

# THE Gun Owners

34 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2009

GOA Gives Award to Sen. Coburn (See pages 4-5)



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*“The real gun lobby in Washington is the GOA.”*  
— Senator Tom Coburn  
August 14, 2009

## Concealed Carry Vote Fails Narrowly in the Senate

By John Velleco

*“Gun Owners of America, another leading gun rights Second Amendment group, is a strong supporter of this amendment that’s specifically pushing for passage and scoring member’s votes.”*

— Louisiana Senator David Vitter, July 22, 2009

In July, the U.S. Senate came just two votes short of passing an amendment to allow for interstate recognition of concealed carry permits.

The legislation, offered by Senators John Thune (R-SD) and David Vitter (R-LA), would have allowed people who are authorized to carry a concealed firearm in their home state to also carry in other states, much the same as a driver’s license issued in one state is “recognized” in other states.

The Thune-Vitter amendment was carefully crafted to respect states rights while at the same time protecting the Second Amendment rights of citizens as they travel throughout the country.

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## Senate confirms radical anti-gunner to the U.S. Supreme Court; but Obama’s pick suffers stiffer opposition than most nominees

by Erich Pratt

It was a sad day in August when the Senate easily confirmed the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. Only 31 Senators voted against the radical anti-gun nominee, with 68 voting for confirmation.

All the Democrats in attendance voted in lockstep for the President’s pick, while nine Republicans joined their ranks.

The Republican Senators who voted for Sotomayor were: Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Christopher Bond of Missouri, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Richard G. Lugar of Indiana, Mel Mar-

tinez of Florida, George Voinovich of Ohio and Susan Collins and Olympia J. Snowe of Maine.

Many Democrat Senators campaigned on a pro-Second Amendment platform, yet voted to confirm a nominee who does not believe that Americans have a fundamental right to self-defense or an individual right to possess a firearm.

The common refrain heard in the Senate before the vote was: “The President deserves his pick.”

Of course, *Senator* Barack Obama did not hold that view in 2006, when he opposed President Bush’s pick of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

Then-Senator Obama said:

There are some who believe that the President, having won the election, should have the complete authority to appoint his nominee, and the Senate should only exam-

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## Concealed Carry Vote Fails Narrowly

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Unlike other legislation addressing reciprocity (such as H.R. 197), the amendment did not establish any “national standards” regarding the places and manner in which firearms could be carried, nor would it “preempt any provision of State law with respect to the issuance of licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms.”

In addition, as the only national gun rights organization to push for votes at the state level for Vermont-style concealed carry (no permit required to exercise a constitutional right), a primary concern of GOA was to protect the rights of gun owners from states that do not require a permit.

This goal was accomplished with the addition of language, supported by GOA, to specifically allow for recognition of Vermont-style carry.

### Subterfuge in the Senate

Though it failed only narrowly, the 58 seemingly pro-gun votes should be taken in context.

Thanks to an unusual agreement pressed by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), a number of Senators not known as gun rights supporters were able to vote in favor of the Thune-Vitter amendment knowing full well it would ultimately fail.

The smoke and mirrors game played by Sen. Reid allowed the amendment to come to the floor for a vote, but required that the legislation meet a 60-vote threshold, rather than a simple majority of 50.

With the bar set so high for passage, 58 out of 100 Senators (including Reid and 14 other Senators rated “D” or “F” by GOA) were able to masquerade as pro-gun and vote in favor of the ill-fated amendment.

One was Democrat Mark Pryor of Arkansas. When it became clear the anti-gunners had a



Louisiana Senator David Vitter acknowledged GOA during floor debate on the concealed carry amendment.

comfortable margin of victory, Sen. Pryor switched his vote at the last minute [see inset below].

The cynical nature of Sen. Reid’s

play was picked up in a *Washington Post* op-ed. The *Post*’s Dana Milbank noted that “The slim margin was no accident: Other Democrats, such as Pennsylvania’s Bob Casey and Colorado’s Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, were said to have been willing to vote ‘no’ if necessary.”

In other words, the anti-gun leadership got just enough votes to prevail while still allowing members from pro-gun rural states to appear “good on guns.”

Before congratulating Senators for casting one pro-gun vote, gun owners should look carefully at the GOA Senate rating (online at <http://gunowners.org/111thsrat.htm>), which is a more comprehensive and accurate reflection of where politicians stand on the Second Amendment.

There are definitely not as many pro-gun Senators in the Congress as there were votes on the reciprocity amendment.

Nevertheless, GOA congratulates Senators Thune and Vitter for their good-faith effort to move legislation forward that will help to protect the rights of gun owners as they travel. ■

111 2 2 2009  
(Date)

### Roll Call Vote

Legislative NO. 237

SUBJECT THUNE AMBT. No. 1618

YEAS		NAYS
.....	Akaka.....	.....
.....	Alexander.....	.....
.....	Barrasso.....	.....
.....	Baucus.....	.....
.....	Bayh.....	.....
.....	Begich.....	.....
.....	Bennet, Colorado.....	.....
.....	Bennett, Utah.....	.....
.....	Bingaman.....	.....
.....	Bond.....	.....
.....	Boxer Mrs.....	.....
.....	Brown.....	.....
.....	Brownback.....	.....
.....	Murkowski Ms.....	.....
.....	Murray Mrs.....	.....
.....	Nelson, Nebraska.....	.....
.....	Nelson, Florida.....	.....
.....	Pryor.....	.....
.....	Reed, Rhode Island.....	.....
.....	Reid, Nevada.....	.....
.....	Risch.....	.....

This official tally sheet, obtained by GOA, shows that Arkansas Senator Mark Pryor changed his vote at the last minute after he was certain the anti-gun position would prevail.



## GOA on Capitol Hill

“Gun Owners of America [had] little hesitation in lobbying Democratic and Republican senators to oppose Judge Sotomayor’s confirmation, arguing that previous votes in favor of gun rights pale in comparison to their upcoming Supreme Court vote.”

— *The Washington Times*, June 14, 2009

“The organization truly dedicated to protecting gun owners’ rights [is] Gun Owners of America ....”

— Redstate.org, “On Sotomayor ... The Good, the Bad, the Ugly and the Pathetic,” August 7, 2009



**GOA Executive Director with Rep. John Fleming (R-LA), who as a freshman congressman has a perfect voting record on Second Amendment rights.**

## THE HILL August 21, 2009

# Gun rights, control groups find fight in health debate

By Jordy Yager

A Virginia-based gun rights group has taken issue with the Democrat-led healthcare proposals, saying that the proposed plans could strip citizens of their rights to own a gun.

The Gun Owners of America group, which boasts more than 300,000 members, has been warning its ranks that the proposed healthcare legislation would compile the information of Americans into a government database. The group says that by using this data, the government could deem a citizen “medically unfit” to carry a gun.

“All of the proposals that we’re aware of would handle people’s health data that way,” said Larry Pratt, executive director of the group.

“And then you end up having a gazillion people lose their gun rights because of some medical record that someone doesn’t like, where they say, ‘Oh, that might be a danger to their self or others.’ No trial, no due process, just gone.”

The group also objects to Health and Human Services Secretary Katherine Sebelius, saying that she is prone to restrict gun rights.

“It wouldn’t be any problem for her to drag up some old discredited study from the Center[s] for Disease Control and say, ‘Guns are contagious and they’re a public health menace. This is another rea-

son for someone to pay a surtax on their insurance because they’re causing all of that trouble in the emergency room,’” Pratt said. “That means that we have a dog in this fight.” ...

While Pratt said he has not expressly asked his group’s membership to brandish their firearms at political forums, he fully supports the demonstrators who were seen earlier this week with their licensed guns protesting outside the Phoenix convention center where President Barack Obama was speaking.

Pratt said it helps draw attention to their objections of the healthcare bill and that it could help spur the public to not be shocked when citizens are seen carrying legal firearms in public.

“I think it’s been helpful,” Pratt said. “These fellas hit the jackpot with national publicity. Hopefully a discussion [will result] that will make it plain that good gun control is when a cop or a citizen has their gun in their holster. Just as we’d typically be unalarmed to see a cop with a piece on his hip, we shouldn’t have any different reaction to anybody else. A cop is just us with a uniform.”

# Oklahoma Senator Tom Co



## ◀ Coburn recognized for his pro-gun record.

On August 14, 2009, Gun Owners of America presented Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn with the “Friend of the Second Amendment Award” in appreciation for the tremendous amount of work that he has done to defend our Constitutional liberties.

In his remarks, Senator Coburn noted that, “[I]n Washington, it’s not uncommon to get awards.... In six years in the House, and four-and-a-half years in the Senate, I’ve never gotten anything as important to me as this award. This award is about real freedom; the real issues of why we have the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.”

The award was presented to Sen. Coburn at a banquet in Tulsa attended by over 200 guests.

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## ▶ Pratt thanks Coburn for his strong leadership. ▶

GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt thanked Sen. Coburn for his successful fight to repeal the National Parks Service gun ban (signed into law this year) and also for his leadership on legislation both to protect the Second Amendment rights of veterans and to repeal the gun ban in the District of Columbia.

“Senator Coburn has earned the ‘Friend of the Second Amendment Award’ for his leadership in the Senate and for his willingness to stand up against those who work to take away our Constitutional freedoms,” said Pratt.



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## ◀ No compromising when it comes to politics.

Pat Campbell, a talk show host with KFAQ in Tulsa, emceed the awards dinner in August. Campbell is a long-time supporter of GOA who told the audience he likes Gun Owners’ approach to politics. Unlike other groups that just try to get brownie points for supporting incumbents, GOA supports the real pro-gun candidates in political races — candidates like Tom Coburn.

# Coburn Receives GOA Award



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## ◀ Coburn praises GOA as the “real gun lobby.”

As Chairman of the Second Amendment task force, Senator Coburn is also a leader in efforts to block anti-gun bills like a new semi-auto ban and legislation that would close down gun shows.

“The real gun lobby in Washington is the GOA. Your rights are secure with them, they are consistent, they’re all business, they’re not about playing games or looking good, they’re protecting the Second Amendment. I am honored to receive this award, I appreciate the efforts that Gun Owners of America does, and my hope is that we’re going to move strongly forward,” Sen. Coburn concluded.

## Why they call ▶ him the Senate’s “Dr. NO.”

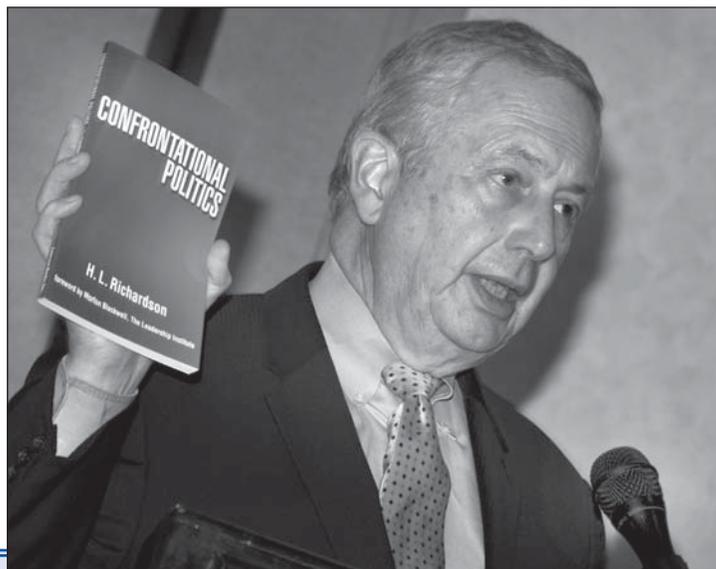
GOA Director of Federal Affairs John Velleco told the audience that Senator Coburn has earned the nickname “Dr. NO” in Washington.

“In D.C. they mean it as an insult,” Velleco said, “but what Dr. NO really means is NO to bigger government, NO to unconstitutional gun control, NO to a nationalized healthcare system that can jeopardize our gun rights, and NO to any legislation that makes our constitutional liberties subservient to political expediency.

“Dr. Coburn, we appreciate your NO votes, because in Washington they are YES votes for freedom.”



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## ◀ Why Sen. Coburn is a cut above the rest.

Larry Pratt told the audience that Senator Coburn is effective because he knows how to properly use confrontation. Democrats typically understand confrontation, like it and use it. Conversely, Republicans do not understand confrontation, don’t like it and flee from it.

GOA founder and chairman, Sen. H.L. Richardson (ret.), lays out this principle in *Confrontational Politics* — a book that embodies many of the lessons he learned after spending 22 years in the California legislature. Many who have already read the book have reported that, “Now I understand why Republicans keep losing.”

Available on the GOA website, *Confrontational Politics* also spells out the lobbying philosophy which has earned GOA’s reputation as the only no-compromise gun lobby in Washington.

# Senate Voting Guide

**1. Out-of-state concealed carry.** On July 22, 2009, the U.S. Senate came two votes short of passing a concealed carry reciprocity provision introduced by Republican Senator John Thune (SD). The language would have allowed people who are authorized to carry in their home states to carry their firearms in other states as well. Even though the Thune amendment garnered more than a majority of votes (58-39), a parliamentary maneuver required 60 votes to pass the measure. A vote in favor of the Thune amendment is rated as a “+”. NOTE: *The Washington Post* reported on July 23 that Democrat Senators Bob Casey (PA), Mark Udall (CO) and Michael Bennet (CO) voted “yes,” even though they were willing to vote “no” if their votes were needed to kill the measure. And Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) switched his vote from “no” to “yes,” only after seeing that Democrats had more than enough votes to defeat the amendment.

**2. Anti-gun Supreme Court Justice.** The Senate confirmed the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court on August 6, 2009. Sotomayor has held that there is “not a fundamental right” to keep and bear arms, and that the Second Amendment — whatever little it protects in her estimation — does not apply in the states, only in Washington, DC. Also, when asked during the Senatorial hearings if she favored the right of self-defense, Sonia Sotomayor stated that such a proposition was an “abstract question” and that she couldn’t think of a Supreme Court case that addressed that issue. However, she ignored the more than a dozen cases where the high Court has examined the issue. The vote to confirm Sotomayor was 68-31. A vote against the nomination is rated as a “+”.



Senator John Thune (R-SD) was the lead sponsor of the concealed carry reciprocity amendment which came just two votes shy of overcoming a filibuster in July.

<b>Alabama Senators</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Indiana Senators</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Nebraska Senators</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>South Carolina Senators</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Richard Shelby (R)	+	+	Richard Lugar (R)	-	-	Mike Johanns (R)	+	+	Jim DeMint (R)	+	+
Jeff Sessions (R)	+	+	Evan Bayh (D)	+	-	Ben Nelson (D)	+	-	Lindsey Graham (R)	+	-
<b>Alaska Senators</b>			<b>Iowa Senators</b>			<b>Nevada Senators</b>			<b>South Dakota Senators</b>		
Mark Begich (D)	+	-	Charles Grassley (R)	+	+	John Ensign (R)	+	+	John Thune (R)	+	+
Lisa Murkowski (R)	+	+	Tom Harkin (D)	-	-	Harry Reid (D)	+	-	Tim Johnson (D)	+	-
<b>Arizona Senators</b>			<b>Kansas Senators</b>			<b>New Hampshire Senators</b>			<b>Tennessee Senators</b>		
Jon Kyl (R)	+	+	Pat Roberts (R)	+	+	Judd Gregg (R)	+	-	Lamar Alexander (R)	+	-
John McCain (R)	+	+	Sam Brownback (R)	+	+	Jeanne Shaheen (D)	-	-	Bob Corker (R)	+	+
<b>Arkansas Senators</b>			<b>Kentucky Senators</b>			<b>New Jersey Senators</b>			<b>Texas Senators</b>		
Blanche Lincoln (D)	+	-	Jim Bunning (R)	+	+	Robert Menendez (D)	-	-	John Cornyn (R)	+	+
Mark Pryor (D)	+	-	Mitch McConnell (R)	+	+	Frank Lautenberg (D)	-	-	Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)	+	+
<b>California Senators</b>			<b>Louisiana Senators</b>			<b>New Mexico Senators</b>			<b>Utah Senators</b>		
Dianne Feinstein (D)	-	-	David Vitter (R)	+	+	Jeff Bingaman (D)	-	-	Orrin Hatch (R)	+	+
Barbara Boxer (D)	-	-	Mary Landrieu (D)	+	-	Tom Udall (D)	+	-	Robert Bennett (R)	+	+
<b>Colorado Senators</b>			<b>Maine Senators</b>			<b>New York Senators</b>			<b>Vermont Senators</b>		
Michael Bennet (D)	+	-	Susan Collins (R)	+	-	Charles Schumer (D)	-	-	Patrick Leahy (D)	-	-
Mark Udall (D)	+	-	Olympia Snowe (R)	+	-	Kirsten Gillibrand (D)	-	-	Bernard Sanders (I)	-	-
<b>Connecticut Senators</b>			<b>Maryland Senators</b>			<b>North Carolina Senators</b>			<b>Virginia Senators</b>		
Joseph Lieberman (I)	-	-	Barbara Mikulski (D)	NV	-	Richard Burr (R)	+	+	Jim Webb (D)	+	-
Christopher Dodd (D)	-	-	Benjamin Cardin (D)	-	-	Kay Hagan (D)	+	-	Mark Warner (D)	+	-
<b>Delaware Senators</b>			<b>Massachusetts Senators</b>			<b>North Dakota Senators</b>			<b>Washington Senators</b>		
Ted Kaufman (D)	-	-	John Kerry (D)	-	-	Kent Conrad (D)	+	-	Maria Cantwell (D)	-	-
Thomas Carper (D)	-	-	Edward Kennedy (D)	NV	NV	Byron Dorgan (D)	+	-	Patty Murray (D)	-	-
<b>Florida Senators</b>			<b>Michigan Senators</b>			<b>Ohio Senators</b>			<b>West Virginia Senators</b>		
Mel Martinez (R)	+	-	Debbie Stabenow (D)	-	-	Sherrod Brown (D)	-	-	John Rockefeller (D)	-	-
Bill Nelson (D)	-	-	Carl Levin (D)	-	-	George Voinovich (R)	-	-	Robert Byrd (D)	NV	-
<b>Georgia Senators</b>			<b>Minnesota Senators</b>			<b>Oklahoma Senators</b>			<b>Wisconsin Senators</b>		
Saxby Chambliss (R)	+	+	Amy Klobuchar (D)	-	-	Tom Coburn (R)	+	+	Herbert Kohl (D)	-	-
Johnny Isakson (R)	+	+	Al Franken (D)	-	-	James Inhofe (R)	+	+	Russ Feingold (D)	+	-
<b>Hawaii Senators</b>			<b>Mississippi Senators</b>			<b>Oregon Senators</b>			<b>Wyoming Senators</b>		
Daniel Inouye (D)	-	-	Thad Cochran (R)	+	+	Jeff Merkley (D)	-	-	John Barrasso (R)	+	+
Daniel Akaka (D)	-	-	Roger Wicker (R)	+	+	Ron Wyden (D)	-	-	Michael Enzi (R)	+	+
<b>Idaho Senators</b>			<b>Missouri Senators</b>			<b>Pennsylvania Senators</b>					
Mike Crapo (R)	+	+	Claire McCaskill (D)	-	-	Robert Casey (D)	+	-			
Jim Risch (R)	+	+	Christopher Bond (R)	+	-	Arlen Specter (D)	-	-			
<b>Illinois Senators</b>			<b>Montana Senators</b>			<b>Rhode Island Senators</b>					
Roland Burris (D)	-	-	Max Baucus (D)	+	-	Jack Reed (D)	-	-			
Richard Durbin (D)	-	-	Jon Tester (D)	+	-	Sheldon Whitehouse (D)	-	-			

## Senate Confirms Sotomayor

*Continued from page 1*

ine whether or not the Justice is intellectually capable and an all-around nice guy. That once you get beyond intellect and personal character, there should be no further question whether the judge should be confirmed.

I disagree with this view. I believe firmly that the Constitution calls for the Senate to advise and consent. I believe that it calls for meaningful advice and consent that includes an examination of a judge's philosophy, ideology, and record.

Many Republican and Democrat senators set aside their constitutional "Advice and Consent" duty in order to support a nominee that holds dangerous views regarding the Constitution — and the Second Amendment in particular.

Consider Judge Sotomayor's record:

**1. Bias against private possession of firearms.** Judge Sotomayor has held that there is "not a fundamental right" to keep and bear arms, and that the Second Amendment — whatever little it protects in her estimation — does not apply in the states, only in Washington, DC.

**2. Inability to support self-defense.** When asked during the Senatorial hearings if she favored the right of self-defense, Sonia Sotomayor stated that such a proposition was an "abstract question" and that she couldn't think of a Supreme Court case that addressed that issue. However, she ignored the more than a dozen cases where the high Court has examined the issue.

**3. Misled Congress in regard to following the law.** Judge Sotomayor repeatedly told Senators that she would follow statutory law and existing precedents. But she's already failed to do that during her judicial career. Sotomayor has been overturned on numerous occasions (6) by the Supreme Court and has been rebuked by both the

Supreme Court and by appellate judges for not following precedents and statutes.



President Obama and Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Does anyone really think that she will be a stickler for precedent now that she has been confirmed to the high Court? Never mind the fact that in her rulings and in her statements, she has

Even that figure is probably low, considering that 31 NO votes is a lot better than the anemic opposition we saw the last time a Democrat President nominated judges to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Those nominees were Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1993) and Stephen Breyer (1994) — opponents were able to muster nine votes against Breyer, but only three against Ginsburg.

What a contrast to the 31 opposition votes against Judge Sotomayor in August — an opposition that is largely attributable to your grassroots efforts!

Consider Republican Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah. For the first time in his 33 year Senate career, Hatch voted against a Supreme Court nomination. You may remember that Hatch even supported Obama's pick for Attorney General and voted to end the filibuster on Harold Koh, the radical choice for the State Department counsel.

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### *The media credited gun owners' opposition to Judge Sotomayor as the reason several Senators voted against her.*

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ignored a very important "precedent" — the common understanding in this country for the first 150 years — that the Second Amendment protects an individual right.

#### **Gun owners flex their muscles**

If there is a silver lining to all of this, we are seeing more and more Senators stand up to Obama's radical agenda. Gun Owners of America encouraged grassroots activists to lobby other firearms organizations so that gun owners across the country could speak with a unified voice in opposition to Judge Sotomayor.

Thankfully, we were hugely successful in this endeavor! News reports credit the gun lobby's strong and unified opposition to Sotomayor as resulting in at least three NO votes from Senators who were previously undecided or in favor of the nominee.

But faced with mounting pressure from grassroots in his state, Sen. Hatch broke with long-standing tradition regarding his support for Supreme Court nominations. In August, he voted against Judge Sotomayor.

"I feel very badly that I have to vote negatively — it's not what I wanted to do when this process started — but I believe that I'm doing the honorable and right thing," Sen. Hatch was quoted as saying in *Newsday*.

Thank you, everyone, for putting the heat on your Senators. President Obama would do well to interpret 31 NO votes as a "shot across the bow." With his approval ratings plummeting, the president's next Supreme Court pick may have to be far more in the mainstream.

The Senate vote on Judge Sonia Sotomayor can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/ks8vtf>. ■



## Southern Neighbor Goes Right

by Larry Pratt

For at least two years, Panamanian gun owners had to live with the threat that the socialist government of Martin Torrijos (son of the late dictator) was going to impose a George Soros-inspired backdoor gun ban.

The Soros gun ban comes advertised as a licensing scheme which means that gun ownership is illegal unless you get special permission from the government. Getting that permission is the problem. By simply delaying processing of applications and renewals, the clock runs out and before long, nobody has a legal gun.

This kind of law can be very effective at disarming the public, as I have seen in places such as South Africa.

In Panama, shooters actively opposed the measure. At one point I addressed a forum they organized to dramatize the problems with the bill and the threat to safety that it presented. Happily, the Chavez-backed candidate (to succeed Torrijos) in the elections last May got her clock cleaned, and the threat of the bill ended with the socialist government's demise.

The winner, Ricardo Martinelli, is a wealthy businessman — as is his vice president Juan Carlos Varela. To set the anti-graft tone of their administration, Martinelli announced at his inauguration that they would be donating their salary to a charity that would be building a medical clinic in the interior of the country. "We might stick our foot in our mouth in my administration," he said, "but we will not be sticking our hand in the till."

The two official inaugural celebrations that feted some 10,000 people combined were paid completely from private funds, starting with money from Martinelli's own pocket.

Martinelli also announced a truly transformational reform. As in a great deal of the world, many rural landholdings have no clear titles, hence loans are unavailable for the rightful owners. Martinelli is now granting titles to the land for those who are in possession of their property by tradition (not through legal titles). I have seen this reform carried out in Guatemala and in El Salvador, and

the result is a fiercely anti-socialist group of rural voters. Memo to Chavez: in Panama, many of those voters already own guns.

During the administration's first day, the education minister announced that she would not allow an association of professors to be recognized as a union. The same day, Martinelli announced that a bankrupt banana-workers' cooperative that had been getting subsidies from the socialist government would now be on their own. Sink or swim — in the private sector.

At an inaugural mass specially called for by Martinelli, the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Panama. It sounded like one of our colonial election sermons. The bishop urged the people to pray for their new leaders that there might be peace in the land. He then challenged the politicians who were present to never separate their Christian values from their politics lest the country lose its culture of respect for life and protection of the family.

With the legally deposed thug from Honduras (former President Mel Zelaya, a Chavez ally) sitting some twenty feet from him on the stage, Martinelli announced that his election represented a challenge to the far left wing in Latin America. He added that he intends to make Panama the best place in Latin America to do business.

That is change that I can believe in. ■



Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli

### THE Gun Owners

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