

THE Gun Owners

42 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2017

As GOA pushes House leaders for floor vote on reciprocity... Capitol Hill Offices Say GOA Members are “Loud”

by Erich Pratt

Great news!

The concealed carry reciprocity bill (H.R. 38) has surpassed a huge milestone in Congress.

There are now more than 200 cosponsors on the bill — 208 at the time this newsletter goes to press — in addition to chief sponsor Richard Hudson of North Carolina.

GOA lobbyists have been walking the halls of Congress, encouraging recalcitrant legislators to support the bill.

And the report from the Hill has been encouraging.

By our count, we now have more than 218 votes for reciprocity in the House, which represents a majority.

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GOA Executive Director Erich Pratt speaks with Graham Ledger of One America News Network about concealed carry reciprocity legislation in Congress. Gun owners can view this discussion, as well as view several other media appearances, on the Gun Owners of America YouTube page.

Michael Bloomberg Group Misrepresents Reciprocity, Attacks GOA

by Jordan Stein

Michael Bloomberg’s gun control group, Everytown, is lobbying hard against concealed carry reciprocity, yet it seems this group does not know the current laws surrounding concealed carry.

The simple fact is that criminals do not get concealed carry permits. In fact, according to a study conducted by Dr. John Lott, concealed carry permit holders are some of the safest members of society.

Criminals will always ignore the law, and that’s why it’s so important for the good guys to be armed (even without government permission).

Not to mention that over 91 percent of rank-and-file police officers support concealed carry by honest citizens, according to a study conducted by PoliceOne.com.

But in a series of tweets, Everytown attacked a concealed carry reciprocity video that GOA recently produced. The video was published on YouTube and is entitled, “The Truth About Concealed Carry Reciprocity.” It explains the reciprocity legislation in Congress and emphasizes the benefits for residents of Constitutional Carry states, who will be able to carry nationwide without a permit.

Everytown criticized the video and

tried to make the case that concealed reciprocity is a threat to public safety.

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Inside:

- GOA successfully gets language protecting hunter’s hearing aids (page 4)
- GOA podcast rocking the charts — plus GOA media appearances (pages 4-5)
- See what city declared a Larry Pratt Day (page 8)

Capitol Hill Offices Say GOA Members are “Loud”

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Congressional offices are telling us that GOA members have been “loud,” as they have been deluging Capitol Hill with lots of postcards, emails and phone calls.

The support from GOA members makes our job a lot easier. We are very grateful for all the activists who send their postcards or pick up the phone to contact their congressmen.

GOA will continue working the Hill to get more cosponsors. And we will continue to encourage current sponsors of the bill to lobby their fellow Representatives to join them in cosponsoring H.R. 38.

Most importantly, we are urging the House leadership to bring up reciprocity for a vote — and soon.

After all, H.R. 38 is everything we’ve dreamt of:

- It would grant national concealed carry reciprocity for permit holders, and there’s nothing that despotic local officials could do about it.
- It would allow gun owners from Constitutional Carry states to carry nationally.
- It would allow Americans from states that generally refuse to allow gun ownership to obtain a non-resident permit from another state — and use that permit to carry in their own repressive state.
- It would repeal safety-free zones that turn our kids into sitting ducks.
- It would spank anti-gun agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers, which refuse to comply with federal law allowing guns in parks.

The bill is so good that Billionaire Michael Bloomberg has committed \$25 million to defeat this legislation.

And while his minions are doing everything in their power to sink the bill, they are also leveling their “guns” at GOA. (See story that begins at the bottom of page 1.)

The Senate bill — S. 446, which is sponsored by Texas Senator John Cornyn — doesn’t have all of the features in the House bill. But it’s a good



Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC)

bill which recognizes national concealed carry reciprocity for Constitutional Carry states.

In 2013, the language of S. 446 got almost 60 votes in the Senate — at a time when Democrats were still in control.

So we are using S. 446 as a rallying point to show support for reciprocity in the Senate — and to urge the House to act quickly.

Baseball Field Shooting Shows Need for Reciprocity

If there was ever a day that demonstrated the need for reciprocity, it was the shooting of several people during a legislators’ baseball practice in June.

The congressional baseball classic has been around for over a century.

A former professional ball player — turned congressman — organized the first game in 1909.

And since then, congressional Democrats and Republicans have squared off against each other each year — for one day — in a friendly game of baseball.

But the congeniality that marks the period leading up to this event was interrupted by a hate-filled individual who targeted Republicans when they

were holding a practice at a field in Northern Virginia.

The shooter was a resident of Illinois. He had bought his firearms from a gun store in his home state, meaning he had passed a background check in order to purchase his weapons.

The shooter transported his guns to Virginia, and specifically sought out and targeted Republican members of Congress.

He chose their practice field as the location where he would strike, away from the heavily guarded Capitol Hill complex.

He shot and wounded several people — one of them being House Majority Whip Steve Scalise.

Lack of Reciprocity Cited as Reason Congressmen were Defenseless

Republican Rep. Barry Loudermilk was one of those who blamed gun control laws for keeping victims defenseless.

He was at the field that morning. And he pointed out that Congress’ failure to enact nationwide concealed carry reciprocity had greatly contributed to their inability to fire back.

Rep. Loudermilk says that he carries a gun when he’s back home in Georgia. And that if this shooting had happened there, the gunman wouldn’t have gotten too far because either the congressman or one of his aides could have easily stopped him.

In fact, during the shooting, one of his aides was in his car — maybe 20 yards behind the shooter.

And Loudermilk says that aide normally carries a 9-millimeter in his car — and that he was well-positioned, so he would have had a clear shot at the shooter.

The problem is that while they could have all legally carried at that baseball field in Virginia — because Virginia and Georgia have reciprocity — they couldn’t have taken their guns with them back into Washington, D.C.

The District does not allow carry reciprocity

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Where Guns are Banned, Government Snooping Follows

By Erich Pratt

These are amazing times. Despite repeated terror attacks in his city, London Mayor Sadiq Khan is sticking to his “guns.”

There are no plans to start allowing law-abiding citizens to defend themselves with firearms — despite the fact that vocal activists are demanding the right to do so.

So what are Londoners to do?

Well, *Rolling Stone* writer, Kory Grow, explains that government officials are redoubling their efforts to provide safety from the top-down.

What Grow describes would shock civil libertarians in this country, although it seems to have hardly raised eyebrows in England.

Grow attended an Ariana Grande benefit concert in Manchester that was aimed at raising support for terror victims. Grow describes what happened to him after he left the concert:

[It] felt incredibly safe. As I made my own way to the tram, I wrote in my Apple Notes app, “Helicopter hovering overhead,” which to me signified that the fans were being watched over.

Then two policemen stopped me and asked me who I was with and whether I’d written anything about a helicopter into my phone, without explaining the technology of how they’d read my Notes app. After a friendly back-and-forth, they looked through my bag, checked my ID and business card and determined I wasn’t a threat.

“You have to understand, tensions are running high,” one of the men said with a smile and a handshake, allowing me through the gate. Manchester was secure tonight.

The “security” that seems to comfort Grow would shock most Americans. How many would respond with a curt, “So you’re reading my iPhone?”

The Czech Republic is taking a totally different approach. In January, their president urged citizens to buy guns and shoot terrorists dead.

Gun sales are skyrocketing in that nation, and there have been no mass shootings since their president’s bold encouragement.

The sad thing is that Mayor Khan is convinced that residents must accept terror as a way of life.

So Londoners lose twice. They already can’t defend themselves against terrorists. But now their right to privacy is further eroded, as they’re being subjected to greater levels of government snooping. ■

Erich Pratt is the Executive Director of Gun Owners of America, a grassroots organization representing more than 1.5 million gun owners.



Michael Bloomberg Group Misrepresents Reciprocity, Attacks GOA

Continued from page 1

GOA responded to Everytown, declaring that gun free zones — where over 90 percent of public mass shootings have occurred — is the real threat to public safety. (See the image to the right.)

We also publicly called them out and pointed out their hypocrisy, saying that “they want to leave women like Shanean Allen defenseless.”

(Shanean Allen was arrested for carrying a gun in New Jersey, even though she had a Pennsylvania permit.) Everytown never responded to any of our tweets.

But while Everytown showed their



ignorance in their Twitter feed, it is an unfortunate reminder of the true intent of gun control lobby.

These Bloomberg groups are not only anti-gun, they’re also anti-self-defense.

GOA is fighting, however, for your right to defend yourself. And we are working around the clock to combat Michael

Bloomberg, Everytown and the gun controllers’ claims in order to pass reciprocity.

Whether it’s in the “Twitterverse” or in the halls of Congress, GOA is determined to protect your right to carry a firearm. ■

Jordan Stein can be followed on Twitter: @jordankstein

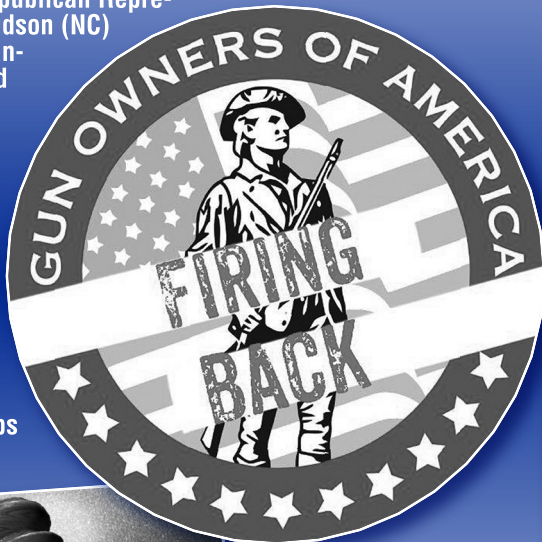


GOA ON THE FRONT LINES



GOA PROTECTING HUNTERS' HEARING AIDS

GOA worked with Republican Representative Richard Hudson (NC) to defang anti-gun language that originated from Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren's desk. In contrast to the anti-gun restrictions that her language could have imposed, the new GOA-approved text protects low cost hearing aids that hunters and sportsmen currently buy at Bass Pro Shops or WalMart.



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES SAY GOA MEMBERS ARE "LOUD"



GOA Director of Communications Jordan Stein met with pro-gun Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) to discuss reciprocity legislation in the Congress. A high-ranking House leader has told GOA that a vote on reciprocity will come after the summer recess. Other House offices report that GOA members have been very "loud" in their support for concealed carry reciprocity (H.R. 38).

VICTORIOUS IN FEDERAL COURT



GOA submitted a brief in *Wrenn v. United States* — a case which was heard by a federal appeals court in July and which declared Washington, D.C.'s onerous restrictions on concealed carry to be unconstitutional.

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA LAUNCHES A NEW PODCAST, "FIRING BACK"

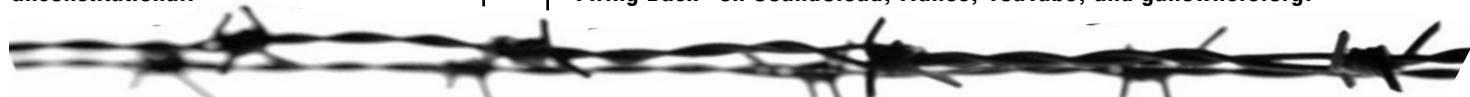
GOA's Erich Pratt, along with Remso W. Martinez, combine engaging storytelling with hard core truths about the war against guns and the right to self-defense. "Firing Back" rose to 55 on iTunes News & Politics within the first twenty-four hours it was available. And within 72 hours, "Firing Back" had become the #1 trending firearms-focused podcast in North America. Listen to "Firing Back" on SoundCloud, iTunes, YouTube, and gunowners.org.



FIGHTING TO PROTECT GUN OWNERS' HEARING

"Gun Owners of America is rallying behind Republican-sponsored legislation that would not only remove suppressors from the purview of the National Firearms Act (1934), but would also remove the background check requirement from their sale."

-- Breitbart, July 6, 2017





GOA in the News



GOA is the No-Compromise Gun Rights Organization

"[Gun Owners of America is the] Second Amendment group that makes the National Rifle Association look timid."

-- *Business Insider*
June 2, 2017

GOA Fighting for Concealed Carry Reciprocity



"We would like to see quicker action on these [concealed carry reciprocity] bills and we're just now beginning to press the leadership to say, let's not delay this any longer," said Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America.

-- *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 26, 2017

GOA Branded as a "Champion of Gun Rights" by the Left

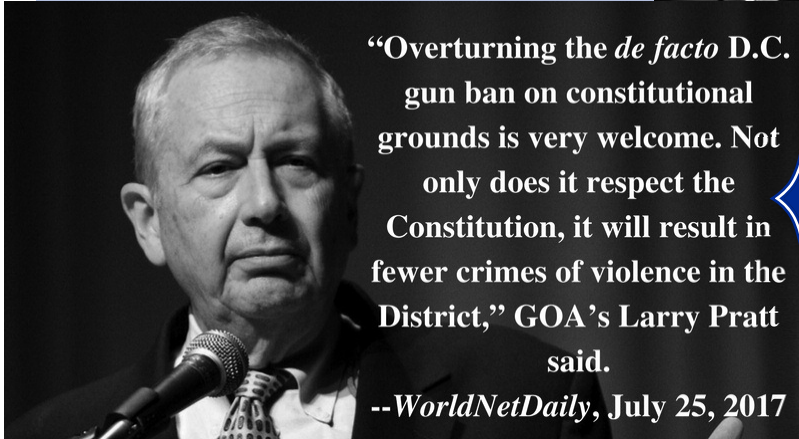


Former anti-gun mayor Richard Muti describes Gun Owners of America as a "champion of gun rights" and "even more unyielding" than the NRA.
Detroit Free Press, July 28, 2017

"Overturning the *de facto* D.C. gun ban on constitutional grounds is very welcome. Not only does it respect the Constitution, it will result in fewer crimes of violence in the District," GOA's Larry Pratt said.

-- *WorldNetDaily*, July 25, 2017

GOA Fought in Federal Court to Strike Down DC gun ban



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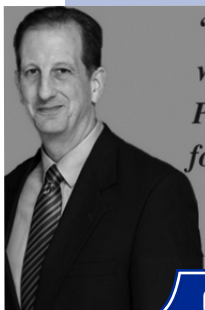
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GOA Opposing Universal Background checks

"You see far less support for background checks when the issue is put to the ballot," GOA's Erich Pratt said. "For example, even while Maine voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016, the state voted down a universal background check measure."
-- *The Washington Times*, July 2, 2017



The SHUSH Act is Not Something to be Quiet About

by Jordan Stein

One of the most popular bills recently introduced into the Congress was the Hearing Protection Act (HPA). In fact, this bill was in the top ten most popular bills on Congress.gov.

HPA would, in effect, remove suppressors (a firearm muffling device, very popular among gun owners) from the National Firearm Act (NFA) list, which currently requires a \$200 tax stamp and registration, bureaucratic forms, and a waiting period before purchase.

In essence, under the HPA, a suppressor would be regulated like a long arm.

And it's no wonder why this bill was so popular. Imagine if you had to pay a \$200 tax stamp, and suffer through registration and waiting periods before

putting a muffler on your car or before using ear plugs when shooting.

Yet while HPA is a good bill, it has one flaw. Because this bill does not totally deregulate suppressors, you still have to undergo a background check before purchasing the suppressor.

And as shown with the veteran and senior gun bans, the NICS background checks system can be used to disarm gun owners without due process.

But that's where the SHUSH Act comes in.

The "Silencers Helping Us Save Hearing Act" — introduced in the Senate by Mike Lee and Mike Crapo and in the House by Steve King — does everything HPA does, but also removes the requirement for the background check for purchase.

Suppressors could be purchased just



as a scope or any other firearm accessory.

And this just makes sense. Background checks should not be required for firearms, much less a metal tube that quiets a bullet.

Let's be clear — the entirety of the NFA and background check system should be trashed, but hopefully the SHUSH Act will make Congressmen realize the absurdities some gun owners must go through just to exercise a God-given, constitutionally-protected right. ■

Jordan Stein can be followed on Twitter: @jordankstein



by John Velleco

Country music artist — and former U.S. Marine — Jamey Johnson opted not to play a concert rather than enter a gun-free zone.

Johnson was scheduled to perform at the House of Blues in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. But when the tour bus pulled up, the group found metal detectors set up in the parking lot between the bus and the venue.

The show still could have gone on if the venue simply relaxed its "no guns" policy.

The band's drummer, Tony TC Coleman, wrote on Facebook:

I stand with [Johnson] on this.

House of Blues didn't need to treat us like we were terrorists.

They put a [metal] detector between

Country Singer Refuses to Perform in Gun-Free Zone

Jamey's buses and the stage entrance and the only people coming in and out of his buses was us. His band and crew and we all have laminated stage identification.

We did not come to House of Blues to be treated like we are going to kill the fans. If someone came backstage to harm anybody you better pray there is a Jamey Johnson type individual around.

Coleman wrote his post in response to a cancellation notice that greeted the hundreds of fans who came for the concert.

"As always, the safety and security of our guests is our number one priority. Tonight's artist refused to adhere to our safety and security guidelines and would not enter the building."

But Johnson, who served nearly ten years in the Marine Corps, knows a thing or two about weapons and safety.

In fact, nearly every public mass shooting in the U.S. over the past six decades has occurred in so-called "gun-

free zones."

The direst situations occur when only the criminal has a weapon and there's no one to shoot back.

Criminals know this too, and it's no accident that they often choose places (such as a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, or a church in Charleston, South Carolina) with explicit "no guns" policies.

On the flip side, potential mass shootings have been stopped short on several occasions over the past few years by quick-thinking, armed good guys, such as in a bar in Youngstown, Ohio, a barbershop in Philadelphia, a street corner in Chicago, and a hospital in Darby, Pennsylvania.

Venues such as the House of Blues may one day be the unfortunate target of a violent criminal.

Whether it joins the list of mass shootings in America could well be determined by the number of Jamey Johnsons present. ■

John Velleco can be followed on Twitter: @velleco

Capitol Hill Offices Say GOA Members are “Loud”

Continued from page 2

with any state.

So that means they would have been stuck in Virginia and wouldn't have been able to go to work.

Gun control literally prevented them from being able to defend themselves.

Thankfully, because Rep. Steve Scalise was present — and because he is a House leader — there was armed security at the field that morning.

And their guns stopped this heinous crime, before there could be any loss of life.

Anti-Gunners Use Shooting to Plug for More Gun Control

For those who favor gun control, they always see MORE gun control as the answer.

It doesn't matter how many laws are on the books, all they know is that MORE gun control MUST be the answer after every shooting.

We saw this in the hours and days after the baseball field shooting. Gun controllers began stepping over the injured bodies to call for more gun restrictions.

Shannon Watts, who heads up a group for Billionaire Michael Bloomberg, said the answer to this tragedy is “not more guns and [not] fewer gun laws.”

In other words, she wants more gun control.

Anti-gun journalist David Frum said the problem was that Virginia failed to have several gun control laws. He said Virginia had:



- 1) No background checks [which, by the way, was a lie, since every purchase from a gun store goes through a background check — and the shooter actually BOUGHT his gun from a store].

Frum continued by faulting Virginia for having:

- 2) No licensing [which was an ignorant statement because the gunman, as a resident of Illinois, had a license to own a firearm — otherwise known as a FOID card].

Frum also said Virginia had:

- 3) No registration [which again, ignores the fact that the gunman WAS REGISTERED as a gun owner because of his FOID card].

Frum also faulted Virginia because there is, in his words:

- 4) No permit required for concealed carry of long guns in VA [which really, is a stupid thing to say because no one actually conceal

carries long guns].

So gun control was completely ineffective in preventing this shooting.

As far as Frum was concerned, he had a long list of things to blame.

But nowhere did he actually blame the shooter, who turned out to

be quite a hate-filled individual — a left-wing, Bernie Sanders supporter who frequently railed against Republicans.

All of this blame shifting is reminiscent of former New York City Mayor David Dinkins.

After a visitor from Utah was stabbed to death on the subway in 1990, Dinkins held a press conference to say they needed more gun control.

That's a gun controller's “logic” for you. A man gets stabbed to death. So it must mean we need more gun control!

There's a lot of illogic by those who specialize in playing on people's emotions. But thanks to the support of GOA members, we will continue to stay on the front lines, fighting to preserve our Second Amendment rights. ■

Erich Pratt can be followed on Twitter: @erichmpratt



Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)

Are you a GOA Life Member yet?



Enroll as a Life Member at the special charter rate of only \$500, which entitles you to full member privileges.

Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of \$50 (*with the remainder to be billed to you*) or as a quarterly debit to your credit card for \$50 until your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.

When you contact us by phone, email or mail, please provide us with your name, address, city, state, zip and member number to begin enjoying your Life Member privileges with Gun Owners of America.

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Freedom Days in Tombstone

By Larry Pratt

Say the words “Tombstone, Arizona” and one, no doubt, thinks about the famous gun fight at the O.K. Corral in 1881.

Much lore — and a lot of myth — has surrounded that famous event.

For starters, it would probably surprise many today to know that the concealed carry laws of most states in 2017 are more pro-gun than were the laws in Tombstone during the late nineteenth century — where concealed carry was banned.

But the city is changing all that today.

Tombstone, Arizona, has declared itself a Second Amendment City, and they are proud to claim they are the first such city in America.

Following a recent parade down Allen Street, Tombstone Mayor Dusty Escapule issued a proclamation announcing July 1, 2017, as Larry Pratt Day — proof positive that Tombstone really likes their guns!

I asked those in attendance to urge their members of Congress to pass the concealed carry reciprocity legislation

in Congress.

Once law, states would then have to recognize — as per the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution — the concealed carry permits of other states.

But that’s not all this legislation does.

H.R. 38 and S. 446 would enable residents of Constitutional Carry states to carry across the nation.

And the House version would eliminate several federal gun-free zones.

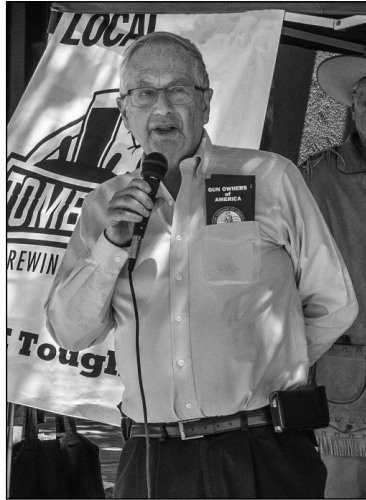
No wonder that Billionaire Michael Bloomberg has committed \$25 million in an attempt to shuttle activists to town hall meetings to flood Republican congressmen with fake opposition to this legislation.

But Tombstone won’t be tolerating any of Bloomberg’s antics today. They are now America’s first “Second Amendment City.” ■

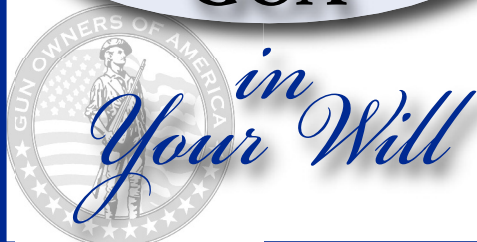
Editor’s Note: The City of Tombstone’s Proclamation states that it “recognizes Larry Pratt [in] appreciation of his long-

term support of our city [and] our Second Amendment rights.” Hence, the proclamation says that July 1, 2017, is hereafter known as “Larry Pratt Day.”

Larry Pratt can be followed on Twitter: @larrypratt



How to Place GOA



You can help protect gun rights for future generations by placing Gun Owners of America in your will or estate plans.

Here are some sample instructions to share with your advisor or attorney:

I give, devise and bequeath to Gun Owners of America (tax ID # 52-1256643), a non-profit, corporation in Springfield, Virginia:

- A. The sum of \$ _____; or
- B. _____ percent of my estate; or
- C. Residue. I give my Residue to Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

THE Gun Owners

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