

THE Gun Owners

39 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2014

How Gun Owners Frustrated Obama's Gun Control Agenda

by Erich Pratt

“Gun Owners of America will run an ad against you or billboard against you and say you're trying to take their guns away.”

— Bill Clinton, June 2014

The President paid quite a complement to Gun Owners of America and its members this year.

Speaking to a *Tumblr* audience over the summer, Barack Obama said:

People ask me what I'm proudest of and what are my biggest frustrations as President. My biggest frustration is that this society hasn't been willing to take some basic steps to keep guns out of the hands of people who can do damage.

So in other words, he's frustrated that Congress rejected every single one of his gun control proposals over the past couple of years.

GOA members should accept this complement and pat themselves on the back.

After all, it was the liberal media that blamed Gun Owners

Presidential Vexation



Presidents Obama and Clinton have complained about the power of the “gun lobby” in recent months and the ability of our grassroots to “intimidate a lot of senators” into opposing gun control.

of America and its activists for the defeat of the President's gun control agenda.

Consider these statements:

- “Gun Owners of America showed with one email alert that it could help flood the phone lines on Capitol Hill days

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Sen. Harry Reid Falls from His Throne; House Reinforced with Pro-gunners

by Christopher Stone

When Republicans successfully took control of the U.S. Senate during November's midterm elections, they dethroned one of the most anti-gun Majority Leaders in the history of the Upper Chamber.

Voters across the United States stood against President Barack Obama's policies and, in doing so, elected candidates who will stand up for the Second Amendment.

We now have new pro-gun Senators and Congressmen who will be heading to Capitol Hill in January to aid as rein-

forcements in the battle to protect our right to keep and bear arms.

GOA's Political Victory Fund was proud to endorse a number of these new pro-gun Senators — men and women who will stand up for the Second Amendment and for the freedom of firearms ownership.

Consider the following highlights:

- In Alaska, Dan Sullivan defeated anti-gunner Mark Begich after a tight race in which many thought Begich was sure to win. Dan is very pro-gun and received an “A” rating from GOA, while Begich received a

“D” rating.

- In Montana, Rep. Steve Daines

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Inside:

- **Gun owners won tremendous victories in 2014 (pages 4-5)**
- **Good news for gun owners in the courts (page 7)**

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before the Senate vote.”
— *National Public Radio*,
December 26, 2013

- “Democrats Blame ‘Gun Owners of America’ for Gun Control Setback.”
— *TPM*, April 8, 2013

That the anti-gun Left has singled GOA out as the biggest obstacle to more gun control is a great compliment that all gun owners should accept proudly.

But it's GOA's grassroots activists who should really be proud, because without them, we could never have accomplished all that we have done in defense of America's gun rights.



When Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) demanded that the Capitol Hill police investigate GOA's Larry Pratt for his views on the Second Amendment, gun owners around the country were outraged. Invoking the epic “I'm Spartacus” line, thousands of gun owners went to GOA's Facebook page and stood with GOA, saying “I'm Larry Pratt!”

Gun grabbers attack GOA

It's been said that the price of success is a target on your back. And this has certainly been the case in 2014:

- (1) Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg produced a video — through one of his anti-gun subsidiaries — personally ridiculing GOA for wanting to arm teachers and principals in schools.
- (2) New York Democrat Rep. Carolyn Maloney called for the Capitol Hill police to investigate GOA's Larry Pratt for saying that the Second Amendment is for “restraining tyrants.”
- (3) Media outlets like *Bloomberg.com* and the *Huffington Post* have tried to lampoon positions that Gun Owners of America has taken.
- (4) Anti-gun groups like the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence have



“Gun Owners of America showed with one email alert that it could help flood the phone lines on Capitol Hill days before the Senate vote.”

— *National Public Radio*, December 26, 2013

viciously attacked pro-gun candidates — assailing them simply because they received endorsements from GOA's Political Victory Fund.



Yes, it's the price that comes from success. But it's been well worth the effort, as we finish 2014 with no new gun control at the federal level — and even greater firearms freedoms at the state level.

Clinton bothered by failure to enact gun control

President Obama is not the only one

who is frustrated.

Former President Bill Clinton disparagingly complemented the gun lobby this summer when he accused us of trying to “terrify people” into thinking the government is infringing on their gun rights.

And more recently, outgoing Attorney General Eric Holder lamented the several victories that gun owners had achieved over the past two years.

Failure to pass gun control “weighs heavily” on Holder

In October, *The Hill* reported that Holder listed the Obama administration's “inability to enact more stringent gun control regulations” as among the biggest failures of his tenure, saying the matter “weighs heavily” on his mind.

It's certainly not for lack of trying. There was Operation Fast & Furious... Operation Choke Point... and ATF's efforts to illegally expand its gun registry.

GOA played a central role in exposing all three operations:

- GOA helped uncover Fast & Furious several years ago and is still pursuing legal action against Eric Holder for his involvement in this operation.
- GOA worked with legislators on both sides of Capitol Hill this year to pass legislation prohibiting Operation Choke Point, which led the administration to finally cry “uncle” and stop trying to put the gun industry out of business.
- And in regard to ATF's illegal registry, GOA issued an official cease and desist letter to ATF in June. Within a week, ATF backed off from its surreptitious effort, returning its

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“I applaud GOA for pushing constitutional carry in the states and concealed carry reciprocity around the country.”
-- Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-IN)

Sen. Harry Reid Falls from His Throne

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cruised to victory, easily beating his anti-gun opponent, Amanda Curtis. GOA endorsed Steve early in his campaign and worked closely with him during his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives. He has proven himself to be a staunch Second Amendment supporter, and he will bring a much needed pro-gun vote and leadership to the Senate.

- In Colorado, pro-gun Rep. Cory Gardner unseated Sen. Mark Udall, after spending months being trashed in the media and being told he had no chance at winning. This is a very welcome pick up, considering that Udall voted with anti-gun President Obama 99% of the time and was endorsed by the anti-gun (former) New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.
- In Arkansas, anti-gun Senator Mark Pryor tumbled to defeat as the voters in his state threw their support behind Rep. Tom Cotton. Tom has been a Second Amendment advocate in Congress, co-sponsoring national concealed carry reciprocity and H.R. 35, which would repeal the

gun free school zones ban.

- In Iowa, Joni Ernst shocked the political establishment when she defeated an "F" rated Bruce Braley. The pro-gun Joni was truly the underdog, as most pundits assumed that Braley, who had served in the



GOA's Erich Pratt with Senator-elect Cory Gardner of Colorado.

House of Representatives, was a shoo-in to become Iowa's next Senator.

Boasting a pro-gun voting record while in the Iowa State Senate, Joni used the last two months of the



GOA Vice Chairman Tim Macy with Montana's Senator-elect Steve Daines (left).

campaign to steadily gain ground on Braley, eventually taking the lead in the polls and winning by 8.5 points.

- And in Nebraska, Ben Sasse comfortably defeated Dave Domina by more than 30 points. GOA endorsed Ben early on in his primary, given that he had put forward a strong, pro-gun message.

Victory in the House: Pro-gun Message Carries Candidates to Success

Victory wasn't limited to the U.S. Senate only. GOA also endorsed numerous non-incumbent candidates running in open seats or against anti-gun incumbents.

These new pro-gun U.S. House members include:

- Ken Buck in CO-04
- Jody Hice in GA-10
- Dave Brat in VA-07
- Alex Mooney WV-02
- Rob Blum in IA-01
- Steve Knight in CA-25
- Frank Guinta in NH-01
- Lee Zeldin in NY-01

It is paramount that solid constitutional Members maintain a strong presence in the House to keep Speaker Boehner and the Republican Leadership accountable. Gaining these eight new pro-gun representatives will provide much needed reinforcements to the pro-Second Amendment congressmen who are already there.

GOA will now focus efforts on holding these men and women accountable as they serve the citizens who sent them to Capitol Hill to protect liberty in this country. ■

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requirements to the status quo.

GOA will work to repeal gun control in 2015

The battle for our gun rights will only intensify next year.

The Obama administration wants to get the UN Arms Trade Treaty ratified. And it will use future shootings to expand the number of gun-free zones where good Americans will be kept from possessing firearms.

But GOA will oppose these efforts and work to expand our opportunities for concealed carry.

It may seem improbable, considering who's in the White House. But long-

time GOA members will remember that we actually worked to repeal the National Parks gun ban during the first year of Obama's presidency.

And that was done with a Democrat House and Senate!

The repeal of gun control won't be easy, but it can be done. And with your continued support, we will continue regaining lost ground, as we defend our Second Amendment rights together. ■



GOA in



▲ Supporting nullification of federal gun control.

Idaho Gov. Butch Otter (right) signed legislation this year which prohibits the enforcement of federal gun control laws within the state. GOA's Erich Pratt praised the new law, saying, "Idaho has joined an elite class of states that are telling the feds to 'get lost' — especially when it comes to unconstitutional gun control infringements."

"YOU'VE GOT GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA WHICH IS WAY TO THE RIGHT OF WHAT THE NRA IS. IT MAKES IT HARD FOR THE NRA TO BE REASONABLE."

-- SENATOR HARRY REID, NEVADA PUBLIC RADIO



▲ Working to defeat the Obama-Reid agenda.

Harry Reid, who served as Senate Majority Leader for eight years, was frustrated when GOA helped torpedo the President's entire gun control agenda in 2013. And he was clearly miffed when GOA rallied the grassroots to kill the "Harry Reid Preservation Act" this summer — a bill that would have allowed many anti-gun Democrats to cast meaningless "puff votes" on firearms, thus making them appear pro-gun right before the midterm elections.



▲ Fighting for gun rights in court.

The gun community this year mourned the death of Otis McDonald (left) who challenged, and beat, Chicago's unconstitutional gun ban in 2010. In addition to helping in that monumental case, GOA and its foundation have remained active in the courts — even winning several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court this year.

◀ Defending concealed carry.

In addition to pushing CCW legislation at the federal and state levels, GOA members put the heat on New Jersey Governor Chris Christie this year. GOA's hard-hitting message successfully encouraged Christie to pressure a local prosecutor to drop charges against Shaneen Allen, a Philadelphia nurse who had been arrested for having a gun in her car in New Jersey.



2014



▲ Helping elect a pro-gun Congress.

GOA's Political Victory Fund played a huge role in defeating anti-gun candidates in November's elections. In Iowa, GOA-PVF Vice Chairman Tim Macy appeared with Senator-elect Joni Ernst, who angered anti-gun liberals by saying the Second Amendment protects her right to "defend myself [from] the government."



▲ Preventing Republicans from supporting anti-gun legislation.

GOA activists hit House Speaker John Boehner hard this year, when he signaled support for legislation that would have legalized millions of new, anti-gun voters. *The Examiner* praised GOA's successful efforts, saying that, "Gun Owners of America has for a while now been sounding the alarm about the link between 'immigration reform' and 'gun control.'"

◀ Blamed for the demise of Piers Morgan.

After losing his nightly time slot this year, CNN's Piers Morgan blamed gun owners for his demise. But *The Examiner* says Morgan's own obnoxious self did him in, and this was seen most notably "when Morgan invited Larry Pratt [to] argue the Second Amendment."



▲ Going "mano-a-mano" with Big Daddy Warbucks.

Anti-gun billionaire Michael Bloomberg, and his subsidiaries, spent much of the year attacking Gun Owners of America. But GOA had the last laugh as our grassroots defeated the Bloomberg agenda at the federal level and in states like Wisconsin and New Hampshire.



▲ Opposing Obama's illegal use of his "phone and pen."

GOA spent much of 2014 working to undo the President's unilateral actions. Among GOA's chief victories was our work in helping subvert Operation Choke Point — which had threatened to put the gun industry out of business — and forcing the ATF to stop illegally registering long guns throughout the country.



Gun-Toting Grandpa Defends Wife and Granddaughter from Rapists in Home Invasion --Hits his targets, while taking incoming fire



A North Carolina grandfather demonstrated why the right to keep and bear arms is so important.

After three home invaders tried to rob his home and rape his granddaughter, the homeowner grabbed a hidden firearm and drove the attackers away.

As reported by the *Daily Caller* on October 23:

“Kenneth Byrd, 67, was approached by an individual claiming to have

“The homeowner grabbed a hidden firearm and drove the attackers away.”

car problems. When Byrd invited the man into his home, he was rushed by two additional assailants wearing black clothes and ski masks.

“The home invaders — all three brandishing handguns — corralled Byrd, his wife Judy and their 19-year-old granddaughter and demanded money and other valuables from the family safe.

“Byrd initially complied with their demands, but when the men began to beat Judy and attempted to rape his granddaughter, he grabbed a hidden firearm and let loose a flurry of shots at the assailants.

“After a brief firefight, Byrd drove the men from his home but not before receiving several gunshot wounds.”

Two of the perps were apprehended at a local medical center after they sought treatment for gunshot wounds. The third assailant was found dead in Byrd’s stolen car.

The *Daily Caller* reports that the three hoodlums are also linked “to several other home invasions in the area.” ■

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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LIFE MEMBER

How to Place GOA



in Your Will

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.



Highlights of GOF Cases in 2014

- In November, the Reese family, who ran a “mom and pop” gun store in New Mexico, received a drastically reduced sentence from the trial judge. Earlier the Reeses had been granted a new trial after the government used perjured testimony to convict them. GOF handled the Reese's appeal to the Tenth Circuit, and helped develop theories used on remand.
- In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in GOF's favor in *U.S. v. Wurie*. GOF had argued that the Fourth Amendment's protection of private property means that a person's cell phone may not be searched simply because he has been arrested. The brief defended the Fourth Amendment property right to the security of “persons, houses, papers, and effects” a protection that will ultimately shield gun owners from having their firearms seized.
- In September, GOF filed an *amicus* brief in a second *Heller v. District of Columbia* case. After the verdict in the first *Heller* case (2008), the city council crafted registration and licensing regulations so onerous as to technically permit possession of handguns in the home, but in effect making it so difficult and expensive that many people found it impossible to legally acquire a firearm.
- In the spring, our Foundation won two First Amendment cases before the Supreme Court. Together, the *McCutcheon* and *Susan B. Anthony List* cases struck down limitations on GOA's ability to get good legislators elected to office.
- Finally, GOF filed an *amicus* brief in *Drake v. Jerejian*, challenging New Jersey's restrictions against carrying concealed firearms. GOF also took part in *Quinn v. Texas*, arguing that police, when serving a search warrant, must “knock and announce” their presence, and cannot use thuggish, paramilitary SWAT teams to batter in the front door based on nothing more than the fact that someone inside may own a gun.

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.





Britain Shows Again Why We Are No Longer British

By Larry Pratt

There are a few private gun owners left in England. What they have to endure shows once again why Americans are no longer British.

To get a gun in England, the burden of proof is on the citizen. And, no, self-defense is not one of the accepted reasons for wanting to buy a gun. It doesn't really matter, because guns have to be kept locked in a safe so they will not be available for self-defense.

The British law is so rigid that, before granting their Olympic pistol team a special exemption, they had to fly to Belgium for practice.

Breitbart.com ran an article by Andre Walker on October 14 reporting that the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has kicked off a campaign to make warrantless entry (remember this is the United Kingdom with no Fourth Amendment) into people's homes and make unannounced inspections.

England has a violent crime rate that is eight times higher than the United States'. Admittedly their murder rate is quite low, at 1.0 per 100,000. But then so is the murder rate in Fairfax County, Virginia, where Gun Owners of America is located. The county has over a million inhabitants and is located in a state where concealed carry permits are easily available. Nevertheless, Fairfax County has the exact same murder rate as England.

Unlike in England, handguns are easily available in Fairfax County and may be openly carried in a holster. Not long ago, I was paying for some purchases when a customer walked through the door with a handgun holstered on his hip. The clerk took notice of it and, unflustered, finished checking me out.

But ACPO doesn't think the British gun laws are tough enough. The group has publicly pushed for tighter controls, even though British police are supposed to be politically neutral.

ACPO was rebuked by the leader of an up-and-coming right-of-center party, the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP). The party seeks to withdraw from the

European Union, which is governed by unelected bureaucrats who are accountable to no one.

Earlier this year, Greater Manchester Police Chief Constable Peter Fahy publicly rebuked UKIP leader Nigel Farage after he suggested handgun regulations were too tough. Fahy said: "We should all be grateful that we have got such tight gun control in this country — when you look at the States, it's awful over there."

Chief Constable Fahy just reminded us once again why we are no longer British. Mr. Fahy, we have our Second Amendment to protect us from people like you.

Recent history demonstrates that guns in the private possession of the people have been the tools used to resist tyranny. During the August, 1946, Democrat primary in Athens, Tennessee, the police walked off with the ballot boxes and took them to the police station. Armed men with rifles arrived in pickup trucks and automobiles. A brief firefight ensued, after which the police realized they

"To get a gun in England, the burden of proof is on the citizen. And, no, self-defense is not one of the accepted reasons for wanting to buy a gun."

had better stand down. They did, and the reform party won — because the votes were honestly counted after all.

More recently, Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy was threatened by a SWAT team from the rogue Bureau of Land Management (BLM). People spontaneously came to his defense, resulting in an armed standoff. The BLM stood down.

This is what Chief Constable Fahy thinks is "awful over there." Admittedly, dictatorship is much more difficult when dealing with an armed populace. ■

Larry Pratt is the Executive Director of Gun Owners of America, a grassroots gun lobby with more than 750,000 members and activists.

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