

The Firearms Rights Newsletter for All South Carolinians!

GrassRoots South Carolina

P.O. Box 6383
Columbia, South Carolina 29260
Internet: <http://www.scfirearms.org>



Summer, 2000

Vol.4 No.2

GrassRoots wants to hear your voice!

GrassRoots' gun rights reform bill, H4797, was killed by representatives who added their names as cosponsors and voted for the bill, but not until after they killed it. If you listen to what they say, you will think they are our friends. If you look at what they did, you know they are not our friends. Look beneath the political spin and judge these legislators on what they really did. See Legislative Report on H4797 this issue.

Now is the time to find out how your elected representative voted and worked on Bill of Rights issues. Don't just take their word for it. Look at what they did, not what they say they did. Now is the time to let your elected representatives know how you feel about SC gun rights laws. Tell them you want them to support the GrassRoots' proposed gun rights law reforms.

GrassRoots is ready to push forward with more gun rights law reforms. GrassRoots wants sponsors for our legislation from all across SC. Let us know if your elected representatives will sponsor needed gun rights law reforms so we can contact them and get our legislation pre-filed in November.

GrassRoots wants to hear from you. Let us know which SC gun laws you want reformed. GrassRoots will be pushing those reforms supported by GrassRoots members. A full report on the GrassRoots proposed gun rights law reforms will be published in our Fall newsletter, and on the GrassRoots web site.

REST AREAS – ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK

South Carolina state tourism officials want to post signs at our borders telling people rest areas are dangerous. This is their "solution" to the assaults and murders taking place at rest areas along our interstate highways. AAA Carolinas is issuing warnings to people who call for SC travel advice. This sounds like a joke, but it's not.

State officials are just now realizing what the good people have known for a long time. Rest areas are dangerous places. Just in Sumter County alone, there were five holdups of seven people in four months. Two victims were beaten, one with a hammer. These attacks even occur in broad daylight.

The root problem is SC law makes it a felony to carry a firearm into a rest area, even in your glove box, even if you have a CWP. Other laws make it virtually impossible to carry loaded firearms across state lines without violating some law. Thus, most interstate travelers do not carry firearms. Criminals know this. That is why criminals pick rest areas to rob people. Criminals know the good people will be disarmed.

GrassRoots has a solution, and it won't cost the state a single penny. Let the good people of this country carry firearms to protect themselves from the bad people. Research proves criminals will cross state lines to go to a state where there are no CWP's to commit violent crimes before staying in their own state, if their own state has CWP's. Criminals are bad people, not stupid people. Criminals like to stay alive, and many will change their ways before endangering their own lives.

"Gun Free" zones are not gun free. They are restricted self defense zones. They are victim disarmament zones. They attract criminals looking for easy prey. The solution is to empower good people by letting them protect themselves and others.

GrassRoots proposes gun law reforms to allow good people to carry firearms into rest area buildings. Contact your legislators and ask them to sponsor this GrassRoots legislation. If they say yes, let us know and we will contact them and send them a copy of the reforms. Remember, GrassRoots' power comes from all of us working together! <end>

GrassRoots South Carolina
P.O. Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260
Fax: 803-755-1201
<http://www.scfirearms.org>

Modeled after similar organizations in other states, GrassRoots South Carolina is a South Carolina 501(c)4 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens who have chosen to obtain concealed weapons permits. Our objectives are to improve all aspects of lawful ownership and carrying of firearms in South Carolina.

GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc. is registered as a Lobbyist's Principal in South Carolina and employs lobbyists to promote or oppose legislation concerning CWP holders and the RKBA in South Carolina.

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Note: The GrassRoots South Carolina Newsletter is distributed quarterly to the membership of GrassRoots. Publication is in January, April, July, and October with articles for publication due by the 15th of the preceding month.

Regarding CWP Reciprocity...

As of July 5, 2000: South Carolina recognizes permits from AR, WY, UT, and TN. South Carolina CWP holders may legally carry in AK, AR, TN, ID, IN, KY, MI, WY, OK, UT, and VT. Remember to contact these states prior to visiting to determine their laws regarding CWP.

Inside this Issue:

Letters from the Editor's Desk:

- *Regarding CWP Renewals*
- *D.C. Shooting Comments*
- *Merchant Gives CWP Discount*
- *Farewell to S&W*
- *Posted Businesses Become Targets*
- *For the Children*
- *Carrying in Churches - Readers Respond*
- *Much, much more!*

GrassRoots Leadership Report:

- *U.S. Liberty Leadership*
- *What makes GrassRoots?*
- *Staying in Touch with Members*

The GrassRoots Don't Carry List:

- *Businesses that Post Against CWP Holders*

Articles of the Month:

- *Airborne Express Won't Ship Firearms*
- *Gun Dealers Make CitiBank Backdown*
- *Social Hygiene of Gun Control*
- *Educating an Armed Citizenry*

Legislative Update:

- *Why CWP Reform Failed*

GrassRoots Instructors':

- *Change in Instructor Reporting*
- *3 Boys, 2 Rifles, 1 Cop*
- *Benefits of Becoming a GrassRoots Instructor*

GrassRoots Volunteers in Action:

- *GrassRoots Volunteers in Your Community*
- *Tactics That Work*

Fact:

As of July 5, 2000 there are 27,530 (includes pending applications) CWP holders in South Carolina! (22,795 men and 4,735 women) All deemed law-abiding citizens by their county, state, and the FBI! ***Congratulations!***

Visit GrassRoots's Internet Site:

<http://www.scfirearms.org>

Sponsored By:


"The Logical Network Service Provider"

GrassRoots In Action

Mid-Carolina Annual Picnic

All GrassRoots members were cordially invited to attend the second amendment extravaganza at the Mid-Carolina Rifle Clubs annual picnic. For those able to attend in was fantastic! GrassRoots leaders and members enjoyed placing faces



with names. Not to mention what an honor it was to attend dinner and the picnic with Jeff Cooper!



GrassRoots Member Wins Pistol Raffle - The winning number for the Jeff Cooper 1911 raffle is: 2593!

GrassRoots member Richard Stephens won the 1911 pistol, worn by Col. Cooper during his stay in South Carolina!

Richard is a SC CWP holder and member of GrassRoots of South Carolina and lives near Florence, South Carolina. He came by 5/25/2000 and picked up his little bit of history.

He had bought a \$100 ticket

with 75 numbers on it.

Besides the pistol, he received a glass fronted case with brass plaque that reads "DVC - Jeff Cooper", a Certificate of Authenticity signed by Col. Cooper and a box of the Hornady .45 ACP ammo Col. Cooper prefers to carry.

On receiving the pistol, Richard's comments are as follows:

"I'd like to thank you, Ed and all the staff and members of the Mid Carolina Rifle Club and Grass Roots, not only for this fine pistol I won (it's a beaut!), but for the other things you are doing for the entire shooting community. Thanks for caring enough to provide a range where families can practice shooting sports. Thanks for the MCRC open house and bringing guests like Jeff Cooper to town. Thanks for your lobbying efforts to remedy the SC code's firearms problems. Thanks for your other efforts that support the Second Amendment, such as your bus trip to the NRA Convention in

Charlotte. Thanks for your effective work in bringing all those

'No CWP' signs down. Keep up the great work!"

Sincerely,
Richard Stephens

Col. Cooper took the pistol to Africa in hopes of carrying it there and maybe taking some game with it. However, the Swiss seized the pistol when Col. Cooper changed planes in Zurich.

We finally got the pistol back 5/24/2000 after Michel Roethlisberger, a policeman and GunSite instructor who lives in Switzerland was able to break it away from customs.

Col. Cooper drew the winning numbers Sunday evening (5/21/2000) in Charlotte. I took 10 .45ACP cartridges and wrote the numbers 0-9 on them. Put them in hotel ice bucket and shook them up. As Col. Cooper picked each number I took another .45ACP cartridge and wrote the number (2, 5, 9, and 3) on it, set it down and put the original numbered .45ACP back in the bucket.



Worked pretty well actually. It was late Sunday evening so it was just Col. Cooper, his wife Janelle as a witness, and myself.

We sold \$2366 worth of tickets. The cost of the gun, engraving and refinishing, case, shipping back from Switzerland, ticket printing, etc. was about \$1350. So MCRC netted maybe \$1000 on the raffle.

GrassRoots In Action

My thanks to all those who bought tickets. It helped pay for the expense of bringing the Cooper's to South Carolina and having them at our Open House and Family Picnic.

Again, our congratulations (and super envy) to Richard Stephens!

New SC Firearms Events Calendar

You are invited to visit and participate in a new offering to all clubs, shooting sports organizations, and second amendment groups. It's the South Carolina Firearms Events Calendar and it's located at:
<http://www.calsnet.com/scfirearms>

Anyone may post events related to events in South Carolina. It's easy and the calendar allows reoccurring events to be automatically entered well into the future based on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th weekend of month, etc. Also, feel free to link to the calendar from your homepage! Enjoy!

Chartered Bus to NRA Convention

We chartered a bus up to the NRA convention in Charlotte last month and had a fantastic time there. By the time we got back participants were already being told that the Heston speech was national news. And we were there - 50 feet away!

We started our day in Charlotte by marching in the Gun Owners Solidarity March hosted by our sister organization in North Carolina - GRNC.



If you didn't get a chance to ride the bus with us to the convention we hope you will consider attending a future event with us. We'll keep our eyes open for more chances to accommodate GrassRoots members by providing invitations and transportation to exciting events.

GrassRoots Press Releases

GrassRoots has started sending Press Releases to the media concerning the increased incidence of robberies and other crimes at places that post against concealed carry. Many of you know that two Piggly Wiggly stores in the midlands were the criminals' choice last month. We sent Press Releases out to all major media in the midlands regarding these events. We also worked a gun show in Columbia passing out information warning people to NOT shop at Piggly Wiggly Corporate stores where they are placing themselves and their families in danger.

Recently a posted Waffle House was robbed at gunpoint. Here's our press release:

Regarding: Waffle House Robbery
From: GrassRoots of South Carolina, Inc.,
Contact: Ed Kelleher, President,
803-796-8858 EJKelleher@aol.com
Title: "More Guns, Less Crime"

Background: A (posted NO CWP) Waffle house in St. Andrews, Columbia was the scene of an armed robbery yesterday morning. Two women, one armed with a .38 caliber revolver, entered the diner and demanded cash. They were apprehended by law enforcement approximately one hour later. (Didn't those women see that "no firearms allowed" sign outside the restaurant? They weren't supposed to rob the Waffle House...it isn't allowed.)

GrassRoots Position: This crime, with serious potential for tragedy, might well have been prevented. The Waffle House is posted against concealed carry, which tells criminals that its patrons are easy victims.

Criminals single out merchants like Waffle House because they know customers there would be unable to resist criminal assault. But those of us who

take personal responsibility for our own safety and the safety of our loved ones must surely stop and think whether we want to expose ourselves to an increased risk of assault by shopping with merchants which attract criminal activity.

By posting a sign preventing legally licensed and trained citizens from carrying their concealed firearms in their store, Waffle House declared their premises to be, "Gun Free!" and consequently much safer for the perpetrators of crime. GrassRoots believes that the perpetrators of violent crime are deterred by the knowledge that armed citizens might be



present. Conversely, places that prohibit firearms to law abiding citizens are ATTRACTIVE to criminals. John Lott, professor of law and economics at the University of Chicago has published a book, More Guns, Less Crime, (ISBN 0-226-49363-6) that proves we're correct.

Since 1996 over 24,000 South Carolinians have obtained Concealed Weapon Permits. To date, only one has been revoked for improper use of a firearm. People with CWP's are among the most law abiding of citizens. They are NOT the problem.

Businesses that discriminate against CWP holders are advertising they are a

GrassRoots In Action

safe place for criminals to ply their trade. Grass Roots of South Carolina is an organization of South Carolina citizens that have chosen to legally carry concealed firearms. The goal of GrassRoots is to let good citizens carry concealed firearms whenever and wherever they choose in South Carolina.

Information for Waffle House Restaurants:
Waffle Houses Corporation
5986 Financial Drive
Norcross, GA 30071
(770) 729-5700

GrassRoots Moves!

Note Our New Postal Address:
GrassRoots South Carolina
P.O. Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260

Piggly Wiggly Press Release

Date: May 30, 2000

Regarding: Lexington Carjacking

From: GrassRoots of South Carolina, Inc.,
Contact: Ed Kelleher, President, 803-796-8858 EJKelleher@aol.com

Title: "More Guns, Less Crime"

Background: The State Newspaper reported today that the carjacking which ended with Eric Maurice "E.J." Jones of West Columbia being fatally shot and killed occurred in the parking lot of a Piggly Wiggly grocery store on Emanuel Church Road.

GrassRoots Position: This crime, with serious potential for tragedy, might well have been prevented. The Piggly Wiggly has been posted against concealed carry, which tells the world that its patrons are easy victims. Food Lion, across the street from the Piggly Wiggly, respects citizens right of self-defense, and does not post.

We will probably never know if deceased carjacker Eric Maurice "E.J." Jones of West Columbia intentionally singled out the Piggly Wiggly parking lot because he thought customers there would be unable to resist his criminal assault. But those of us who take personal responsibility for our own safety and the safety of our loved ones must surely stop and think whether we want to

expose ourselves to an increased risk of assault by shopping at stores which attract criminal activity.

By posting a sign preventing legally licensed and trained citizens from carrying their concealed firearms in their store, Piggly Wiggly declared their premises to

correct.

Since 1996 over 26,000 South Carolinians have obtained Concealed Weapon Permits. To date, one has been revoked for improper use of a firearm. People with CWP's are among the most law abiding of citizens. They are NOT the problem.

Businesses that discriminate against CWP holders are advertising they are a safe place for criminals to ply their trade. Grass Roots of South Carolina is an organization of South Carolina citizens that have chosen to legally carry concealed firearms. The goal of GrassRoots is to let good citizens carry concealed firearms whenever and wherever they choose in South Carolina. Info for Piggly Wiggly Corporate-owned stores: Mr. Larry Wright, President Piggly Wiggly
1991 Corporate Drive
Memphis, TN 38132
mrpig@pigglywiggly.com



be, "Gun Free!" and consequently much safer for the perpetrators of crime.

GrassRoots believes that the perpetrators of violent crime are deterred by the knowledge that armed citizens might be present. Conversely, places that prohibit firearms to law abiding citizens are ATTRACTIVE to criminals.

John Lott, professor of law and economics at the University of Chicago has published a book, More Guns, Less Crime, (ISBN 0-226-49363-6) that proves we're



GrassRoots Leadership Report

The world is looking to the US for Liberty Leadership By Ed Kelleher

You might have heard about Zimbabwe's dictator Mugabe seizing land from white farmers. This has been making international news because some farmers are being killed. Maybe a half dozen have died so far.

But, I'll bet you didn't know that during that same time over 800 South African white farmers have been killed under exactly the same circumstances. This hasn't made the news.

I got this at the NRA convention in Charlotte while talking to two South Africans. They had traveled to Charlotte specifically to ask the NRA to make defeating Gore their primary job.

The ONLY hope they have is that the US will NOT sign on to the international gun grabbing and will eventually be able to lead other countries (like South Africa) back from the brink.

That's not hard to understand either. Think how much harder it would be to get CWP laws fixed here in South Carolina, if we couldn't point to Florida or other states experience with CWPs and the reduction in crime that occurs. With no positive examples around, we'd have a tough time convincing people to give it a try.

They really feel this way - that the US is the last bastion of liberty in the world. And that if we sink, they sink!

I was impressed with the depth of their feeling on this. They came to the US for this one reason. It made me realize that our fight against the gun grabbers does not effect just us --- it effects the world.

I'd been pretty cavalier up to that point about the

2000 US Presidential election. I'd said maybe if Gore got elected it would be a good thing - he would so far overreach himself that the people in the US would finally wake up.

I said this after Waco and Ruby Ridge and after Elian. I was foolish. I was wrong.

We can NOT afford to have Gore President for 1 day. He MUST be defeated in November.

Our job is not to elect Bush, who has no firm foundation of belief in our gun rights.

Our job is to make sure that Gore is NOT elected.

While I'd rather vote Libertarian, if it increases the chances that Gore will be elected, I will NOT do so - I'll vote for Bush. I'll work hard to see him elected.

Maybe this is old news to you all. But meeting those 2 guys from South Africa really shook me and made me realize I better REALLY start working. I hope it does you to.

Get all the gun people you know registered to vote and informed about the issues.

It's either get involved or kiss your rights good bye!
<end>

What makes an organization "grassroots"?

By Ed Kelleher

Riddle: "If you call a tail a leg, how many legs does a cow have?"

Answer: "Four! Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it one"

It's the same with grassroots organizations. It's easy to talk the talk. Let me share with you a few thoughts on "grassroots" to help us better walk the walk! Briefly, any grassroots organization *must* have: hard working, motivated *members*; dedicated, principled *leaders*; good, two-way *communications* between them; and a *common goal* to unite them. A group that lacks *any* of these isn't "grassroots", no matter what you call it.

First and foremost, individual *members* provide the *thrust* of a grassroots organization. Individuals must join together in a common goal to multiply their power. But, mere numbers isn't enough. To increase the *power* of an organization you must increase the number of members *working*, and the *amount* of work each one does. This is the job of leadership.

Leadership initially enlists individuals as members by showing them a worthy, attainable, desirable goal. Good leadership will then encourage members to work, and make them *want* to work

GrassRoots Leadership Report

harder. At *GrassRoots*, we provide leadership by example -- the example of people working together to make things better.

Also, **communications** is essential to any grassroots organization. Good, two-way communication is the glue that cements members and leaders into a single, strong, focused team. It's like Natural Point of Aim in rifle marksmanship. If the rifle isn't naturally aligned with the target when you hold it, you can muscle the sights on to the target, but you'll be working against the rifle and more likely to miss. Similarly, without good two-way communication between members and leaders, they won't be focused on the same target.

Ultimately, the **effectiveness** of a grassroots organization comes from directing the **power** of many individual members at the proper target. At *GrassRoots*, we've listened as CWP holders across the state told us of problems they've had, what they want, and what our aims should be. We've studied the current laws. We've found methods to make change that are geared to our main strength - the members of *GrassRoots*. We're keeping our members informed (and motivated) on what we're doing, and why. And, because *GrassRoots* is a team effort, *GrassRoots* members rally behind their leadership and really put their backs into it. And it shows! How do you think *GrassRoots* measures up? Compare us with other groups and let us know. We want to learn and be the best! That's why I'm writing this. Tell us.

One final thing about grassroots, just like grass, it's most effective when there's a good, thick carpet of it. That's why *GrassRoots* will be mailing to gun owners across South Carolina in another major membership drive. We'll show them what we all are doing and ask them to join us. We'll be manning tables at gun shows around the state too. We

need your help. Contact a *GrassRoots* Community volunteer near you, or become one yourself. Get together with other *GrassRoots* members in your area and setup tables at gun shows and tell people about *GrassRoots* and our goal: "That good citizens may carry firearms wherever and whenever they choose in South Carolina".

We're ***GrassRoots South Carolina*** and we're sticking to our guns!

GrassRoots Staying in Touch With Members By Larry Coble

GrassRoots has purposefully established several levels of communication with its members so as to allow members to choose the amount of contact they wish to receive. Here are the main ways we try to stay in touch with our membership:

The minimum level of contact is provided to each member who chooses to simply receive his or her newsletter once every three months. We are very aware of the fact that the majority of our members do not have Internet access or fax machines so we always try to include all pertinent information in our quarterly newsletters to keep our membership up-to-date with *GrassRoots*.

Additionally, we maintain a web page 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for those who choose to make contact an option initiated from their end. The web site is constantly updated with monthly updates and notices, as they become available.

For those with e-mail access who wish monthly contact we have our E-mail Updates list. The E-mail Updates list provides members with monthly *GrassRoots* Update delivered directly to their e-mail boxes. This list is also used to send Legislative Alerts out periodically throughout the legislative session and whenever immediate contact with our membership is necessary. We have approximately 1600 of our members on this e-mail list.

For those members that just can't get enough of a good thing, we have the

[scfirearms] e-mail discussion group which members can join from our web page. The [scfirearms] e-mail discussion group is an active daily discussion of *GrassRoots* and South Carolina firearm's issues - expect to receive daily e-mail if you join this group (once a day delivery of a digest form is an option).

Face to face contact with *GrassRoots* leadership and staff is accomplished at member discretion at our informal monthly meetings. Currently we meet on the third Monday of each month at Shoney's on Bush River Road in Columbia at 7:30PM. These meetings are working meetings for our officers and staff however membership input is appreciated. We typically arrive early to enjoy supper and fellowship prior to our meeting.

We have also started asking our members for fax numbers where they can receive alerts. Many times during the legislative session issues change day to day, leading to the need for immediate action. For example, when our CWP reform bill came to the SC House Floor for a vote this year we had a need for our members (especially in particular House Districts) to contact their representatives. One way we alerted our members was to fax all *GrassRoots* members in those districts with a legislative alert and instructions on how they could help.

If you would like assistance joining any of the communication mediums we employ we would be glad to assist you in staying in touch with us.

Larry Coble is the Communications Officer for *GrassRoots*. He can be contacted at: lcoble@netside.com or at our **new** postal address:
GrassRoots South Carolina
P.O. Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260



GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

Regarding CWP Renewals

GrassRoots has spoken with Regulatory Services at S.L.E.D. regarding the mechanics of CWP renewal. Here's the latest:

Individuals wishing to renew their CWP must contact S.L.E.D. for a CWP renewal packet. There is no retraining requirement, however this packet will contain information to help you update yourself on CWP issues since your permit was originally issued. **These packets will not be available anywhere other than S.L.E.D.** You must complete the packet and return all necessary information to S.L.E.D. for a renewal permit to be issued. Regulatory Services advises that it will take 90 days for renewals to be issued so you should start the process of renewal approximately 90 days prior to the expiration of your current permit. You may call S.L.E.D. at 803-737-9000 (ask for Regulatory) to request a CWP renewal packet.

NO SHORTAGE OF LAWS BROKEN IN D.C.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Anthony Williams wants a national ban on handgun possession. Al Gore wants to license gun owners with photo IDs. Bill Clinton wants to put trigger locks on every gun in America.

But the fact of the matter is that none of these solutions would have prevented 16-year-old Antoine Jones from bringing a handgun to the National Zoo and shooting seven kids. As we told you earlier in the week, handgun ownership and possession have been illegal in the District of Columbia since 1975. Jones either stole the gun, was given it, or bought it on the black market, where they don't sell trigger locks or check IDs.

Jones is reported to be the son of James Antonio Jones, a former enforcer for a city drug gang. The senior Jones is currently serving a 29-year prison sentence. Junior's criminal record includes involvement in armed robberies when he was 13.

So where are all these illegal handguns coming from? The District's assistant police chief says 55 percent of guns seized by police were purchased in Maryland and Virginia...but if guns are so readily accessible there, shouldn't those states have higher gun crime rates? Nope. Arlington, Virginia has a murder rate that's 50 times lower than the District of Columbia.

It's all very, very simple. Ban lawful handgun possession and the murder and violent crime rate jumps. Why? Because only the law-abiding follow the law. Criminals, by definition, do not. They'll be the last to turn in their weapons.

Let's just go ahead and post these signs on every road entering Washington D.C

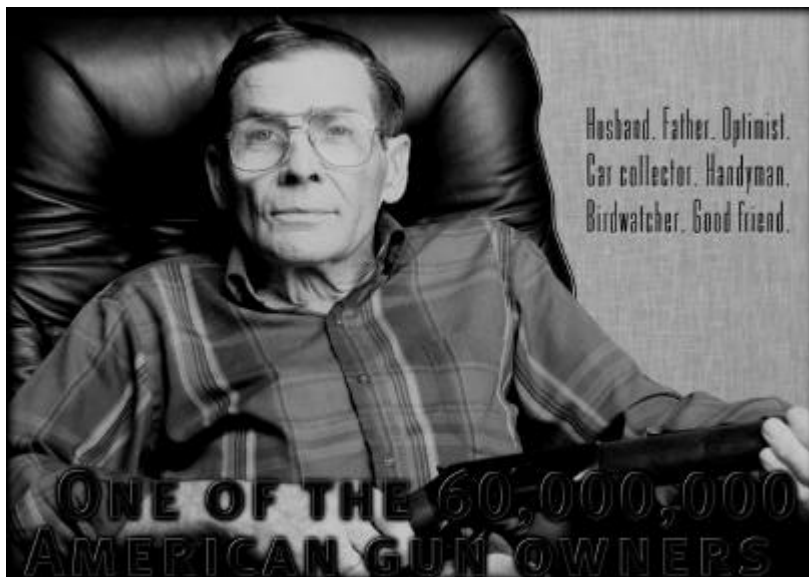
"You are entering a gun-free city. Law-abiding citizens are unarmed. Have a nice day."

Neal Boortz

after the store opened, someone posted near the front door a sign that says "No Concealed Weapons Allowed." That sign bars concealed weapons permit (CWP) holders from entering the store.

I spoke with one of the store managers and tried to explain to him that CWP holders are "the good guys" and that criminals will not obey the sign and that, in fact, criminals will be attracted to places in which they know no one will have a means of self-defense. The manager told me that the signs were company-wide policy. He assured me that he understood my perspective and explained that he too is a CWP holder. I said, "So even though you have a permit, you can't defend your co-workers and customers if an armed robber comes through the door and starts killing people?" He said, "That's right."

I told him that I no longer felt safe coming to Piggly Wiggly and that I was taking my business back to Winn Dixie.



About three weeks ago, I went to the Piggly Wiggly web site and wrote a message expressing my opinion about the signs. No one replied.

Within the last few days, there have been two incidents of violence at Piggly Wiggly stores here in the Columbia area. In one instance at a Piggly Wiggly 4 miles from my home, a woman and her daughter were threatened at knifepoint and their car

stolen. The police later shot and killed the perpetrator. In the other instance at a Piggly Wiggly across town, an armed man brandished a handgun and fired several shots before he was subdued by store employees who risked their lives.

I'm not only a CWP holder, I'm a certified firearms instructor. I was a police officer and detective for nine years. My experience has taught me that criminals typically select defenseless prey. In nearly all circumstances, criminals will avoid confronting someone who they believe might be armed.

Letter to Piggly Wiggly

Mr. Larry Wright, President
Piggly Wiggly
1991 Corporate Drive
Memphis, TN 38132

Dear Mr. Wright:

For the first 18 years that I lived in my home, I had to drive several miles just to go to the nearest grocery store (a Winn Dixie store). I was quite happy to see a Piggly Wiggly (4360 Augusta Rd., W. Columbia, SC) open up around the corner from my home. Unfortunately, shortly

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

Mr. Wright you are not responsible for what these criminals did at your stores. However, you are responsible for putting your employees and customers at higher risk by posting signs that declare that Piggly Wiggly stores are gun-free zones and that law-abiding citizens in your stores are defenseless.

I implore you to change your injudicious, endangering policy and remove the current signs. For South Carolina stores, alternative signs saying: "No Illegal Weapons" are available free of charge from an organization called GrassRoots South Carolina (P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260; web site: <http://www.scfirearms.org>).

Paul Peters
W. Columbia

Great Job Guys!

Great job guys! I have been home the past few weeks recovering from back surgery and have kept up with the gun news. I have read everything from handguns being banned in Britain to the fine work by Grass Roots. I have been on the phone with my state and local representatives supporting GrassRoots efforts. But more importantly I have been in the community talking to many people about GrassRoots. It amazes me how many people are uninformed about our gun laws. I got into a discussion with a person about GrassRoots and they became angry with me blaming all the gun organizations for a recent robbery where she was the victim. It was quite difficult for me but I showed her some sympathy and remained calm. Before I realized what was happening she began to agree

with me. She asked me what I carried and how I felt when I carried my weapon. She also could not understand why I carry; I am 6'3" 255lbs and former athlete. I explained that I had no intention of going hand to hand combat with a thug that could have a weapon.

My main concern was my family safety and you never know when you are going to be outnumbered. I further explained that most crack heads do not care what size or sex you are when they are trying to get money for their drug habits. Before I left she had the name and number of a firearms instructor to contact concerning the purchase and training of a personal defense weapon. That was quite encouraging to know that a liberal can be won to our side with a little bit of calm reasoning.

Tommy Foster
Roebuck, SC

Response to The State Newspaper

The editorial in today's paper (April 4 2000) portrays CWP holders, by implication, as individuals who want to be able to carry firearms into a bar to enhance their fighting capabilities.

They went on to state that if we must carry firearms to church, we should change religions. (The only request is to have a sign posted prohibiting carry.) There is implication that we want to take guns to schools--there should be more gun-free zones, not less. (Maybe "fewer" subscriptions to The State would get their attention.)

We should not let this ridiculous article go unanswered. Perhaps we can begin a writing campaign to the newspaper. (Maybe you could suggest a response.) I don't want to answer in anger, since that would only serve to bolster their erroneous stance.

Respectfully, Bob Nance
Columbia

Merchant Gives CWP Discount

Hello, This morning, one of your members gave me a fall '99 copy of your newsletter. I am a "retired" SC Police Officer who holds a SC CWP. I am very impressed with your organization and will soon be sending my check for \$15.00 to join your organization. At this time, I am the Operations Manager of the Burroughs Safety Shoe store in Greenville. I would like one of your GRSC Alternative Merchant signs to post on my door. I am and have been a strong proponent of the right to carry. Heck, even after 15 years of law enforcement, they made me go through the CWP class! So I too have sacrificed to have a CWP and know what type training a CWP holder received. **I WANT CWP HOLDERS IN MY STORE!** To restrict them would be plain stupid and harmful. **Please tell your members that I welcome them AND their weapons with open arms!**

Thank you for your time. I look forward to receiving your merchant sign and to becoming a member of this group of super people. If any of my experience can be of service to you and your members, please let me know! We carry all types of Steel Toed Work Boots, Hunting Boots, Fire, EMS, and Police boots! Tell me you're a CWP holder, get a discount!

Sincerely,
Tom Slovenski
Burroughs Safety Shoe, Inc.
Greenville

Farewell to S&W

I have just read the annotated agreement on your (S&W) web site. It does nothing to alleviate my sense that S&W has decided to sleep with the enemy. As an NRA instructor I have always suggested that a revolver, and especially an S&W, be the first choice of my students. I can no longer do that. The vast majority of



GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

my handguns are S&W and they have served well. I was, in fact, just choosing whether to buy a Model 60, 357 or an 8 shot aluminum 22. You have made that choice for me and it will be neither. Just as you have the right to make your own business decisions, I will exercise the same right to make my purchasing decisions. I will miss you.

Ralph Baker
Sumter

Posted Businesses Becoming Targets

Recently I have seen on local TV and read in the local paper of robberies of businesses, including one bank, that had large "No Concealed Weapons Allowed" signs posted. The signs were very prominent in the scenes shown in these reports.

May I suggest that the Organization ask members to clip such newspaper articles and send them to a clearinghouse so these businesses can be given as much publicity as possible? If these clippings are accompanied by the mailing address (from telephone book should be OK), these businesses can be sent form letters advising them of what the CWP is and how much harm these businesses are doing to themselves by posting,

As an aside, I still have seen no mention of GoodWill of Charleston's postings that took place several months ago and which I reported on twice. Let's give them as much "bad" publicity as we can.

Regards,
Ed Howell
Charleston

P.S. Apparently we can't get First Citizens Bank to remove their decals so I have moved a chunk of my little dab of money to SouthTrust Bank which does not post. (And, incidentally, pays me over 5% on my little checking account compared to less than 1% that First Citizens is paying!)

Another Letter to Piggly Wiggly

In the last week here in Columbia, South Carolina, your stores have had two violent acts committed on their property.



First, a knife-wielding man car-jacked a woman in the parking lot of your Emmanuel Church Road store (Store #79), putting her and her children in danger. He later led police on a chase and was killed by police as he lunged at them with the knife. Just a couple of days after that, a shoplifter was apprehended by the employees of your Beltline Blvd. store. When they had him in the store office, he pulled out a .22 caliber handgun and fired several shots. Luckily, your employees subdued him before they were hurt.

Why do I tell you all of this? On September 10, 1999, I sent a letter to the manager of Store #79 explaining to him that I could not do business in his store because he had a "No Concealed Weapons" sign on his door. You see, I am a law-abiding citizen of South Carolina who sees fit to take my personal safety into my own hands. I applied for, and received, a Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) from the State of South Carolina. This means that I have been fingerprinted and gone through a criminal background check by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the FBI. I paid the \$50 fee and I passed an 8-hour training class. As I explained in my letter to Mr. Hook, it is unreasonable to believe that a "No Concealed Weapons" sign on his front door will deter a criminal from entering his business. As we see from the above-mentioned incident, I was exactly right. The only people this sign keeps out of his store are the law-abiding citizens who have a CWP, such as myself and over 26,000 other South Carolinians.

I was pleased when I received a prompt phone call from a Vice President in response to my letter. Unfortunately, I was not able to write down his name. He told me that he appreciated my concern and that he would have the Piggly Wiggly lawyers revisit this issue since it was a

corporate decision, not a decision on the part of the individual store manager. He also told me that he would personally get back to me on this issue. I have never heard from him again. In the meantime, the fact remains that criminals ignore your sign, while this law-abiding citizen

obeys it and spends several hundred dollars per month down the street at Bi-Lo. They do not discriminate and post against CWP-holders.

From a former customer,
Chris Varnadoe
Lexington

Regarding Zoo Shooting in Washington D.C.

In the wake of the shooting at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., Vice President Gore has predictably called for mandatory trigger locks and a national firearms identification card for gun purchases. Predictably, Gore fails to explain why the feral trash who caused this tragedy don't as a rule buy guns from federally licensed firearms dealers. Gore also failed to explain how a trigger lock will save lives given such devices can be defeated much like other locking devices. Washington is a shining example of the failure of gun control (victim disarmament) laws as the city has one of the highest rates of gun crime and murder in the country. Could it be that gun control is a failure because criminals don't obey such laws? I'm sure Gore and his gun-grabbing cronies will have a predictable answer to this enigma. Their predictable answer will be more gun control.

John Ponti
Sumter

Regarding The State's "Guns in Church Editorial"

This editorial is another slap at the SC citizens who wish to avail themselves of the right to protect themselves ALL the time, not just when certain legislators and editors want to permit. The Rights enumerated in the Constitution and the Bill of rights are, as stated therein, inalienable. The Founding Fathers interpreted

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

those rights as coming from God. Why do you then see any inconsistency with our good citizens wanting to accept responsibility for themselves everywhere? The press recently reported the rape of a woman in a church restroom. Were the press or the police there to defend her? Did the rapist consider the location? According to Attorney General Condon those citizens permitted to carry concealed weapons now number 30,000 with not one inappropriate violent incident. There is no logic to your position to punish the innocent. If you do not wish to be armed that is your choice. Perhaps you would also choose to wear a sign proclaiming "unarmed potential victim". I choose the other course and should you be attacked, will step in to defend you despite your editorial position.

Armed Female in Sumter

Taurus Firearms Offers Free NRA Memberships

Taurus(R) Firearms Offers Free NRA Membership With Each New Taurus Gun Sold

MIAMI, April 14 /PRNewswire/ -- As part of its ongoing support of firearms safety, Taurus International Manufacturing, Inc. will provide a free annual membership in the National Rifle Association with each new Taurus rifle, revolver, or pistol sold at retail between April 15 and October 31, 2000.

Retail purchasers must mail to Taurus a copy of their store receipt and a copy of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearm's Form 4473, which by law must be completed along with a background check for each new sale, in order to qualify for a voucher by year's end. The voucher, worth up to \$35.00, can be redeemed for a new annual membership, or a renewal of membership in the NRA.

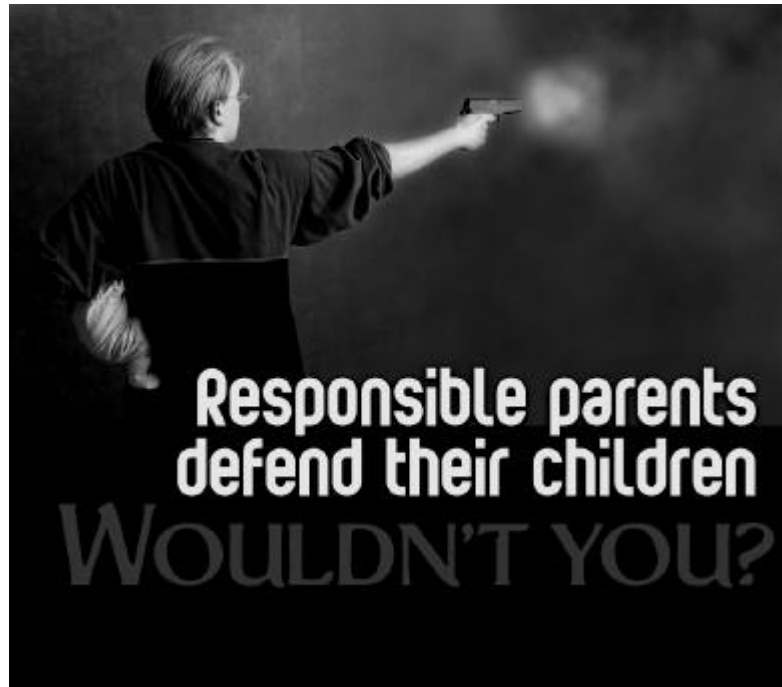
Taurus purchasers who make use of the free offer will receive NRA's monthly publications that identify safety and firearms training opportunities and educate readers about firearms mechanisms and technology, such as the integral, or on-

board internal key lock found on new Taurus products since 1997.

"You wouldn't know it from news reports," explains Morrison, "but the rate of firearms accidents has been steadily declining. That's due to a long-term commitment manufacturers like Taurus and organizations like the NRA have to promoting responsible ownership and safe enjoyment of firearms."

"The number of fatal gun accidents is at its lowest level since statistics were first kept in 1903. In a nation where about half the households contain at least one firearm, both the per capita and actual number of accidents is at a record low, even though more Americans keep firearms than ever before."

SOURCE Taurus International Manu-



facturing, Inc.

Another Grassroots' Member Responds to S&W Sellout

I am a grassroots member and this is a letter I sent to the customer service e-mail address for Smith and Wesson. I think we should start a statewide boycott of this company Let me know what you think.

Dear Smith and Wesson and affiliated companies. I am an avid shooter, hunter and partner in a shooting facility in the

SouthEast. I believe very deeply in the individual right to bear arms. Unfortunately, there are some elitists who don't believe as we do and will stop at nothing to take away our freedoms. I was totally appalled by the sell out of Smith and Wesson to the Clinton Administration. The right of the individual to own firearms has been upheld time after time by the courts. The only way that the current administration can get past the courts is to incite these nuisance lawsuits. I sympathize with your company looking at the Possibility of paying enormous costs to defend them. However, I do not support the agreement your company has made with the Clinton administration. What you have done is set a damaging precedent that if not rescinded will result in much trouble for all firearms manufacturers, distributors and ultimately customers.

It is with much regret that I must advise you that I am boycotting all Smith and Wesson products and I will encourage all my customers at the shooting center to purchase no product manufactured by your company or any product produced by a license granted by your company. This means I will no longer order supplies such as ammunition, sights, holsters, knives, belts, etc. that are affiliated with Smith and Wesson. There is one way to avoid this. Back out of the settlement and fight. I will support your effort to defeat the suit by purchasing your products. If you back

out of the agreement and fight, I will immediately purchase a S&W firearm and Knife. I will encourage all persons looking for a new firearm to buy S&W because they have the guts to stand up. Please don't give up. If you do, one day, we may look in retrospect at this and see that it was a stepping stone that led to firearms confiscation.

**Respectfully,
Bill Brown**

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

CWP IN Georgia

I was just reading in the Spring, 2000 issue of the GRSC newsletter about concealed carry in Florida and your response to it. I have a NH non-resident license because I travel to GA fairly often (and GA honors the NH permit). When checking the GA laws I noticed that they do not allow an ankle holster. This is something that could be easily overlooked and I have to be careful to remember this whenever I travel there. In GA (if I am reading this correctly) the concealed weapon has to be on the upper portion of the body.

Ronnie Rutledge
Fairforest, SC

For the Children

I sent this to a friend earlier today in connection with something else. I thought I'd share it.

Yesterday before church I was speaking with a teenage girl who I have known since childhood. Her father had come to the open house at my invitation. He knows little about guns, but we had an interesting conversation, and he said he'd like to return and shoot with me soon. He must have discussed this with his daughter. She expressed surprise that I had been walking around armed and she hadn't known it. (I explained what "concealed" meant.) She asked what kept crazy people from getting CWPs, so I told her about the training and background checks. She promptly concluded that crazy people carry illegally anyway, and it isn't the CWP types she has to worry about. As the service began she asked what she had to do to get a permit. She was disappointed when I told her she had to turn 21!

President Slick urges the gun-grabbers to "do it for the children". Well, its children like this girl who will one day take our place.

John Warsaw
Lexington

To The State Newspaper Regarding Opposing CWP Changes

I sent this letter to The State newspaper in response to this morning's editorial where they (surprise!) came out against the changes to the CWP law that are being proposed:

Here you go again! You have come out against the law-abiding citizen's right to self-defense using the most efficient tool at their disposal. Do you not realize that it is "we the people" who are pushing for these common sense changes to the Law Abiding Citizens Self-Defense Act of 1996? Many Christians do not believe that we are given our rights in the Constitution's Bill of Rights. Rather, we believe that the Bill of Rights guarantees our inalienable rights given to us by God Almighty, the creator of the universe. Further, we believe that we have a mandate from Scripture to protect our families and ourselves. You state, "If you feel like you need to carry a gun into Sunday morning worship, perhaps you should consider switching churches." We are not looking to defend ourselves from our fellow church members. No, we want to

SELF DEFENSE IS
COMMON SENSE



defend ourselves and our families from the criminals and murderers who burst into our sanctuaries and open fire on unarmed Christians, such as happened in Texas last year. For some reason you just won't learn that criminals and murderers don't obey the gun laws that you hold so dearly. So, not only do you seek to take away my rights under the Second Amendment, you now want to take away my First Amendment rights also. Be careful what you wish for because there are some other rights in that First Amendment that I am sure you don't want to see eroded.

Chris Varnadoe

Yet Another Letter to The State Newspaper

I attended the recent NRA Convention in Charlotte. I heard the speech by Wayne LaPierre that you quote in your front-page article on the NRA convention in the Sunday May 21st issue. The sentence I want to discuss appears in the continuation of that article on page A14:

"With the media's help, he [Al Gore] paints a fictional nightmare of a non-existent world where a reckless population of stupid gun owners cause 13 innocent kids to die a day from guns."

He clarified the lie to which he refers in his next sentence, but the Clinton-Gore spinmeisters, Handgun Control Incorporated, and the other gun grabbers omit the facts in that sentence when they cite the "13 kids a day" statistic.

Here's what he said in that sentence. I paraphrase because I can't remember the exact words that I heard:

"More than eleven of those 'children' are 17-19 year old gang members who kill each other in turf wars, many of those part of the 'war on drugs'".

Note that these 'children' are not law abiding gun owners. They are criminals. Definition: criminal - a person who does not obey the law. Yet the gun grabbers cite

the results of their behavior in their quest to control guns by adding more laws for them to ignore.

By your omission of the clarifying facts, you are clearly part of the media to whose help he refers in the sentence you did quote.

I bet they don't print it.

Marv Graham
West Columbia

(Editor's Note: Yeah, but we will Marv!)

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

To the Charlotte Observer Regarding Firearms Safety?

Your editorial on firearms safety on Sunday, May 21, showed laudable concern...but lamentable logic. You claim that, "If everyone who owned a gun or rifle had the same concern for safety and proper use as the NRA teaches, the damage wreaked by misuse of firearms in America would plummet." The implication is that untold numbers of dolts and yahoos are running around threatening their own safety and that of everyone around them on a daily basis, constituting a major safety issue for the community, if not the nation as a whole. This is obvious hogwash as exemplified by the sheer millions of firearms owned by "common people" for decades who have never harmed anyone...including the children being properly educated in their use on a daily basis in these households.

Requiring "training for new buyers of handguns" automatically assumes that such training has been unavailable to them, and that only the government can correct this terrible oversight. Then you have the nerve to compare such training to "Driver's Ed"? How many people would be willing to turn their kids loose on the road with any confidence with only the "training" given by the state? State training in the "proper" use of handguns would assure that everyone had at least a nodding familiarity with the laws governing self-defense use...and was utterly unprepared for any "real life" situation. The courtroom is not the road, nor can it be cognizant of many of the factors relating to actual defense situations.

Your idea of a "cooling off period" simply stinks. As criminological studies have shown for thirty years now, such measures have no effect whatsoever on crime rates, crime severity, OR ON SUICIDE RATES. It's a feel-good idea that has been shown to be completely ineffective for decades..."so let's try more of the same?" To what purpose?

Tighter restrictions, background checks, etc. "We've got to keep the guns out of the crooks hands!!!" Sorry, can't be done. The single

group MOST motivated to acquire, carry and use firearms is crooks. No matter what the laws, no matter what the scrutiny, you won't stop them. You will, however, place a host of restrictions on people who are NOT crooks...and then more restrictions when the ones in place don't work...and then more... Again, to what point? Lawful gun owners are the single most regulated group of consumers in the market at this point. Further regulation simply won't have any effect on criminals, no matter how much you tighten the screws on the lawful. You do, however, eventually manage to anger the lawful to the point that they won't put up with it anymore, as we are seeing today.

"Sensible gun control", legally speaking, is an oxymoron. "Criminal control", on the other hand, is making significant strides in combating violence throughout the country.

Tim Butler
Rock Hill

Carrying in Churches

I believe that government should treat churches no differently than it treats businesses and other organizations, whether with special restrictions or special benefits. The local Stop-N-Rob can post or not, as it chooses. The local church should be under the same rules.

Believers should be concerned when government imposes special rules on churches. For example, suppose the government tried to protect churches from theological errors by requiring preachers to submit their sermons for approval by the Federal Bible Institute (FBI). No such requirement can be imposed on the secular media, which is protected by the First Amendment. But perhaps we should impose this requirement on churches, along with a suitable waiting period. We do so because "everybody knows" that theological errors don't belong in a house of worship, any more than concealed weapons belong in a house of worship. It's for their own good.

We're doing it for the children.

Banning weapons may or may not be a violation of the First Amendment, although it clearly violates the Second. The violation of the First Amendment occurs when we single out churches for special treatment of whatever nature.

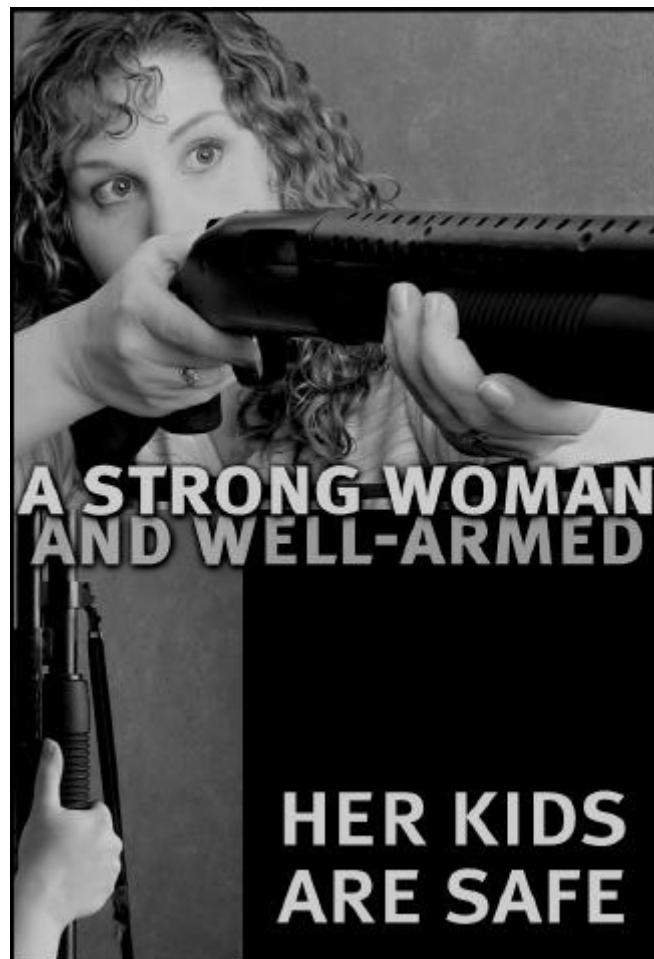
John Warsaw
Lexington

Midway Blasts S&W Sellout

Midway Blasts S&W Sellout and has chosen to immediately drop Smith & Wesson products.

Midway is the largest seller of reloading supplies in the US.

"On March 17, 2000, Smith & Wesson, a manufacturer of firearms, firearm accessories and logo apparel entered into a settlement agreement with federal, state and municipal authorities. The settlement dismisses Smith & Wesson against pending lawsuits aimed



GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

at firearm manufacturers. The specifics of the contract are listed below.

"It is the opinion of the management and ownership of MidwayUSA that Smith & Wesson failed to exhaust all resources in the fight to uphold the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. We believe that Smith & Wesson sold out the rights and principles of gun owners across the United States by failing to support the industry and fight the attack of the anti-gun movement.

"MidwayUSA has always been a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, the NRA and all organizations whose mission is to protect each of our rights to bear arms. Therefore, we cannot, with clear conscience, support the actions of Smith & Wesson. As a result, we have chosen to immediately drop Smith & Wesson products from our catalogs and from our product offering.

"Thank you for your support."

To The Island Packet

You recently published a letter about the "myth of the Second Amendment." And so goes the revision of American history. There is not any credible scholarship on the founding of our country that supports anything but a wholehearted belief by our founding fathers in an individual's right to keep and bear arms. The founders believed that such a right, like the freedoms of speech, religion, and assembly, were derived from a much higher authority than any government that men could create. They believed such rights came from God, our Creator, and were given to individuals, not governments. They also believed these rights were inalienable (not able to be separated from an individual person).

Further, maybe only one in ten colonists did have a gun. I doubt that figure, but it doesn't mean anything. Only about one in twenty colonists could vote. Women couldn't vote at all. Blacks were not even counted as a whole person in the census. And maybe many of their guns were in poor condition. I doubt that, also, but in the hands of a free people they defeated the most technologically advanced army of their day.

In the South, after the Civil War, many communities tried to prohibit the former slaves from owning firearms. They knew that former slaves with no means of defense were still slaves. Today, those states freeing law-abiding citizens of their restrictions on possessing firearms are, across the board, seeing decreases in violent crime rates. Not increases.

**Inst. C. Kevin Hood
Hilton Head**

Regarding GrassRoots Wallet Cards

I didn't see any price for wallet cards, other than "a small fee."

Please advise, and I suggest adding the 'suggested price' of the cards to the Web-Pages.

Your website is great!!

Thanks,

**John Phillips
North Augusta**

GrassRoots Response:

Since we encourage the use of the wallet cards we don't want "cost" to prevent anyone from having enough. We will supply as many as you need to report merchants who post at no charge.

If you'd just like to have some on hand, please send in a small donation to cover the cost of our postage. As a suggestion: \$2.00 for 20.

Dear Abby

I read with dismay and sadness the Dear Abby column in *The State*, 6/1/2000, featuring 80-somethings whining over the dangers of guns in our society. Well, I'm 70-something myself, a WWII Combat Infantry veteran, active in the shooting sports, and I'd like to shed a little light on the subject.

The idea of a "Death Clock" has been tried and failed miserably. We here in South Carolina have a better idea. We have what amounts to a "Life Clock." I strongly encourage you and *The State's* readers to log on to the Grass Roots South Carolina website at <http://www.scfirearms.org> and see for yourselves. You'll get an up-to-the-minute tally of rapes, robberies, murders,

aggravated assaults, carjackings and other heinous crimes prevented by law-abiding citizens defending themselves with firearms - without having to fire the weapon 86% of the time! From the Home Page just scroll down to the section titled "Criminal Attacks Stopped by Guns This Year." As I write this the count, shown in bold red numbers, is well over a million since Jan. 1, 2000! The annual count is between 2 and 3 Million! (Source: Prof. Gary Kleck).

Prof. John Lott in More Guns, Less Crime proved irrefutably that concealed weapons carried by good citizens reduce crimes dramatically in all categories. This is the worst nightmare for criminals. They can't tell who is armed, and not being completely stupid, they don't relish being shot.

Despite this good news, rarely reported, there is an intense campaign by our devious administration, willingly abetted by the print and TV media, to demonize law-abiding gun-owning citizens, the goal being to register and ultimately confiscate all guns. It happened in Canada, Great Britain and Australia, with the predictable skyrocketing of violent crime in those countries.

Take away the guns from good citizens in abrogation of our God-given right to defend ourselves, going back centuries and endorsed, not permitted by the Constitution (Source: Numerous constitutional scholars) and we'd really be a nation of "Sitting Ducks" - Abby's choice of words. The criminals would love it!

**RALPH J. WIENEKE
Lexington**

Regarding the April Patriot's Day Picnic

Congratulations on a beautifully planned day. Few people will fully appreciate the enormous amount of work that has gone into such an undertaking. I regret that I shall be unable to attend as my grandson arrives from California this afternoon. If only he had come a day early I could have shown him what gun ownership is all about! Please extend my gratitude to all those who have made today possible.

James E. Hunter Easley, SC

<end>

Guest Editorials

DOJ: Kids and Guns By Joseph G. Lolli, CCIM

Al Gore and the Million Knee Jerk Mom's demonizing of the NRA providing gun safety training materials to parents just doesn't jive with the facts in a Department of Justice study.

The DOJ's "Urban Delinquency and Substance Abuse" paper concludes that youth taught proper gun safety by their parents are far less likely to commit crimes. Child psychologists questioned 4,000 boys and girls aged between 6 and 15, from 1993 to 1995 in Denver, Pittsburgh and Rochester to determine any relationship between gun ownership and problem behaviors like drug use and teen pregnancy and crime. The DOJ study reported the following:

Young people who get their guns from their parents don't commit gun crimes (0%).

Young people who get their guns from their parents are less likely to commit any other type of street crime (14%).

Young people who get their guns illegally from their peers are very likely to commit crime (21%).

Young people who have NO GUNS in the house commit more street crime (24%).

Young people who obtain illegal guns are VERY likely to commit street crime (74%).

Young people who get guns from their parents are less likely to do drugs (13%) than those youths that obtain their weapons illegally (41%).

If we believe Al Gore and the Million Lemmings on Mother's Day, gun safety programs like the NRA's Eddie Eagle curriculum are the cause and are not the cure. Fortunately, the DOJ's facts have nothing to do with politics and everything to do with reality.

Joseph G. Lolli, CCIM resides in Edisto Island, South Carolina. He can be contacted by e-mail at: jlolli@msn.com

To the Charleston Post & Courier Regarding the Million Moms March By Joseph G. Lolli, CCIM

Regarding your article in today's paper (pg. 4-A) on the Million Mom March "support gun safety legislation"

Why was there no mention of the Second Amendment Sister's March at the same time the (nowhere near a Million Moms held their event in Washington?

Your story did include an attempt at "balance" by quoting Congressman Mark Sanford and the NRA, but still... there is a significant PRO-SECOND AMENDMENT march scheduled at the same time in your city.

Also, why is there no mention that Ms Donna Dees-Thomases is the sister-in-law of the Clinton's Hollywood spin production Thomases and that according to Fox News, this woman is holding herself out as "concerned Mom" when in actuality she is a mouth piece for the Administration's attempts at undermining our Constitution (not just the 2nd amendment, take a look at the 4th, 9th and 10th amendments).

If they really want "Congress (to) treat guns like cars by requiring licensing and registration", does that mean that my South Carolina Concealed Weapon Carry permit should be recognized in all fifty states in the same way my S.C. Driver's License is now recognized?

I would imagine New York City, L.A. and you folks in Washington DC would really LOVE that idea!

The law only requires that I license my car if I drive it on public highways, but if I have a "race

car, dragster, or go-kart" and drive it on private property, I'm not subject to ANY state or federal regulations.

Unlike with automobiles, EXISTING gun regulations apply REGARDLESS where I operate my firearms.

If I drive on the public street, I have to be over a certain age (depending on the state) and must have a state drivers license, but last week, MSNBC featured a 12 year old boy that's making a name for himself by racing in Toyota's formula Indy style racing cars. And there are numerous sanctioned go-kart racing clubs that have children driving 100-mph racecars.

If we use the automobile Vs gun analogy, I can legally buy a high-powered Corvette, or Porsche that can go three times the speed limit... on private property. So why shouldn't I similarly be allowed to have a fully automatic machine gun, or a sawed off shotgun (remember Ruby Ridge?), on my private property?

The existing law says a child under 18 cannot buy a shotgun or long gun and one must be over 21 to buy a handgun... regardless of where that kid will use it.

But any car dealer will sell a child a car. My neighbor's eleven year old son just bought, with his own money, a racing go-kart, which he drives on their rural



Guest Editorials

property and not on the public street. That thing can do over 70 mph!

Right now, accidental firearm deaths of children are at an all time low. Yet there are more privately owned firearms now than in any time in our nations history.

Since 1965, handgun deaths among children are down 65%, yet handgun sales are up more than 400%.

Since 1982, there have been 83 children killed by guns in schools across our nation.... that's less than five per year. Yet government mandated passenger side airbags have killed 30 children per year, every year, between 1994 and November 1997 (these safety devices were first required BY GOVERNMENT in our vehicles in 1994, but NHTSA only has data through 11/1997). In Nov. 1997, there were fewer than 20 million passenger side airbag equipped cars on our nation's highways, yet these 20 million vehicles have killed more than 90 children in the three documented years.

The most recent data for accidental gun deaths is 1998 where there were 135 accidental firearm deaths of children... in a nation that has more than 280 MILLION firearms.

If we assume 30 deaths per year from 20 million passenger airbags and apply that number to the number of firearms, if there were 280 million passenger side airbag equipped cars on our highways, these government's mandated safety devices would be KILLING 420 children EACH YEAR!

Ms Donna Dees-Thomases' friend, Bill Clinton has often said, "13 children die each day". But let's look at the actual figures. In order to have "13 children" die each day we would have to include "children" through the age of 24 to justify his claim.

Even then, the 13 deaths per day, these statistics would break down to 8 suicides, 4.7 homicides and .03 accidental

deaths of "children" in ages 0 through 24 each day.

First of all, there is virtually NO data that indicates any suicides occurring among children in the toddler through 7 years old age group. It just doesn't happen.

Second, if you remove the 14 through 24 age group from the statistics, (which contains almost all of the teenage gang related murders... of which, more than 85% occur in just four cities, N.Y, L.A., Wash-DC and Chicago), then Bill Clinton's 4.7 homicides per day would fall down to less than 0.5 per day for the rest of the country. Coincidentally, these four cities have the most restrictive gun controls in our nation.

Regarding suicides, in Canada, where handguns have been illegal since 1978, a Vancouver Foundation's study of Canadian teenage suicides, found that "the annual number of teenage suicide deaths by firearms declined by more than 90% since the 1978 gun ban". But they also found that "the total number of teenage suicides per year has remained fairly constant, with no significant changes from year to year in the total number" of teenage suicides. The study further found that "although suicides by firearms did subside, that preferred method (by firearms) has been replaced by jumping from bridges..."



THE 2ND AMENDMENT
LOOKS AFTER THE FIRST

These statistics are also reasonably consistent for other non-firearm countries such as Japan and England.

All of the above data is from either University of Fla. Professor Gary Kleck's

books, or from University of Chicago Professor, Dr. John Lott's book "More Guns, Less Crime".

Both of these men started out as liberal, pro-gun-control academic college professors... until they started doing their unbiased statistical research into the "cost / benefit" analysis of privately owned firearms.

Joe Lolli
Edisto Island, SC

Only From My Cold Dead Hands

By Marv Graham

The widely publicized photograph of Charlton Heston holding a Revolutionary War era musket above his head and the accompanying quotation: "From my dead cold hands" has generated a good deal of unfavorable comment from the liberal media. Perhaps we need to discuss what that picture and statement are all about.

The current set of gun grabbers (the Clinton-Gore administration, a small subset of the U.S. Senate <Feinstein, Boxer, Schumer, et. al.> and U. S. House, and their cronies such as Handgun Control Incorporated) may have some notion of the implications of that photo and comment. The large majority of the American population is clueless.

Clueless because nearly two generations of that population are victims of the politically correct brainwashing that passes as "education" nowadays. The current masters of the public school sys-

tem - the federal Department of Education and the National Education Association (the teachers union) - are in league with the gun grabbers. Their schools intentionally dumb down the students, feeding them feel-good, posi-

Guest Editorials

tive self-esteem nonsense without providing any substantive education to give the students any real reason for positive self-esteem.

They have replaced all traces of traditional morality with the Humanist religion's tenets: there is no such thing as absolutes of right and wrong. If it feels good, do it! You are not responsible for your actions; you will pass along to the next grade and out of the school system whether you learn anything or not. It's well known that a large fraction of current high school graduates are functional illiterates. Why is it a surprise that the inmates and graduates of the school asylums are shooting each other or that crime is rampant in the country?

If something goes wrong, someone else is at fault: the tobacco companies, the gun manufacturers, MacDonalds for selling hot coffee, the car manufacturers for making cars that won't stand up to 60 mile per hour crashes, and on and on.

The clueless develop their opinions from TV news broadcasts, slick political ads, and events (e.g. Million Mom March) staged for their benefit and with their participation. Of course, the media outlets that feed the sheep their opinions are in the hands of the anti-Constitution gun grabbers.

Most important, the schools have ceased teaching the principles on which the founding fathers based the intended structure and functioning of the federal government as embodied in the Constitution. So we have nearly two whole generations of sheep who are barely taught to read. They are well-trained robots who are taught not to think but to do as the "leaders" tell them. They are unaware of the implications for their own and everyone else's continued freedom of the survival of the Bill of Rights - the first ten amendments - of the Constitution.

The clueless majority is unaware of any basis for the deep, wide river of emotion that a small minority of the population holds for that Constitution and Bill of Rights. The foundation for the fervor of that minority is the belief that the Second Amendment is the key to retaining all the other freedoms guaranteed by the

Bill of Rights, that it means exactly what it says, and that it is an individual right - not a right of the states.



A more complete form of Heston's statement that is sometimes seen is "They will take my gun *only* from my cold dead hands". History is replete with examples of tyrannical governments whose first steps were disarming the population. Later steps led to the deaths of millions: the Nazis, Communist Russia, Communist China, Communist Cuba, Turkey, Cambodia, several African countries even now and on and on. So long as the Second Amendment remains in force, no such tyranny will be established here. This is just as the founding fathers intended when they included that Amendment in the Constitution. Copious writings of the founders during and after the establishment of the government defined by the Constitution bear this out.

Woe be it to the gun grabbers - nay liberty grabbers - if they should succeed in abrogating the Second Amendment. Re-

call the quote from Admiral Yamamoto, the architect of the treacherous and infamous Pearl Harbor attack on December 7th, 1941 when he learned that the planned declaration of war had not been delivered prior to the attack: "I fear that all we have succeeded in doing is awakening a sleeping giant". I hope that before the liberty grabbers can succeed in their attempt to subvert the Constitution, the 80 million U. S. gun owners (our current sleeping giant) collectively wake up and vote as a bloc in the November elections to remove the liberty grabbers from power. Have no doubt, the Second would be only the first of the amendments to fall, and indeed be aware that the liberty grabbers are well on their way to subverting both the Second and all the other Amendments.

The Constitution was not perfect, but it was better than what we have now.

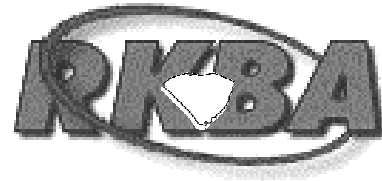
Marv Graham lives in West Columbia. He can be reached by e-mail at: graham@conterra.net

GrassRoots South Carolina Leadership Elections

GrassRoots South Carolina will hold elections of leadership offices via mail-in ballot placed in the Fall 2000 newsletter. **Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors are now being accepted.** If you would like to run for office, or would like to nominate someone (please get their approval first), submit your nomination by September 1, 2000 to **GrassRoots Elections**, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260. Please include full contact information with your nomination. Sealed nominations will be opened solely by the nominating committee and a list of nominees presented publicly at the GrassRoots September monthly meeting. Further inquiries may be sent to the above address, Attention: Terry Hicks.

Legislative Update

By Rob Butler, J.D.



GrassRoots CWP Reform Bill Killed

The GrassRoots reform bill, H4797, was killed in the House. Our bill, H4797, came up for a vote four different times prior to May 1, 2000, and each time it was killed by our “friends.” Our God given, inalienable rights were nothing more than bargaining chips in a game of bluff poker for these representatives.

The reason we are losing our gun rights is because our legislators know they can kill our bills and get away with it at the next election. They know they can kill our bills and we will not hold them accountable. If we want to start restoring our rights, then we must start holding our legislators responsible during election season for how they worked against us and against restoring our rights during the legislative season. When the legislators fear us at election time as much as they fear other special interest groups, then and only then will we get our rights restored.

The following daily descriptions of how H4797 was killed come from the official House Journal and reports from your GrassRoots leaders. Read it carefully, we need to remember who killed our needed reforms.

Tuesday, April 25, 2000:

H4797 came to the House floor for a vote for the first time on Tuesday, April 25, 2000. H4797 was on the uncontested calendar. Rep. FLEMING (R, Dist. No. 42, Union Co.) raised a point of order that H4797 had not been on the calendar for one legislative day prior to being considered. Rep. Fleming’s point of order to postpone consideration of H4797 was discretionary on his part, it was not required that he do this. Once Rep. Fleming raised the point of order, it was mandatory that consideration of H4797 be postponed until the next day. Rep. Fleming is responsible for stopping H4797 the first time it came up for a vote in the House.

Wednesday, April 26, 2000:

The State newspaper published a strong editorial against H4797 and brought unwanted negative attention to H4797.

House rules require at least five (5) Representatives request debate on a bill to put it on the contested calendar. Bills on the contested calendar do not get debated until all the bills on the uncontested calendar get attended to. Then, the bills on the contested calendar get attended to in the order in which they were put on the contested calendar. To put a bill on the contested calendar this late in the legislative session is the kiss of death. H4797 needed to get passed by the House by Thursday, April 27, 2000, if H4797 was to have any real chance of being made law this year.

H4797 came to the House floor for a vote for the second time on the House’s uncontested calendar. The anti self defense crowd could only muster four requests for debate, not enough to put H4797 on the contested calendar. But, Representatives FLEMING (R, Dist. No. 42, Union Co.), DAVENPORT (R, Dist. No. 37, Spartanburg Co.), and HAWKINS (R, Dist. No. 34, Spartanburg Co.) joined with the anti self defense crowd and put H4797 on the contested calendar. Representatives Fleming, Davenport, and Hawkins were responsible for stopping H4797 the second time it came up for a vote in the House.

GrassRoots leaders tried to contact Representatives Fleming, Davenport, and Hawkins to find out why they were killing H4797. We were not able to get their answers on Wednesday. GrassRoots leaders then asked the GrassRoots activists to contact Representatives Fleming, Davenport, and Hawkins to ask the representatives to please reconsider their positions against H4797.

Thursday, April 27, 2000:

GrassRoots leaders were able to talk with Representatives Fleming and Davenport early on Thursday morning. The legislators stated they were not opposing H4797, they were only delaying every bill to try to protect the flag on the statehouse. They said they were doing what they could to save the flag, and everything else came second. GrassRoots leaders told the representatives gun owners were the most loyal supporters of the flag, and they were hurting gun owners by killing H4797. GrassRoots leaders told the representatives H4797 would die unless the House passed it today. H4797 could not wait until later this session to be passed by the House because then H4797 would not be considered by the Senate. GrassRoots told the representatives gun owners needed H4797 to be passed today and the representatives were wrong to punish their supporters to get back at their enemies.

GrassRoots then asked them why they could not just delay the other bills and pass H4797. The representatives stated they were delaying every bill and they were not going to change what they were doing, even if it meant killing H4797. GrassRoots told the legislators we would report how H4797 was killed in the House. **Rep.**

Fleming told GrassRoots he would vote against H4797 if we made him mad.



Then, the calls, faxes, and emails from YOU - the GrassRoots activists - started to light up the House. Rep. Fleming decided to become a cosponsor of H4797, but he still did not withdraw his request for debate on H4797 and kept H4797 on the contested calendar. The House attended to ten other bills and then Reps. Hawkins and Davenport withdrew their requests for debate on H.4797. However, there were still five requests for debate on H4797, one of which was still Rep. Fleming's. The House attended to another bill and then Rep. Fleming withdrew his request for debate on H4797, this took H4797 off of the contested calendar and put it back on the uncontested calendar.

Two dozen more bills were attended to and then H4797 came to the House floor for a vote for the third time on the House's uncontested calendar. Unfortunately, Rep. ROBINSON (R, Dist. No. 5, Pickens Co.) requested debate on H4797, which put H4797 back on the contested calendar. Rep. ROBINSON is responsible for stopping H4797 the third time it came up for a vote in the House.

The House moved on to a few other bills. Then, Rep. Robinson, with unanimous consent, withdrew his request for debate on H4797. This put H4797 back on the uncontested calendar.

GrassRoots was informed H4797 was to be the next bill to come to the House floor for a vote (which would have been the fourth time) on the House's uncontested calendar. Unfortunately, Rep. CATO (R, Dist. No. 17, Greenville Co.) moved that the House do now adjourn (a little before noon), which was agreed to. Rep. CATO is responsible for stopping H4797 the fourth time it would have come up for a vote in the House.

IMPORTANT FACTS FROM THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE:

The House Journal reveals Representatives Fleming, Davenport, Hawkins, Robinson, and Cato were responsible for stopping H4797 as described above. GrassRoots was told Representatives Fleming, Davenport, Hawkins, and Robinson stopped H4797 to protect the flag, not because they opposed H4797. GrassRoots was told the representatives were doing this to all bills and GrassRoots should not hold this against them because it was a needed action to protect the flag. A look at the official House Journal reveals facts to the contrary.

Actions speak louder than words. These representatives allowed other bills to get passed without requesting debate. Their actions tell you their priorities better than their words.

On Wednesday, April 26, 2000, the above mentioned representatives were not only killing H4797, they were playing politics with our God given, inalienable rights. Their failure to request debate on other bills shows you which bills they thought were more important than H4797. For example, the official House Journal reveals:

- 1.) H4752 was allowed to be debated and passed without any requests for debate from Representatives Davenport, Hawkins, or Robinson. H4752 would create a volunteer license for retired nurses to use in donating their services to charitable organizations.
- 2.) H4743 was allowed to be debated and passed without any requests for debate from Representatives Fleming, Davenport, Hawkins, or Robinson. H4743 would allow parents of a newborn child to abandon their child at a hospital and get immunity from prosecution if certain conditions were met, and would require the State of SC to take responsibility for the child.
- 3.) S1212 was allowed to be debated and passed without any requests for debate from Representatives Davenport, Hawkins, or Robinson. S1212 would increase registration fees by 26% on standard license plates issued to vehicle manufacturers for vehicles used in employee benefit programs, testing, or promotional purposes.
- 4.) S1331 was allowed to be debated and passed without any requests for debate from Representatives Fleming, Davenport, Hawkins, or Robinson. S1331 would change voting precincts in Anderson county.
- 5.) H4974 was allowed to be debated and passed without any requests for debate from Representatives Fleming, Davenport, Hawkins, or Robinson. H4974 would authorize the Murrell's Inlet Garden City fire district in Georgetown and Horry counties to provide emergency medical services within its boundaries under certain circumstances.

On Thursday, April 27, 2000, the above mentioned representatives were not only killing H4797, they were still playing politics with our God given, inalienable rights. Their failure to request debate on other bills shows you which bills they thought were more important than H4797. For example, the official House Journal reveals:

- 1.) S1263 was allowed to be debated and passed without any requests for debate from Representatives Fleming, Davenport, Hawkins, or Robinson. S1263 would lower taxes for a large pharmaceutical company.
- 2.) H3808 was allowed to be debated and passed without any requests for debate from Representatives Fleming, Davenport, Hawkins, or Robinson. H3808 would allow an exemption for deeds from the state's deed recording fee that transfer realty from an agent to the agent's principal when the realty was purchased with funds of the principal.
- 3.) H4003 was allowed to be debated and passed without any requests for debate from Representatives Davenport, Hawkins, or Robinson. H4003 would change the law regarding maintenance, release, and confidentiality of juvenile records pursuant to the juvenile justice code.

On Wednesday, May 3, 2000 (only two days after H4797 was killed), the House voted to pass H5028, a special order to require the flag issue be discussed until passed or killed starting on May 9, 2000. This was able to be done because of a two thirds vote of the House Rules Committee and a simple majority vote of the House.

On Wednesday, May 10, 2000, the first official Confederate Memorial Day holiday in SC, the House voted to bring down the flag. Representatives Hawkins and Robinson voted to bring down the flag. The same Hawkins and Robinson who killed H4797 by putting H4797 on the contested calendar and used the excuse of protecting the flag as justification for killing H4797.

POLITICAL SPIN AT WORK:

On Wednesday, May 17, 2000, the House voted to pass H4797 on the second reading. It passed by a vote of 92 to 0. This vote is worthless for determining who really supports H4797 because the vote does not matter. H4797 was already a dead bill.

Actions speak louder than words. A legislator's support of legislation that he has already killed is nothing more than political posturing. The best way to know how a legislator really feels about pro self defense legislation is to look at how he worked and voted when the legislation still had a chance to be made into law, not how he voted on the legislation after he already killed it. All of the legislators mentioned above who played a role in killing H4797 when H4797 had a chance to become law, voted to pass H4797 after it had no chance of becoming law. When their votes and actions could have passed H4797, they opted to kill H4797 instead. When their votes meant nothing because H4797 was already dead, they claim to support H4797.

SUMMARY:

Not all legislation was being blocked as claimed by the legislators, as proven by the examples above. The legislators should have let our bill go through like they did for the bills listed above. The legislation being blocked was that legislation which the legislators felt they could block and not have to pay a price at election time. Our God given, inalienable right to self defense supported in H4797 is one of the bills the legislators thought they could kill without our holding them accountable. The real tragedy is if they are right.

Some people will say we need to make an exception for the legislators who supported the flag. Why? Who else should we make exceptions for? Should we excuse those who kill our bills to promote land use planning? Isn't urban sprawl a terribly important problem? How about education? I mean, what else can be more important than our children? How about reapportionment? Or tax cuts? Or mass transit?

How should Representatives Hawkins and Robinson be viewed? They killed our bill, H4797, in the name of protecting the flag, then they voted to bring down the flag. Does this make sense to you?

It matters not whether a legislator claims to be our friend. If a legislator votes against restoring our God given, inalienable rights, then he is not our friend. If a legislator votes to restore our God given, inalienable rights, then he is our friend. Remember, actions (i.e., votes on legislation) speak louder than words (i.e., campaign promises).

We must get our "friends" to support our God given, inalienable rights. If our current "friends" will not support our God given, inalienable rights, then we need new friends. If it means letting our known enemies win one election cycle to impress upon our "friends" that we mean business, then so be it. Then, at the next election cycle the powers that be will know they can not win unless one of our true friends is a candidate.

There will always be something "important" for legislators to decide. We must let them know they are never to use our God given, inalienable rights as bargaining chips, or else we will remember them at election time.

We must remember in November.



These Merchants Don't Want CWP Permit Holders To Carry Firearms In Their Stores

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Statewide:

Tiger Express
Suburban Propane
Carolina Tire
South Carolina Federal Credit Union
Angler's Mini Marts
Carolina Bank
Thomas and Howard Cash and Carry
Central Carolina Bank
Security Finance
BB&T
Carolina First! www.carolinafirst.com
First Citizens Bank
Gaz Bah Mini Shops
Hot Spot Convenience Stores
Will-Mart Convenience Stores
Coastal Federal Bank

Aiken:

McDonalds Pine Log, and Whiskey Rd
Captain "D'S" Whiskey Rd
Aiken Mall 2441 Whiskey Rd
Shoney's of Aiken 1909 Whiskey Road

Anderson:

Anderson Yamaha/Honda 110 Miracle Mile Plaza
Perpetual Bank

Andrews:

H&S Oil Co

Barnwell:

Rainbow Gas Garden Dunbarton Blvd

Batesburg/Leesville:

Owner/Agent State Farm 605 W. Church St.
B & L Sports 514 West Railroad Ave.
Wiz's Eatery 110 West Church St. Suite A

Bishopville:

Holland Enterprises, Feed and Seed
R. Travis Windham Insurance Agency 204 N. Main St

Blythewood:

Plum's Ice Cream Factory, Wilson Rd.
JR's United Convenience, 10447 Wilson Rd.
Blythewood Oil Company, Sharpe Exxon #1, Highway 21,
Vision Quest Video of Blythewood, 420-D McNulty Road
Blythewood IGA
Blythewood McDonalds, 250 Blythewood Road
Bank of Ridgeway

Camden:

Food Chief 433 Sumter Highway

Charleston:

Evening Post Publishing Co. 134 Columbus St.
Pagemart of SC
Goodwill Industries of Lower SC 5640 Rivers Ave

Charleston (cont):

Wal-Mart 2245 Ashley Crossing
Check Care Systems 4790-A Trade St
Henry's Sporting Goods, 1662 Highway 17 N
Gallman Personnel Services 3175 W. Montague Ave
Piggly Wiggly Harborview Rd
Hay Tire Company, Inc. 444 Savannah Hwy
James Island Cleaners 1739 Maybank Hwy
Charleston Steel & Metal
Northwood Mall
Citadel Mall
Belk's Northwood Mall www.belk.com
Lenz's Dry Cleaners 2665 Ashley Phosphate Rd.
CPM Federal Credit Union
Kaufman Mobile Home Supply 6842 Rivers Ave.

Columbia:

Arch Paging 1724 Broad River Road
Star Music 1322 Assembly St.
Star Music 9810 Two Notch Road
Colonial Life/Unum Life Insurance 1200 W. Colonial Life
Hair Cattery 150 Harbison Blvd.
Columbia Steel and Metal 1148 Shop Road
Chipco Computer Distributors, Inc.
Carolina Convenience Stores
Boozler Lumber Atlas Rd
Goodwill Industries 555 St. Andrews Road
One Price Clothing Store Broad River Road
RBMG, Inc. 7909 Parklane Road
Frankie's Fun Park
Pelican Company 919 S. Edisto Ave.
Western Steer Steakhouse, St. Andrews Rd
Crowon-Stone Printing Co 819 Main Street
Tuesday Morning 282 St. Andrews Rd
Columbia Mall 7201 Two Notch Road
South Carolina Merchants Association 1735 St. Julians Pl.
Eckerd Drug #2744 9810 Two Notch (& Polo Rd.)
St.Andrews Mult-Cinemas 527 St. Andrews Rd.
Hancock Motor Company 3905 West Beltline Blvd
Bojangles 542 St.Andrews Rd.
Custom Pizza Company 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd.
Hair We Are 9810 Two Notch Rd.
Exxon / Blimbie's of St. Andrews 800 St. Andrews Rd.
BC&BS of South Carolina I20 & Alpine Rd.
State Farm Insurance Claims I20 & Bush River Rd.
Richland Fashion Mall Forest Drive
National Tax Svc 3707 Main St.
United Oil Marketers Garners Ferry Road
United Oil Marketers N. Main and I-20
Carolina Collegiate Federal Credit Union 710 Pulaski St.

Conway:

Belk's Church Street

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Email jrponti@yahoo.com

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Cottageville:

Main Street Diner 10716 Cottageville Hwy.

Midlands Area:

Sansbury Eye Center 205 Columbia Ave.

Hair Cuttery 3028 Charleston Hwy.

Hair Cuttery Two Notch Road

Midlands Area:

Sansbury Eye Center 205 Columbia Ave.

Hair Cuttery 3028 Charleston Hwy.

Hair Cuttery Two Notch Road

Huddle House 327 E. Columbia Ave.

SC Farm Credit Bureau 724 Knox Abbot Drive

#1 Flea Market Hwy 1

Ramada Inn West I-26 and US Hwy 378

Allstate Claims Office 172 McSwain Drive

CVI - Cablevision Industries 1125 B Avenue, W. Cola

Hardee's Restaurants Some Midlands Locations

Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores 7467 Woodrow St., Irmo,

SMI Steel 310 New State Rd., Cayce

Taco Bell Restaurants All Midlands Locations,

The Factory Outlets All Midlands Locations

Wendy's Restaurant 1410 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo

Piggly Wiggly Food Stores, 4360 Augusta Rd., Lexington

First Community Bank, 5455 Sunset Blvd., Lexington

Cooper Power Tools, 670 Industrial Dr., Lexington

Chapin:

Custom Pizza Company 140 Amicks Ferry Road

Conway:

Rods Pawn & Jewelry

Darlington:

Henry's Pantry 438 N. Main St

Easley:

Goodwill of Upper SC

Florence:

Piggly Wiggly Florence Mall

Fountain Inn:

Burger King 1101 N. Main Street

Georgetown:

Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce 1001 Front St.

Georgetown Seafood 1902 Highmarket St

Beverage Depot 254 ST Delight Rd

Prince George Framing and Gallery 805 Front Street

Nightingale's Professional Apparel 924 Front Street

Thomas Cafe, 703 Front Street

Piggly Wiggly 1620 Highmarket Street

Georgetown Art Gallery Inc. 732 Front Street

Tomlinson's Dept. Store 806 Front Street

Law Firm of Hinds, Cowan, Strange, and Greer 604 Front Street

Edward Jones Investments 936 Front Street

Greenville:

AAA Supply 203 Haywood Rd.

Rogers Stereo 525 Woodruff Rd

Spinx Oil Convenience Store

Comfort Inn 545 N. Pleasantburg Drive

Greenwood:

Burger King

Greenwood Bank & Trust

Dixie Cafe

Gilbert:

First Community Bank of Gilbert 4325 Augusta Highway

Hilton Head:

Belks @The Mall at Shelter Cove

Hollywood: Piggly Wiggly

Piggly Wiggly

John's Island:

Piggly Wiggly (Corp. owned) 3575 Maybank Hwy.

Ladson:

Piggly Wiggly (Corp. owned) 119 College Park Road

Lugoff:

Food Chief 840 Highway 1 South

Manning:

H & R Block, Inc. 36 West Boyce St

Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce

Freedom Finance, Inc. 14 N. Mill St

New Country Corner 521 Bloomville Rd

Marion:

Donut Hole

Mt. Pleasant:

Pantry Pride 2171G Hwy 17 North

Mullins:

Pee Dee Office Systems Main St

Murrells Inlet:

Old House Memories Antiques

Inlet Square Mall 10125 HWY 17 By-Pass,

Myrtle Beach:

Schlotzsky's Deli 812 S. King's Hwy.

Federal Express 1600 Stack Holder Ave

VPS Geo. Bishop Parkway

Dixie Discount Beverage S Kings Hwy

Time Warner Cable 1901 Oak St.

Klig's Kites Kings Hwy Surfside

Pacolet:

Pacolet Express 441 N Hwy 150

Pawley's Island:

Tuesday Morning 364 Highway 17 North

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Pelion:

Buddy's Pizza and Subs 714 Pine Street

Pickens:

AAA Marine

Ridgeway:

Bank of Ridgeway, Blythewood Branch

Saluda:

Caper House 401 N. Main St.

Seneca:

Hometown Food Store N. Walnut St

Carquest Auto Parts 507 N. First St

Spartanburg:

Progress Lighting 101 Corporate Drive

Summerville:

Money Man Pawn 135 Farmington Rd.

Lenz's Dry Cleaners 1625 N. Main Street

Belks 1301 N. Main St.

Maxway Boon Hill Rd

The Consignment Gallery N Cedar St

Sumter:

Jessamine Mall 1057 Broad St

Black River Electric Cooperative 1121 North Pike Road W.

Neal's Cafeteria 16 E. Liberty Street

Freedom Finance, Inc. 3 N. Main Street

Boykin Air Conditioning Services 845 S Guignard Dr

Sportsman's Shop and Stop 2810 Hwy 15 South

Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce 32 E. Calhoun Street

Tri Star Storage II / Cash Advance 2220 Peach Orchard Hwy

Freedom Finance, Inc. 3 North Main Street

Dixon's Grocery State Hwy 261

H & S Wholesale Inc. 200 S. Harvin St.

Hill Plumbing & Electric 438 N. Main St.

Kwik-Fare 1768 Pinewood Rd., Sumter 29150

SAFE Federal Credit Unions 180 Wesmark Blvd. Exten.

Sumter Check Casher 1084A Broad St.

Time Finance Company 31 Liberty Street

Hodge Auto/Truck Service 491 E. Liberty St.

CP & L 180 Wesmark Blvd.

Time Finance Company 31 Liberty Street

Swansea:

Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 West First Street

Taylors:

Spinx Oil Convenience Store 3226 Wade Hampton Blvd.

Walterboro:

Wholesale Bedding Outlet 111 Eddie Chasteen Dr

Parks Auto Parts 555 Bells Hwy.

Carpet Country

Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy.

Clearvision Optical 501A, Bells Hwy.

Piggy Wiggy 251A Bells Hwy.

Jus Sports 253D Bells Hwy.

Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy.

Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy.

Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy.

Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N. Jefferies Blvd.

S.C. Electric and Gas - All Locations

Costal Electric Co-operative 2269 Jefferies Hwy.

Allied Department Store 205 E. Washington St

Winnsboro:

Wal-Mart



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This is what posting against Law-Abiding Citizens is
Really Saying to Criminals

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South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

Changes in Instructor Reporting

Tim Finley

I just got a call from a former CWP student. SLED returned his application to him because his scores were not recorded on it. He submitted the new application and not the old application that required scores.

I have never recorded scores on the new application and have never had an application returned before for that reason.

I phoned Ken Middlebrook of SLED Regulatory and he stated that SLED is now requiring that CWP instructors write the student's scores somewhere in the instructor sign-off box, even where there is no longer a specific place to do so on the new application.

I informed Mr. Middlebrook that I would advise the rest of the GrassRoots instructors accordingly.

3 Boys, 2 Rifles, 1 Cop

By: Larry Simoneaux

I know many of you out there are less than enamored with guns.

Some of you are probably headed to Washington, D.C. next month to participate in "The Million Mom March" to try to get Congress to pass "sensible gun laws."

I won't be going.

Not because I condone, or even accept, firearms violence. I don't, I abhor it.

It's just that I'm convinced that more laws are not the answer. It's been tried.

The bottom line is still: what good are laws that aren't going to be enforced?

Too, we already have more than 30,000 such laws on the books and, deep inside, I have a voice that keeps asking, "What's 'insensible' or foolish about the ones we have now?"

So, I thought I'd tell a story and follow it with a question.

In the summer of 1963, my cousin Pete Macaluso and I were spending two weeks in a small Louisiana town with another of our cousins, Ernie Drake.

We were all 14. We were every bit as mixed up, hormone-charged, peer-pressured, angst-ridden, and terrified of embarrassment as any teenager is today. In the current vernacular, we were all "time bombs" just waiting to go off.

So, there we were -- together for two weeks and pretty much on our own for things to do.

One afternoon, after several hours of swimming and playing ball, we decided to go shooting.

My parents had given me a .22 when I was 13. I'd brought it with me. Ernie had one, too.

So, we got on our bikes and pedaled to the hardware store in town. We carried the 22's on our handlebars.

After buying several boxes of ammunition, we rode over to a small bridge. There, we began shooting at leaves, twigs, branches, cans, beer bottles and whatever else floated by.

While we were shooting, quite a few cars passed by. Most people took no notice, but one or two adults waved to us.

After about an hour, another car came by. This one stopped. It was the sheriff.

He got out of the car and asked what we were doing.

"Shooting at stuff in the river."

"You boys are bein' careful, right?"

"Yessir," we all chimed in.

"Hittin' anything?"

"Sometimes."

Then he asked to see my .22.

"Here. Let me give you some pointers."

He stayed for about 20 minutes and taught us some things about proper aim, safety, and handling.

When he left he said, "You boys have fun, but be careful. Those guns are real. Don't let me hear that you got in any trouble."

Once again, in unison, "Yessir."

Three boys. Two rifles. One cop. No injuries or deaths. Back then, it wasn't even remarkable.

You may not agree with the following, but here's something to chew on.

Something's different now and it isn't the guns. They were easily available back then. You could buy them through the Sears catalog if you wanted.

However, when I was given that .22, Dad taught me how to handle it safely and told me, in no uncertain terms, "You be careful with that."

His tone was clear. That rifle wasn't a toy.

This notion was echoed by my relatives. My neighbors told me the same thing. Ditto my teachers and my scoutmaster.

When I bought ammunition, complete strangers weighed in on the same topic.

The words they used may not have been the same, but I was constantly reminded that I was responsible for that rifle and how it was used.

It became eminently clear to me that the adults in my community cared about my behavior and they made sure that I cared too.

Another idea they imparted was one I'd already deduced.

Accountability. If anything ever happened, the buck stopped at my rear end.

At the low end of the scale, I knew -- as sure as the sun rose in the east -- that if I ever behaved stupidly with that rifle and word got back to my parents, there was going to be hell to pay.

If I ever damaged anything, "hell" was going to look pretty inviting. Stunningly clear in my mind was what awaited me -- legally and otherwise -- if I ever injured anyone.

Responsibility and accountability. Two tough concepts that are now seldom mentioned and largely forgotten.

So, before we trash an amendment to the Constitution or seek to blame inanimate objects for the actions of animate beings, we might consider the reinstitution of such ideas into society.

For certain, this is not all that needs to be done. Strengthening the family, putting our kids welfare first, electing leaders who can be looked up to, restoring the

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

authority of teachers, getting rid of the filth and reducing the violence that pervades popular entertainment, administering our laws impartially. These are also challenges.

It isn't going to be easy. It took almost 40 years to get where we are today and, given the repeated repudiation of responsibility and accountability by the individual who holds our nation's highest office. The reversal probably won't start from the top.

Sticking a finger into the air to find prevailing opinion has never been a successful method of leadership. Too, the most enduring legacy of our current President will likely be a bumper sticker that says, "Drop the cigar. Move away from the intern. Come out with your pants up."

So, it'll be up to us. Parents, teachers, pastors, rabbis, community leaders, adults of all stripes.

Now for the question.

Want to talk about what we can do or do we keep shouting at each other?

By the way, Of the three cousins, Ernie became a judge, Pete owns a very successful business, and I was the black sheep.

I went to sea. Ended up on research vessels.

We're all married. We all have our original spouses. None of us have ever been arrested. None of us has ever harmed another person or damaged anyone's property. We pay taxes. We vote. We go to church. We coach Little League.

We also still own and use firearms.

But, it's the guns, right?

Question from Visitor from Tennessee

Hello,
I'm going to move to SC to attend MUSC in Charleston. I have a current TN CWP and would like to transfer (and my driver's license) it to SC. How do I go about this? Do I have to re-certify?

Thanks,

Derek U. in TN

Answer:

South Carolina recognizes TN as a reciprocal state and you may carry here under that agreement. However, there is no such thing as a transfer of CWP.

Your options, as I see them are:

1) Maintain whatever you must to keep your TN CWP viable and it will be recognized as a valid reciprocal CWP from another state. Remember you must follow South Carolina's laws regarding proper CWP use.

and/or (as allowed by TN CWP law)

2) Change your residence to SC and wait one year before application to obtain a SC permit.

Gun Law Failure Australia Crime Increases After Guns Are Confiscated

It has now been 12 months since gun owners in Australia were forced to surrender 640,381 personal firearms to be destroyed, a program costing the government more than \$500 million dollars.

And now the results are in: Australia-wide, homicides are up 3.2 percent; Australia-wide, assaults are up 8.6 percent; Australia-wide, armed robberies are up 44 percent (yes, 44 percent). In the state of Victoria, homicides with firearms are up 300 percent. Figures over the previous 25 years show a steady decrease in armed robbery with firearms (changed drastically in the past 12 months). There has been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the elderly.

Australian politicians are on the spot and at a loss to explain how no improvement in "safety" has been observed after such monumental effort and expense was successfully expended in "ridding society of guns." Bet you won't see this data on the evening news or hear your governor or members of the state Assembly disseminating this information. It's time to state it plainly: Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes, gun-control laws only affect the law-abiding citizens.

Take note, Americans, before it's too late!

Benefits of Becoming a GrassRoots Instructor

Instructor Members of GrassRoots South Carolina enjoy the following additional benefits of GrassRoots membership:

- Free Web Space Advertising at the GrassRoots Instructor's Home Page at:
http://www.scfirearms.org/cwp_inst.htm. (Referrals from the webpage alone more than pays instructor membership dues of \$25.00)
- Free Posting of Special Class Offerings in the Grass Roots South Carolina Newsletter
- Free Subscription to Grass Roots South Carolina Newsletter
- Full Membership Privileges in Grass Roots South Carolina
- Publication of Your Instructor Related Articles
- Referrals to you when GrassRoots Receives Inquiries for CWP Instruction in your area of South Carolina
- Additional GrassRoots Newsletters for Distribution to Your Students

Thank you for your continued support of GrassRoots South Carolina!

Myrtle Beach Indoor Shooting Range Terminates Relationship with S&W

To GrassRoots South Carolina:

Enclosed is a copy of the initial letter that Myrtle Beach Indoor Shooting Range sent to S&W upon receipt of their letter advising us of a new contract with us and other master dealers. S&W was one of our most important and profitable lines, notice the word WAS.

I would appreciate your members and readers being aware of our position. Although S&W firearms are among the finest in the world, we cannot support the corruption of free enterprise, the U.S. Constitution, and the spirit of liberty cherished by Americans.

Respectfully, Ted L. Gragg, C.E.O.

The Positive Impact of Guns

The Positive Impact of Guns on Citizen Safety Is Being Completely Ignored

By John Lott

Misleading people about the risks of guns in the home will harm people's safety in a very real way.

(CBS)The current debate over gun control focuses only on the benefits of restrictions. But regulations can also involve significant costs. Completely ignored are the more than two million times each year that potential victims use guns to stop violent crimes and that guns are used about five times more frequently to stop crimes than they are used to commit them. No one asks whether it is the law-abiding citizens or criminals who are going to obey these laws and bear the burden of their costs.

President Clinton refuses to even mention that guns save lives. According to him, the only cost of more regulation is that they "inconvenience" hunters. Consider, then, the costs and benefits of Mr. Clinton's main proposals:

Waiting periods. A waiting period may allow people to cool off before they do something that they regret, but people many times are being stalked or threatened and waiting periods can make it difficult for them to quickly obtain a gun for defense. The data suggest caution before reinstitution the waiting period that lapsed last year. I have found, in the only research done on this question, that the Brady Law's national waiting periods had no impact on murder or robbery, but slightly increased rape and aggravated assault rates by a few percent. Thus, for two crime categories, the major effect was to delay law-abiding citizens from getting a gun for protection. The risks were greatest for crimes against women.

Mandatory gun locks. Gun locks can prevent some accidental firing of guns, but they also limit a gun's use in self-defense. In 1996, even though there were around 80 million people owning guns, there were only 44 accidental gun deaths for children under age 10. It is hard to think of any other household item that is anywhere near as common in American homes that has as low of an accidental death rate. Indeed, about twice as many children under 10 die from drowning in bathtubs. Misleading people about the

risks of guns in the home will harm people's safety in a very real way.

New rules for gun shows. There is no evidence that such shows are important in supplying guns to criminals. What's more, the rules for purchasing guns at a gun show are exactly the same as for gun purchases anywhere else. Dealers who sell guns at a show must perform the same background checks and obey all the other rules that they do when they make sales at their stores. Private sales are unregulated whether they occur at a gun show or not. The issues are whether regulating private sales only within the confines of a gun show are enforceable and whether the rules will be obeyed only by law-abiding citizens who will endure the 72 hour waiting period and burden of the new fees.

Age limits. Mr. Clinton proposes a federal ban on possession of handguns by anyone under 21. Under a 1968 federal law, 21 is already the minimum age to purchase a handgun, but setting the age to possess a handgun is a state matter. But people between 18 and 21 are not generally criminals and they also include victims of crime. Many of these young adults benefit from gun possession. My own research indicates that laws allowing those between 18 and 21 years of age to carry a concealed handgun helps reduce violent crimes just as well as those limited to citizens over 21.

Mr. Clinton's proposals will unfortunately cost more lives than they save.

Dr. John Lott Jr. is a fellow in law and economics at the University of Chicago School of Law. He is author of *More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun Control Laws*.

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Late Breaking News on Piggly Wiggly - Your Help is Needed

GrassRoots has been in communication with Piggly Wiggly corporate executives and has been advised, informally, that Piggly Wiggly has now developed a corporate policy to neither promote nor discourage CWP holders from entering their stores.

Although we have not received a copy of the policy, we have been further advised that Piggly Wiggly corporate management has instructed their stores to remove the "No Concealed Weapons" signs in their windows.

At this time not all Piggly Wiggly stores have taken down their signs. We need your help in clearing the state of posted Piggly Wiggly stores! GrassRoots members seeing a posted Piggly Wiggly store should take the following steps:

- 1) Advise the manager that it is your understanding that Piggly Wiggly has developed Corporate policy neither promoting nor denying lawful concealed carry in their stores and has instructed all stores to remove signs which bar CWP holders. The corporate office in Charleston will verify this.
- 2) If further intervention is needed, request assistance from:
David R. Schools,
Sr. Vice President
Piggly Wiggly Carolina Co.,
Mr. Schools can be reached at:
dschools@bellsouth.net or
www.thepig.net <end>

Movie Review

The Patriot - Not just about the American Revolution Review by Jon Roland

The movie *The Patriot* starring Mel Gibson, which opened across the United States on June 28, 2000, is the story of an epic struggle between good and evil, but although the producers did well at re-enacting the setting of the American War for Independence, it is really an allegory of our own times, with some pointed references to recent events.

Benjamin Martin, played by Mel Gibson, is a composite of various Patriots: Colonel Daniel Morgan, who fought the brutal Colonel Banastre Tarleton and Lord General Charles Cornwallis at the Battle of Cowpens; Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox," a guerrilla fighter from South Carolina's wetlands; Elijah Clark; Thomas Sumter; and Andrew Pickens, all renowned freedom fighters.

The character most resembles Francis Marion, who was commissioned a Captain in the Revolutionary Army and was later promoted to Major, Lieutenant Colonel and finally Brigadier General. His early military experience was fighting against the Cherokee Indians. His heroism and military skills consisted mainly of commanding militia units in guerrilla tactics, taking advantage of forests and swamps for cover and evasion. He is credited with a daring rescue of American troops surrounded by British forces at Parkers Ferry, South Carolina. After the war, Marion served three terms as a member of the South Carolina Senate.

The central character of this epic is not just Benjamin Martin, but the Militia. The moral struggle of Martin is the struggle of the Militia, at first conscious of its domestic duties, and reluctant to risk those under its protection with a forceful response to tyranny, but compelled to resort to force when it is unable to protect them in any other way.

This is a familiar theme in drama. It is the struggle of the Pacifist Bride who finally resorts to violence to protect her Lone Lawman husband in *High Noon*. The moral is clear. A righteous person avoids violence, even at the cost of his personal dignity and pride, but some times Evil leaves him no choice but to



use violence to defend the innocent, especially those he loves. He agonizes over the harm he has done in the past, and that he doing, and must do, but love is stronger, and while it may begin with those of his own family, he cannot avoid the duty that comes with love of the innocent everywhere.

It is about the way a man discovers the patriot in himself.

The ways in which this movie is relevant today is revealed by the ways it departs from Revolutionary War history. The story of Francis Marion would have made a good movie if told straight, but this movie has some points to make that justify the historical departures, and it is interesting how some critics have fastened on those departures to attack the movie, while conveniently avoiding their deeper meaning.

Much has been made of Martin handing muskets to two of his young sons and leading them on a merciless slaughter of the British soldiers taking his oldest son to be hung, on orders of the evil Col. Tavington, played by Jason Isaacs, or of the emerging camaraderie between a racist white militiaman and a black slave who originally joined to win his freedom and stayed on to finish the war. The first is decried as appalling, and the second as improbable. But in fact boys that young, and some women, did fight in the Revolution, as did some blacks, and fighting together does produce bonding that breaks down barriers. Some would have their readers believe that all white southerners were racist slaveholders, but in fact only wealthy planters could afford slaves, and among them, slavery was often regarded as wrong, especially among the better educated and more religious. There were free slaves in every state, and many of them worked on plantations for wages.

A more significant departure is in the scene in which Col. Tavington orders the townspeople, who have supported the revolution, into their church, then has them locked in and the church burned with all the people inside, including women and children. That would have been considered an unthinkable atrocity at the time. The historical Colonel Tar-

leton was brutal, but not that brutal. But it does not represent a Revolutionary War event. It represents the Davidian church in 1993. And Col. Tavington represents the modern paramilitary federal agency, as revealed in the meeting between Col. Tavington and Lord Gen. Cornwallis, in which Cornwallis berates Tavington for his brutal methods, but accedes to Tavington's proposal to operate "outside the chain of command", and offers him land in Ohio if he can pull it off. This kind of conspiracy to afford deniability to political leaders while conducting atrocities is something that could occur in any time, but didn't happen during the American Revolution. It is happening in our own time.

The movie brings out other things about the militia. It shows them being called up, not as an act of an official, but by private persons aware of a common threat. It shows how they might initially be less effective in a stand-up battle requiring extensive military training and discipline, but how they become more effective with experience, until they can defeat the most powerful army, largely because they are better at personal combat, making up in personal skills what they lack in unit cohesion. It should be noted that, for all its unit discipline, it was individual combat ability that did most to enable the Roman militia to conquer the Mediterranean world.

Gibson turns in his usual wonderful performance, comparable to that of his performances in the equally pointed movies, *Conspiracy Theory* and *Braveheart*. But the outstanding performance in this movie is by a newcomer, not just to acting, but to life -- the little girl who plays Martin's youngest daughter, Susan. Getting a child so young to act so well is amazing, and I predict more outstanding performances from that young lady.

Mel Gibson, Roland Emmerich, and the others behind this excellent movie should be commended for giving up a deeper appreciation of the concept of the militia, and how all of us have a militia duty to defend one another. It has done a great deal to revive the militia spirit to defend our Constitution, for which so many noble patriots died.

Boys Who Have Never Fired a Gun

Boys Who Have Never Fired a Gun

By Judith Reisman and Eunice Van Winkle Ray

"We cannot but pity the boy who has never fired a gun."

--Thoreau

After the last youthful shooting of classmates, most thoughtful folks are asking whether the unrelenting attack upon traditional morality has let loose more systemic societal toxins than ever experienced under the former "repressive" Judeo-Christian culture. Do we continue to pretend that our embrace of secular narcissism does not naturally breed cynical, violent children? Do we delude ourselves that school children, educated in death, sex, homosexuality and AIDS, are not being violated (a word which shares its Latin root -- vis, force -- with violent)?

And we do persist in denying that our mass media -- film, television, books, music, newspapers, the Internet -- daily train American children in Advanced Sex and Violence Education.

While many critics cite untested childhood vaccines like hepatitis B as adding fuel to the youthful violence fire, there are those who insist any recollection of childhood innocence is a variation on the "false memory syndrome."

Such experts just discount increases of youthful venereal disease, sexual addiction, depression, violence, suicide, rape, homosexual/bisexual gender confusion or child sexual abuse.

Instead, establishment liberals are sure that guns cause boys to murder praying and passing classmates. With an absence of historical data showing boys as mass murderers, the robotic response is that the memories of good kids are mere fantasies.

But the biographies of our brightest and best, including men like Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt, record youths perched in trees, rifles at the ready for an errant squirrel or bird.

The "make love not war" elites appear to have brought us indiscriminate lust (not love) and domestic massacres (plus war). Which brings us to 1854 and environmental icon Henry David Thoreau's contribution to the current debate on

boys and guns. In the tenth chapter of his book, "Walden," Thoreau reports that for centuries boys used firearms without murdering friends and strangers -- while managing to treat girls and women with courtesy and respect. Hear Thoreau's own observations about American boys and their guns:

- We cannot but pity the boy who has never fired a gun. He is no more humane, while his education has been sadly neglected. For no human being past the age of boyhood will wantonly murder. Such is often the young man's introduction to the finest and the most original part of himself.
- Almost every New England boy among my contemporaries shouldered a fowling-piece between the ages of ten and fourteen; and his hunting and fishing grounds were not limited, like the preserves of an English nobleman, but were more boundless even than those of a savage. No wonder, then, that he did not oftener stay to play on the common. ... (W) hen some of my friends have asked me anxiously about their boys, whether they should let them hunt, I have answered, yes -- remembering that it was one of the best parts of my education -- make them hunters, though sportsmen only at first, if possible, mighty hunters at last. ... There is a period in the history of the individual, as of the race, when the hunters are the "best men," as the Algonquins called them.

Thoreau might conclude that while guns do not poison children, cultural mores can indeed poison children. He records a difficult era before the mass media

and federally funded sexperts taught young Americans to repudiate the demands and delays of a moral life. Does the state honestly seek causes for the growing numbers of youths who blaspheme, curse, rape, kill and lose their health to STDs, sterility, abortion and AIDS? Causal answers can be found in an honest study of the radical change agents of the second half of the 20th century -- especially the Rockefeller Foundation and its handpicked sex agent, Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey.

Thoreau documents life as sacred when moral conduct was resolutely required in all of America's institutions and fully expected of everyone, especially a president, legislator, clergyman, teacher or others who held a position of authority and responsibility.

Not as much "fun"? Perhaps. But children carried firearms without killing one another at school and their sexual life was largely confined to "the marital act" on the marriage bed and not to playgrounds and bushes in public parks. An unflinching look at the real causes for juvenile vice and violence has become a national imperative for liberty-loving Americans.

Courtesy WorldNetDaily.com

Dr. Reisman is the president of the Institute for Media Education in Crestwood, KY. Her latest book is "Kinsey, Crimes & Consequences" (1998), which is available at WorldNetDaily.com



Photo was taken on our about the Fourth of July 1915 in Taylorville, Illinois. From left to right: Fritz Boch, age 3; Frank Boch, age 7; Otto Boch, age 1; Max Boch, age 5; and Frank Paul, age 5. Notice proper gun safety -- including no fingers on the triggers.

Photograph by Stephen Boch

Smith & Wesson Must Be Stopped

Smith & Wesson Must Be Stopped

By Weldon Clark and the Second Amendment News Team

It is amazing how many gun owners don't want to be "nasty" to S&W. The latest wimp out goes like this - "if someone else buys the company, then I can buy S&W products again."

Back in the 1960s, when S&W was owned by Bangor Punta, S&W called publicly for handgun registration.

NO, no, no. If you do this, the new owner Tompkins PLC will get paid TWICE for the treachery engaged in by its S&W subsidiary. Once by the government for selling-out Second Amendment rights and again by the new owner(s) of S&W for selling the assets of that company. Do you really want to reward them in this fashion? I think not. The idea is to reduce the value of S&W to ZERO because its products cannot be sold NO MATTER WHO OWNS Smith & Wesson. Only then will the entire corporate entity suffer the full cost of the decisions of IT'S executives (at the parent and at the subsidiary) and only then will all firearms manufacturers (present and future) learn that similar conduct will lead to a certain loss of the entire value of the offending company. It is the prospect of THAT loss which they will have to weigh in making future business decisions regarding litigation, etc. There can be no reprieve, no forgiveness, and no purchases of any new product with "Smith & Wesson" on it. In fact, this type of wimp-out is the mistake American gun owners made after 1968 when, knowing of S&W's conduct in supporting the federal Gun Control Act, we kept buying their goods. The political message is in the business disaster!

Many have noted that "good" dealers and distributors will be stuck with paid-for S&W inventory if they can't get rid of their pre-agreement inventory and some folks want to buy one last revolver for sentimental reasons. So.... here is some advice for them.

- You can immediately stop being an S&W dealer/distributor.
- Mark your current inventory as "Pre-agreement" and sell it off.
- Then order no more products from them, ever.

- Tell your customers what you have done.
- Your loyal customers will understand that you have to dispose of your current, paid-for inventory even though you have stopped doing business with S&W. Your customers will understand the political message you are sending and I'm sure respond appropriately.

No reprieve for S&W. If we let them change their corporate mind, there is no cost to their treachery. No purchases ever! When they are gone, gone, gone - no manufacturer will ever do this again no matter how many "pieces of silver" they are offered. The political message has to be: Sell out the Second Amendment and kill-off your business. The business decision will then be to compare certain extinction from loss of sales against eventual survival after paying the cost of litigation blackmail arising from baseless litigation. The sensible businessman's choice will be different than S&W's.

Received from another American gun owner: Allow me to suggest that we also stop purchasing from all of S&W's parent company, Tompkins PLC? They have a significant presence in the U.S., owning a number of companies that I always thought of as "American", particularly in the automotive industry. Tompkins PLC owns companies in the automotive parts, lawn & garden, food, and architectural products fields, in England, the U.S., and South Africa. Especially at this time of the year, they might be vulnerable to a boycott of the lawnmower maker, Murray. There are alternative suppliers of all these products.

A partial list of these companies and their principal products follows:

Gates Rubber: automotive & industrial rubber products including belts, hoses, and rubber flooring Murray: Lawnmowers, snowblowers, and "Sno-Racer"-type sleds Trico: Windshield wiper blades, arms, etc. Stant: Gas caps and radiator caps, hose clamps, etc. Lasco Bathware: Bath and whirlpool tubs Schrader: Air and liquid fill & relief valves for automotive; tire valves Edelman: Power steering hoses, brass fittings Tru-Flate: Air fittings, tire pressure gages Lubri-Matic: Grease, grease guns, marine and motorcycle oils and greases Plews: Grease guns, bearing packers, oil filter

wrenches Phillips: Residential, mobile-home, and RV windows and doors Ruskin: Industrial and commercial-building dampers and louvers Dexter Axle: Axles for small trailers Dearborn Mid-West Conveyor: Conveyors Red Wing Foods: House brand foods for supermarkets, including peanut butter, catsup, etc.

S&W is owned by a British outfit called Tompkins PLC. Now if I were interested in investing in Tompkins stock, I'd want a copy of their annual report, which I would request by clicking on the "Information Requests" link on their web site: <http://www.tompkins.co.uk/> This is an 84 page, full color book shipped from England. Be sure not to order one unless you really need it.

We must interdict S&W sales to government agencies at every level, starve the company, and kill it. For those who have the means, we must find judges who will issue injunctions against city, county, or state purchases especially preferential purchases of S&W products.

Attend the meetings of your local city council or county commission. Remind them that they've taken what's supposed to be a sacred oath to uphold and defend the Constitution. Tell them that, in choosing to do business with a foreign corporation savaging the Bill of Rights, they're violating both the letter and the spirit of that oath.

If you see a S&W auto or revolver in a cop's holster, find out if your city has a contract with S&W and demand that it be terminated immediately on the grounds (if all else fails) that the company falls short of Bill of Rights compliance.

Lawyers among us need to in-join HUD and other government agencies prepared to reward S&W for its cowardly behavior. One of the goodies Clinton promised S&W (and anybody else who signs on) is preferential treatment in the purchase of weapons by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and similar agencies. I could be mistaken, but doesn't that sound illegal to you? Whatever happened to competitive bidding?

Weldon Clark is a former NRA Director and lives in Liberty, SC. He hosts the popular Second Amendment News Team alerts list. You may contact him via e-mail at: whclark@bellsouth.net

Articles of Interest

Airborne Express won't ship firearms; UPS, FedEx impose higher rates, restrictions

By Jon E. Dougherty

Airborne Express, one of the nation's largest package shippers, told an Oregon firearms maker that the company no longer permitted its carriers to ship weapons and ammunition, according to a policy company officials said was adopted last fall.

Thomas A. Bowers, a federally-licensed firearms maker based in Hillsboro, Ore. told WorldNetDaily he was "shocked" last week to learn that the package carrier had such a policy, after a company official refused to ship a firearm -- despite Bowers' longstanding use of Airborne.

Indeed, in an online version of the company's stated shipping policies, firearms are listed as items that are "not acceptable," along with alcoholic beverages, money, and fur or fur-lined clothing, among other items.

Specifically, the weapons policy states, "Firearms (air or powder discharged) assembled or unassembled; ammunition in all forms regardless of hazard classification," will not be accepted by the company. A spokesperson for the Airborne Express executive offices confirmed the policy to WorldNetDaily and added that she "had not heard" whether corporate officials were considering changing the directive. The Airborne Express policy echoes that of United Parcel Service, another leading national package shipper, which also prohibits the shipment of "firearms and firearms parts," including ammunition. However, UPS officials have since changed that policy, deciding instead to impose special mandatory shipping requirements on gun dealers and manufacturers, as well as higher rates.

The reason for the policy, both companies said, was due to the risks posed by employee theft -- something corporate executives believe may put their companies at risk of lawsuits by third parties if

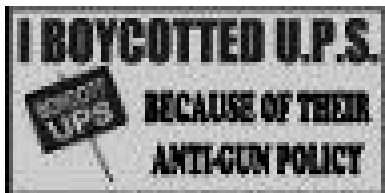
the weapons are used illegally. But critics of the policy, including Bowers, have said if the companies "have employees they can't trust," firearms makers should not be held liable.

For his part, Bowers has called for a nationwide boycott of Airborne, calling the policy "discriminatory ... against firearms manufacturers, dealers and owners."

The firearms maker said after WorldNetDaily's series of articles regarding Citibank's policy of refusing to do business with gun dealers and firearms clubs, which later forced the global banking giant to reverse its policy after "intense public pressure and a threatened boycott," it was time to do the same to Airborne. Currently, Bowers said, Federal Express permits shipments of firearms, "but it's strict; you have to use their automated tracking systems to ship" weapons.

Despite UPS' stated anti-firearms shipment policy, company officials said the firm would accept firearms shipments under special conditions. Most rifle shipments are subject to normal rules, but handguns must be shipped overnight at an increased cost of \$30 per parcel, a cost gun dealers and weapons makers have had to pass on to consumers. Ironically, Bower said, "Airborne was accepting my firearms shipments until earlier this month -- but their policy is dated last October." He said he did over \$200,000 worth of business last year, shipping all of his products via Airborne -- "an account I would think they'd hate to lose," he added.

Far from being activist in nature, Bowers told WorldNetDaily he simply wants his boycott to force Airborne company officials to realize what it means to exercise a constitutional right.



"As a firearms manufacturer, I feel like blacks must have felt when they were refused service in whites-only restaurants in the 1950s and 1960s," Bower said. "I just want the discrimination of gun owners, supporters, dealers and manufacturers to stop." Texas state representative Suzanna Hupp. Meanwhile, Texas state Rep. Suzanna Hupp, who watched helplessly in 1991 while her parents were gunned down in a

Luby's restaurant in Killeen, Texas, has launched an initiative to file a countersuit against U.S. cities and municipalities who have filed class action suits against gun makers.

"After consulting legal experts," Hupp said in a statement released to WorldNetDaily, she and other Texas legislators "are in the process of drafting a complaint that will be filed in a federal district court in Texas" with the goal of halting the municipal lawsuits against the firearms industry.

The countersuit, Hupp said, alleges "the cities have conspired to violate their right to keep and bear arms by using the courts to impose gun control and threaten the gun industry with bankruptcy." She added that "several Texas gun stores will be plaintiffs in the lawsuit because of the cities' attempt to interfere with the gun stores' ability to participate in interstate commerce -- a right that is protected by the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution."

Courtesy of WorldNetDaily.com

Jon E. Dougherty is a staff reporter for WorldNetDaily.

Gun Dealers Make Citibank Backs Down By Carol Huang

NEW YORK (APBnews.com) -- Citibank has tiptoed away from a decision to close a Nevada gun shop's account following an angry backlash from gun dealers across the country.

Gun distributors in California, Florida, Louisiana and elsewhere began writing the bank and urging their customers to boycott its services after learning that a Citibank branch in Las Vegas told the Nevada Pistol Academy that its account would be closed in 10 days. This action is necessary due to Citibank not maintaining accounts for businesses that deal in weapons," the bank wrote in a Feb. 7 letter to the academy, which also teaches shooting courses.

Gun sellers doing business with the academy obtained copies of the letter and quickly circulated them to others by fax and e-mail. Citibank then issued a

Articles of Interest

statement promising to treat gun dealers like any other businesses.

Same standards for all

"Moving forward ... small businesses engaged in the manufacture or sale of small firearms will be evaluated in the same manner as any other small business, using the same standards such as creditworthiness and number of years in business," the bank said.

Citibank spokesman Mark Rodgers attributed the situation to Citibank's acquisition of smaller banks in the 1980s. He said many of these banks have continued to operate with relative independence, and the branch's decision against a gun dealer was not company policy.

"This was a policy that was inconsistent across the U.S. In some areas we were doing business with these types of businesses, and in other areas, we were not," he said today. "This issue had never come up before until this incident in Nevada."

Although the nation's largest gun lobbyists -- the National Rifle Association and the National Shooting Sports Foundation -- were notified of the letter, the bulk of the reaction against Citibank appears to have come from individual gun dealers and wholesalers.

Dealer 'pleasantly surprised'

Dave Anver, owner of Dave's Guns in Colorado, said he obtained a copy of the letter last week and faxed it to 70 other gun distributors in the country, urging them to cut up their Citibank cards and to contact the bank.

"This is the only time I've really done anything like this. I'm surprised Citibank reversed themselves," Anver said. "I'm pleasantly surprised."

Gun dealers elsewhere said they passed the word to friends through the Internet who reacted by closing their accounts with the bank and writing the company angry letters.

"The ironic thing is that this happened at a bank in Las Vegas, and there's no discrimination when it comes to taking money in Las Vegas," said one distributor based in California.

Courtesy of APBnews.com

Carol Huang is an APBnews.com staff writer.



Dialing takes seconds.

Waiting for help may take the rest of your life.

Fight back!

The Social Hygiene of Gun Control

By Timothy Wheeler, M.D.

A version of this article appeared in the March 20, 2000 Edition of CNSNews.com A version of this article will appear in the Orange County Register

We share with physicians the private details of our lives so they can make us well. We depend on them to educate us in the promotion of health. How tempting it is, then, for a doctor to misuse that trust and offer a heartfelt political belief as medical advice. Especially if it's for the good of children.

Pediatricians, regrettably, yielded to that temptation long ago with gun control. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued an update on Monday of its recommendations for preventive child health care. The guidelines refer doctors to a detailed action plan and set forth a multi-tiered advocacy effort. Specifically, the AAP advises doctors to "incorporate questions about guns into their patient history taking" and to "urge parents who possess guns to remove them, especially handguns, from the home."

Doctors are supposed to work this political agenda on patients and their families, in their communities, and in government.

The AAP guidelines urge lawmakers to ban handguns and "assault weapons" as "the most effective way to reduce firearm-related injuries." Civil rights and the Constitution are not a hindrance to the AAP, the Second Amendment apparently regarded as an embarrassing nuisance.

Pediatrics has a long and proud tradition of promoting the well being of children. Widespread immunization against polio and diphtheria, for example, is the result of years of pediatricians' vigilance and dedication. As a result, these old scourges are just a bad memory. Because of pediatricians, children in abusive homes are routinely rescued from injury or death.

But with these guidelines, pediatricians are redirecting the principle of prevention into our lives in a way never intended by their professional mandate.

The pediatrician who is the chief architect of the AAP's anti-gun guidelines also founded the Handgun Epidemic Lowering Plan (HELP) Network. This is an exclusive organization dedicated to banning guns. Physicians who oppose the HELP Network's radical agenda are not even allowed to attend the group's conferences, a policy unthinkable in any scientific organization.

Articles of Interest

Public health often balances the general good against personal freedoms. One



need only look at the resistance of some parents to child immunizations to understand the issues of personal autonomy at stake.

But when public health intervention undermines a constitutional right, citizens are justified in resisting it. Today there is no clearer example of a public health assault on civil liberties than the pediatricians' campaign to persuade families that guns are bad. There is another problem with the public health anti-gun crusade. It urges doctors to probe their

young patients and their parents about guns in the home. Such meddling violates the boundary between a patient and doctor. Patients trust doctors to do what is right for them. When the doctor is driven by an ulterior motive such as trying to turn kids and their parents against gun ownership, she is committing an unethical act deserving of disciplinary action.

The AAP anticipates some patients may not go along quietly. The organization's instructional packet for speakers includes a section on how to deal with "challenging individuals" who might object to the AAP's gun demonization program on scientific or constitutional grounds. American gun owners feel the heat being slowly turned up. Now they are coming to realize that Clinton-Gore and the American Academy of Pediatrics are making no exception for law-abiding gun owners. In the war of words, they are being lumped in with the very few criminal gun owners who make daily headlines. A suburban father who takes his kids to the shooting range is the moral equivalent of a crack-addicted father who abandons his child to the care of another criminal. No wonder the National Rifle Association is signing up new members so fast.

We have become accustomed to exaggerated rhetoric from politicians. But our doctors? Never. Never should we have to put up with feigned motives and false counsel from the professionals in whose hands we place our children's wellness.

We can, however, believe the meaning of one pronouncement from the HELP Network's founder: "Guns are a virus that must be eradicated." American gun owners, you have been warned.

Timothy Wheeler, M.D., is the Director of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership, a Project of The Claremont Institute.

Educating an Armed Citizenry - We Have a Duty to Teach Firearms Safety in Our Schools **By Ambassador Alan Keyes**



are the readers of Guns & Ammo. That's not enough. We must understand clearly the real nature of the right to keep and bear arms. The Second Amendment is still in the Constitution of the United States, contrary to what some elite would like us to believe. But if it is to be more than words on a parchment in Washington, we must keep alive in the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens an understanding of why the Founders put the Second Amendment into the Constitution and what it means.

Gun control advocates suggest that the right to bear arms is an archaic remnant of an earlier time. They seem to think that the issue is no more relevant to today's society than the muskets of 200 years ago are to the weaponry of a contemporary army. As a result, their respect for the constitutional status of the right is diminished not that the liberals need much encouragement to disrespect the Constitution and encroachments of law and administrative practice follow.

Sometimes I think we encourage this process by failing to make the best case for the Second Amendment. We need to make clearer that the Founders did not intend merely to allow us to intimidate burglars or hunt rabbits to our hearts content. This is not to deny that

I am a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, as I know



hunting for dinner or defending against personal dangers were anticipated uses for firearms, particularly on the frontier. Above all, the Founders added the Second Amendment so that when after a long train of government abuses upon our natural rights, we will have the means to protect and recover our rights. That is why the right to keep and bear arms was included in the Bill of Rights.

In fact, if we make judgments that our rights are being systematically violated, according to the Declaration of Independence, we have not merely the right, but the duty to alter or abolish the power responsible. That duty requires that we maintain the material capacity to resist tyranny, if necessary. That is hard to do if government has all the weapons. A strong case can be made that it is a fundamental duty of the free citizen to keep and bear arms.

Such is the logic of the Declaration of Independence, although in our time there are many people who find it most inconvenient. They make one argument, which in tortured logic pretends that the word "people" in the Second Amendment means something that it does not mean in any of the other nine amendments in the Bill of Rights. They say that the Founders had an odd lapse, and wrote "people" instead of "states." And so, they say, the Amendment refers to a right inherent in the state governments.

This position is incoherent and has been disproved by every piece of legitimate historical research. For example, Jefferson refers in his letters to the militia as "every able-bodied man in the state." The militia had little or nothing to do with state government. The words "well-regulated" had something to do with organizing that militia and drilling it in the style of the 18th century, but "militia" itself referred to able-bodied citizens of the state and commonwealth not to the entity of state government.

It would make no sense to restrict the



right to keep and bear arms to the state governments, since the principle on

Articles of Interest

which our nation is based, as articulated in the Declaration, recognizes that any government, at any level, can become oppressive of our rights. Accordingly, we must be prepared to defend ourselves against the abuses of government at any level.

The movement against the Second Amendment rights is not just a threat to our capacity to defend ourselves against physical tyranny. It is also a part of the much more general assault on the very notion that human beings are capable of moral responsibility. Consider the absurd assertion that certain weapons should be banned because “they have no purpose except to kill people.” It is people that kill people, and they can use countless kinds of weapons or fertilizer or cars or pretty much anything that is handy but only if killing is in their hearts.

So let’s get down to the real issue: Are we grown-ups or are we children? If we are grown-ups, then we have the capacity to control our will even in the face of passion and to be responsible in the exercise of our natural rights. If we are children, then all the dangerous toys must be controlled by the government. But this solution implies that we can trust the government with a monopoly on guns, even though we cannot trust ourselves with them. This is not a “solution” that I trust.

Advocates of banning guns substitute thing-control for self-control. This approach will not work. It is the human moral will that saves us from violence, not the presence or absence of weapons. We should reject utterly the absurd theory that weapons are the cause of violence.

Anyone who is serious about controlling violence must recognize that it can only be done by rooting violence out of the human heart. That’s why I do not understand those who say they want to save us from guns even while they cling to the coldly violent doctrine that human life has no worth except what they “choose” to assign to it. If we want to end violence, we must warm our people’s hearts with a renewed dedication to the God-given equality of all human beings. We must recapture the noble view of man as capable of moral responsibility and self-restraint. If we purify the hearts of our

people, we will not have to worry that they will misuse their weapons.

As part of a renewal effort to meet our citizen duty and to treat our young people with the dignity they deserve as citizens of this great republic, I propose that we add a serious and mature formation in America’s Second Amendment heritage to the basic civics education taught in high school. We must teach our children about the Constitution, its heritage and background and its ultimate dependence on the principles in the Declaration of Independence. But we should also, as an ordinary part of their education, teach them about the relationship of arms to liberty.

We must teach our children that the preservation of liberty requires that a free people retain the moral and material means to discipline its own government should the temptation to tyranny take root. We must read the Founders’ own explanation of the purposes of the Second Amendment and see the great care with which they discussed the basis on which the use of the militia against the government might be contemplated, much less determined upon. Indeed, any study of the Founders is a study of high prudence, and this is particularly true in their deliberations about whether to take up arms in defense of liberty.

Past generations of Americans were taught the relationship between Second Amendment rights and our liberty. While the popular culture will resist our returning to this sort of education, we can do it if we are willing to devote ourselves to the principles of our Founders.

If we want students to realize just how serious their civic responsibility is, we should give them the experience of feeling the weight of a gun in their hand. In addition to the theory part of Second Amendment civics classes, we should require in the senior year of high school a practical civics course in the basics of self-defense, including firearms familiarity and safety.

This practical side of the Second Amendment should not be optional. We cannot allow ourselves to become habitually afraid of the instruments used to defend ourselves and our country. The Second Amendment course I am proposing must include the proper safety

handling and operation of firearms. We need to demythologize guns before the liberal attempt to create a basic fear of them succeeds. If the gun control mentality, promoting fear of guns, becomes the national mentality, we would be turning back the clock to the days when a warrior class ruled over people because only that class had the confidence and means to deploy the defense and coercion. The gun control agenda would turn us into a people too timid to defend themselves from our would-be masters. We need to make sure that these weapons are demystified, and that people understand their responsible use. Above all, we must instill in our young people a confidence in their own ability to handle firearms in a morally responsible and safe manner.

Such courses would be a primer for basic education in military activity. This was the Founders’ intent for the role of a citizen militia. The universal preparation of our young people would be a return in the direction of the right concept of “militia.” Just as the Founders intended that every able-bodied citizen be included in the militia, secondary school citizens trained in the safe effective use of firearms could comprise a part of our citizen defense reserve.

Also, sometimes when we defend the Second Amendment, we focus on the right to keep arms and neglect the right to bear arms. Students who complete such training should become eligible to bear arms (concealed carry) across state lines just as someone receiving a driver’s license in any one state can drive in another.

The case for our Second Amendment rights is the assertion that we intend to control ourselves and submit to the moral order God intends for our lives. Proper education in our Second Amendment heritage, principles and practical instruction in safe firearm use can ensure that liberty will continue for generations to come.

Ambassador Alan Keyes, the 49-year-former old candidate for President of the United States, received his B.A. and Ph.D. in Government Affairs from Harvard. He hosts The Alan Keyes Show: America's Wake Up Call. Ambassador Keyes is married, has three children and resides in the state of Maryland.

Whole Lotta Rosie - Did NRA Criticism Go Too Far?

Whole Lotta Rosie

Courtesy REASON

Express Vol. 3 No. 22

Poor Rosie O'Donnell, her politics keep getting in the way of her lifestyle. For most folks it is the other way around: Politics keeps jumping the fence and messing with their lives.

To recap, first it was her TV rants against guns versus her pitch-person job with K-Mart, one of the nation's biggest gun sellers. Now, it is Rosie's position as chief emcee and cheerleader for the Million Mom March smacking into her desire to have a bodyguard who packs heat.

Many have called O'Donnell a rank hypocrite, but that is too easy. She can surely see the disconnect between her public positions and her private choices. She just thinks she has very good reasons for her choices, particularly the need for firearm protection.

O'Donnell clearly perceives a threat, one that, ultimately, can only be met with a gun. She can still square that position with taking guns out of the hands of millions of Americans by believing that they do not face real threats.

Yet this still gets us to the odious heart of gun control, that a polyglot of self-appointed experts--talk show hosts, cabinet secretaries, trial lawyers, big city mayors, medical researchers--is in a better position to judge the threats to average Americans than each and every one of those average Americans.

And O'Donnell's explanation about her need for an armed guard shows this disdain for the rabble goes even deeper. She said all she ever wanted was for all gun owners to be as licensed and trained as her bodyguard.

Welcome aboard Rosie, you've just endorsed, in principle, concealed-carry laws, the very thing Handgun Control Inc. crucified George W. Bush for enacting. Except your idea is concealed-carry for the right kind of people, like

bodyguards to famous people. Now that is a cultural war with live ammo.

And there is still more, shall we say, irony. In TV ads which have aired in heavy rotation in the nation's capital, Handgun Control blasts Bush for signing a law that allows guns to be carried into schools and churches.

The circumstantial evidence suggests Rosie intended for her armed bodyguard to accompany her son to school in the fall. So

using a gun to defend vulnerable populations seems to be something that is fine

for the elite, but not for the little people. Anyone remember when the suggestion that an armed teacher or two at Columbine might've made a difference was hushed away as lunatic?

Finally, the O'Donnell camp holds that of course she'd prefer to have nothing to do with guns, that a gun-crazed society is forcing this awkward choice. But that too is a predicament shared by plenty of gun owners who feel they have no choice but to arm themselves.

Courtesy of Reason Express Previous issues of Reason Express are available at: <http://www.reason.com/re/re.html>

Did the NRA's Recent Criticisms of President Clinton Go Too Far?"

When promoting gun control, smear the NRA. It's a strategy followed whenever a criminal fires a gun. The president and his allies have been lying about the NRA for years, claiming this legitimate political action group is made up of "gun nuts" who love criminals and killers alike.

In a recent interview, NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre put the blame for crime where it belongs. He said enforcement of many gun laws has been non-existent in this administration, and that Mr. Clinton had apparently "accepted a certain level of killing to further his political agenda."

Predictably, there was outrage in the media.

Apparently, you can say the NRA's more than 3.2 million members are in cahoots with criminals, but suggesting Bill Clinton is soft on crime is taboo.



Obviously an advocacy group is not more responsible for stopping crime than the Department of Justice. Yet when the Columbine shooters killed thirteen, politicians blamed NRA members who use guns for sport, or need them for self-defense. Never mind the killers used guns and bombs, or that they broke dozens of existing laws to commit their crimes. Democrats happily made hay from the tragedy.

The truth is, if anyone is sending the message that it's OK to take a gun to class, it's the Clinton Justice Department. They caught 6,000 students with guns in 1997 and 1998, but prosecuted only thirteen. In the same period, only eleven people were subjected to federal prosecution for giving guns to kids.

The list of missed chances to punish gun-toting thugs goes on and on. President Clinton has failed to enforce the nation's gun-control laws, preferring instead to pass new legislation that gives him a boost in the polls. Wayne LaPierre used stark terms to bring this fact to the public's attention - but when trying to stop criminals from gunning down innocent people, no language is too strong. **Courtesy Vote.com**



Pocket HOLSTERS
for
POCKET GUNS
rjhedley@gte.net

GrassRoots Recognized Community Volunteers

The following people have responded to our call for community volunteers to assist their communities in carrying out the goals of GrassRoots, to educate merchants who post, and promote lawful and safe firearms ownership within their communities. GrassRoots salutes these activists for coming forward to lead the way within their communities. Those marked with a double asterisk ** attended our Volunteer meeting in West Columbia, February 12, 2000. They are primed and ready to go. They just need YOU to call! Another Volunteer meeting is planned for this summer.

It is hoped that GrassRoots can assist each community effort via statewide organization and assistance with goals that each community selects as they see specific needs within their community. Our vision is that through organization, GrassRoots will enable each community to effectively handle pro-firearms issues. We hope that this list will be a start for each community to begin to develop a network which unites lawful citizens who wish to make change at the local level.

What To Do: Start with calling a local volunteer below and arrange an informal breakfast or lunch meeting at a non-posted fast food restaurant. Discuss the needs of your community as you see them. Decide on an action plan if possible and start making change. Contact merchants that post, get people to call their legislators, setup a table at a gunshow. Contact GrassRoots for help or specific needs like postcards, membership mailings, etc. If you let us know the date, time, and place you want to meet, we'll mail a postcard to other GrassRoots members in your area. We're here to help you make change in your community. Most of all, have fun! You'll be surprised at how effective you can be!

AREA	NAME	TELEPHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Aiken	Jeff E Burris	803-648-7258		jeb@duesouth.net
Anderson	Bill Feith	864-287-2045	864-287-7418	bfeith@carol.net
Anderson	John S Griffin	864-296-9841		griff@statecom.net
Anderson	Jeff Greenlaw	864-225-5442	864-225-9358	jeffyg@worldnet.att.net
Aiken**	Bill Walton	803-642-9004		
Beaufort	Russell Faulkner	843-524-4192	843-524-4192	
Belton	Joseph M Orfetel	864-338-8006	864-338-1882	jmjo@webtv.net
Charleston	Fred (Larry)rgan	843-571-0992		
Charleston	Vince Ott	843-744-1722	843-744-8242	vcott@cchat.com
Chapin	D.L. Takach	803-932-2747		dtakach@prodigy.net
Cleveland	Joseph L Payne III	803-836-0304	864-836-4008*51	chaneyhill@mindspring.com
Cleveland**	Robert L. Williams	864-836-4368		emrys@mindspring.com
Columbia	Wendell Patton	803-754-9975	803-754-9073	wmpatton3@aol.com
Columbia	John E. Black	803-776-8823	803-776-8823	blackjl@hotmail.com
Conway **	Neal & Melissa Seaman	843-488-5311	877-285-0403	freeusa@fi9.com or skypod@fi9.com
Cowpens**	Joseph Cash	864-463-6659		
Denmark	Pearlstine Deloach Jr.	803-793-4367		
Denmark**	Doug Gore	803-793-5821	803-793-6248	dmgore@sc-online.net
Ehrhardt	Barbara M Hiers	803-267-3442		
Ehrhardt	G.D. Varn, Jr.	803-267-3882	803-267-3241	
Florence	John Germain	843-667-9702		ka3jal@aol.com
Florence	Jeffery W Lee, Sr.	843-665-6818		jeffleesr@aol.com
Fairforest**	Ronald Rutledge	864-576-6035	864-439-0423	rrtech@bellsouth.net
Fountain Inn**	Paul Campbell	864-862-5515	864-409-9699	pwcampbell@juno.com
Gaffney	Rodney Medley	864-489-9660		dale448@aol.com
Georgetown	Dane A Davis	843-546-3640		
Graniteville	Billy B. Jones	803-663-6516	803-663-6516	magnumprod@netscape.net
Graniteville**	Howard Wayt	803-502-1398		wayt@scescape.net
Great Falls	Fred Earl	803-482-2825		fredearl@infoave.net
Greenwood	James P Farnham	864-943-1248		
Greenwood	Bennie Lowe	864-223-7323		bubbaleecalhoun@yahoo.com
Greenwood	Carroll Killian	864-223-1725		
Greenwood	Joe Dan Elliott	864-229-6179		
Greenville	W.C. Daniels	864-268-7319		
Fountain Inn	Paul Campbell	864-862-5515	864-409-9699	pwcampbell@juno.com
Hartsville**	Jeffery P Boatman	843-383-0656	843-339-6507	jeff.boatman@sonoco.com
Hartsville	Thelbert Grantham	843-332-9910		
Hartsville**	John & Janet Clark	803-332-4213	843-332-4213	redvert@aol.com
Hilton Head	Dennis E Wedeking	843-785-8429	843-837-3737	denmeisterhi@hotmail.com

Hilton Head	Inst. Des Darazs	843-842-2060		
Hilton Head	R.M. Lieberman	843-671-4078	843-671-7237	k49j@aol.com
Irmo	Craig Reese	803-781-1194	803-794-1831	rblack@microbyte.net
Irmo	Ken Uschelbec	803-781-6102	803-781-9527	
Kiawah Island	Frank D Dinardo	843-768-0266	843-768-1168	frankbake@mindspring.com
Lancaster	James Spears	Spears Glass Service	1350 W. Meeting St.	
Lancaster	Fred Earl	803-482-2825		fredearl@infoave.net
Leesville**	Bob McLaughlin	803-532-9014		twomcscl@aol.com
Little River	William V Meyer	843-249-4885	843-272-5215	wilmmeier@aol.com
Little River	Jerry Rounbehler	1-800-823-0516 code 59	843-280-6338	GJRPI@prodigy.net
Marion	Franklin Williams	843-423-2362		
Mt. Pleasant**	Doug Huffman	843-884-6019		dhuffman@awod.com
Myrtle Beach	Louis A Martino	803-497-8532		happyday@sccost.net
Myrtle Beach	Glen McKinney	843-650-3618	843-448-8457	ramp87@aol.com
Newberry	William A Smith, Jr.	803-276-2415		
Ninety Six	Michael Cornett	864-223-7849		
North Augusta	David A Owings	803-279-9346	803-279-9000	
Pickens**	Tim Sullivan	864-878-4700	864-878-0507	timsullivan@ieee.org
Richburg	Stanley G Pettit	803-789-6457		
Rock Hill	Edgar H Walker, Jr.	803-329-5988		
Seneca	Annette Lowman	864-972-9290		
Simpsonville	De Spears	864-967-9770	864-967-4743	spears115@aol.com
Spartanburg	Wendell H Tiller	864-579-0797		
Spartanburg**	Michael E Henline	864-582-7226		
Spartanburg	G.R. "Chip" Desjardins	864-574-1410		
Spartanburg	Inst. Dennis Crocker	803-212-6024	864-587-8722	crocker@logicsouth.com
Summerville	Robert E Temple	843-821-4477		
Summerville	Wesley A Matt, Sr.	843-871-6642	815-327-9144	wamair@worldnet.att.net
Swansea**	Donald Preston, Sr.	803-568-3865	803-568-3865	red_baron1@prodigy.net
Walterboro	William Kofron	843-549-1654		react@vrdom.com
Westminster	Robert R. Sullivan	864-972-0733		alliebob@bellsouth.com
W. Columbia**	Paul Peters	803-356-1728	803-356-1728	papeters@msn.com
W. Columbia	Robert L. Sleighter	803-926-1826	803-926-9752	sleighter@bellsouth.net
Yonges Island	James T Truesdale	843-873-4400	843-873-7227	

Please exercise the same consideration for using these numbers as you would like to have for your own telephone number.
For changes and/or updates to the information above please contact Larry Coble 803-755-1242 or lcoble@netside.com

WANTED!

GrassRoots is Looking for More Community Volunteers!

Job Description

*Make it
Right*

General: Volunteers are sought for each SC House district. They will be the "field force" to expand the effectiveness of GrassRoots throughout South Carolina. Within GrassRoots guidelines they will be responsible for actions and events within that House district. Volunteers assist other GrassRoots members in accomplishing the goal of GrassRoots. You'll decide which posted merchants on which to concentrate, get people organized and calling their legislators, setup tables at gunshows telling others about GrassRoots, develop other programs as appropriate for their community, develop an educational relationship with political persons and entities, newspapers in your area..

Qualifications: Community Volunteers need organizational skills to mobilize other GrassRoots members in their district. They need writing and speaking skills sufficient to convey the GrassRoots position to merchants, political entities, newspapers and other GrassRoots members. Internet / email access is most helpful for rapid communication between GrassRoots and volunteers. Fax is also useful. Most important is a desire to See the goal of GrassRoots accomplished, "That good people may carry concealed firearms wherever and whenever they choose."

Action Components: Be available for contact by interested persons in the home district and arrange an organizational meeting. Based on consensus in each district, determine which posted merchants will be contacted and how they will be approached. Act as district spokesman to GrassRoots. Act as GrassRoots spokesman to district participants. Organize district participants to support GrassRoots statewide initiatives.

GrassRoots Support: We'll mail to GrassRoots members in your area. We'll provide supporting facts, position papers, speakers, wallet cards, alternative signs, legislative alerts, and individuals to help organize initially. **Interested?** Contact GrassRoots and let us place you on the Community Volunteer List for further updates as the Community Volunteer Program develops.

Volunteer Tactics That Work

TACTICS THAT WORK

By Alan Korwin, Author
Gun Laws of America

As soon as you're done reading this,

1. Take out a full sheet of paper, and at the top, write the name of one of your best gun buddies.

2. Make the phone call and say, "What do you say we go to dinner one night, and talk about gun stuff and 'issues that concern us as free people.'" You can say it's your own idea if you like, I'm not fussy. Just arrange to get your butt out to dinner to talk. Note: This is the second hardest part of this plan.

3. Then ask who else the two of you might invite to this little dinner and discussion. Agree up front on separate checks. Write all the names on your sheet of paper. That's what it's for.

4. Pick a restaurant that can seat the bunch of you. One big table is the key, so you can all hear each other. A side room with privacy is even better. Warning: Finding a good spot is the hardest part of this plan. Pick a date about four weeks away, and call your friends.

Are you with me so far? Are you willing to do "all this work" to have a real positive impact? Or doesn't your mama let you out at night?

5. Go out to dinner and have a good time.

Because of the common ground built into your invite list, things will pretty much happen automatically. Between the bunch of you, all sorts of good things will start coming up just by themselves.

What's really happening -- You're using the power of the right to assemble to help guard your freedom.

AN EASY PLAN TO MAKE THE DINNER EXCEPTIONAL

If you have the guts, try this:

1. **START.** Fifteen minutes after the starting time, ding the side of a glass with a spoon, to make the universally recognized "call to order" sound.

2. **INTRODUCE.** Say hello, and you and your buddy introduce yourselves, and describe who you are and what you do. Then have everyone else do the same.

3. **DESCRIBE.** When the last person finishes, speaking as the host of the dinner, say you invited everyone to discuss "issues that concern us as free people" and ask for two ground rules --

- only one person at a time talks, so everyone can hear
- stay on the subject

4. **OPEN.** Take out a pad. Ask your friends to start on the following question: What's the problem we face? Write down the flood of answers. Stay with it until it's a long list.

5. **CONTINUE.** When the time seems right, ask another group question: "So what are the solutions?" Write down the flood of answers. Then just roll with the flow.

6. **WRAP.** You will be amazed how much good stuff comes up, how many people get energized to take action and do stuff, and how quickly the evening goes. Before the first person leaves, ask everyone if they'd like to come back next month, same time and place. Book the restaurant again while you're there. Before you leave, hand the waitress (OK, the waiter) five new Sakagawea "golden" U.S. dollars before you leave (in addition to a decent tip from everyone). You'll get **AMAZING** service next time. Total cost for this totally cool tactic, five bucks.

OTHER THINGS THAT ARE GOOD TO DO

- Get some of those stick-on name badges at an office supply store.
- Agree to swap email addresses so you can all reach each other.
- Write up the lists from your pad and give everyone copies.
- Find some worthwhile literature and pass out copies.

- Think about more people you could invite next month.
- Ask everyone if they think they could assemble their own friends for a dinner, and help spread this program.
- Be a big shot -- start out by buying everyone a round of drinks. It feels good, sets a nice tone, and in the end doesn't burn too big a hole in your wallet.
- Instead of using a pad to make a list of ideas, put a big sheet of paper on the wall and use that with a marker. When everyone can see the list as it grows, it spurs more ideas. Don't use a permanent marker and get ink on the wall like an idiot.

For more on this and related programs, visit gunlaws.com.

Alan Korwin is the author of seven best-selling books on gun law, including *Gun Laws of America*, the unabridged guide to federal gun law. He can be reached at gunlaws.com.



CWP decal. 3 inches diameter - blue. Laminated for long outdoor life. Mounts to bumper or outside of window, etc. \$2 each or 6 for \$10. CWP embroidered patch for cap \$5 each, 6 for \$25. Ed Howell, PO Box 73, Folly Beach, SC 29439-0073

Welcome Back!

The Following Merchants Have **REMOVED** Signs Which Discourage Law Abiding CWP Holders from Entering Their Stores!

B-Mart

Piggly Wiggly of Chesterfield
Gloriosa Florists
Hiller Hardware
Ace Parker Tires of Sumter
Office Max - All Locations
Special Effects Hair Salon
System Plus Computers
Blythewood Feed and Hardware
McDuffie's Home Furnishings
Lowe's Hardware - All Locations
Rush's Restaurants
McCall's Supply
Little Pigs Barbecue
Chamber of Commerce Walterboro
Discount Auto Parts
Domino's Pizza on Two Notch
Cost Cutter's Barber Shop
Dixie Furniture in Walterboro
Walterboro Chamber of Commerce
Wayne's Sporting Goods and Trophies
Walterboro McDonalds
Burger King Walterboro
Warshaws Mens Shop
Perkin's Family Restaurant
Food Chief Store #22
Crosby Herndon Music
Thyme Out Exxon
Greenville Carmike Cinemas
If It's Paper
Best Stop Stores (pending)

Denny's Restaurants

Burlington Coat Factory
Collins Jewelry
Wal-Mart #2214 in Columbia
Lee's Grocery
Spann's Store
Becknell Cleaners
Camden Gas and Oil
Granger in Columbia
Food Lion of Ravenel
Ed's Paint Center
Jim Hall's Auto Service
Central True Value Hardware
Gerry's & Things
Ben Satcher Motors
Galleria Liquors
Wicker World, Myrtle Beach
Jones Department Stores, Myrtle Beach
Pro-Glo Body Shop
Granny's Cafe, Walterboro
Blythewood Pharmacy
Sav-Way Convenience Stores
Grady Miller's Honda
Circle K/Smile Gas in Sumter
Logan's Appliance Center, Bishopville
Wal-Mart, Ashley Crossing, N. Charleston
B and D Grocery, Rembert
Spee Dee Cash, Sumter
Piggly Wiggly Mills Corner, Lexington
Lube Express, Surfside Beach

Merchants, if your business is no longer posted against Law Abiding Citizens please notify GrassRoots.

This list maintained by GrassRoots volunteers. Please report corrections to:

GrassRoots South Carolina, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260

Email jrponti@yahoo.com

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More Guns, Less Crime