

THE Gun Owners

42 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2017

GOA-Backed Concealed Carry Bill Approaches 200 Cosponsors!

by Erich Pratt

“I know your members have been very active and very persuasive.”

— A Senate aide explaining the effectiveness of GOA members and activists, April 4, 2017

The members of Gun Owners of America are well known on Capitol Hill.

GOA has been garnering support at a rapid pace for the concealed carry reciprocity legislation in Congress.

As this newsletter goes to press, the bill in the House, H.R. 38, has 192 cosponsors. The Senate bill, S. 446, has 36 cosponsors.

To solicit more cosponsors, GOA staffers recently walked the halls of Con-

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GOA's staff helped introduce Shaneen Allen to Texas Senator, and concealed carry reciprocity sponsor, John Cornyn (right).

Texas Concealed Carrier Stops Mass Shooter Cold

by John Velleco

It happened again. A good guy with a gun stopped a bad guy with a gun.

This one happened inside a sports bar in Arlington, Texas, at dinner time on a Wednesday evening in May.

James Jones, 48, shot and killed a manager at the Zona Caliente Sports Bar. The victim was 37-year-old Cesar Perez.

A patron carrying a concealed firearm was at the other end of the bar as the incident unfolded and, according to police, told his wife to “get down” before engaging and taking down the shooter.

The outcome, which unfortunately left one victim dead, was much differ-

ent than the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, where 49 people were slaughtered by a lone gunman.

Of course, the “good guy” with a gun in Texas — being a good guy — had a permit to carry his firearm in accordance with state law.

The armed bad guy — being a bad (and now dead) guy — did not have a permit to carry the two firearms on his person.

Jones shot at several other patrons before he died, but no one else was harmed. There were roughly forty people inside the restaurant at the time of the incident.

Police say that no charges will be filed against the man who many are

hailing as a hero, as he potentially saved the lives of other customers and employees.

“We are so thankful for him,” said the restaurant’s manager, Lucy Garcia. ■

Inside:

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- **Have your Senators voted pro-gun? (page 7)**

GOA-Backed Concealed Carry Bill Approaching 200 Cosponsors!

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gress, introducing Shaneen Allen to several offices.

Shaneen is the Philadelphia mom who was incarcerated for over 40 days — all because her Pennsylvania carry permit was not recognized in New Jersey.

To put it mildly, Shaneen would have greatly benefitted from concealed carry reciprocity legislation.

Such a law would enable gun owners to carry firearms from coast-to-coast without fearing harassment.

And unlike many previous reciprocity bills from past congresses, this GOA-backed legislation would protect residents from permitless carry states.

This means that residents of Constitutional Carry states would be able to carry nationwide, without getting permits and without asking permission to exercise their rights.

Capitol Hill offices getting hammered by GOA members

In one particular office, GOA officers were discussing how they can get more cosponsors for the concealed carry reciprocity legislation in Congress.

The congressional staff acknowledged that GOA had done a phenomenal job in getting cosponsors to these bills in just a couple of months.

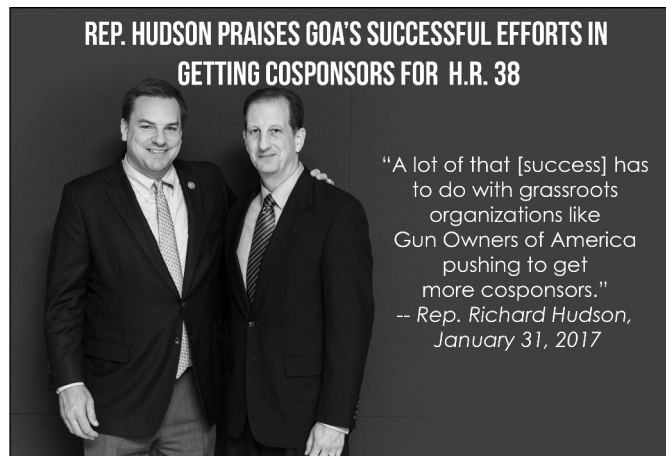
And that's when one of the aides said: "I know your members have been very active and very persuasive" in getting additional cosponsors.

What a great testimony to the effectiveness of GOA members!

It's this kind of activist members that makes congressmen sit up and take notice of Second Amendment issues.

There is nothing like heaping mounds upon mounds of postcards and letters on legislators' desks.

This is the reason that your member-



ship in Gun Owners of America is so valuable to preserving our Second Amendment rights!

One congressional office told GOA staff after a background check expansion bill was killed in 2006: "Oh s—t! We got a lot of postcards and emails from GOA members."

That pretty much says it all. The



Anti-gun billionaire Michael Bloomberg has committed to spend millions of dollars to defeat concealed carry reciprocity legislation in Congress.

GOA postcards, landing on their desks, get their notice.

That's the power that GOA members wield. They force legislators to take action on legislation that they might, otherwise, just simply ignore.

Billionaire Michael Bloomberg com- mits \$25 million to defeat reciprocity

One of the biggest obstacles that gun owners face in this fight is "Bloomberg's billions."

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has committed to spend \$25 million in an effort to kill concealed carry reciprocity.

In addition to directly trying to buy off legislators, Bloomberg's subsidiary group, Everytown, will be active in trying to harass House and Senate members.

Politico, a newspaper on Capitol Hill, reports that, "Everytown is planning to activate its various networks to hound members at town halls on concealed carry reciprocity."

That's how the anti-gun Left operates.

They hire people to go protest at town halls and rallies — while decent, hard-working Americans labor from 9-5

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Has Your Senator Cosponsored the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Bill?

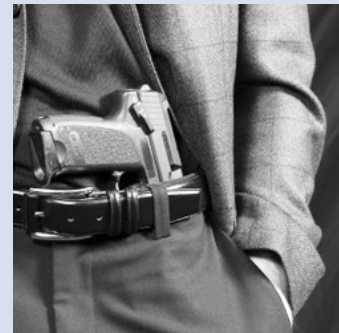
This is the current list of cosponsors to S. 446, the concealed carry reciprocity bill. To date, not one Senate Democrat has cosponsored this legislation.

Barrasso (WY)
Blunt (MO)
Boozman (AR)
Capito (WV)
Cochran (MS)
Cornyn (TX)*
Crapo (ID)
Cruz (TX)
Daines (MT)
Enzi (WY)
Ernst (IA)
Fischer (NE)
Flake (AZ)
Graham (SC)

Grassley (IA)
Hatch (UT)
Heller (NV)
Hoeven (ND)
Inhofe (OK)
Isakson (GA)
Johnson (WI)
Lankford (OK)
McCain (AZ)
Moran (KS)
Murkowski (AK)
Perdue (GA)
Portman (OH)
Risch (ID)

Roberts (KS)
Rounds (SD)
Rubio (FL)
Shelby (AL)
Strange (AL)
Sullivan (AK)
Thune (SD)
Wicker (MS)
Young (IN)

** Indicates he is
the chief sponsor
of the bill.*



Veterans Gun Ban Repeal Needs Just One More Senator to Break a Filibuster

by Michael Hammond

The bipartisan bill to repeal the Veterans' Gun Ban passed the House by a lop-sided margin in March, and it's now on the Senate calendar.

That bill is H.R. 1181 — a bill which GOA members were very vocal in helping to pass, when it was in the House of Representatives.

This bill is sorely needed.

As a result of bureaucratic overreach, over 257,000 law-abiding veterans have been stripped of their constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

This has been done by faceless bureaucrats, without any due process whatsoever.

Take into consideration that the armed services had no problem issuing our American heroes M4's or M16's and sending them into firefights in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But the second they set foot on American soil, these brave men and women are stripped of their constitutional rights with no due process — merely because they sought counseling for a traumatic experience while risking their lives to defend our country.

And although there is a theoretical right of appeal, the \$10,000+ cost of lawyers and experts is invariably more than any veteran can afford.

If it's any indication of what a travesty this process is, there are



Rep. David Roe is the sponsor of the bill to repeal the veterans gun ban (H.R. 1181). He is pictured here entertaining Wounded Warriors at an event in Tennessee.

107,000 heroic veterans over 80-years-old who have had their rights taken away, simply because they're too old to balance their checkbooks.

This loathsome gun ban prevents law-abiding veterans from hunting with their kids and from defending their families — but also prevents them from participating in shooting therapy programs such as the one in Grand Junc-



tion, Colorado.

It is time for this travesty to come to an end, and H.R. 1181 would accomplish that.

By our vote count, we have at least 59 votes to pass this measure in the Senate and send it to Donald Trump's desk.

We need to make sure the "good guys" in the Senate hold firm — and that we can pick up just one more Senator to break a potential filibuster.

Gun owners' activism makes a tremendous difference

Gun Owners of America won a minor skirmish when opposing Army General David Petraeus' bid for a political appointment in the Trump Administration.

The anti-gun Petraeus has vocally supported the veterans gun ban.

So GOA went into full alert mode when Petraeus was being considered for Secretary of State, and later, for National Security Advisor.

One media report stated that, "the pressure from GOA [may] have paid off, as the most recent reports indicate that the president-elect appears to have soured on Petraeus."

While Petraeus was strongly considered for both positions, Trump refused to formally nominate him.

The activism of GOA members makes a real difference.

Please urge your Senators to vote for H.R. 1181, the Veterans Civil Rights Act. ■

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.

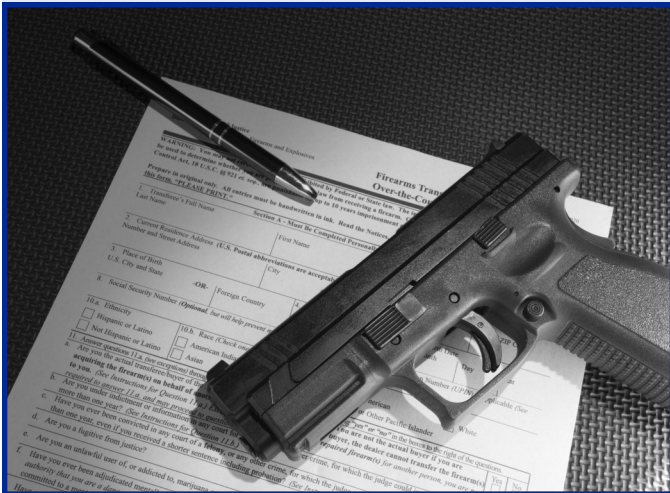
Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of \$50 (*with the remainder to be billed to you*) or as a quarterly debit to your credit card for \$50 until your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.

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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GOA ON THE FRONT LINES

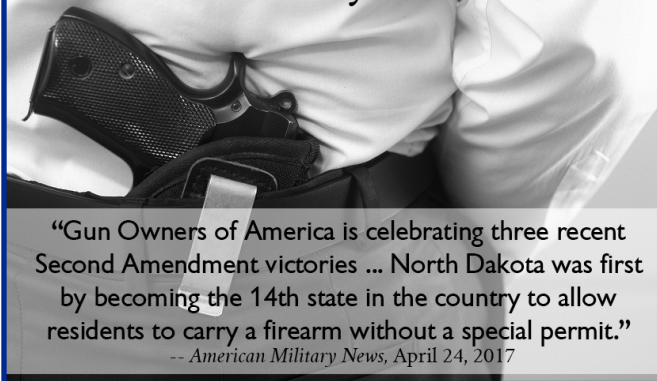
NEW MEXICO LAWMAKERS SHOOT DOWN BAN ON PRIVATE GUN SALES



GOA activated its grassroots network in opposition to a Universal Background Check bill — legislation that would have inexorably led to the registration of virtually every gun sale in the state and banned virtually every private transfer that did not first get permission from the government.

ANOTHER STATE JOINS THE CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY CLUB

GOA-Backed Bill Brings Constitutional Carry to North Dakota



“Gun Owners of America is celebrating three recent Second Amendment victories ... North Dakota was first by becoming the 14th state in the country to allow residents to carry a firearm without a special permit.”
-- American Military News, April 24, 2017

GOA VICTORIOUS BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT



GUN RIGHTS ADVANCING

“From defending gun rights in New Mexico to going on the offensive in North Dakota, the Second Amendment movement is picking up steam across the country,”

said Erich Pratt,
Executive Director of GOA.

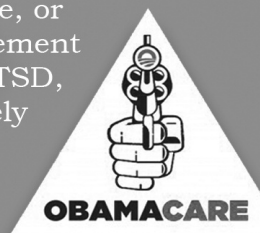
— Gabriella Hoffman, *The Resurgent*, April 25, 2017



WILL 'OBAMACARE LITE' THREATEN GUN RIGHTS?

“The [ObamaCare Lite] bill needs to be amended to prohibit the ATF from trolling the national health database, or Medicaid, or any new entitlement program for persons with PTSD, Alzheimer’s, ADHD, or merely ‘anxiety.’ ”

– Michael Hammond,
Legislative Counsel for GOA,
Guns.com, March 23, 2017





GOA in the News

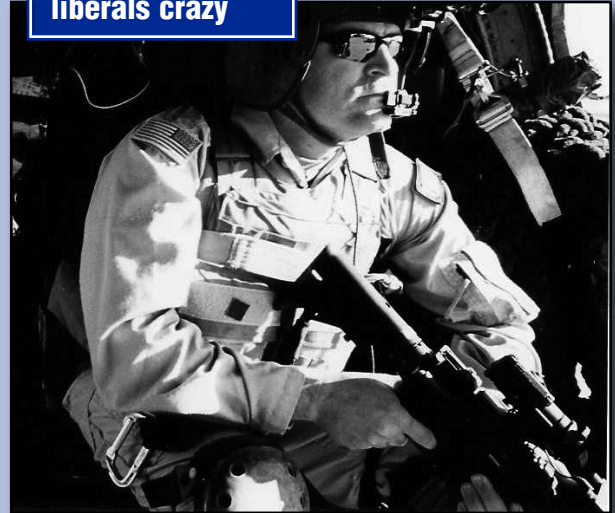
GOA Putting the Second Amendment on Offense

"We just spent the past eight years on the defensive. Now we are playing offensive ball."



-- Erich Pratt,
Executive Director of Gun Owners of America
(Fox News, April 3, 2017)

GOA Life Member driving the liberals crazy



GOA Life Member and senator Mark Green is one of the most pro-gun state senators in the Tennessee legislature and is a sponsor of Constitutional Carry legislation. But liberals were beside themselves when President Trump nominated him for Army Secretary. While Green's name is no longer in consideration, liberals were going crazy at the thought of a Secretary who has stated that citizens should have the same arms as the military.

GOA Protecting God-given rights

"Much like the X-man Wolverine, though GOA is smaller they are the best at what they do and what they do is get stuff done that protects your God-given right to keep and bear arms."

-- Bullets First, May 2, 2017

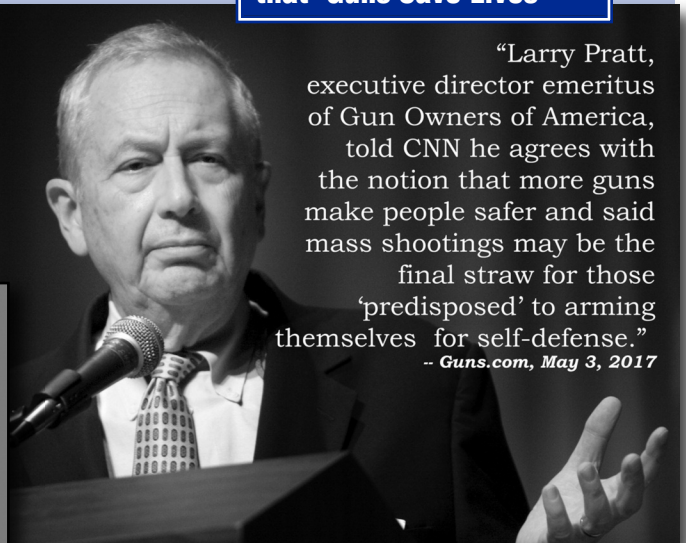
GOA argues concealed carriers can stop mass shootings

"Mass shootings such as the one at Virginia Tech could be prevented if more citizens have guns to take down shooters, said Erich Pratt, head of Gun Owners of America, a pro-gun lobby representing 1.5 million members and activists across the USA."

-- USA Today, April 14, 2017



GOA tells CNN's audience that 'Guns Save Lives'



"Larry Pratt, executive director emeritus of Gun Owners of America, told CNN he agrees with the notion that more guns make people safer and said mass shootings may be the final straw for those 'predisposed' to arming themselves for self-defense."

-- Guns.com, May 3, 2017

Anti-Gun San Francisco Sees Dramatic Rise... In Gun Crimes

by Laurie Paredes

The City of San Francisco has a loony reputation to uphold, and they are doing a bang-up job.

They have a “see no evil” mentality when it comes to violent crime and are missing the mark on how to slow it down.

They’ve proudly banned plastic bags and Happy Meal toys, plus the sale of sugary drinks on city property.

And if that social engineering weren’t enough, they even barred the depiction of firearms on municipally-owned advertising.

Like that’s going to help the crime problem.

They have long been on the outer edge of all things reasonable, but being on the fringe has taken an alarming turn because the escalation in shooting victims has reached a six-year high.

It doesn’t appear that their rash firearm restrictions have done anything to slow gun crimes — to the contrary. Yet they still brag about their gun storage ordinances, the ban on certain ammunition (hollow point) and “high capacity” (aka “standard”) magazines.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* recently reported that thefts, burglaries, arson, and stolen vehicles decreased, but firearm-related murders for 2016 surpassed 2015 numbers by 15 percent and shooting victims increased by a bone-chilling 27 percent.

No matter where you stand on the gun issue, this is sobering data.

San Francisco may be a stunningly beautiful city, yet those who govern it

do so with a pretty ugly hand and these recent stats bear this out.

Not only have they removed the ability of the law-abiding to protect their homes and families, they have unwittingly (or purposefully) opened their doors to the most dangerous subsection of our society.

No matter how well-intentioned or touchy-feely a law may be, villains aren’t nice people. If they don’t care about raping or murdering someone,

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North Dakota Governor Signs GOA-Backed Constitutional Carry into Law

by Erich Pratt

Just weeks after New Hampshire joined the Constitutional Carry club, North Dakota became the 14th permitless carry state in March.

Gun Owners of America lobbied hard for passage of this bill in the House and Senate — and, finally, urged the Governor to sign the legislation.

GOA provided prewritten letters for North Dakotans to use in contacting Governor Doug Burgum (R).

These letters highlighted the tremendous safety record other permitless carry states are experiencing, and demonstrated the police support that exists in those states.

Among other things, GOA’s messages stated:

Constitutional Carry states are some of the safest states in the country. Just look at Idaho, Maine and Ver-

mont, which enjoy three of the lowest crime rates in the country.

Or what about Alaska, which enacted Constitutional Carry in 2003, and Arizona which followed in 2010? Both states saw their murder rates decline by roughly 30% in the first five years.

No wonder that over 90% of police nationwide support the principle of concealed carry for law-abiding citizens. And law enforcement in states like Idaho and Maine have stated their public support for Constitutional Carry.

All of these efforts bore fruit in March, when Gov. Doug Burgum (R) signed the GOA-backed legislation into law.

North Dakota joins more than a dozen other Constitutional Carry states:



Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming — and most of Arkansas and Montana.

There are also roughly another dozen additional states that have Constitutional Carry for open carry. ■

Ed. Note: Source material for the statistics in this article can be found at: www.gunowners.org/why-adopt-constitutional-carry-law.htm



Did Your U.S. Senators Vote Pro-Gun?

① Social Security Gun Ban

Repeal. On February 15, 2017, the Senate voted to repeal Obama's Social Security gun ban by a 53-47 margin — thus sending it to President Trump for his signature in late February. Had Obama's executive action gone into effect, bureaucrats would have been able to look through applications for Social Security benefits and use medical information to summarily impose gun bans on law-abiding Americans, even though they had no training in medicine and no contact with the applicant. A "Y" indicates a pro-gun vote in support of repealing the ban.

② **Nomination of Neil Gorsuch.** On April 7, 2017, the Senate voted 54-45 to confirm President Trump's nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court. With this confirmation, there are now five Justices — supporting the pro-gun *Heller* decision — who sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. A "Y" indicates a pro-gun vote in support of the Gorsuch nomination. A "?" indicates the Senator did not vote.

①②		①②		①②		①②	
Alabama		Indiana		Nebraska		South Carolina	
Shelby (R)	Y Y	Donnelly (D)	Y Y	Fischer (R)	Y Y	Graham (R)	Y Y
Strange (R)	Y Y	Young (R)	Y Y	Sasse (R)	Y Y	Scott (R)	Y Y
Alaska		Iowa		Nevada		South Dakota	
Murkowski (R)	Y Y	Grassley (R)	Y Y	Heller (R)	Y Y	Rounds (R)	Y Y
Sullivan (R)	Y Y	Ernst (R)	Y Y	Cortez Masto (D)	N N	Thune (R)	Y Y
Arizona		Kansas		New Hampshire		Tennessee	
McCain (R)	Y Y	Roberts (R)	Y Y	Hassan (D)	N N	Alexander (R)	Y Y
Flake (R)	Y Y	Moran (R)	Y Y	Shaheen (D)	N N	Corker (R)	Y Y
Arkansas		Kentucky		New Jersey		Texas	
Boozman (R)	Y Y	McConnell (R)	Y Y	Booker (D)	N N	Cornyn (R)	Y Y
Cotton (R)	Y Y	Paul (R)	Y Y	Menendez (D)	N N	Cruz (R)	Y Y
California		Louisiana		New Mexico		Utah	
Feinstein (D)	N N	Cassidy (R)	Y Y	Heinrich (D)	N N	Hatch (R)	Y Y
Harris (D)	N N	Kennedy (R)	Y Y	Udall (D)	N N	Lee (R)	Y Y
Colorado		Maine		New York		Vermont	
Bennet (D)	N N	Collins (R)	Y Y	Gillibrand (D)	N N	Leahy (D)	N N
Gardner (R)	Y Y	King (I)	Y N	Schumer (D)	N N	Sanders (I)	N N
Connecticut		Maryland		North Carolina		Virginia	
Blumenthal (D)	N N	Carden (D)	N N	Burr (R)	Y Y	Kaine (D)	N N
Murphy (D)	N N	Van Hollen (D)	N N	Tillis (R)	Y Y	Warner (D)	N N
Delaware		Massachusetts		North Dakota		Washington	
Carper (D)	N N	Markey (D)	N N	Heitkamp (D)	Y Y	Cantwell (D)	N N
Coons (D)	N N	Warren (D)	N N	Hoeven (R)	Y Y	Murray (D)	N N
Florida		Michigan		Ohio		West Virginia	
Nelson (D)	N N	Peters (D)	N N	Brown (D)	N N	Capito (R)	Y Y
Rubio (R)	Y Y	Stabenow (D)	N N	Portman (R)	Y Y	Manchin (D)	Y Y
Georgia		Minnesota		Oklahoma		Wisconsin	
Isakson (R)	Y ?	Franken (D)	N N	Inhofe (R)	Y Y	Baldwin (D)	N N
Perdue (R)	Y Y	Klobuchar (D)	N N	Lankford (R)	Y Y	Johnson (R)	Y Y
Hawaii		Mississippi		Oregon		Wyoming	
Schatz (D)	N N	Cochran (R)	Y Y	Merkley (D)	N N	Barrasso (R)	Y Y
Hirono (D)	N N	Wicker (R)	Y Y	Wyden (D)	N N	Enzi (R)	Y Y
Idaho		Missouri		Pennsylvania			
Crapo (R)	Y Y	Blunt (R)	Y Y	Casey (D)	N N		
Risch (R)	Y Y	McCaskill (D)	N N	Toomey (R)	Y Y		
Illinois		Montana		Rhode Island			
Durban (D)	N N	Daines (R)	Y Y	Reed (D)	N N		
Duckworth (D)	N N	Tester (D)	Y N	Whitehouse (D)	N N		

Anti-Gun San Francisco Sees Dramatic Rise... In Gun Crimes

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why would they care about some silly ordinance that says they shouldn't use a high cap magazine to get the job done?

In fact, a recent article in *Breitbart* recalled a November 21, 2013, ABC News 7 story that quoted San Francisco Veterans Police Officers Association's Larry Barsetti as saying, "All you're doing is impacting honest law-abiding citizens of San Francisco; the bad guys aren't going to obey this law (high cap mag ban); they're not supposed to be carrying in the first place."



Sometimes it seems like leftist policy makers have some serious leaks in their think tanks. Humor aside, this is serious business. No one wants to mirror Baltimore's vast failures. No one wants to be Chicago. And no matter how

much social media whining is posted about gun violence, lives are not saved by going after the good guys.

San Francisco should consider this: Chicago, likely the most ardently gun-restrictive city in the nation, has been forced to acknowledge in April alone (of 2017), that 45 people were shot and killed. That's 45 in ONE month. Total murders hover around 197 — and the overwhelming majority were at the hands of a shooter.

No matter how good it makes someone feel, gun control is a dismal — and dangerous — failure. ■

Laurie Paredes is the PAC director for the Gun Owners of California Campaign Committee.



They Did not Deserve to Die?

by Larry Pratt

Three teenagers invaded a Tulsa, Oklahoma, area home by breaking through a glass door in March.

But as they entered a hallway, they were met by the homeowner's 23-year-old son, Zachery Rogers.

Rogers had been awakened by the commotion of the forced

entry. He grabbed an AR-15 and opened fire as the intruders proceeded into a hallway.

Two of the invaders (all dressed in black and wearing gloves) were found dead in the kitchen. The third was found dead outside in the yard.

Between them they had two knives and a pair of brass knuckles.

Leroy Schumacher, the grandfather of one of the dead invaders, admitted that what the boys "did was stupid," but said they did "not deserve to die."

"Brass knuckles against an AR-15?" Schumacher said. "Come on, who was afraid for their life?"

One can understand Mr. Schumacher's grief. But he is imposing an unrealistic burden on the homeowner.

When under attack, should the victim be required to ascertain — during the very moment of an invasion — what kind of weaponry the invaders have so that the

fight can be "fair"?

Does anyone really think that Schumacher would submit himself to such nonsense were his home being invaded?

Happily, Oklahoma law makes it clear that you forfeit all your rights during the act of a home invasion.

Mr. Schumacher's morality is perverse. Does he really want to argue that his grandson had the right to a "fair fight" during a home invasion?

By the way, a fourth perpetrator was involved in this crime. The admitted "mastermind" behind the crime, Elizabeth Rodriguez, was waiting outside the house in a getaway car.

Pursuant to Oklahoma law, Ms. Rodriguez is being charged with three counts of murder for the crime she inspired.

We can hope that Oklahoma's criminal justice system ensures that she is never able to commit another crime for the rest of her life.

Finally, I would say to Mr. Schumacher: yes, they did deserve to die. Happily, they will never again be able to threaten someone else's life.

State legislators in the rest of the country should ensure that the laws of their state protect victims, as well as do the laws of Oklahoma.

For those legislators who have banned, or would like to ban the AR-15, had you had your way in Oklahoma, Mr. Rogers could well have been dead from multiple knife wounds and concussions caused by the impact of brass knuckles. ■



GOA-Backed Concealed Carry Bill Approaching 200 Cosponsors!

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and then go home to spend time with their families.

Thankfully, your postcards are a reminder to members of Congress that they must fear real voters like you over the fake activists who have been bused in from other counties or other states.

Real voters trump fake whiners every time.

But one more thing. Your postcards to the President can also encourage him to issue a Statement of Administrative Policy in support of concealed carry reciprocity.

Presidents don't issue these statements very often, but when they do, it can send a powerful "statement" to the Congress.

So please continue to send the postcards GOA provides you. Gun owners are engaged in a huge fight and battling Bloomberg's billions.

Everyone needs to take action in this fight! ■

THE Gun Owners

Sen. H.L. Richardson (Ret.)
Founder

Tim Macy
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