

THE Gun Owners

29 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2004

GOA Members Win Key Semi-Auto Ban Skirmish!



GOA members recently succeeded in killing the best opportunity that anti-gunners had to extend the semi-auto ban. There was every indication that Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (left) intended to allow Senator Dianne Feinstein to offer her gun ban

amendment to another bill in July. But GOA members, through the e-mail alert network, bombarded Frist's office with demands that he block the semi-auto amendment. Under pressure, Frist, in a parliamentary move, took steps to procedurally block all "killer amendments," including the semi-auto ban.

Countdown to Armageddon: A Second Amendment Battle for the Soul of America

By John Velleco

(Washington, D.C.) – As the pages of the calendar turn from summer to fall, anti-gun forces in the nation's Capitol are ratcheting up the pressure to extend the 1994 Clinton gun ban, scheduled to expire on September 13th of this year.

The 1994 gun ban is a piece of repressive legislation passed at a time when anti-gun democrats controlled the Presidency, as well as the House and Senate. In the election right after the passage of the ban, pro-gun voters helped to accomplish something of an historical rarity — a radical shift in political power through the ballot box alone.

That the 1994 power shift was due to voting gun owners was a les-

son not lost on former President Bill Clinton. In his 1995 State of the Union address, the President acknowledged that many of his congressional allies in the gun control fight were sent packing into early retirement as a result of their votes in favor of the ban.

"I don't think it's a secret to anybody in this room that several members of the last Congress who voted for [the semi-auto ban] aren't here tonight because they voted for it," he said.

Now, many Democrats from rural areas would be content not to see an extension of the ban get to the Floor for a vote, and if it does, they appear willing to buck their own party lead-

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Activism by GOA Members Continues to Stall Anti-gun Education Bill

by Erich Pratt

Kudos to all the members of Gun Owners of America who responded to the recent request for action from GOA headquarters.

Your activism is making a difference on Capitol Hill and has helped derail anti-gun legislation that at one time was on the "fast track" to the President's desk.

Within the past few months, GOA supporters have managed to convince several members of Congress to remove their names from an education bill that poses grave concerns for American gun owners.

To date, nine Representatives have

jumped from the bill — an incredible feat, to be sure, as getting even one congressman to pull his name from a bill occurs about as often as visitations from Halley's Comet.

Many of the bill's original cosponsors initially failed to realize the tremendous dangers inherent in the legislation. But GOA members have served a crucial role in "educating" these Representatives for the better.

The bill (H.R. 1078) would set up Presidential Academies for training teachers — training that would almost certainly track the anti-gun curriculum which is now being taught in schools. Currently, the government textbook of

choice is entitled *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*.

According to the U.S. Department of
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- **Watch GOA spokesmen debating the Brady Bunch on your home computer (page 3)**
- **Has your Representative cosponsored the Citizen's Self-Defense Act? (page 6)**

Countdown to Armageddon

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ership.

A recent article in *The Hill*, a Capitol Hill newspaper, noted, "Some Democrats in tight re-election races are opposing a renewal of the assault-weapons ban, despite its overwhelming support from Democratic Party leaders."

Though voting to extend the ban is political suicide in most of Bush's so-called "red states," there are enough gun banning extremists in both parties willing to force the issue.

California Democrat Dianne Feinstein, author of the original ban, is leading the Senate fight with S. 2109, a bill to extend the ban by ten years.

Gun-hating Feinstein, in her disinformation campaign, invents pithy untruths to scare unsuspecting voters into thinking that if the ban is not extended, "these guns will be popping up all over the place," and, "we all know what [not extending the ban] will mean: more Columbines."

Facts, however, shatter Feinstein's alternate reality. The banned guns are not and have never been the "weapon of choice" for criminals.

Study after study, including those conducted by criminologist Gary Kleck at Florida State University, economics Professor John Lott, currently at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., and even the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, show that the banned guns are used in 1% or less of crimes nationwide.

Furthermore, the difference between semi-autos that were banned and those not banned are merely cosmetic. The functionality of the firearms remains the same.

Leading gun banning zealot Tom Diaz, Senior Policy Analyst for the Violence Policy Center and leading proponent of regulating the gun industry to death, admits that, "If the existing assault weapons ban expires, I personally do not believe it will make one whit of difference one way or another . . . So if it doesn't pass, it doesn't pass."

Of course, the truth is Sen. Feinstein would prefer to do more than simply extend the ban, but rather make it permanent *and* retroactive. As the elitist Senator said on *60 Minutes* in 1995, "If I could have gotten 51 votes in the Sen-



In his State of the Union message in 1995, President Clinton admitted that several House Democrats lost their seats in the '94 election after having voted for the semi-auto ban.

ate of the United States for an outright ban, picking up every one of them, Mr. and Mrs. America, turn 'em all in, I would have done it."

Sens. Boxer (D-CA), Schumer (D-NY), Reed (D-RI) and a handful of the usual suspects echoed Feinstein in calling for the extension.

A few Republicans also sang in the anti-gun choir, most notably John Warner of Virginia, who voted against the ban ten years ago. Warner's actions could be seen as a clear indication that the flip-flopping Senator intends not to run for re-election in the Old Dominion when his term expires.

Gun Owners Fighting Battles and Winning the War – So Far

The anti-gun forces won a skirmish in the Senate in March, when they successfully passed the Feinstein amendment to S. 1805, a bill designed to protect the gun industry from frivolous lawsuits. GOA successfully lobbied Senate pro-gunners to scuttle that package, rather than accepting the "poison pill" amendments imposing a semi-auto ban, a ban on gun shows, and a lock-up-your safety provision which had been attached to it.

The next battle came the first week in June in connection with efforts to add the Feinstein amendment to the annual Defense Department funding bill. GOA's friends in the Senate were successful in slowing that legislation until an agreement was reached to block the Feinstein semi-auto amendment from the bill.

Another close call came in early July, when anti-gunners tried to offer the gun ban extension as a "killer amendment" to a class action reform bill.

Every indication was that Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist intended to allow the amendment to be offered. But GOA members, through the e-mail alert network, bombarded Frist's office with demands that he block the semi-auto amendment. Under pressure, Frist, in a parliamentary move, took steps to procedurally block all "killer amendments," including the semi-auto ban.

While GOA supporters have been instrumental in stopping the extension of the gun ban so far this year, the battle is not yet won. The next few weeks will require constant vigilance.

One pro-gun hero, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX), has promised to prevent a renewal of the semi-auto ban from coming up in the House. But, with President Bush having promised to sign the extension should it reach his desk, Feinstein and others will continue to search for "must-pass" bills which can serve as vehicles for her gun ban.

Of course, stopping the semi-auto ban is not our only gun-related battle. Dozens of anti-gun bills litter the Senate and House dockets — bills that would shut down gun shows, ban even more semi-autos, expand the Brady bill, and otherwise erode the Second Amendment.

But our ability — or inability — to kill the extension of the 1994 gun ban will have a lot to do with our power to stop these other measures or to roll back other unconstitutional gun laws.

Occasionally, history converges on a single battle which will determine much broader events. The fight over the extension of the Clinton gun ban is just such a battle. ■

If you missed GOA spokesmen debating on TV last night, now you can watch them on your home computer

GOA spokesmen are constantly on the front lines, defending your rights in the media.

But because requests for interviews typically arrive mere hours (even minutes) before airtime in response to breaking news, it is usually not possible to alert our members before the broadcast occurs.

Now you can watch your GOA spokesmen engaging the opposition after the fact on GOA's website.

Just go to <http://www.gunowners.org/svtb.htm> and click on one of the streaming video shows.

Because of licensing restrictions, as well as our streaming budget, selections presented there are only a representative sample of numerous TV appearances.

But you will definitely get a feel for



GOA's Erich Pratt (right) debates an anti-gun spokesman on MSNBC. This is just one of the debates a person can view on the *Streaming Video* section of GOA's website.

GOA's "no compromise" approach to defending the Bill of Rights.

Be sure to see how your contributions are helping GOA spokesmen fight

the anti-gunners in the trenches and helping to educate all Americans why the Second Amendment is important today. ■

Activism by GOA Members

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Education, the *We the People* curriculum "is administered nationwide through [all] 435 congressional districts, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. More than 12 million students and 170 teachers have been involved in this in-depth study of the Constitution and Bill of Rights."

H.R. 1078 authorizes millions of dollars to the left-wing establishment for training teachers in history and civics. It is easy to see how such "strings" have moved education in this country towards a pro-UN and anti-gun direction in the subsidized textbooks which are currently used in public schools.

For example, *We the People* (a federally subsidized textbook) chips away at our national sovereignty, praises our dependence upon the United Nations, downplays the Founders' vision on the importance of federalism, and desecrates the Bill of Rights, suggesting that our Second Amendment rights are no longer relevant.

This anti-American and anti-Constitution bias is already prevalent in classrooms today. H.R. 1078 would only exacerbate these problems, as there are no safeguards requiring the Presidential Academies (established by H.R. 1078) to steer clear of the anti-gun indoctrination that currently exists in the public schools.

The bill initially passed by a unanimous vote in the Senate, and supporters — who were expecting an equally felicitous ride in the House — were preparing to uncork the champagne bottles, if and when the bill was sent to President Bush, who is a supporter of the legislation.

Once the problems with the bill were made known to the pro-gun community, the chief sponsors of the bill tried to



Rep. Steve King (R-IA) is the most recent Congressman to pull his name as a cosponsor of the anti-gun education bill. So far, GOA members have encouraged nine Representatives to pull their names from H.R. 1078.

float several amendments which allegedly would have "improved" the bill, but really were just designed to keep defectors from jumping ship.

Thankfully, the post-cards sent by GOA members persuaded these pro-gun defectors to hold tight and to continue their opposition to the bill.

For now, GOA supporters have stopped millions of additional dollars from being thrown at a left-wing establishment, which would love to further propagandize American children with the harmful tenets found in *We the People*.

For more information on how *We the People* affects our gun rights, please go to <http://www.gunowners.org/fs0306.htm> on the GOA website. ■

Second Amendment Caucus Lobbies Congress



Colorado Representative Marilyn Musgrave has been one of the chief forces bringing the Second Amendment Caucus together on Capitol Hill. The caucus is made up of more than four dozen Congressmen who are dedicated to repealing federal gun control legislation. (See page 3 of the June 28, 2004 issue of *The Gun Owners* for more information on the Second Amendment Caucus.)



Professor Robert Cottrol of the George Washington University School of Law educates a packed room of Congressmen and their staffers on the dangers of gun control — and the problems with the Clinton semi-auto ban in particular.



From left to right: Dr. John Lott, Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO), Professor Robert Cottrol, and Larry Pratt of Gun Owners of America.



GOA lobbyist John Velleco (right) speaks with a Hill staffer from Rep. Trent Franks' office.

gress in Opposition to the Semi-auto Ban



Dr. John Lott of the American Enterprise Institute presents compelling statistical evidence that state laws which have banned certain types of semi-automatic firearms have not seen a corresponding drop in crime.



GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt and Colorado Rep. Marilyn Musgrave.



GOA Director of Communications Erich Pratt and Dr. John Lott.



GOA's Larry Pratt (left) and John Velleco (right) discuss legislation of mutual interest with Scott Jarman of CAPA, the Coalition of Airline Pilots Association.



On Target

by Erich Pratt

Semi-auto ban harming U.S. Troops

When President Clinton signed the semi-auto ban ten years ago, few supporters would have envisioned that the new law would affect our troops serving overseas.

But this was just one of the unintended consequences of that gun control law, reported *NewsMax.com* in May.

When Clinton signed the 1994 ban, it outlawed the manufacture of new magazines holding ten rounds or more. Now we are seeing the bitter fruit from this law, which has “significantly” harmed our troops and the “nation’s ability to prosecute a war,” a small arms expert told *NewsMax.com*.

Military personnel have found it difficult to obtain large-capacity magazines that don’t have feeding problems. One soldier, fighting in Iraq, says that “if you are carrying an M9 when you go over [to Iraq], purchase some good [ten round] magazines” before you leave.

But as for the large-capacity magazines currently issued by the U.S. military . . . well, they are just “crap,” the soldier says.

Anti-gun lawsuits sinking gun dealers and gun makers

The Brady Bunch struck gold in June after forcing a South Carolina pawnshop to settle for \$1 million in damages.

The settlement resulted from a case where two New Jersey cops were shot and injured by an “illegal gun.” But rather than simply punish the criminal, anti-gun lawyers sought to penalize the pawnshop for selling the firearm to a “straw purchaser” who, even though he was a prohibited purchaser, had nevertheless passed the required FBI background check.

The *New York Times* reported on June 23 that the settlement is considered significant because it is the first time a dealer will pay damages for having sold a gun that eventually found its way to the criminal market.

While this was a groundbreaking penalty to impose upon a gun *dealer*, the sad fact is that gun *makers* have already been suffering under the weight of frivolous lawsuits for years.

The most recent example occurred when Bryco was driven out of business last year after a California court ordered the gun maker to pay more than \$24 million because a gun it had manufactured was used to injure a teenager.

Adding insult to injury, Bryco’s owner, B.L. Jennings, was also found personally liable, and was forced to file for bankruptcy as well.

Idiocy in the Liberal Media

A father-and-son team got some press recently, when they tried to make the case that few people in this country use guns in self-defense.

What was their evidence?

Well, they essentially argued that since the media doesn’t report on these cases of self-defense . . . they must not be occurring. Right?

Noted gun author Alan Korwin blistered the Arizona State University (ASU) professor — and his cohort (son) — for their junk science.

“Can you imagine conducting a similar ‘study’ that finds most black people are either criminals, entertainers or sports figures, based on an analysis of blacks who are covered in the paper?” Korwin asked. “It is too outrageous to consider!”

If the father-son team had used *USA Today* instead of a community newspaper, Korwin adds, they would have found zero lives saved and zero crimes prevented by gunfire, for the entire country, for an entire year (2001).

“That is not science,” Korwin said. “It is as if they compared obituaries and births, and concluded America is terminal.”

Korwin went on to note that several studies — including one commissioned by the Clinton Justice Department — point to millions of self-defense cases every year.

Ironically, Korwin says, the ASU professor and his son have inadvertently confirmed John Lott’s research in *The Bias Against Guns*, which documents how the media routinely underreport self-defense shootings. ■

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Gun Activist Exonerated

by *Larry Pratt*

General Laney's five-year ordeal has finally come to an end. The Michigan gun dealer and Second Amendment activist refused to bow down before a vicious and prolonged effort by Detroit prosecutors to bankrupt him in court.

And when the smoke cleared, it became apparent that Laney was charged with, well, following the law!

That is what the Supreme Court of Michigan finally ruled after the case wound through three lower courts. "Because defendant complied with the plain and unambiguous language of the statute, he committed no crime," said the Michigan Supreme Court in its June opinion exonerating Laney.

Laney had sold a gun to an undercover officer after turning down an 18-year old who did not have the required permit to purchase. A background check was run on the officer and the sale proceeded.

The cop later sold the gun to the 18-

year old, and Laney was charged with participating in a "strawman" sale. But as the Court held, it is not a strawman sale when the purchaser is qualified to own the gun!

Laney had made it clear he would not sell to the 18-year old without a permit. Hopefully the plain language of the court's decision will cause the Detroit authorities to brush up on the law.

Laney is a prominent pro-Second Amendment activist in Michigan, and a firearms dealer in the City of Detroit where he also operates a shooting range. Laney has also encouraged many urban citizens to get involved in the shooting sports. No doubt this was too much for the gun haters in the big-city prosecutor's office to endure.

Laney has shelled out thousands of dollars to battle a misdemeanor — one demanding a fine that many might well have shrugged off and paid. Yet he persevered, because all gun owners had a

dog in this fight.

Government hostility to gun owners and the firearms trade needs to be reined in, and General Laney's tenacity and bravery have helped in a big way.

Gun Owners Foundation has been able to assist Laney over the years, thanks in large part to the generosity of Gun Owners of America members.

Even if you have supported Laney's brave resistance in the past, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Gun Owners Foundation. ■

There is no doubt that many other legal battles of this nature must be fought, and a war chest is often the difference between justice and another railroading by anti-gun zealots.

You can mail a check to GOF (putting "General Laney" in the subject line) at 8001 Forbes Place, #102, Springfield, VA 22151 or phone in a credit card donation by dialing 703-321-8585. Donations can also be made on line at <http://www.gunowners.com>. All such donations are 100% tax-deductible.

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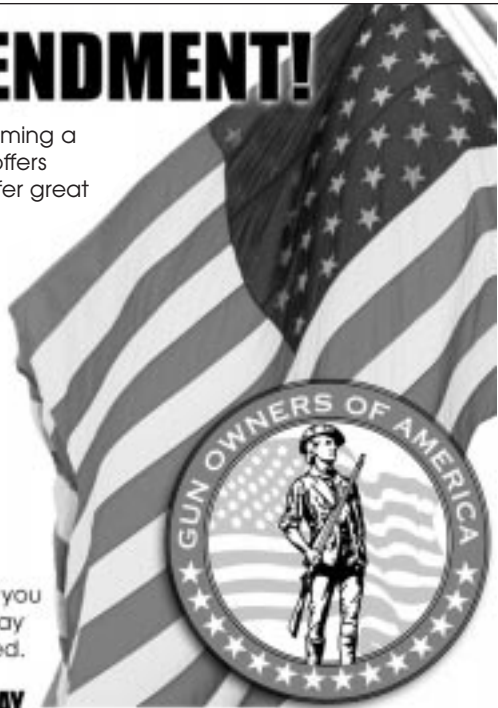
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Gun Control Is Socialist – II

by Larry Pratt
Executive Director

In my first column on this subject (which can be viewed on the web at <http://www.gunowners.org/op0330.htm>), I argued from history and theory that gun control is socialist.

One of the few thousand ladies that comprise the Million Mom March volunteered to show how right I am. Thank you, Laurel Redden.

Redden attended the greatly exaggerated rally four years ago when the misnamed Million Mom March had its debut on the Mall in Washington, DC. She was interviewed in a follow-up by Dick Dahl in *Join Together Online*, an anti-gun internet publication.

Redden became an activist at the time of the march four years ago. While it was the gun issue that pulled her trigger (if you will permit the expression), it is clear that gun control for her is part of an impulse to control much more — namely, everything.

“The more I got involved, the more I realized that this goes way beyond the gun issue. What I found is that the same system that keeps common-sense gun laws from being enacted goes beyond that single issue.

“It is the same system that keeps our public education from being properly funded; it’s the same system that places more importance in maintaining a huge military budget than in taking care of our citizens here at home. It’s the mentality of ‘every man for himself’ and not looking at the bigger societal issues that go along with some of these things.”

Socialists believe in government monopolies, including the control of speech. Among those popping the champagne when Congress passed the Incumbents Protection Act (pompously labeled Campaign Finance Reform) was the Mommies’ parent organization, the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence. This is not surprising when it is known that the Brady Bunch’s CEO is Michael Barnes, a former liberal Democrat member of Congress and former head of the socialist World Federalist Association (now renamed the Citizens for Global Solutions).

The anti-gunners were quite open about why they supported the campaign law — it would help them overcome the political clout of the gun movement! What a commitment to the rules of the game — not! The “system” that Redden

complains about that keeps gun control laws from being passed has traditionally been referred to as the First Amendment and the rest of the Constitution.

The public education system that Redden is so eager to see get even more tax money than it has is the same system that indoctrinates kids to think like robots and disdain the liberties of free men. Government schooling, increasingly controlled by faceless bureaucrats in Washington, has turned out to be a major engine driving the U.S. toward a society controlled by a centralized, unaccountable government.

Redden juxtaposes ‘bad’ military spending with ‘good’ spending that takes care of citizens. This is an important part of the socialist doctrine, and Redden has embraced it hook, line and sinker. It’s an interesting view; however, military spending is constitutional while taking care of citizens (e.g. welfare) is not.

In Redden’s socialist worldview, the only alternative to socialism (“the bigger societal issues,” including “taking care of” citizens) is the law of the jungle: dog-eat-dog individualism, every man for himself. Socialists are convinced that families cannot and will not provide for their own, and that

“Socialists see the gun issue as a key to advancing their overall agenda... [and] understand that an individual who relies on his own gun for self-defense may not, if he is consistent, be a sucker for government control of the rest of his life.”

churches and other voluntary organizations are inept and clueless as well. Charity only functions well when a socialist bureaucrat is in charge of it.

Redden and other socialists are apparently unaware of the Mayflower Compact that bound the fortunes of the crew and passengers of that ship together in a cooperative venture to settle Massachusetts in 1620. Socialists also assume that the individualism of the frontier enabled single families to raise barns all by themselves. They seem to have never heard of barn raising parties.

What can we learn from Redden’s activist epiphany? Socialists such as Redden see the gun issue as a key to advancing their overall agenda. Socialists understand that an individual who relies on his own gun for self-defense may not, if he is consistent, be a sucker for government control of the rest of his life. Truly, the fight to preserve an armed citizenry is a key battle in the war to defend freedom. ■

THE
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