

# THE Gun Owners

38 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2013

## Gun Owners Dodge a Bullet in 2013 —But Obama “remains committed” to more gun control

by Erich Pratt

*“We may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks...”*

— President George Washington  
October 3, 1789

This year, gun owners were in the fight of their lives.

The President of the United States used all his power and ability in a fierce attempt to ram gun control down the throats of the American people.

The media relentlessly supported his cause, repeatedly telling Americans that the Sandy Hook shooting last December had changed everything ... that the “tide had turned” ... and that Americans were now in favor of more gun control.

Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania — two Senators who had campaigned against gun control — played the part of a Benedict Arnold and betrayed gun owners by crossing over to do the President’s bidding.

At points during the battle, many gun owners may

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### GOA plays “hardball” with Congress, media



Even as the Obama Administration tried to use school tragedies to push gun control this year, GOA was able to use radio and TV to reach millions of people with hard-hitting arguments and powerful facts. GOA spokesmen spread the pro-gun message through hundreds upon hundreds of media outlets — not to mention through GOA’s website and Facebook page.

## GOA Helps Fire Warning Shot Across the Bow

Colorado did it!

In September, Gun Owners of America helped mobilize voters in the Rocky Mountain State, resulting in two gun control advocates being booted from office.

The reverberations are still being felt coast to coast.

This was truly a historic effort and the first time in Colorado history that there has ever been a recall election — let alone a successful one.

Democrat Senators John Morse and Angela Giron lost their bid to hold onto their seats in districts that heavily favored Democrats. (In fact, Giron represented a district where only 23 percent of registered voters are

Republicans.)

In Morse’s race, 51% of voters pulled the recall lever to eject him from office, while 56% of voters sided against Giron.

The effort to recall Morse and Giron began as a genuine local effort, although the prospects of beating two entrenched Democrats attracted big bucks from out of state. Anti-gun New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg spent hundreds of thousands of his own dollars in an attempt to help Morse retain his seat.

But it didn’t work. And now the handwriting is on the wall for other legislators.

Morse especially angered con-

stituents earlier this year when he, as the Senate President, helped slam several unconstitutional gun control bills through the legislature and onto Demo-

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### Inside:

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- GOA in 2013 (pages 4-5)
- Why the groundswell to “Ditch Mitch” (page 8)

## Gun Owners Dodge a Bullet in 2013

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have felt like their forefathers of old who suffered at Valley Forge — disheartened, ill-equipped and facing a much larger enemy.

But, as is often the case, the victory does not go to the loudest or strongest. And to date, the President has been frustrated beyond belief in his attempts to eviscerate the Second Amendment.

In 1789, President George Washington recognized from whence their Ultimate Help had come in defeating the British, in establishing a Constitution, and experiencing the tremendous liberty they were then enjoying.

We should do no less in 2013, as we consider the monumental opposition that we have overcome in defending the Second Amendment.

At the same time, we must recognize the battle is not over. The President remains committed to his quest and has used recent shootings to call for additional gun control.

Consider what *The Blaze* reported in October:

One day after a deadly middle school shooting in Nevada, President Barack Obama “remains committed” to pushing for stricter gun control laws and will “keep at it,” White House press secretary Jay Carney said.

This was the second conspicuous shooting in two months — the first one having occurred a month earlier at the Navy Yard in the nation’s capital.

### The failed logic of disarming first-responders

While the Nevada shooting did not garner a lot of media attention, it was truly tragic in several respects. For example, *The Blaze* reports:

Police say a 12-year-old boy at Sparks Middle School near



**Erich Pratt with Texas Rep. Steve Stockman (left), who introduced several pro-gun bills this year.**

Reno, Nev., shot and injured two classmates and killed math teacher Mike Landsberry, a former Marine who served in Afghanistan and who had been trying to talk the shooter out of harming others.

So many questions are raised in just that one sentence alone:

- Why is a former Marine, like teacher Mike Landsberry, “trying to talk” the shooter out harming others? Why can’t he have a gun?
- Why shouldn’t a Marine, who has been trained in weaponry, be able to protect himself and his students? Why can’t the “first responders” — potential victims like Landsberry — have guns to protect themselves?
- Moreover, why does Congress continue to ignore the 80% of police officers who favor “arming teachers and/or school administrators” who volunteer to carry at their schools?
- Finally, why isn’t Nevada following the example of its neighbors — in Utah and Idaho — which are arming teachers at schools?

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## Grassroots Activism Makes a Difference!

“Democrats Blame ‘Gun Owners of America’ for Gun Control Setback.”

— *TPM*, April 8, 2013



**A fluent Spanish-speaker, GOA’s Executive Director used Spanish TV to reach out to (and mobilize) Latinos.**

### GOA keeps Republicans from compromising.

“The group [GOA] has already been successful in both freezing senators, particularly Republicans, who have appeared to be on the fence about supporting bills to expand background checks.” — *New York Times*, April 3, 2013

### GOA members help Sen. Coburn to “see the light.”

“When Sen. Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican, backed away from bipartisan talks to expand background checks earlier this year, he did so after Gun Owners of America and its members flooded the senator’s office with e-mails and phone calls.” — *Slate*, April 4, 2013

### GOA members get “Tea Party loud.”

“While [GOA’s] bank account is relatively paltry ... its members often get Tea Party loud, inundating lawmakers’ offices with calls.” — *Slate*, April 4, 2013

### GOA members lobby Senators at Town Hall meetings.

“Gun Owners of America ... is telling its members to ask senators during their home-state visits if they will join the effort to block the [gun control] legislation.” — *Wall Street Journal*, April 4, 2013

# What They're Saying About GOA in 2013

***“According to conservative staffers, Gun Owners of America was the most active outside group in early efforts to block all gun control efforts.”***

— *The Examiner*, April 28, 2013



Senator Chuck Schumer's office blamed GOA for gun control setbacks.

## **Democrats criticize GOA for stalling gun control.**

“Schumer’s spokesman Brian Fallon took note of Gun Owners of America’s role in the debate [saying] the group ‘is making [a] deal on even background checks extremely hard.’”

— *TPM*, April 8, 2013

“[Gun Owners of America] has complicated efforts to reach a solution on gun control legislation, top Democrats have said.”

— *TPM*, April 8, 2013

## **Harry Reid blasts GOA for pushing NRA to the right.**

“Whenever the NRA tries to be reasonable, the Gun Owners of America becomes more unreasonable and that pushes the NRA. [Now] you’ve got Gun Owners of America which is way to the -- I guess you would say the ‘right’ -- of what the NRA is. It makes it hard for the NRA to be reasonable.”

— **Senator Harry Reid**, April 6, 2013 on Nevada Public Radio

## **GOA an influential force to be contended with.**

“Gun Owners of America, with its war chest, membership and lobbying strength dwarfed by the National Rifle Association, is emerging as an influential force as a series of gun control measures heads to the Senate floor.”

— *New York Times*, April 3, 2013

## **GOA refuses to compromise.**

“Gun Owners of America ... has taken a hard line against any new gun controls.”

— *Wall Street Journal*, April 4, 2013

## How to Place GOA



**GOA has received numerous inquiries from our members asking us 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.



# GOA in



### ▲ GOA hits the airwaves.

Gun Owners of America made hundreds of media appearances this year on radio, Internet, newspaper and TV — including appearances on CNN, MSNBC and Fox News. And liberal media outlets, such as the April 3 edition of the *New York Times*, credited GOA's massive "lobbying blitz" with crippling the "bipartisan Senate deal" on background checks.



### ◀ Supporting nullification of federal gun control.

GOA submitted testimony in October in support of an Ohio bill that would prevent federal officials from enforcing a firearms ban or registration scheme in the state. GOA also helped push such a bill into law in Alaska this year. Pratt's Ohio testimony can be read at [www.gunowners.org/news11082013.htm](http://www.gunowners.org/news11082013.htm).



### ▲ On the Firing Line.

The year started off with two rounds of *mano-a-mano* debate between CNN's Piers Morgan and Larry Pratt. One reporter said Pratt calmly and rationally took "the arrogant British host completely apart" and debunked every "tired liberal claim" about gun control.



### ◀ In the Crossfire.

In the aftermath of the Navy Yard shooting, GOA's Larry Pratt was one of the first guests to appear on CNN's new *Crossfire*. After the debate, GOA's Facebook page lit up with comments such as "Larry is awesome" and "So glad I joined GOA; Larry is by far one of the most bold, aggressive and articulate advocates for gun rights out there today."

# 2013



▲ **GOA argues that “gun free zones” kill.**

GOA's Erich Pratt and Fox's British host, Stuart Varney, went toe-to-toe over who should be held responsible for school violence. Varney wanted to give legislators a free pass. But Pratt, while contending that criminals are liable, argued that congressmen should share some blame — given that their gun free zones serve as magnets for criminals.



▲ **RINO hunting.**

GOA's Director of Federal Affairs Chris Stone (left) meets with a challenger who is taking on the compromise-prone Senator Lindsey Graham in a crowded Republican primary in South Carolina. Gun Owners of America is active in other states and is helping pro-gun candidates take on RINO Republicans in their respective primaries. (See article on p. 8.)



▲ **Fighting new gun control.**

Sparks flew over the question of using the “terror watch” list to disarm gun owners. GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt told CNN's Erin Burnett that the terror watch list is “like Voodoo” because no one knows how names get put on it.



▲ **Rallying the troops.**

While spending several months “pounding” Senators in opposition to gun control, GOA worked with House leaders to make sure that, should any anti-gun measure pass the Senate, such provisions would be D.O.A. in the other chamber. In this picture, GOA's Erich Pratt meets with Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA), who is one of the leaders of the House Second Amendment Task Force.



▲ **Hitting the road.**

GOA's Tim Macy watched Super Late Model driver and GOA-supporter, Dennis Furden (right), take 5th place at California's Irwindale Speedway in August.

## Why Many Conservatives Want to “Ditch Mitch”

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sion of the CR (which funded ObamaCare) from even coming to the floor for consideration.

- On October 16, McConnell again voted to end another Cruz-Lee filibuster of the CR and its funding for ObamaCare.
- Then, that same day, McConnell voted for final passage of the CR, which not only funded the anti-gun ObamaCare law, it also raised the debt ceiling.

What’s crazy about this is that now, several Democrats are actively working to delay ObamaCare. They don’t want this albatross hung around their necks.

Of course, when Republicans had a real chance to delay or kill this dreadful law, Mitch was actively torpedoing his fellow Republicans.

Doesn’t that make him look foolish now?

### Weak knees during key battles

For some reason, and I’m not sure why, ObamaCare has been a type of Achilles heel for McConnell.

During the initial battle against ObamaCare in 2009, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was struggling for the 60 votes he would need to break the filibuster that Republicans were mounting against the anti-gun ObamaCare bill.

In order to buy these senators, Reid had to schedule a series of votes to give his Democrats “cover” on a variety of issues.

Even though McConnell opposed the legislation, he still allowed Reid to put together 60 votes and overcome the filibuster by repeatedly giving him “unanimous consent” to offer these “cover your rear” amendments — even though we begged Senate Republicans not to allow them.

The result? Reid was able to buy off his 60 Democrats to overcome the filibuster of ObamaCare, and the anti-gun legislation passed.

Over the next couple of years, McConnell would vote for Continuing Resolutions that funded ObamaCare.

For example, in one egregious vote on March 17, 2011, McConnell voted

for a CR that funded anti-gun programs such as ObamaCare and the ATF’s illegal gun registry in the Southwest.

Regarding the gun registry, the House had previously passed a Boren-Rehberg amendment to block efforts by the ATF to set up an illegal gun registry of multiple firearms sales. But that provision was absent from the Senate version of the CR. So McConnell voted for a CR that funded ObamaCare and that contained no protections for gun owners against Obama’s anti-gun regulations.

But this would not be the last time that McConnell would fail to protect gun owners from registration.

### McConnell and gun owner registration

Kentucky’s truly pro-gun Senator, Rand Paul, was able during the last Congress — through a brilliant use of parliamentary procedure — to force a vote on whether the Obama administration could seize 4473’s and other gun records by claiming that gun owners were “terrorists.”

It was the only Republican-forced, gun-related vote in the entire Congress, and, as such, had enormous political implications for Senators running from pro-gun states in 2012.

But McConnell quietly “whipped” Republicans against the Paul amendment and voted against it himself on May 26, 2011. Only ten senators supported it, and two of them — Jon Tester and Max Baucus — were Democrats from gun-friendly Montana.

Democrat leader Harry Reid, on the other hand, understood the importance of guns in the 2012 elections. He forced a vote on a supposedly “pro-gun” bill by Democrat Jon Tester (D-MT) right before the Senate adjourned.

As a result, Democrat Tester was re-elected in Montana, and the Democrats actually picked up seats in a year when the political dynamics should have caused them to lose the Senate.

## Raising an Oak Tree



GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt got a chance to spend some time with Senator Ted Cruz’ father, Rafael Cruz (left), at a fundraiser for GOA in November. After the meeting, Pratt said about the father and son (who is pictured in the inset): “It’s obvious the acorn didn’t fall very far from the tree.”

Why wasn’t McConnell forcing pro-gun votes all year long?

### Supporting gun control after Columbine

Before Mitch McConnell ever became the Republican leader in the Senate, he had already demonstrated his tendency to compromise — even on gun owners’ rights.

In the wake of the Columbine shooting, Senator McConnell voted for a slew of gun control measures, including one that would have effectively outlawed most private sales of firearms at gun shows (May 14, 1999).

And as if that wasn’t bad enough, on May 20, 1999, he voted for a juvenile crime bill that included: 1. A Feinstein ban on magazines holding over ten rounds; and 2. A provision that would have effectively banned gun shows by forcing their sponsors to jump through hoops in order to avoid criminal prosecution.

Bad politics ... bad votes ... and bad policies. There’s no reason that Kentucky shouldn’t send another pro-gun stalwart like Senator Rand Paul to the Senate.

It’s been almost 30 years since I flew all around the state of Kentucky, stumping for a young conservative who had tremendous promise.

Now it looks like next year I’ll be spending quite a bit of time in the Bluegrass State ... stumping for his opponent. ■

## Gun Owners Dodge a Bullet in 2013

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### Several states taking steps to arm teachers

While several schools in Idaho are now in the process of implementing this policy, Utah has been doing this for several years.

Thankfully, Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX) has an answer to this insanity — the kind of craziness that keeps our teachers unprotected at schools, or for that matter, that keeps our servicemen unprotected when they are at work.

That's why Rep. Stockman has introduced legislation to repeal the gun free school zones ban (HR 35) and the ban that keeps servicemen defenseless on military bases (HR 3199).

These are bills that GOA has been pushing this year, and we will continue to push in 2014.

Not only that, GOA will continue to do the following:

- Push for a repeal of the anti-gun ObamaCare law which will allow federal officials to use medical information to disarm millions of gun owners around the country.
- Fight the anti-gun UN "Arms Trade Treaty" which the President's Secretary of State, John Kerry, signed in late September.
- Press for the ability of gun owners to carry their guns outside of their own states, without facing fear of prosecution.
- Encourage states to follow the recent examples of Alaska and Kansas in nullifying federal gun control laws.

As always, Gun Owners of America is very thankful for the hundreds of thousands of members and activists who have stood by our side this year — gun owners who have taken action on

our legislative alerts and contributed financially to the cause.

It makes a difference. ■

## GOA Helps Fire Warning Shot Across the Bow

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crat Gov. John Hickenlooper's desk — legislation such as magazine restrictions, bans on private gun sales (without a background check), etc.

Gun Owners of America stepped into the fray during the spring and summer, and did its part in rallying the troops to get Colorado voters to the polls.

The political Left is in full mourning. As stated by the *New York Times* after the election, the recall has given "moderate lawmakers across the country a warning about the political risks of voting for tougher gun laws." ■

## 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.





# Why Many Conservatives Want to “Ditch Mitch”

by Larry Pratt

I first met Mitch McConnell in 1984.

He was a county official in Louisville, and he was challenging what we would now call a Blue

Dog Democrat, Senator Walter Huddleston.

McConnell presented himself as a solid Second Amendment advocate, and I must admit, I had a personal interest in the race.

After all, my wife is from Panama, and Senator Huddleston had voted to give away the Panama Canal to the ruling dictatorship in Panama. My wife’s family would be personally affected, as my brother-in-law would be unjustly beaten by thugs from the Noriega regime.

I really wanted Huddleston out of the Senate, and I was willing to fly around the state with then-Jefferson County Judge/Executive Mitch McConnell.

I still vividly remember flying into Hazard, Kentucky — a town that was well-named. As we approached the airstrip in our small plane, the pilot flew around the hollow where the air strip was located. He explained that he wanted to be sure which way the wind was blowing.

As we approached the strip, there was a beautiful stand of trees right at the end of the tarmac. The pilot tipped our wings in a nearly perpendicular direction to avoid the trees, and then suddenly righted the plane as he plopped us on the runway.

I told him as we got out of the plane how “interesting” the landing had been. He said, “Oh, that was nothing. You should have seen the types of stunts we had to pull in Vietnam.”

I spent quite a bit of time that election season flying around Kentucky, stumping for Mitch McConnell, and helping to get him elected to the U.S. Senate. So, when Mitch McConnell “went native” here in Washington, I must admit that I took it personally.

But I’m not alone in this sentiment. There are other conservative groups who are disappointed with the Mitch’s compromises, and they have also endorsed his opponent in the 2014 Republican Primary. They are the Senate Conservatives Fund, the Madison Project and more than 15 local

Tea Party groups in the Bluegrass State.

Other big name conservatives have indicated that an endorsement for challenger Matt Bevin might be forthcoming. And the GOA Political Victory Fund has already issued its endorsement in favor of Bevin.



Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

## McConnell’s recent betrayal

The entire conservative movement — including gun owners — felt betrayed recently when Senator Mitch McConnell actively worked to circumvent Senator Ted Cruz’ efforts to derail the anti-gun ObamaCare law.

The battle over defunding ObamaCare in the fall was a particularly defining moment because — with respect to the government funding resolution (the “CR”) — Congress didn’t have the option of remaining neutral on ObamaCare.

It could either fund ObamaCare in its entirety — the mandates, the dropped insurance coverage, the anti-gun databases, the lies — or it could exercise its constitutional responsibilities and refuse to fund any of it.

Republican Senators Ted Cruz (TX) and Mike Lee (UT) led the charge against the horrendous ObamaCare law. But Senator McConnell actually worked against their efforts.

*The Blaze* reported in September that, “Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Whip John Cornyn are using their leadership positions to pressure other Republicans to oppose Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) in his campaign to defund Obamacare.”

A local Fox affiliate reported that Sen. McConnell had “undermined the Texas senator’s strategy.”

Indeed, once the smoke cleared, everyone could plainly see what Sen. McConnell had been doing behind closed doors. That’s because he himself voted to kill the Cruz filibuster and voted to fund the anti-gun ObamaCare law:

- On September 27, 2013, McConnell voted to end the Cruz-Lee filibuster that would have kept an early ver-

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THE **Gun Owners**

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