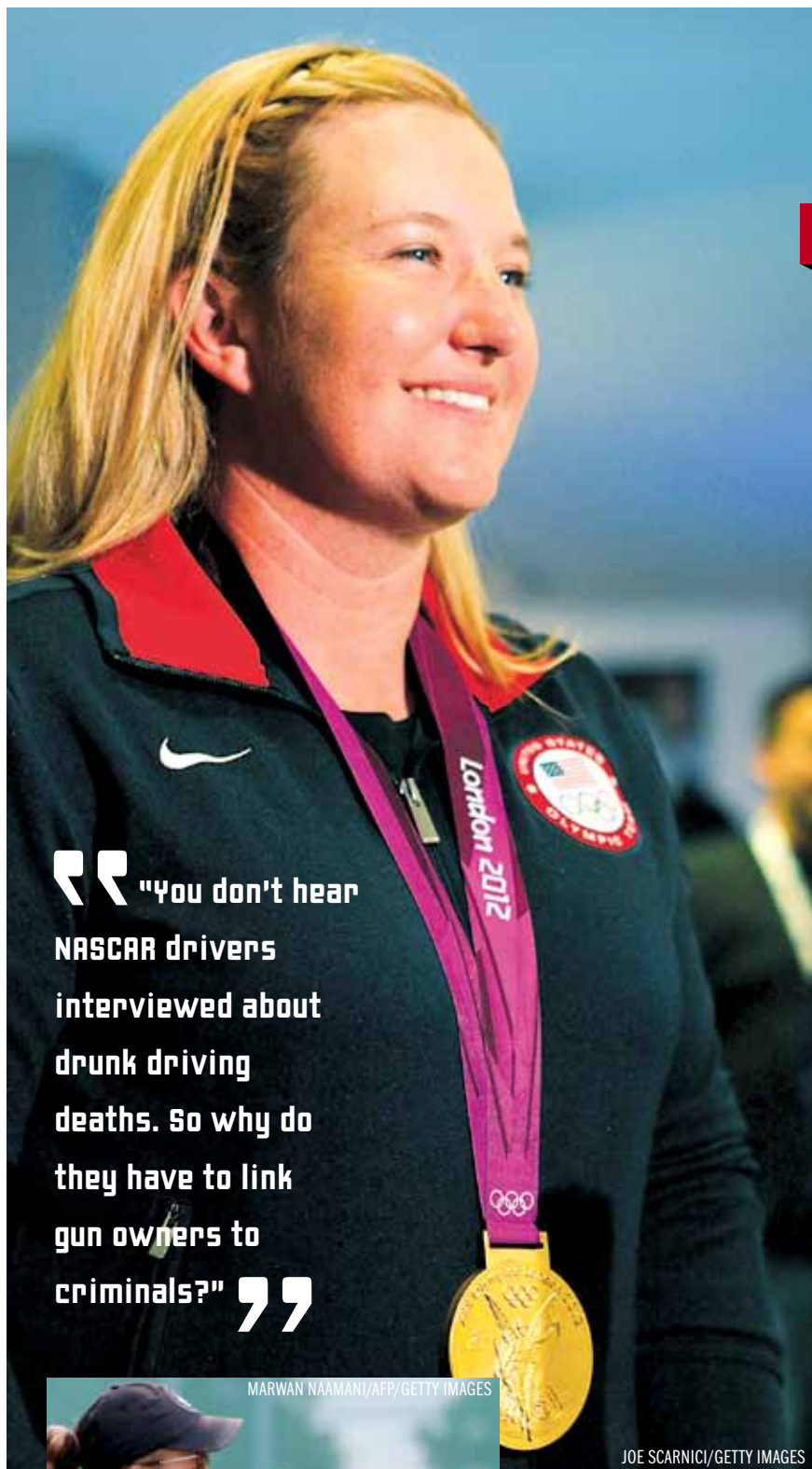
shoot, have fun and compete. Also, like I do, they enjoy hunting and the outdoors.

I would like to see journalists do more to show the positive side of shooting and gun ownership. They should come to some of the youths' or women's events where I volunteer. Reporters could meet kids who are earning scholarships for their education through shooting programs like the Scholastic Clay Target Program. These events host thousands of kids. (To find an event near you go to: [www.shootsctp.org/teams.aspx](http://www.shootsctp.org/teams.aspx)).

The media could also highlight the charity programs assisted by shooters, like the Kids and Clays Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars for the Ronald McDonald Houses around the nation. And they should do articles on how much money and time the NRA has spent educating more than 26 million children in all 50 states on gun safety through its Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program. This is good, wholesome stuff.

I benefited from NRA shooting programs, too. In fact, a lot of people helped me get where I am. I couldn't have made it to five Olympics, let alone medaled in five, without support and guidance from so many. That's what learning to shoot teaches people.

I believe strongly in the right to keep and bear arms. I'm a Life member of the NRA. Right now I'm eight months pregnant, and my baby is going to get a Life membership right away. Meanwhile, I'm still shooting and trying to become better. I hope I'll have the chance to represent my great country in another Olympics.



MARWAN NAAMANI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

JOE SCARNICI/GETTY IMAGES





# NATALIE FOSTER

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

## FIRST PERSON

**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.”



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“ FIREARMS HAVE RICH STORIES TO TELL ABOUT MANUFACTURERS, CONSUMERS AND USERS—AND THEIR OVERALL ROLE IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE. ”

FIRST PERSON

*For firearms resident Ashley Hlebinsky, guns tell a valuable story about the history of America. And she seeks to educate the public through museum display.*

**D**ESPITE HAVING A FASCINATION with firearms, I didn't grow up around guns. My career aspiration as recently as 10 years ago was to be a surgeon. It was a Civil War medicine tour in Gettysburg, Pa., that so greatly altered my career path. The tour guide spoke of the evolution of firearms and artillery from the American Revolution to the Civil War, and how those technologies impacted the role of medicine during the war.

For me, the tour contextualized firearms as a larger part of American history, and

after that I was hooked. I completed an internship at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Museum in my hometown of Pittsburgh, cataloging a range of military arms. While there, I encountered a .577-caliber Enfield rifle used by George Allison of the 149th PA Volunteer Infantry, hailing from the wilds of Pennsylvania and otherwise known as the Bucktails. Carved into the stock of the Enfield were 23 battle names, including Gettysburg, fought by Allison and his company of esteemed marksmen. This artifact captivated me, and helped me understand the person who used it.

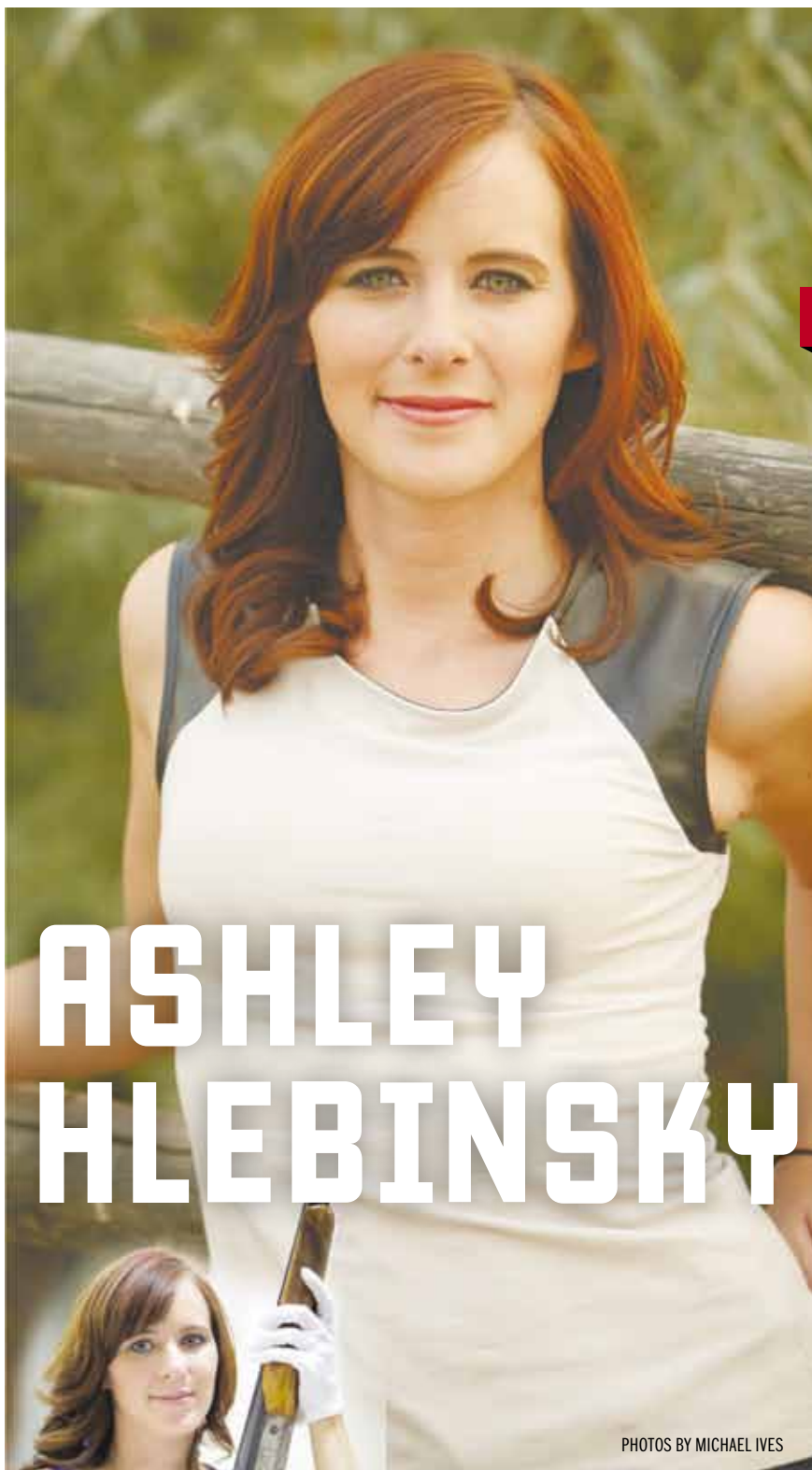
These sorts of experiences sparked my passion to understand and appreciate firearms for their technological innovation, aesthetic value and the stories they reveal about people, as well as their use. After my internship, I completed an NRA First Steps course and began target shooting recreationally. This hands-on study, combined with my historical research, prepared me for my next internship, this time with the Smithsonian Institution's National Firearms Collection in Washington, D.C.

I have continued throughout my career to study not only

the objects, but the stories they capture. As a member of the curatorial staff of the Cody Firearms Museum, I conduct research on firearms within the collection and write articles about them for publication. The Cody Museum, part of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, houses one of the largest, most comprehensive collections of American firearms in the world. Since its inception in 1917, it has grown to more than 7,000 historically significant firearms.

Firearms have rich stories to tell about manufacturers, consumers and users—and their overall role in American history and culture. For example, I own several modern handguns as well as a few antique firearms, including a Springfield Model 1861. I really love the Springfield because it was given to me by a family friend who found it in the walls of a house when he was growing up. The gun was in pieces, including a broken stock. I worked with a firearms curator in Pittsburgh to repair the gun for him, and when I was finished, he gave me the firearm to keep.

As a museum professional with a specialty in the history of firearms in American culture, I use objects to educate the public, and use stories to lend a unique perspective to the interpretation of firearms throughout history. It is not my desire to draw conclusions about these stories. Instead, I want to provide a learning environment for enthusiasts, novices and those with apprehension toward firearms to come together in amiable discussion.

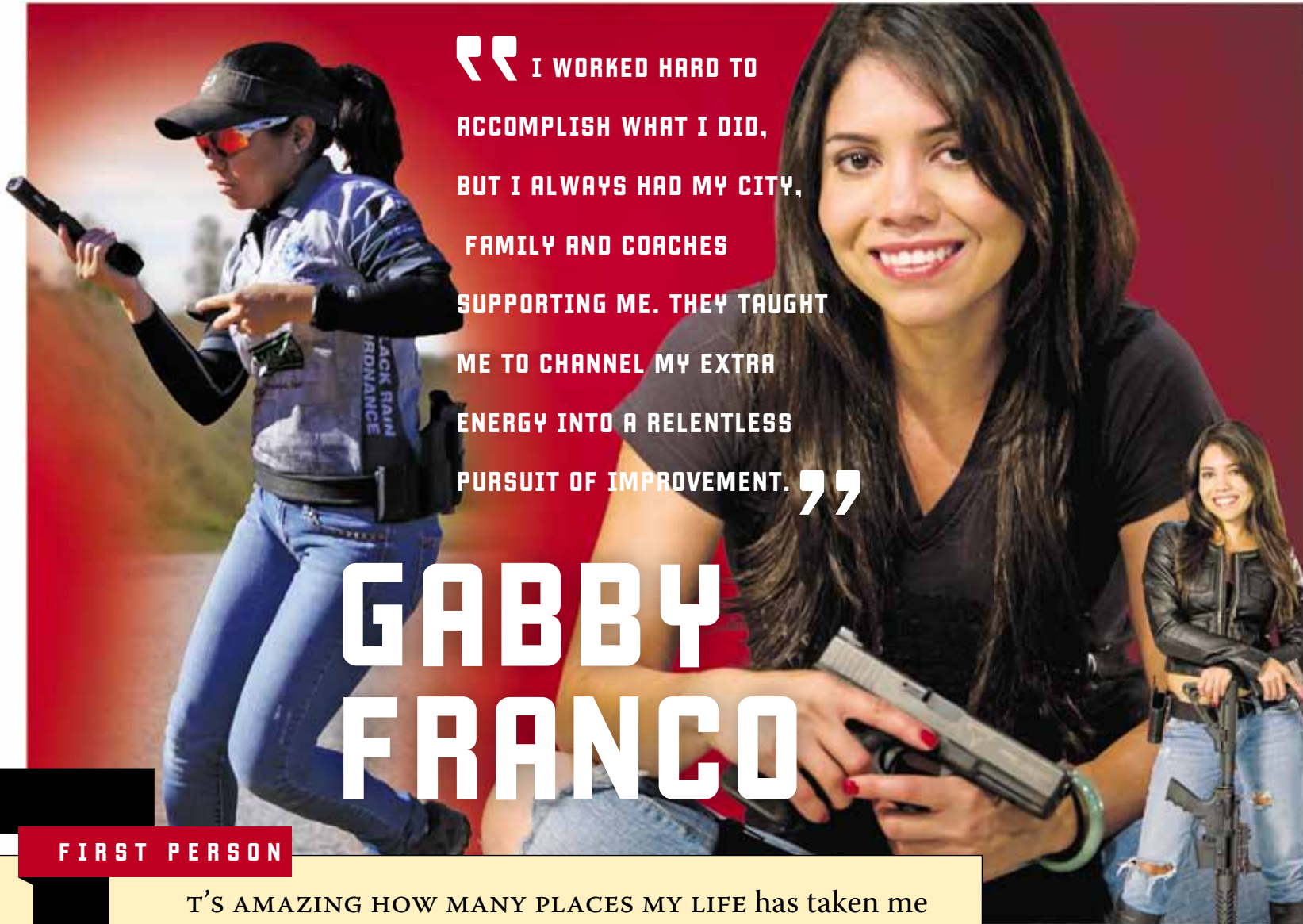


# ASHLEY HLEBINSKY



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL IVES





“ I WORKED HARD TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT I DID, BUT I ALWAYS HAD MY CITY, FAMILY AND COACHES SUPPORTING ME. THEY TAUGHT ME TO CHANNEL MY EXTRA ENERGY INTO A RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF IMPROVEMENT. ”

# GABBY FRANCO

## FIRST PERSON

**I**T'S AMAZING HOW MANY PLACES MY LIFE has taken me since I started shooting. Growing up in Venezuela, I was very hyperactive, so my parents were always trying to find new things for me to focus on. When I was 11, my father went to the range for his concealed carry permit, and when he noticed there was a junior shooting team, he signed my sisters and me up to learn to shoot.

At first, it was scary—but I soon became addicted to the challenge. Hitting a bullseye once was easy. Hitting one 40 times in a row? Not so much!

I was soon training several hours a day, six days a week. In 1999, when I was 18, I qualified for the Pan American games. Taking home the silver medal was one of the happiest moments of my life—not only because I knew I had shot well, but because it earned me the chance to compete in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

I didn't win a medal in Sydney, but it was an amazing experience. It was also a bit overwhelming. I was the first woman to ever shoot for Venezuela, and representing myself, my entire country and all female shooters was stressful. But I'm still amazed I had the opportunity to go. I was able to train for years doing something I loved, and became one of

the best in the world. I earned an experience not everybody can have, and that's more valuable than anything to me.

Shooting against the top competitors from each country taught me a lot, and I was able to use that knowledge in later competitions. Over a five-year period, I competed in 14 different countries and earned more than a dozen international titles. For several years, I was the Venezuela National Champion, and when I went to the South American Games in Brazil, I brought home three gold medals.

I worked hard to accomplish what I did, but I always had my city, family and coaches supporting me. They taught me to channel my extra energy into a relentless pursuit of improvement. They taught me to shut out distractions, to conquer my fears and to always keep going.

Awhile after I moved to the United States, I

went through a difficult time. I lost my job and missed my family in Venezuela. I remember thinking, "What can I do? What do I have that I can share with others?" I thought about my experiences at the Olympics and everything I'd learned in competition, and decided to become a firearms instructor.

Since then, life hasn't slowed down. I'm able to make a living teaching shooting and giving classes and seminars all over the U.S. I've even written a shooting manual, and am working on another.

I've also focused on staying sharp. I am very active in USPSA, and had the chance to compete in two different seasons of the television show "Top Shot." I never thought I'd be able to do something like that, but I did, and wound up becoming one of the longest-lasting female contestants in the show's history.

I've got my eyes on representing the U.S. in the 2020 or 2024 Olympics. But regardless of what happens, I'll know I've pushed myself to do my best and never stopped learning the lessons that the shooting sports can teach.

“ THE DESIGNER AND ARTIST IN ME IS ENAMORED WITH THE TRUE FORM AND FUNCTION OF THE FIREARM AS AN OBJECT OF PRECISION ENGINEERING AND FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP. ”

*Mother and shooting instructor Tatiana Whitlock longs for the day when she goes to a training class and finds as many women as men on the firing line.*

# TATIANA WHITLOCK

PHOTOS BY FAIRLANCE MEDIA

FIRST PERSON

**M**

Y JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF FIREARMS began two years ago at a Women on Target® clinic in southern Maine. I was hooked from the first shot, and joined a rod and gun club the very same week.

As a mother of two with a lifelong interest in martial arts and a background in fine art and industrial design, it was a curious experience discovering which facet of the shooting sports would be the right fit for me. Although competitive shooting looked exciting and cowboy action looked like fun, the desire to protect my family and myself is what has focused my training efforts and led me down a more “tactical” path. What began as a recreational hobby has evolved into a new career in the firearms industry as an instructor, dedicated student and product developer.

My initial Women on Target experience was such a positive one that I volunteered as a coach at clinics after that. With over 400 hours of formal training under my belt and a strong desire to share a positive, safe and motivational first shooting experience with other women, I became an NRA Basic Pistol instructor, range safety

officer and a Refuse to be a Victim® instructor.

The vast majority of the women I train, and train with, are interested in learning to shoot for personal protection. The gun itself tends to be what initiates a conversation about how to make lifestyle choices and changes to better prepare and prevent them from becoming the victim of an attack. The gun is both the first step toward empowering women to take action to protect themselves and the last resort should they have to do so.

A desire to learn more (and let’s face it, to spend as much time at the range as possible) has led me across the country to train with exceptional instructors and alongside some extraordinary individuals. From basic pistol, to advanced carbine, to home defense shoot-house courses, I leave with a realization of both how much I have learned and how much more there is to learn! The only disappointing part of

each class is that, to date, I have been the only woman in attendance.

The designer and artist in me is enamored with the true form and function of the firearm as an object of precision engineering and fine craftsmanship. The physical and mental challenges involved in training appeal to the athlete in me. And as a mother, I take the safety and well-being of my family seriously, and know that in a worst-case scenario the first responder on the scene is—me.

Through extensive training, I’m striving to become a better, safer, more well-rounded marksman and member of society. One of these days I hope to fly out to a class and discover as many women on the firing line as there are men. It is truly my hope that by sharing my story, continuing to expand my own knowledge base, and teaching as much as possible, I can encourage more women to go beyond the basics.



“ THERE'S SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT BEING OUTDOORS, AND EACH TRIP IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE. ”



### LIVING LIFE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

A dedicated mother of two, Haley Heath is also an avid hunter, pro staffer, television show host and NRA Life Member.

# HALEY HEATH

FIRST PERSON

*Avid hunter Haley Heath is a Remington spokeswoman, Realtree pro staffer, Bushnell field staffer, creator of the Haley Heath line of women-specific Buck Knives, and co-host of both the “Ultimate Hunt” television program and “The Outfitters” presented by Ford F-Series on the Sportsman Channel.*

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**B**orn into a family of hunters, my love of hunting started at an early age. I took my first deer at the age of 6—a basket-rack seven pointer. Now, I have traveled the globe, hunting all kinds of game.

Throughout my childhood, my mother would often go with me in the woods. Seeing her passion for the outdoors showed me it was OK for women to enjoy hunting, just as it was passed down to her. There is a special bond shared as you enjoy the outdoors and participate in a family tradition that has been passed down generation after generation.

As a mother of two, I have long dreamed of my children sharing the love of the outdoors and hunting just like I do. Since hunting is part of my

career, I have never forced my children to hunt; instead I decided to teach them all of the reasons why I love it, and all of the safety rules for the equipment I use. My son, Gunner, immediately loved being in the outdoors and wanted to learn to shoot. He took his first deer with a crossbow, and has never looked back.

Dakota, our youngest, is a complete girlie-girl. While she loves going out and climbing in the blind with me, she doesn't care for camouflage, nor does she like being very quiet! Not long ago,

she passed the Ten Commandments of Gun Safety test I have given both of my children. At this point, Dakota asked if she, too, could try for her first deer.

For the next 11 months, Dakota chose to spend much of her spare time at target practice. We looked for an appropriate rifle, selecting a Remington R-15—an AR-15 variant. She practiced right up until the week of Halloween 2012. After four days of hunting, Dakota's moment finally came on Halloween night. She spotted a mature buck and waited until it was stopped broadside. With a well-placed shot, Dakota took her first deer!

Gunner has also grown extremely fond of the R-15. Last season he took three great bucks with it in multiple states—a true accomplishment for any hunter! It was truly a great moment for me to see this tradition passed down to my children, but the excitement, emotion and passion that Dakota, a new young female hunter, showed after she got her buck was unbelievable!

For me, hunting isn't all about taking the best trophy; it's about the memories that come with each hunt and sharing those memories with others. There is something magical about being outdoors, and each trip is a unique experience. Whether my children grow into adulthood with a continued passion for hunting or not, I want them to understand what I do, and what has been a huge part of our family for generations.

Quite frankly, it's more than a hobby or job to me—it's a lifestyle.



“ MY PARENTS TELL A STORY ABOUT A TIME WE WERE AT A RESTAURANT WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD. I WANTED A 'REFILL' FOR MY DRINK, BUT INSTEAD ASKED THE WAITRESS FOR A 'RELOAD.' ”

Nineteen-year-old **LENA MICULEK** was born at the shooting range, grew up there and now makes her living there. That's why America's shooting heritage—and our freedom to practice that heritage—are so important to her.



LENA MICULEK PHOTOS BY YAMIL SUED

# LENA MICULEK

FIRST PERSON

YOU MIGHT KNOW ME FROM my appearances on “3-Gun Nation TV” or from my work on one of the top firearms-related YouTube channels, Miculek.com.

More than likely, though, you recognize me as being the daughter of Jerry Miculek—one of the fastest, most recognized professional shooters in the industry.

But my family connection to the firearms industry goes even deeper. My grandfather, Jim Clark Sr., founded Clark Custom Guns in 1950 and was a pioneer in the 1911 gunsmithing business. He was also the first civilian to ever win the NRA National Pistol Championship, in 1958. My mom, Kay Clark Miculek, worked in her father's gun shop, owned a retail gun store, has a competitive shooting career that has spanned more than 20 years, and has won dozens of national and world shooting titles.

When my mom and dad married in 1992, they bought a range together and soon took residence there. I was born on the Shootout Range, on Shootout Lane, in 1995.

Being literally born on a range and traveling to dozens of shooting competitions each year with my parents, you can imagine that my formative years were greatly influenced by the shooting community. My parents tell a story about a time we were at a restaurant when I

was 5 years old. I wanted a “refill” of my drink, but instead asked the waitress for a “reload.”

I participated in my first major competition, the Sportsman's Team Challenge, at the age of 8—about the same time I developed a passion for bird hunting. I won my first World Title at the IPSC Shotgun World Championships in Hungary in 2012. My primary focus in the competitive shooting world is now multi-gun competitions, where I shoot a S&W M&P15 rifle (AR-15 style), a S&W M&P9 pistol, and my father's signature Mossberg JM 930 shotgun.

After winning each 3-Gun Nation Women's Pro series match last year, I defended my title as 3-Gun Lady Champion in January in Las Vegas. Every year, I travel approximately 180 days to participate in shooting competitions, make appearances at trade shows, perform shooting demonstrations and teach firearms classes.

Shooting has given me the opportunity to travel all over the world and really makes

me appreciate the freedoms that American shooters enjoy as a result of the Second Amendment. In many countries, because of very restrictive laws and exorbitant prices, the shooting sports are available only to a privileged few.

As a freedom-loving American, I am very concerned about the mainstream media's negative image of law-abiding gun owners. They can't seem to tell the difference between the gun culture and the criminal culture, which are two very different things.

In truth, the American gun culture is made up of my friends, my family and me. As a Life member of the NRA and a member of what has been described as the “First Family of Shooting,” I am committed to not only promoting the shooting sports, but also educating the general public about why responsible firearms ownership is crucial to the freedom of this country.



“I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT HUNTING HAS DEVELOPED ME INTO THE YOUNG WOMAN THAT I AM TODAY. THE CONNECTION I FEEL WITH NATURE WHILE HUNTING IS INDESCRIBABLE.”



# MATTI WARREN

FIRST PERSON



*17-year-old Matti Warren is a Texas high school student, avid hunter and strong Second Amendment supporter who began testifying before the Texas legislature on Second Amendment legislation when she was 12.*

@MATTIWARR

Growing up I always wanted to play with the boys—dig holes, practice shooting and do anything else my big brother did, because I wanted to be just like him. Our parents instilled in us the rules of gun safety at a young age and taught us about the sport they love. My brother and I learned that hunting was not all about the trophy: The stories we heard in the blind about the good old days, the venison we shared with all of our friends, and the relationships we developed with our parents were far more important.

I can confidently say that hunting has developed me into the young woman that I am today. The connection I feel with nature while hunting is indescribable. Everything makes sense out there, and I am filled with gratitude for the life that I have been given. Needless to say, hunting and shooting have become my passion.

I first testified before the Texas Legislature at the age of 12, supporting a Second Amendment measure that would help get new hunters involved in the sport. After I delivered my speech, I knew that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I set a goal that day to do everything in my power to protect the Second Amendment so that I can teach anyone who wants to learn about the Second Amendment

why it is important and how to safely exercise the right to keep and bear arms.

I am now working to someday have a career defending our freedoms as a lobbyist for the National Rifle Association. I continually travel to the capitol to testify on legislation. I strongly believe that it is our duty to voice our opinions and to represent gun enthusiasts in an effective manner, and testifying at the legislature is an important way to do that.

With the help of my supportive parents and the *Friends of NRA*, I have introduced countless kids and their parents to shooting. A couple of months ago, we had about 50 people at our family ranch to learn all about basic gun safety. We also taught them how to use different types of firearms in case they are ever in a situation

where they need to use one.

The best part of sharing my passion for the Second Amendment is watching my friends' faces light up as they experience shooting a gun for the first time. The simple laughter that comes from shooting a jug of water with a shotgun for the first time, unloading their first shotgun shell and smelling that oh-so-familiar scent of burned gun powder for the first time makes me happy that they had the chance to experience what I so strongly cherish.

I encourage everyone I know to become an NRA member to support the only organization that continually protects our Second Amendment rights. The constant battle NRA fights for our freedom allows us the simple pleasures of going shooting at the range, hunting at the family lease and having the protection we need for our family.

I am extremely hopeful and excited for my future with the NRA as a lobbyist, and I urge all hunters and gun lovers to introduce someone to our sports. Teach the uninformed about the Second Amendment, because chances are they are eager to learn. Pass down these freedoms to your children because, as President Ronald Reagan once said: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

# 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 <sub>2</sub>	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 <sub>3</sub>	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Arizona	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Arkansas	—	RTC <sub>3</sub>	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
California	X <sub>1</sub>	—	10 <sub>5</sub>	10 <sub>5,6</sub>	X <sub>10,11</sub>	—	X <sub>12</sub>	X <sub>13</sub>	X
Colorado	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Connecticut	X <sub>1</sub>	—	14 <sub>5,6</sub>	14 <sub>5,6</sub>	X <sub>9,11</sub>	—	—	X <sub>13</sub>	X
Delaware	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	3 <sub>6</sub>	—	—	—	—	—	X
Georgia	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Hawaii	X <sub>1</sub>	P, RTC	—	—	X <sub>9,11</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>12</sub>	X <sub>12</sub>	—
Idaho	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Illinois	X <sub>1,7</sub>	—	3	2	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>14</sub>	X <sub>14</sub>	X
Indiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Iowa	—	P, RTC	—	—	X <sub>9</sub>	—	—	—	X
Kansas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Kentucky	—	RTC <sub>3</sub>	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Louisiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Maine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Maryland	X <sub>1</sub>	—	7 <sub>5</sub>	7 <sub>4,5</sub>	X <sub>10,11</sub>	—	—	—	X
Massachusetts	X <sub>1,7</sub>	—	—	—	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	—	—	X
Michigan	—	P, RTC	—	—	X <sub>9,11</sub>	—	X	—	X
Minnesota	—	—	7 <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	—	—	X
Mississippi	—	RTC <sub>3</sub>	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Missouri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Montana	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Nebraska	—	P	—	—	X	—	X <sub>7</sub>	—	X
Nevada	—	RTC	7	—	—	—	X <sub>7</sub>	—	X
New Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
New Jersey	X <sub>1</sub>	—	—	—	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	—	X <sub>13</sub>	X
New Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
New York	X <sub>1</sub>	—	—	—	X <sub>9,11</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	X	X <sub>15</sub>	X
North Carolina	—	P, RTC	—	—	X <sub>9</sub>	—	—	—	X
North Dakota	—	RTC <sub>3</sub>	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Ohio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Oklahoma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Oregon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Pennsylvania	—	—	—	—	X <sub>9</sub>	—	—	—	X
Rhode Island	—	—	7 <sub>5</sub>	7 <sub>5</sub>	X <sub>11</sub>	—	—	—	X
South Carolina	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
South Dakota	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Tennessee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Texas	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Utah	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Virginia	X <sub>1</sub>	—	—	—	X <sub>10</sub>	—	—	—	X
Washington	—	—	5 <sub>8</sub>	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Wisconsin	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	X
Wyoming	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
District of Columbia	X <sub>1</sub>	—	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 harassment.

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 <sub>18</sub>	TR	—	—	X
Alaska	R <sub>16</sub>	—	OR	—	X	X
Arizona	R <sub>16</sub>	—	OR	—	X	X
Arkansas	R	19	CR	—	—	X
California	L	X <sub>20</sub>	N	—	—	X
Colorado	R	X <sub>21</sub>	TR	—	—	X <sub>21</sub>
Connecticut	M	X	N	—	—	X <sub>23</sub>
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 <sub>24</sub>
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 <sub>23</sub>
Michigan	R	X <sub>18</sub>	OR	—	—	X
Minnesota	R	X <sub>18</sub>	CR	—	X	X
Mississippi	R	—	TR	—	X	X
Missouri	R	—	OR	—	—	X
Montana	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Nebraska	R	—	TR	—	—	X
Nevada	R	—	CR	—	—	X <sub>23</sub>
New Hampshire	R	—	TR	—	—	X
New Jersey	L	X	N	X	—	X <sub>23</sub>
New Mexico	R	—	CR	—	—	X
New York	L	X	N	X	—	X <sub>23</sub>
North Carolina	R	—	TR	—	—	X
North Dakota	R	X <sub>20</sub>	TR	—	—	X
Ohio	R	17	CR	—	—	X
Oklahoma	R	X <sub>20</sub>	OR	—	X	X
Oregon	R	—	N	—	—	X
Pennsylvania	R	X <sub>18</sub>	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 <sub>20</sub>	OR	—	X	X
Vermont	R <sub>16</sub>	19	OR	—	—	X
Virginia	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Washington	R	X <sub>22</sub>	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.



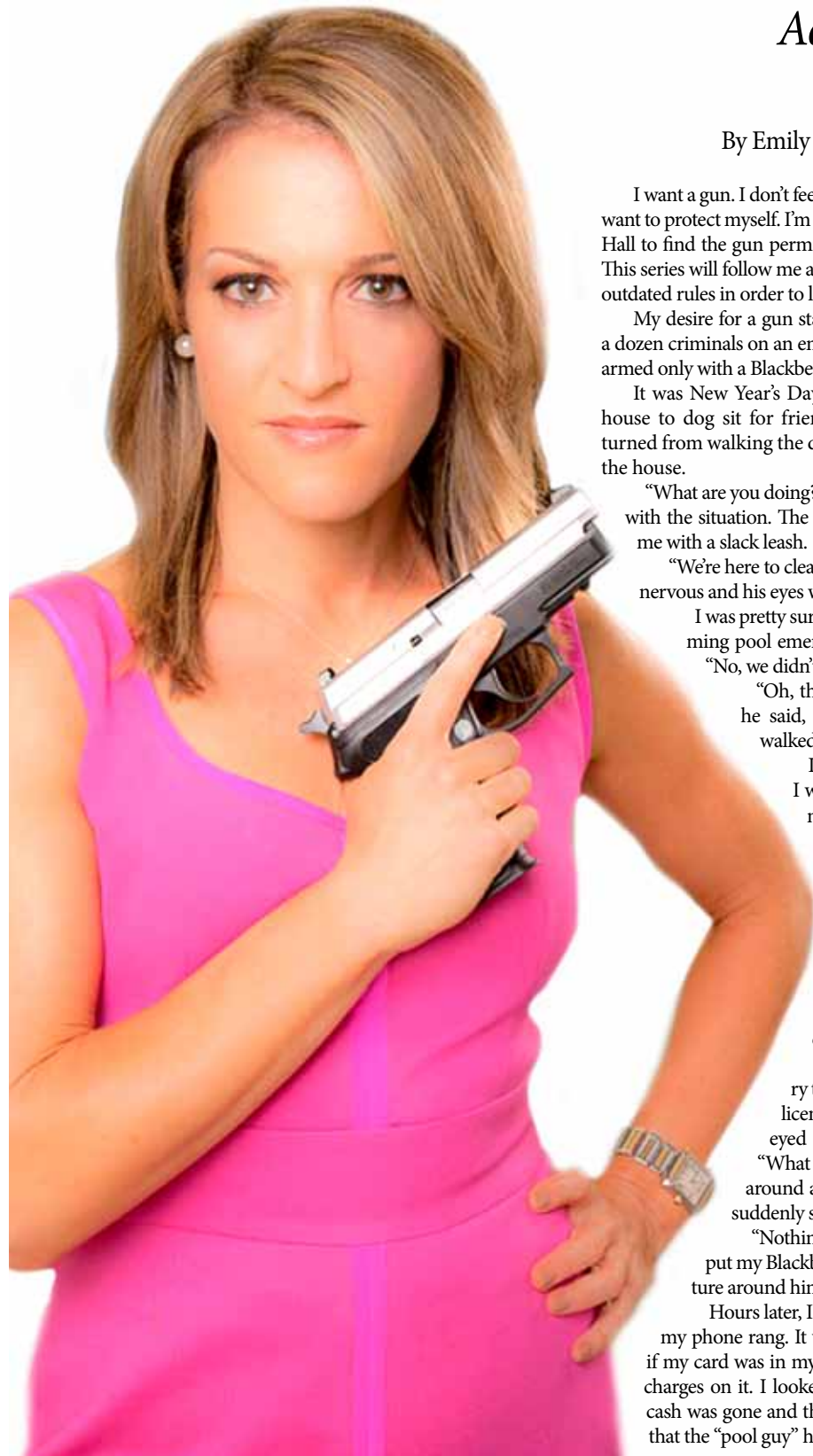
# “EMILY GETS HER GUN”

was a series following journalist Emily Miller as she legally tried to get her hands on a gun in the nation's capital.



## Emily gets her gun *Acquiring personal protection requires steely resolve in dicey District*

By Emily Miller, Former Senior Editor of Opinion, THE WASHINGTON TIMES



I want a gun. I don't feel safe living in Washington, D.C. and want to protect myself. I'm starting today by going down to City Hall to find the gun permit office to tell them, "I want a gun." This series will follow me as I navigate the city bureaucracy and outdated rules in order to legally buy a firearm.

My desire for a gun started when I had to face down over a dozen criminals on an empty cul de sac in Washington, D.C., armed only with a Blackberry.

It was New Year's Day 2010, and I'd been staying in the house to dog sit for friends who were on vacation. I'd returned from walking the dog when I saw a man coming from the house.

"What are you doing?" I asked, sensing something was off with the situation. The Golden Retriever just stood next to me with a slack leash.

"We're here to clean the pool," the man said. He looked nervous and his eyes were blood-shot.

I was pretty sure my friends hadn't called in a swimming pool emergency during the middle of winter. "No, we didn't call for you," I said.

"Oh, then it must be the house next door," he said, smiling nervously. He turned and walked away quickly.

I'd left the front door unlocked since I was walking the dog for less than ten minutes. (I know, lesson learned.)

After the man left, I was still suspicious so I went inside, grabbed my Blackberry and clicked on the icon for the camera. I walked down the street, and as I turned the corner, I saw about 15 scruffy young men standing around two pickup trucks. We were at the end of a woody, dead-end road.

I nervously held up my Blackberry to take a quick photo of them and the license plates. Suddenly, the blood-shot-eyed guy darted out, blocking the shot. "What are you doing?" he asked. I looked around at all the men staring at me and was suddenly scared.

"Nothing, I'm um, just going now," I said as I put my Blackberry down instead of taking the picture around him and went home.

Hours later, I was at a New Year's Day party when my phone rang. It was my credit card company asking if my card was in my possession because there were odd charges on it. I looked at my wallet and saw that all my cash was gone and the cards. It suddenly dawned on me that the "pool guy" had been inside the house.

I called 911 and the D.C. police met me at the house. When they heard the story, they called in a detective. I got a long lecture about facing down criminals alone. They searched the big house top-to-bottom to look for windows or doors left unlocked by the bad guys to come back for more. Now I was scared. I had promised to watch my friend's dog, which meant I was spending the night.

I was alone in an empty house with a useless dog. I spent the night in the master bedroom with a dresser pushed up against the inside of the door. I didn't sleep much. I kept thinking how safer I would feel if I had a gun next to the bed.

The next day, I took to Twitter to ask about how to get a gun. The replies were disappointing: "No 2nd amend in D.C." "Only one guy can sell weapons in DC- good luck with that." "Call the NRA." I knew that the Supreme Court had recently overturned the Washington's gun ban, so I didn't understand why gun owners were so down on my idea. My friends came back the next day, but I still wondered why I couldn't get a gun.

The following summer, D.C. mayoral candidate and then-city council Chairman Vincent Gray was at my neighborhood picnic. I approached Mr. Gray as he was glad-handing in the basketball courts and told him that I wanted two things: to stop the parking ticket assault in this city and a gun.

His smile faded. "A what?" he asked, leaning down to hear me.

"A GUN. I want a gun." I said emphatically. "I don't know what's going on in this city, but apparently no one is listening to the Supreme Court."

"Well, um, Emily is it? Let me introduce you to my campaign chairman," Mr. Gray said, leading me away toward a guy with a clipboard. That would be the politician's equivalent of "talk to the hand." Mr. Gray went on to be elected mayor of D.C.

Recently, current city council chairman Kwame Brown came to The Washington Times for a roundtable interview. After he'd been asked about the budget, lottery, ethics and education, I raised my hand. "Can I ask you about guns in DC?"

"You say guns?" the chairman asked.

"Guns," I replied as I held up both of my hands in the shape of a handgun, like they do in "Charlie's Angels."

"Oh you used both your fingers," Mr. Brown said, laughing. "You're a shooter, you use both of them."

I didn't laugh with him. "Well, I'm trying to get a gun," I said.

"You're trying to get a gun?" he repeated.

This is not going to be easy.

I want a gun to protect myself, but it seems my city government officials may work against me. There's only one way to find out if that's the case and that's by going through all the hoops. To find out how Emily's journey turned out go to [washingtontimes.com/staff/emily-miller/](http://washingtontimes.com/staff/emily-miller/).

October 6, 2011

“...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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