

# THE Gun Owners

40 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2015

## GOA Activists Help Push Boehner Out

by John Velleco

The lies, bribes and bullying finally caught up with Rep. John Boehner, who resigned as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives effective October 30. Gun Owners of America worked both publicly and behind the scenes to oust Boehner — especially after he abandoned gun owners in the “battle of the century” over the Bloomberg/Obama gun control agenda following the Sandy Hook shooting.

GOA alerts to members pointed out that John Boehner could have nipped gun control in the bud by pronouncing that gun control would be “dead on arrival” in the House.

Instead, he said that the “House will consider” any gun control proposals sent over by the Senate.

Shortly after that, when anti-gun amnesty passed the Senate, Boehner said that he was “[expletive deleted] bent” on passing amnesty, which would legalize millions of anti-gun voters who



**GOA activists lobbied their Representatives to fire House Speaker John Boehner in the weeks leading up to his resignation.**

broke the law to get here.

The only reason this bill didn’t pass is that GOA worked with House members to kill it on procedural grounds.

Then there was the failure to fight the anti-gun ObamaCare law. Sure, Boehner scheduled dozens of useless votes. But he persistently opposed fight-

ing ObamaCare using the “power of the purse” — the only strategy with any hope of curtailing the anti-gun program. And don’t forget last year’s “Cromnibus,” which funded virtually all of the Obama’s anti-gun actions. GOA encouraged congressmen to vote against the bill, and we almost won.

According to one whistleblower — Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-IN) — the House Speaker lied to Congressmen about what would be in the measure, and that was the only reason Boehner was able to secure the votes of several conservatives and salvage the anti-gun bill.

Most recently, when GOP congressmen dared to follow GOA’s advice and vote against an anti-gun trade deal, Boehner lashed out by stripping committee leaders of their posts.

Boehner’s actions finally led to a GOA-supported measure — introduced

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## Gun Owners Foundation Winning in the Courts

Gun Owners Foundation provides legal help for decent, law-abiding people — many of whom have been brought up on charges merely because they used a firearm to defend themselves or to protect someone else.

Many liberal judges are all too willing to impose lawless decrees in Second Amendment cases, and this just adds to the difficult — but not impossible! — challenge that we face in protecting our gun rights.

Gun Owners Foundation has been fighting legal abuses against gun owners in the district and appellate levels — and even the Supreme Court. Here are just three victories from this year:

**Johnson v. United States.** By a vote of 8-1 in June, the Supreme Court sided with Gun Owners Foundation in preventing a mandatory minimum sentence from being applied against a gun owner merely because he had possessed a firearm.

The Court ruled that mere possession (with no use) of a firearm is not a “violent felony,” and thus prevented the imposition of a 15-year mandatory minimum sentence instead of the typical sentence of up to 10 years.

This case helps prevent the demonization of firearms and averts the ability of prosecutors to bootstrap almost

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- **How to get more Millennials involved in shooting sports (page 4)**
- **Suppressors are a gun safety issue (page 6)**

## ***GOA Activists Help Push Boehner Out***

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by Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) — to “vacate the chair” and dump the Speaker. Realizing he did not have the votes to remain in power, Boehner resigned as Speaker, and from Congress entirely.

While Boehner’s resignation was a tremendous victory for gun owners, the Republican establishment began circling the wagons to protect their own.

But as GOA warned in an email to its members, this is not the time to just move each of the existing leaders one rung up the ladder. After all, the number two man in the House over the past several years was nearly a philosophical twin to Boehner.

### **Elections Over Principles**

The Republican leadership, like the Democrat leaders that preceded them, have taken America far from its founding principles.

The Constitution is barely considered when legislation is debated. The idea that government “derives [its] just powers from the consent of the governed” has become an anachronism.

In fact, a recent Gallup poll found almost half of all Americans (49%) believe that “the federal government poses an immediate threat to the rights and freedoms of ordinary citizens.” Over time, the role of government has been turned on its head; instead of protecting liberty, the government takes it away at every opportunity.

This is particularly grievous coming from Republicans, who go to the voters every two years preaching less government. Yet they squandered two landslide elections — in 1994 and 2014 — and failed to reverse the big-government trends. Getting reelected is more important to almost all Members of Congress.

The fault for this rests not only with the Speaker, but also on the representatives who elect him or her, and ultimately on “We the people” who choose whether or not to be involved in the political process in electing our own representatives.

But in the House of Representatives, it is the Speaker, more than anyone else, who sets the legislative agenda and the

philosophical direction of that body. That is why this is such an important issue for GOA. This is not some inside-the-beltway parlor game. A Speaker who takes his oath of office with the seriousness it deserves could go a long way to restoring constitutional government, regardless of who occupies the White House.

To that end, GOA worked with members of the House Freedom Caucus (a group of congressmen dedicated to restoring constitutional government) in an effort to unite pro-gun representatives behind a strong Second Amendment supporter.

As this newsletter went to press, the House Freedom Caucus had not yet decided who they support for House Speaker.

“We look forward to meeting with each of the candidates,” the Caucus said in a joint statement, “and our Republican Conference colleagues over the coming weeks in a careful and deliberative fashion to discuss how best to ensure that we follow regular order in the House and give a voice to the countless Americans who still feel that Washington does not represent them.”

This is a good sign. If the Freedom Caucus were to vote as a bloc, it could have enough votes to deny the Speakership to any candidate it doesn’t approve.

GOA has also been keeping an eye on the other leadership spots in the House, particularly that of Majority Leader. Unlike the Speaker, who is voted on by the full House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and other leadership positions are settled by only Republicans in a closed-door meeting.

These lesser-known positions determine which bills come to the Floor of the House, and what issues will be a priority for a given session of Congress. GOA has worked effectively with congressmen who held these positions to kill anti-gun legislation for many years, and GOA staff has been meeting with all potential representatives who will take over these roles.

### **Ditch Mitch**

Across the Capitol, there is also growing pressure for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to step aside.

Louisiana State Republican Party

Chairman Roger Villere, who is the longest-serving state GOP chairman in the country, took McConnell to task for not playing hardball with President Obama.

“Mr. McConnell could have suspended consideration of confirmations for all presidential appointees, except for those who are essential to national security, until the president rescinded his unconstitutional executive action on amnesty,” Mr. Villere said.

“This would have been a constitutionally appropriate response to the overreach of the executive branch,” he said, adding that it would have “positioned us to refuse to confirm replacements for any Supreme Court openings that might occur during the remainder of the Obama administration.”

By the end of the next presidential term, four Supreme Court Justices will be in their eighties. A president who is elected to two terms will almost certainly have to replace all four of these over course of eight years.

This starts with a president, of course, who will appoint judges who do not view the Constitution as a living, breathing, ever-changing document. But in the event an anti-gun person is nominated to the High Court, the Senate leader is the next line of defense.

### **GOA Cleaning (the) House**

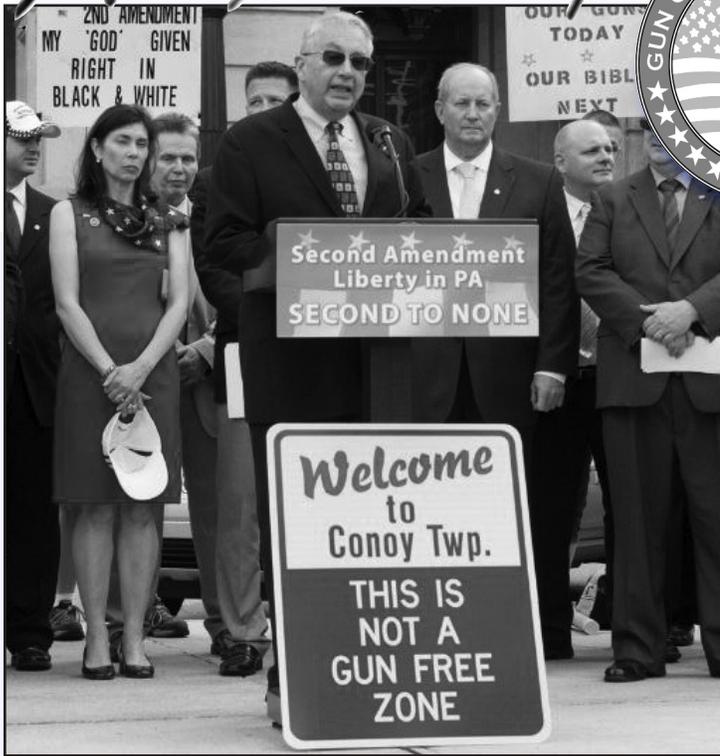
In the space of just fifteen months, GOA had a hand in toppling the number one and number two members of the House — in addition to opposing Boehner, GOA supported David Brat in his upset victory of former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in a June, 2014, primary election.

The task now is to fill these seats with people who respect the Constitution. This will not be easy, as most Members of Congress seek to avoid confrontation and simply go with the status quo.

And no matter who replaces Boehner this year, the whole process will be repeated following the 2016 elections. And if someone unacceptable to the pro-gun community is chosen as Speaker, it is sure to be an issue in next year’s primaries and the general election next November. ■

*Michael E. Hammond also contributed to this article.*

# GOA ON THE FRONT LINES



▲ **On the Stump in the Keystone State.** GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt appeared with several pro-gun Pennsylvania legislators and addressed gun rights activists at a Second Amendment rally in front of the Capitol.



▲ **Repealing Gun Free Zones.** GOA's Tim Macy (right) meets with Senator Steve Daines (R-MT), who has introduced legislation to arm servicemen (S. 1819).



▲ **Hitting the Airwaves.** GOA Director of Communications Erich Pratt appeared on an ABC-affiliate this summer to reject post-Charleston calls for more gun control. Pratt argued for repealing gun free zones and gave several examples showing how law-abiding citizens have stopped mass shootings.



◀ **Meet & Greet with Pro-gun Congressmen.** GOA's Chris Stone met with "A" rated Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN) and his constituents in his home district this Spring.



## Editorial writer concedes GOA's argument on background checks

On the subject of background checks and record keeping, GOA's Larry Pratt noted that, *"The NSA has admitted to data collection and monitoring of certain communications. Do you really believe that running your personal information through a background check [for firearms] would be off limits for collection?"* Says Dave Dolbee, "I must admit, Pratt brings up a point worthy of thought."

— Dave Dolbee, September 8, 2015



# A Millennial Perspective on Gun Rights

by *Jordan Stein*

Millennials are tomorrow's leaders. In some cases, millennials (those born 1980-1995) are already leading in workplaces, politics, and culture.

But how do they view gun rights? And how will their views affect the future of the Second Amendment?

## Gun Rights on College Campuses

While college is supposed to be a marketplace of ideas, this is not the case on most public university campuses.

So across the country, student organizations and clubs are leading the fight for gun rights. Consider just a couple of examples:

- Students for Concealed Carry at Central Michigan University is challenging the school administration for a change in the weapons policy on campus.
- A student group at Liberty University, Students at Liberty for Gun Rights, with over 60 formal members, has presented high-profile speakers, and has hosted concealed carry and self-defense classes.

These groups are a voice for the neglected side of the argument. They are combating the liberal bias on campuses. And not surprisingly, a Pew Study shows more millennials oppose gun control than support it.

## Rise in Shooting Sports

Off campus, millennial interest has



**Jordan Stein is the President of Students at Liberty University for Gun Rights**

skyrocketed in the shooting sports.

For example, in only six years, the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League championship grew from 30 competitors to over 5,000. North Dakota and Wisconsin have also seen similar growth.

With more millennials shooting, it is changing the way their friends and family think about guns. One mother of a shooter from Minnesota actually changed her position on guns after seeing her son shoot. She even went so far as to buy him a gun!

Millennials in the shooting sports are a positive for the gun rights movement. Not only does it create a safe, fun recreational activity, it also instills an appreciation for the right to keep and bear arms.

## Continuing the Movement

So how can you, as a GOA member, strengthen the gun rights movement of millennials?

Well, if you are a millennial, hit up the range and bring a friend! Shooting is a safe, fun experience that will definitely change the minds of even your most skeptical friends.

Be active on social media and share the stories on GOA's Self Defense Corner at: [www.gunowners.org/self-defense-corner](http://www.gunowners.org/self-defense-corner).

Show your friends that guns aren't the "evil killing machines" they see in movies.

Join a gun rights group on your campus. If there's not one, start one!

Even if you're not a millennial, you can still help out. (You probably know one.)

Invite him or her to a gun show, or perhaps responsibly show him or her a gun from your collection. Consider donating to a pro-gun student group at a nearby college.

It was Richard Henry Lee who said, "To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them..."

That means it's on you to teach the millennials in your life why our firearms freedoms are so important.

The future of gun rights is bright. However, gun owners, especially millennial gun owners, must remain steadfast in the fight to restore and protect our right to keep and bear arms. ■

*Jordan Stein is the President of Students at Liberty for Gun Rights in Lynchburg, Virginia.*

## How to Place GOA



**GOA has received numerous inquiries from members asking how they can place Gun Owners of America in their 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 102, Springfield, Virginia 22151.



### **Concealed carrier shoots two career criminals in his home**

A Florida man returned to his home in August to find lights on, when they shouldn't have been.

So Juan Pablo Flores, 27, told his girlfriend to stay in the car, and he went towards the house to investigate.

Flores, who was armed, found both his dogs had been shot and killed. He then came face-to-face with the two career criminals who were busy burglarizing his home.

Flores shot and killed one of the intruders and seriously wounded the second one. The latter escaped, but was eventually arrested at the hospital.

Said one resident who is familiar with Flores' neighborhood, "many people in the area carry guns for protection."

### **Armed teenager tries to rob CCW holder, gets bullets instead**

A Michigan man was sitting in his car when an armed teenager jumped in and demanded his sunglasses in September.

Joe Lanier, 24, pulled his own gun and shot the armed aggressor seven times, blowing out the windows of his car.

"The boy tried to rob me, and I shot him. That's what happened," Lanier said.

"That's why he's in the hospital and not me."

Lanier works as an exterminator and was on the job when he was held up by the gunman. The incident is expected to be ruled as self-defense. ■

### **Bank robber points gun at senior customer, gets shot**

A bank robber in Michigan got more than he bargained for in September.

After being given a "large amount of cash," the 43-year-old perpetrator pointed his weapon at an older gentleman, who was a concealed carry permit holder.

The senior customer drew his weapon and shot the robber three times, causing him to flee outside the bank, where

he then collapsed.

Onlookers said the gunman was "yelling and moaning" as he was handcuffed by police.

Police recovered the cash that was dropped by the assailant and, reportedly, will not be filing charges against the bank hero. ■

### **Did a pro-gun answer cost Miss South Carolina the title?**

Some critics are crying foul after Miss South Carolina failed to win the Miss America title in September.

Daja Dial delivered a pro-gun response to the very loaded question: "Do you support a ban on military-styled assault weapons?"

"I don't," Dial responded. "I think we need to increase education... If we teach people the proper way to use guns, then we will reduce the risk on having gun-related accidents. It starts with education."

Pro-gun supporters praised Dial's answer, and some questioned whether her politically-incorrect answer cost her the title.

Regardless, Miss Dial now has a strong following on social media, as supporters tweeted encouragements such as: "Rock on," "Preach it girl" and "Greatest answer on gun control ever." ■



**Miss South Carolina gave a very pro-gun answer when asked about banning "assault weapons."**

### **Panama relaxes gun restrictions because of U.S.' pro-gun record**

Panama's Public Safety Minister Rodolfo Aguilera says his country is ready to follow the U.S.' lead by loosening gun control restrictions in his country.

The reason? America is becoming safer, even while more and more people are buying firearms.

According to the *Orange County Register*, Aguilera cited "the 20-year decline in the homicide rate in the U.S. as gun laws have simultaneously been relaxed."

Indeed, every state now has concealed carry in some form or another.

And eight states even have Constitutional Carry, where law-abiding citizens can carry concealed without getting prior permission. Those states are Arkansas, Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Maine, Vermont, Wyoming and most of Montana. ■

*All these stories and more can be read on GOA's website at <http://www.gunowners.org>*

# Let's Get Rid of Restrictions on Suppressors

by Christopher Stone

In 1933, America ended the prohibition on the sale and manufacture of alcohol. The 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, and the unsuccessful experiment of outlawing booze came crashing to the ground.

In true fashion, most Americans celebrated with a drink!

But in 1934 another form of prohibition was forced upon the law-abiding masses. Even after the glaring failure of alcohol prohibition, the federal government decided they'd give prohibition one more shot... but this time with firearms.

Yet unlike the first prohibition which was passed and repealed through the amendment process, the 73rd Congress unconstitutionally placed strict prohibitions on the purchase and possession of certain firearms.

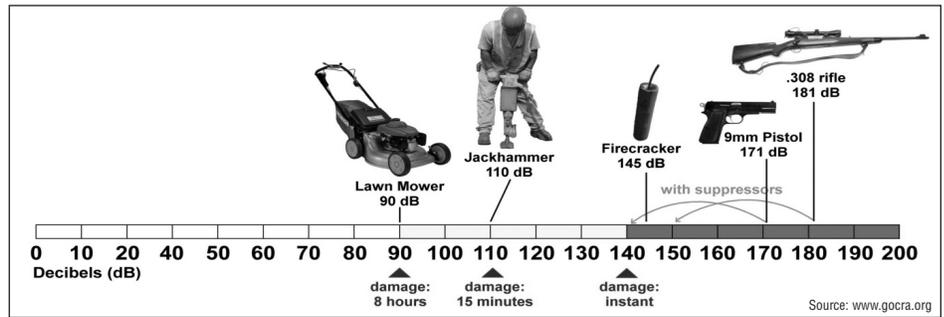
On June 26, 1934, the National Firearms Act (commonly referred to as the NFA or Title II) was codified into U.S. law. To this day, the NFA is still on the books, and it is the law which heavily restricts access to:

- Machine guns
- Short-barreled rifles
- Short-barreled shotguns
- Suppressors

Successful passage of this heinous law was due in large part to the federal government convincing the public that, in order to stop gangsters like Al Capone, it would be necessary for the government to trample upon the Second Amendment rights of all.

Restricting access to certain firearms would supposedly keep gangsters from getting them, just like prohibition "successfully stopped" Americans from making their own bathtub liquor, right?

Now, eight decades later, if one wants to buy a suppressor for their



handgun to protect their ears while shooting, they must first ask permission from the ATF, pay them \$200, enter a federal database, and wait 60-120 days for all the information to be processed.

They are also responsible for knowing the myriad of laws regarding the possession and transfer of said suppressor once it is in their control. In fact, in ten states it's still illegal for civilians to use a suppressor.

The federal government has placed an undue burden on the Second Amendment rights of Americans by forcing them into begging for permission to exercise their God-given, constitutionally protected right.

In the name of "public safety," access to certain firearms and fixtures are unjustly hindered.

The irony of the whole situation is that items like suppressors actually increase the safety of shooters because they reduce the noise that is generated

when operating a firearm. (See chart.)

Perhaps most ironic of all is that in countries like Norway, which have strict gun control on all firearms, purchasing and using a suppressor is very easy. They can be easily bought over the counter like we buy scopes or slings.

There is a lot of gun control needing to be repealed in this country, and the restrictions on suppressors should be at the top of the list.

It's offensive, and unconstitutional, that law-abiding citizens must ask permission and pay the government to exercise their Second Amendment rights.

That's why gun owners must continue to remain diligent to elect local and national leaders who are ready and willing to pass pro-gun legislation. Not only that, we need legislators who will repeal the longstanding gun control laws which have nothing to do with safety — beginning with the NFA. ■

## Fast Fact:

**More Guns, Less Crime.** While more than 150 million new guns were manufactured or imported between 1991-2013, the U.S. crime rate fell precipitously during those same years — violent crime (51%) and murder (54%).

Source: BATFE, *Firearms Commerce in the United States (2015), Exhibits 1 and 2. FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 1991 and 2013, Table 1.*

## 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.

**LIFE MEMBER**

**Gun Owners of America**  
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## Gun Owners Foundation Winning in the Courts

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any violation by a gun owner into a much longer jail term.

You can read the GOA/GOF *amicus* brief here: [www.tinyurl.com/pz63e52](http://www.tinyurl.com/pz63e52)

**Rodriguez v. United States.** In April, the Supreme Court ruled favorably (6-3) in a case where GOA and its Foundation (GOF) were fighting to help protect the property rights of gun owners.

The Court told law enforcement that a traffic stop cannot be extended beyond its original purpose without additional reasonable suspicion of a crime that would justify detaining an individual in the first place.

This decision protects gun owners' property (like firearms) from unreasonable searches and seizures.

You can read the GOA/GOF *amicus* brief here: [www.tinyurl.com/pennr4vd](http://www.tinyurl.com/pennr4vd)

**Henderson v. United States.** The U.S. Supreme Court in May decided *Henderson v. United States* — a case where Gun Owners of America and its Foundation were very active.

The Court's unanimous (9-0) ruling provides that a felon can sell his firearms collection even after being convicted of a felony.

The case involved Tony Henderson, a former Border Patrol agent with a previous pot conviction. Because of his felony, the government tried to take his firearms collection, which totaled more than \$3,500.

Gun Owners Foundation went to bat for Mr. Henderson and argued he should be able to sell his guns, which at the time, were in the FBI's possession.

After Henderson had been convicted on an unrelated marijuana conviction, he sold his ownership rights in the

firearms to an unrelated third party who was legally eligible to possess the firearms. The third party asked the FBI to turn the guns over to the purchaser, but the FBI refused.

The government used a theory of "constructive possession" to claim that Mr. Henderson's firearms could not be transferred, even to a third party, without violating the felon-in-possession ban.

The trial court and the court of appeals agreed with this legal fiction, preventing Mr. Henderson from selling his firearms to the unrelated third party.

Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously sided in favor of Tony Henderson.

The court's decision is a victory for private property rights, and helps to further erect a barrier against the confiscation of firearms.

You can go here to read the GOA/GOF brief: [www.tinyurl.com/nucebwf](http://www.tinyurl.com/nucebwf) ■

## HIT THE RIGHT TARGET! Give to Gun Owners Foundation

In many federal offices there are subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) pressures to give to the Combined Federal Campaign. Your boss may think his prestige depends upon getting everyone to kick in. The same thing happens in all too many corporations during the United Way fundraising drive.

You may have wanted to give but couldn't find a group that wasn't attacking your rights, let alone defending them, on the list of participating organizations. But that has all changed!

Federal employees now are able to designate **Gun Owners Foundation (GOF)** as the recipient of their gifts to the Combined Federal Campaign. Use **Agency Number 10042** for **Gun Owners Foundation** when you make your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or donation. Your gifts will go toward helping our legal assistance program to protect the Second Amendment rights of Americans across the nation.

Also, if you work for a company that participates in the United Way, you too, may be able to designate that your gift be to **Gun Owners Foundation**. Many local United Way Campaigns allow **Gun Owners Foundation** to participate through their Donor Choice Programs. Some, however, do not. Check with your local United Way Agency. You will not only be helping people and protecting your rights, but you will also get a tax deduction.

Of course, anyone can always make a tax-deductible donation at any time to **Gun Owners Foundation** by sending the contribution directly to 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151.

One additional note. If you are employed by a corporation or organization which has a Matching Gift Program, please keep **GOF** in mind when making your donation. Thank you very much.





# Local Officials Foil Federal Gun Grab

by *Larry Pratt*

Following a stroke in 2014, John Arnold of Priest River, Idaho, was left with a mild impairment.

In August 2015, he received a letter informing him the Veterans Administration (VA) had determined he was “incompetent” to handle his VA finances and therefore subject to a federal gun ban under the 1968 Gun Control Act and the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.

It warned him that he was prohibited “from purchasing, possessing, receiving or transporting a firearm or ammunition” based upon their determination.

The VA letter also noted they would be sending a field examiner to Arnold’s home for an interview. And according to KREM.com, the letter said that “his firearms would be taken away.”

That did not sit well with folks in Priest River. Idaho State Representative Heather Scott of nearby Blanchard learned of the impending government action the evening before VA officials were scheduled to appear and, by 6:00 am the next morning, she had alerted her constituents of the danger.

By 9:00 am, after getting word from Rep. Scott, 100 people dropped what they were doing and gathered around John Arnold’s home, including Bonner County Sheriff Daryl Wheeler.

Even Washington State Rep. Matt Shea showed up in Priest River to demonstrate support for Mr. Arnold.

When the VA learned of the large resistance at Mr. Arnold’s home, they quickly tucked their tail between their legs and failed to show up.

They denied any intention to confiscate Mr. Arnold’s guns, saying they were not a law enforcement agency.

This statement appears to be a flat-out contradiction of what they had actually done in other similar situations.

In an attempt to diffuse the situation, a VA-approved local doctor who had not seen Mr. Arnold in over 9 months, wrote a letter a few days after the incident.

In the letter, she stated that “Mr. Arnold has made a dramatic improvement, both physically and mentally” and that “he is now competent to handle his financial affairs and should be allowed to do so.”

Perhaps that was because the VA seems to have concluded that Mr. Arnold’s neighbors, along with the Bonner County Sheriff, were confident that they would prevail in this matter.

Local officials and modern communication technologies were sufficient to successfully allow the interposition of popular resolve against the exercise of unconstitutional power by the Feds.

All Americans have access to the technology used in this Bonner County, Idaho, incident. We need to actively ensure that our elected officials have the same resolve.

My interview with Rep. Scott can be heard by going to <http://tinyurl.com/ombeu6u> and clicking on “Download Ready.” ■



**Idaho state Rep. Heather Scott (R) and Washington state Rep. Matt Shea (R).**

### Fast Fact:

**Background checks failing.** A University of Chicago Crime Lab study found that very few criminals get their firearms from “gun shows or through the Internet” or from “a licensed store” — but rather, they get their guns “on the street.”

Source: “Survey: Crooks get guns from pals, don’t keep them long,” *Chicago Sun Times*, August 29, 2015



## THE Gun Owners

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