

# THE Gun Owners

37 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2012

## Obama Administration Pushing UN Gun Control – GOA warning Senators of dangers in the UN Small Arms Treaty

by John Velleco

Kansas Senator Jerry Moran introduced legislation to prohibit the Obama administration from negotiating away our gun rights as part of the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The ATT is a backdoor attempt to impose massive restrictions on U.S. gun rights. While negotiations on the treaty are being held behind closed doors, it is certain to include language that will:

- Require the registration and licensure of American firearms;
- Ban large categories of firearms;
- Require the mandatory destruction of surplus ammo and confiscated firearms;
- Define manufacturing so broadly that any gun owner who adds an accessory such as a scope or changes a stock on a firearm would be required to obtain a manufacturing license; and,
- Require “microstamping” of ammunition.

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### GOA returns fire on Florida shooting



Larry Pratt went on Fox News this Spring to defend the self-defense rights of gun owners which have come under fierce attack in the wake of the Trayvon Martin shooting. Several media outlets (including ABC News, NBC News and CNN) have dramatically distorted or falsified key evidence surrounding the shooter, George Zimmerman (right).

## How GOA is Exposing Those Lying, Flip-Flopping Politicians

by Erich Pratt

Remember the now-infamous quote from presidential hopeful John Kerry about the Iraq War: “I actually did vote for the \$87 billion before I voted against it.”

Rarely has a politician exposed himself more shamefully than the Massachusetts Democrat did back in 2003. With that single quote, Senator Kerry gave the Bush reelection team an incredible gem as he pigeon-holed himself as the ultimate, flip-flopping politician.

Of course, everyone knows that most politicians do what Kerry did — they

are just a lot better in disguising their duplicity.

Take a recent issue. At the urging of Gun Owners of America, members asked their U.S. Senators to support “constitutional carry” legislation in the Congress which will allow gun owners to carry their guns throughout the country (in many cases without a permit).

Politicians love to hide their views when responding to these kinds of requests, and they will use a plethora of techniques to conceal their real agenda. One technique is to simply lie and make themselves appear like they agree with the gun owner.

Consider a recent letter from Democrat Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri to a constituent in her state. Asked whether she would support this pro-gun legislation to allow gun owners to carry their guns across the country, McCaskill said:

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- **GOA around the country (pages 4-5)**
- **More sheriffs standing up to the feds (page 8)**

## How GOA is exposing Lying Politicians

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I strongly support legal and safe gun ownership by law-abiding citizens and have consistently voted to uphold this constitutional right.

For example, in the 111th Congress, I voted to permit gun owners to carry firearms in their checked bags when traveling on Amtrak trains and to require the National Park Service to honor state gun laws when gun owners enter National Parks in their states.

I am pleased that both of these common sense provisions, which enhance the ability of sportsmen to enjoy activities like hunting, have become law. Please know that I will continue to support the right of law-abiding citizens to safely own firearms.

McCaskill's quote is filled with so many whoppers, it could supply all of the Burger King customers in her state for an entire month.

There is not enough room to deal with all of them here, so let's just take her claim that she supported repealing the Amtrak and National Parks gun bans.

Did Claire McCaskill really vote to repeal two gun bans in the previous Congress? Hardly. You see, this is where McCaskill — who is F-rated by GOA — pulls a "John Kerry," essentially saying: "I supported gun rights before I opposed it."

When these two pro-gun provisions came before her as stand-alone amendments, McCaskill opposed them. For example, she voted against the amendment to repeal the National Parks gun ban which was added to a credit card "reform" bill. (See Coburn amendment, Senate Roll Call #188, May 12, 2009.)

Later on, she supported the underlying credit card bill so, presumably, Sen. McCaskill must think this allows her to say she helped repeal the National Parks gun ban — even though she voted against it when it was a stand-alone amendment.

Sen. McCaskill also voted against the amendment to repeal the Amtrak gun ban on her first opportunity. (See



Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO)

Wicker amendment, Senate Roll Call #145, April 2, 2009.)

How then can she claim she supported repealing the ban on Amtrak trains? Well, this is where it gets tricky. After the first amendment never made it to the President's desk, the leader of this repeal effort, Sen. Roger Wicker of

Mississippi, offered this amendment to yet another bill.

Take Alaska Senator Mark Begich.

Gun Owners of America recently warned Alaskans that their Democrat Senator was trying to prevent average citizens, who don't possess concealed carry permits in a state like Alaska, from being able to benefit from national reciprocity legislation that is pending in Congress.

In other words, GOA was warning Alaskans that Senator Begich was opposed to "constitutional carry" legislation that would allow many *non-permit* holders to carry firearms out-of-state.

This became problematic for Begich, who has tried to portray himself as a pro-gun legislator who is different from all the other Democrats in Washington.

So, in response to GOA members and activists in his state, Begich said,

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***“Sen. McCaskill’s quote is filled with so many whoppers, it could supply all of the Burger King customers in her state for an entire month. McCaskill — who is F-rated by GOA — pulls a ‘John Kerry,’ essentially saying: ‘I supported gun rights before I opposed it.’”***

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Mississippi, offered this amendment to yet another bill.

McCaskill did vote in favor of that amendment, but then she later voted against the underlying bill -- essentially trying to kill the repeal effort.

This means that McCaskill voted *against* the gun ban repeal ... before she voted in *favor* of it ... before she voted *against* it. Did you follow all that?

Considering politicians' tendency to obfuscate, how is a gun owner to know where his member of Congress really stands on the Second Amendment? To be honest, it's a full-time job tracking down the voting records of all the candidates.

And this is why GOA puts Second Amendment-related votes on the web. It's why we survey all the candidates for Congress. It's why we circulate the candidates' grades prior to the election.

GOA is committed to helping mil-

“The information you received about my position on this bill is completely false.”

In other words, Sen. Begich was claiming that everything GOA said about his position was, well, you saw what he said — “completely false,” according to Begich.

But then, Senator Begich introduced his reciprocity bill, and guess what? It became very clear that it was he who was not telling the truth.

Subsection (c)(2)(B) of his bill (S. 2188) requires that anyone benefiting from carry reciprocity possess “a valid license or permit that ... permits the individual to carry a concealed firearm.”

Did you see that? Under Begich's bill, Alaskans would have to possess a “valid license or permit” to benefit from his reciprocity bill. In other words, Sen. Begich's bill is NOT “con-

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# From Watergate to Fast & Furious: Could Congress end up sending Holder to jail?

by Erich Pratt

Forty years ago this summer, burglars broke into the Democrat headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington. During the ensuing months, the nation watched the Nixon administration drag its feet, lie and do everything it could to impede an investigation in the midst of a scandal that became known simply as “Watergate.”

Four decades later, we are now embroiled in the midst of new scandal, Fast & Furious-gate, where the Obama administration is dragging its feet, lying and doing everything it can to impede a Congressional investigation.

But things are heating up. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) has now finished making his case for holding Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress.

In May, Rep. Issa sent a 64-page memorandum to members of his committee outlining the instances in which Attorney General Eric Holder perjured himself before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which Rep. Issa chairs.

Holder, who once stated he wants to see kids brainwashed into supporting gun control, has presided over a Justice Department that helped smuggle thousands of illegal guns into Mexico, all for the purpose of justifying greater restrictions upon firearms in the U.S.

This Fast & Furious scandal has resulted in the deaths of more than 300 Mexican nationals, plus two U.S. federal agents.

Issa’s case for holding Holder in contempt is based, in part, upon the fact that the Attorney General “has yet to provide a single document for 12 out of the 22 categories contained in the subpoena schedule.” In many cases, documents provided by the Department have been completely or mostly blackened out.

Sources on Capitol Hill believe that Issa has the votes to push a contempt citation out of committee. However, it is unclear whether House Speaker John Boehner is supportive of such a citation.

*Politico* reported on May 10 that,



Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Attorney General Eric Holder

“Some within House GOP leadership circles would like Issa to abandon his plan for a committee and floor vote .... They fear negative political fallout from citing the U.S. attorney general with contempt of Congress in an election year.”

And Fox News reported “that Boehner and House Republican Leader Eric Cantor do not want to deal with a con-

investigating Fast and Furious, essentially admitting that they lied.

Issa’s report says that little of what the nation knows today in regard to Fast & Furious came from Justice Department disclosures. Instead, most of the information has come from “whistleblowers and other sources with documentation.”

But for several months, the Obama

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***Fox News reported “that Boehner and House Republican Leader Eric Cantor do not want to deal with a contempt citation against Holder because ‘it’s off message for them.’” Gun Owners of America has been rallying the grassroots, hoping to help Boehner see that this issue is “on message” for him.***

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tempt citation against Holder because ‘it’s off message for them.’”

Gun Owners of America has been rallying the grassroots to help Boehner see that this issue is “on message” for him. This is a quest for justice, as Eric Holder needs to be held accountable for the lies, deceptions and dead bodies left in the wake of Fast & Furious.

Eric Holder and his subordinates in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have lied under oath. In fact, they even sent a letter to the congressional committee

Administration denied whistleblower allegations that guns were intentionally allowed to “walk” to Mexico, Issa says. The administration called the whistleblowers liars and even retaliated against them — all the while, hiding the identities of those officials who were conducting this smear campaign against the whistleblowers.

Ten months after denying these allegations, however, the Justice Department formally reversed itself on gun-walking and admitted that Fast & Furi-

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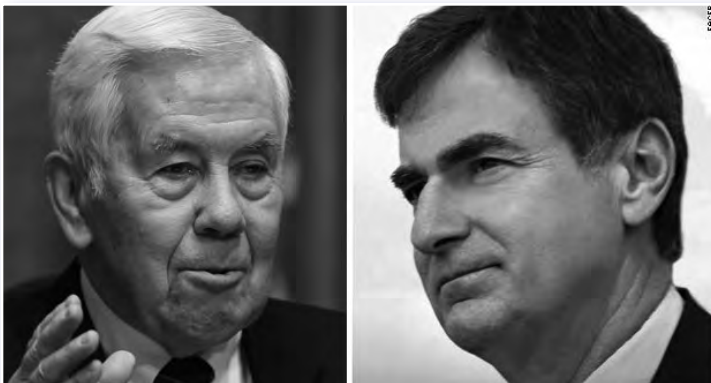
# “Heroes v. Goats” in the battle to



**Gun Owners working to nullify the NDAA “indefinite detention” provision.** GOA scored a huge victory in April when Virginia became the first state to nullify dangerous provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which passed last year. The Virginia law — sponsored by Delegate Bob Marshall (left), a champion of our liberties who is now running for the U.S. Senate — would prevent any state official from helping the federal government to arrest or indefinitely detain a Virginia citizen under the authority of the NDAA.

With this recent victory under our belt, GOA tried to get a similar law passed in Arizona after comparable legislation was sent to Gov. Jan Brewer’s desk. Sadly, Gov. Brewer (right) vetoed the legislation.

At the federal level, GOA has rallied grassroots’ support for U.S. Rep. Justin Amash’s effort to repeal the anti-liberty provisions of the NDAA. Rep. Amash (R-MI), who holds an “A” rating from GOA, said the biggest problem with the language that passed as part of last year’s NDAA is that “Americans [can be] held without charge or trial forever.” Unfortunately, the Amash amendment was defeated by a 238-182 vote in May.



**GOA helps knock off entrenched, anti-gun incumbent.** After defeating Indiana’s liberal Senator Dick Lugar (left), Richard Mourdock expressed his gratefulness to GOA for its help. “I can’t thank Gun Owners of America enough for their early support of my campaign,” he said in May. Mourdock, a pro-gun rights advocate who currently serves as the state’s treasurer, now faces a tough general election in November.



**Pratt speaks at the Michigan capitol.** In May, GOA’s Executive Director Larry Pratt spoke in favor of a constitutional carry bill at the Michigan state capitol. Pratt’s choice of weapon worn on his hip (this particular day) was a .40 caliber Khar.

# to reclaim our liberties



**Pratt a keynote speaker in the Show Me State.** In April, GOA's Executive Director Larry Pratt was a keynote speaker at the Get Prepared Expo and Gun Show in Springfield, Missouri. Pratt gave attendees an update on Fast & Furious, on how Obama has been using his administrative powers to hurt gun owners, and on what sheriffs around the country have been doing to repulse federal encroachments.



April 25, 2012

## Open Carry

by Larry Pratt

Open carry is legal in 28 states without restriction. In another 13 states, a license is required. As ABC entitled a recent report, "Open carry is on the rise."

Shane Belanger is the head of the Maine Open Carry Association. He organized a rally where attendees were carrying openly. He told ABC news that the purpose of the public display was to accustom people to seeing guns and realize that they are not threatening.

As San Bernardino County (California) Sheriff's Sergeant Dave Phelps said, "Gang members aren't known to open carry." For people living in jurisdictions where concealed carry is not legal, but open carry is, the latter is their only option.

Other reasons for open carry include providing a visible deterrent to crime and providing more comfort and quicker access than concealed carry. A 1985 Department of Justice survey of incarcerated felons reported that 57% of the felons polled agreed that "criminals are more worried about meeting an armed victim than they are about running into the police."

Researcher Dr. Gary Kleck found that 92% of criminal attacks are deterred when a gun is merely shown (or, rarely, a warning shot fired). By inference, this means that open carry would have the effect of deterring crime in the same way that a thief might choose another restaurant when he sees police eating at his intended target.

Also, larger handguns with more potent ammunition are easier to carry openly.

I personally have taken part in public awareness campaigns. On one occasion I was contacted by a GOA member, Dr. Ray Seidel who lives in Ruidoso, New Mexico. The mayor of the village had proclaimed that guns be banned everywhere in the village.

A hearing was held in Ruidoso last fall with an overflow attendance. In defiance of the mayor, but consistent with the state's explicit constitutional protection of the right to open carry, many of us testifying were openly carrying. The mayor's proposal was shot down, so to speak.

Awareness of an armed citizenry has been shown to lower crime. In 1982, Atlanta suburb Kennesaw required all households to have a gun. The residential burglary rate subsequently dropped 89% in Kennesaw, compared to the modest 10.4% drop in Georgia as a whole.

Ten years later the residential burglary rate in Kennesaw was still 72% lower than when the ordinance was passed. No wonder open carry is on the march.

Larry Pratt is the Executive Director of Gun Owners of America. This article first appeared on [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com).

## How GOA is exposing Lying Politicians

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stitutional carry” friendly, and it will *not* — as Begich originally suggested — protect Alaska non-permit holders, who are the *majority* of Alaska’s law-abiding citizens.

Bottom line: Sen. Begich ultimately confirmed exactly what GOA had been reporting, but he was too cowardly to admit it to his constituents.

Senators McCaskill and Begich are not the only ones trying to pull the wool over gun owners’ eyes. They will try to make themselves out to be like a

Santa Claus, making promises and providing benefits to people on both sides of a particular issue.

And this is why your membership in GOA is so important. Stick with us and wait for the GOA’s Election Day Rating which GOA will publish later this year. It will let you know who’s really been naughty or nice. ■

*Mike Hammond also contributed to this article.*



**Senator Mark Begich (D-AK)**

## Obama Administration pushing UN Gun Control

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The treaty could also be self-executing, which would mean that it would achieve its anti-gun objectives, whether or not implementing legislation was passed by Congress.

Some people think the U.S. would never sign off on such a treaty. Well, think again.

In 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced the U.S. agreed to negotiate on the treaty.

That’s a shift from the Bush administration, which declared the ATT dead-on-arrival. President Bush wouldn’t have delivered the treaty to the Senate for ratification, but Obama can’t wait to use this vehicle as a way to show his anti-gun base that he is doing something on the gun control front.



**Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS)**

GOA is continually briefing Senators on the dangers of this treaty. We even have a number of Senators who have committed in writing to oppose it.

But one thing we fear is that the ATT

is so massive (it would regulate everything from battleships to bullets) that many Senators may feel that the small arms portion is insignificant compared to the entire document.

A number of Senators who purport to be pro-gun could possibly go along with the treaty. It is also likely that no Democrat Senators — even those from so-called red states — will vote against the president in the months leading up to the election.

All this makes the Moran bill vitally important. S. 2205 will prohibit Hillary Clinton and the Obama administration from even attempting to negotiate away our gun rights.

The Moran bill is also a good test of which Senators are willing to stand against the president and oppose the ATT. ■

*Mike Hammond also contributed to this article.*

## Could Congress end up sending Holder to jail?

*Continued from page 3*

ous was “fundamentally flawed.”

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) has introduced H.Res. 490, a resolution which sends a message loud and clear that Congress has lost confidence in the Attorney General. Over 100 members of Congress have already signed this important resolution.

Holding Eric Holder in *criminal* contempt could bring extensive jail time and fines ranging into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

If Issa’s committee were to approve a *civil* contempt citation, then the entire House would take up the issue. If the House were to approve it, attorneys for the House of Representatives would then ask a federal court to order Holder to turn over the documents he has been withholding.

If Holder were to refuse, the court

could then order U.S. Marshals to arrest Eric Holder and incarcerate him until he complies.

There is a detention area in the Capitol complex, although the court would presumably incarcerate Holder in the Prettyman Federal Court House on Pennsylvania Avenue. One can only hope that justice would finally be served. ■

*Larry Pratt also contributed to this article.*

## Letter to the Editor



## Gun Dealer Thanks GOA for Help Against ATF — Becomes GOA Life Member, despite poor economy

Dear GOA:

A couple years ago we were raided by the goons from ATF and you helped us a lot. In fact, GOA was the only group to help us.

I told you back then that when my finances improved I would buy a GOA Lifetime Membership. Things have been tough financially, and I basically went out of business. But I have started a new business as that was happening.

We're getting by, and in the end it worked out, and I'll have a check for \$500 to GOA in the mailbox tonight.

I do appreciate all of your help on our case, as well as the other work that you do. I apologize for the delay in doing this, but we have been struggling through this wonderful economy and working in areas that are hardest hit.

Thanks again,  
DB, Olanta, PA

# Become a GOA Life Member

*Go to <http://gunowners.org/store/life-membership> and consider becoming a GOA Life Member today!*



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8001 Forbes Place  
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**Count me in!** Here is my contribution to help preserve my right to keep and bear arms and to become a GOA Life Member. I understand that a payment of \$500 gives me all the rights and privileges of a GOA Life Member — or that a minimum payment of \$50 (to be paid quarterly) puts me on the path towards my life membership.

\$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to GOA, Inc. Thank you.  
*Your contribution to GOA is not deductible for income tax purposes.*

Please send me a certificate (suitable for framing) identifying me as a GOA Life Member — and my wallet card.

Mr. or Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my  VISA  MasterCard  AmEx  Discover

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature *(required for credit card transaction)* \_\_\_\_\_



# Sheriffs to the Rescue

by Larry Pratt

Richard Mack is well known as the first of eventually six sheriffs to take on the Brady Law. And, much to the delight of pro-gunners around the country, the Supreme Court agreed with Mack in 1995 that the federal government did not have constitutional authority to

force state officials to conduct background checks.

Mack is no longer in office, but that has not stopped him from staying involved in promoting constitutional issues. He is now taking the lead in informing sheriffs of the authority they have as the chief law enforcement officers in their counties. While this has come as a surprise to many federal officials, the Constitution is quite specific in terms of what they are allowed to do. Almost all the powers which “We the People” have delegated to the federal gov-

“faced down” the feds.

For example, Tony DeMeo is a former Jersey City cop who ended up getting elected as Sheriff in Nye County, Nevada. He became a pivotal player in his county by protecting citizens from an outrageous abuse of power that was perpetrated by the Bureau of Land Management.

Pro-gun activists will remember the stalwart Rep. Helen Chenoweth of Idaho who served in the 1990s. Well her husband, Wayne Hage, leased acreage for his ranch from the BLM. Hage had ownership of the water rights — as long as he used the water at least once during the year.

Later, the BLM decided that Hage did not belong on the land, and so they began to confiscate his cattle. After the second theft, Hage enlisted DeMeo’s assistance, which helped him deal with the BLM when they arrived a third time to confiscate even more cattle. Sheriff DeMeo confronted the BLM agents and backed them down to the point where Hage no longer had to worry about the

***“I recently attended the first conference of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.... One of the encouraging things about the conference was that while many of the sheriffs there were not initially willing to risk a confrontation with the feds, they are now willing to do so after hearing the testimonies from many of their fellow constables. It was very educational for them to hear how different sheriffs have ‘faced down’ the feds.”***

ernment are listed in the 18 clauses found in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

Sheriffs find that when they warn the feds not to conduct an unconstitutional police action against one of their citizens, the feds back down. Sometimes the feds threaten to arrest them, but when the sheriff’s response is “game on,” the stalemate ends with the feds backing down.

I recently attended the first conference of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association. Nearly 100 sheriffs attended, in addition to many police chiefs and some county councilmen. One of the encouraging things about the conference was that while many of the sheriffs there were not initially willing to risk a confrontation with the feds, they are now willing to do so after hearing the testimonies from many of their fellow constables. It was very educational for them to hear how different sheriffs have

BLM’s larceny anymore.

After Hage’s death, his son won a lawsuit begun by his dad against the *federales*, and now a court ruling has established that the Hage family can live without fear of their government stealing their property.

It is clear that there are many sheriffs who are willing to protect their counties, but do not know what they can — and should — do. The Gun Owners online book store carries Richard Mack’s little book *The County Sheriff: America’s Last Hope* (<http://gunowners.org/store/books>). If your sheriff is not aware of his powers — and his responsibility — please give him a copy of this book.

We can put the federal Genie back in the bottle, one sheriff at a time. ■

**THE  
Gun Owners**

**Sen. H.L. Richardson (Ret.)**  
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**Tim Macy**  
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**Larry Pratt**  
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Director of Federal Affairs

**GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA**  
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102  
Springfield, Virginia 22151  
703-321-8585

**Web Site: <http://www.gunowners.org>**

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