

THE Gun Owners

36 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2011

McCarthy's Sweeping Gun Ban

by John Velleco

In 1993, Carolyn McCarthy's husband was killed in a shooting that left six people dead and nineteen wounded on a Long Island commuter train.

The response of the widow was not to restore the lost gun rights of New Yorkers. Instead, Carolyn McCarthy ran for Congress on the platform to take everyone else's gun rights away.

And she hasn't stopped trying to capitalize on tragedies to push her agenda forward. In April of 2002, she stood with Sen. Chuck Schumer on the steps of Long Island's Our Lady of Peace church — the scene of the murder of a Catholic priest and a parishioner — and announced the introduction of a massive expansion of the Brady gun control law.

It took until 2007, and the help of a Republican-controlled Congress, but she was able to get the so-called NICS Improvement Act passed.

Done in the name of keeping mentally ill people from owning firearms, the "NICS Improvement Act" actually had a disproportionate impact on military veterans, and thus was dubbed the "Veterans Disarmament Act."

As GOA members are undoubtedly aware, beginning in 1999, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began turning over names of veterans who suffered from common mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to

GOA helping expose Obama's anti-gun agenda



GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt appeared on Fox News to discuss Operation Fast and Furious. As more and more "smoking gun" emails become public, it becomes clear that the Obama Administration was using Fast and Furious to help inflate crime statistics — thus, "justifying" the need for more gun control. (See the article below.)

the FBI for inclusion in the NICS database.

This move by the Clinton administration was legally dubious, but continued under the Bush administration to the point where presently over 150,000 veterans have lost their gun rights. What the McCarthy bill did — and what went unno-

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Tax Dollars for Gun Smugglers — Time for Attorney General Eric Holder to resign

by Erich Pratt

Well, the other shoe has dropped. We've known for several months that the Obama Administration was turning a blind eye to — and even encouraged — suspected gun smugglers who were purchasing firearms from gun stores in the southwest.

But now we know the rest of the story: Your tax money was probably being used to buy many of those guns that were later sent to Mexico.

That's what two congressional lead-

ers wrote in a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder in July, and it represents one of the latest revelations in the growing "Fast and Furious" scandal that was run by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive (ATF).

Fast and Furious was a program that was born in 2009, allegedly to help track gun smugglers back to the Mexican drug cartels. But the reality is that few, if any, of these top-level leaders have been busted, while the smuggled

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McCarthy's Sweeping Gun Ban

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ticed by almost everyone, save GOA activists — was that the regulations under which the VA was operating were statutorily frozen. After the law's enactment, the VA would be in violation of the law if it *didn't* put soldiers who were, for instance, deemed incapable of managing their own affairs, into the NICS system.

McCarthy's bill not only applies to veterans; it applies to non-veterans as well. It just so happened that the VA was years ahead of the states in pursuing the intentional disarmament of persons who were not criminals and not deemed a danger to self or others.

Now, at a time when GOA is gaining traction with the new Congress to repeal the worst parts of the Veterans Disarmament Act, McCarthy is back with a vengeance. True to form, her latest monstrous legislation is also spurred on by a tragic shooting: that of Arizona Representative Gabrielle Gifford in January of this year.

Gun Control on Steroids

McCarthy's current bill, H.R. 1781, goes much further than extending psychiatric gun bans (though it does that in enormous ways).

For one thing, the anti-gunners have moved beyond wanting to just regulate private sales at gun shows. The McCarthy bill would ban ALL private, person-to-person gun sales and require that all such transactions be made through federal firearms licensees or the police, who would conduct a background check.

Every gun owner who wishes to sell his or her individually-owned, constitutionally protected firearm would become an agent of the federal government. Sell your gun to a neighbor without government approval? You might be cell mates in prison.

The bill would also broadly redefine "adjudicated as a mental defective" and impose a gun ban in any case in which a "court, board, commission, or other



Rep. Carolyn McCarthy wants to restrict the rights of all gun owners because of the actions of deranged criminal Jared Loughner.



Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) speaking on behalf of the civilian disarmament lobby.

lawful authority" (including, presumably, a school or a Medicare-funded doctor) prescribes counseling or medication in response to "subnormal intelligence, mental illness, or incompetency."

Based on this language, an IDEA kid — in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act program — who is placed on Ritalin could be stripped of his gun rights for life!

Another section of the bill requires any "college, university, or postsecondary institution that receives Federal funds" (basically every college in the country but Hillsdale

College) to set up a procedure for investigating and reporting students who are acting strange.

The team that would assess students would be made up of "educators, administrators, counselors or other qualified members of the educational community," and procedures would have to be set up to make both "voluntary referrals" to mental health institutions and "involuntary referrals" to such institutions. The latter, according to current federal law — 922(g)(4) — also

automatically makes a person prohibited from possessing a firearm.

This change in federal law would be insidious. Instead of a person losing their civil liberties through due process in a court of law (and being judged by a jury of one's peers), civil rights could be lost at school or in a doctor's office.

Another provision of H.R. 1781 would withhold federal tax money that was designated for crime-fighting from states which fail to provide a sufficient number of names to the FBI's Instant Check

system of persons deemed "mental defectives" under the new, expansive definition of the term.

This type of financial threat is one way Congress turns nearly every crime into a federal issue, without necessarily



Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (left) with a gaggle of New York anti-gunners at a press conference.

"federalizing" more crimes.

Finally, the bill requires federal agencies to turn over to the FBI all records in their possession of persons who would be prohibited from possessing a firearm (which would presumably include the names of all persons admitting to having used marijuana or other "controlled substances").

If the McCarthy bill — or even parts of it — passes into law, it would spell disaster for gun rights and make the Veterans Disarmament Act pale in comparison in dramatically reducing the number of people who are allowed to own firearms. ■

Tax Dollars for Gun Smugglers

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guns have been funneled into the hands of drug gangs all along the border, resulting in hundreds of deaths (and the murders of two U.S. law-enforcement agents).

And, not only were your hard-earned dollars being used to purchase these guns, the main gun smugglers that ATF was investigating “were *already known*” to other agencies and may even have been paid as informants,” congressional leaders said in their letter to Holder.

According to sources inside the Justice Department, the ATF spent millions of dollars tracking a chief gun smuggler — known as “Mr. Big” — before discovering that he was in fact on the feds’ payroll (funded, again, by your tax dollars).

But why? That’s the recurring question. Why would the Obama Administration — that is filled with anti-gun cronies — knowingly approve the sales of firearms to bad guys? Why would they knowingly put thousands of guns “into the wrong hands,” when they’ve spent years advocating gun control laws to supposedly get guns “out of the wrong hands.”

Given that the ATF refused to work with Mexican authorities (when it came to tracking these guns) and frequently lost track of the firearms after they moved south of the border, it does not seem that bringing down drug kingpins was the real goal of Fast and Furious.

The better explanation is that the Obama Administration was using the influx of guns into Mexico — and the resulting violence — to clamor for more gun control here at home.

As stated by one press report this past April, “The Obama Administration, according to ATF agents who blew the whistle on the illegal plot, intended to use statistics concerning U.S. guns in Mexico to call for more stringent gun control.”

Congressional investigators have uncovered “smoking gun” emails that confirm this to be true. For example, one highly ranked ATF official emailed the Fast & Furious manager, ATF Agent Bill Newell, this question in 2010:

Bill - can you see if these guns were all purchased from same FFL and at one time. We are looking at anecdotal cases to support a demand letter on long gun multiple sales. Thanks Mark R. Chait Assistant Director Field Operations

So, the ATF allows bad guys to purchase guns from gun dealers, and then those “illegal sales” become the justification for more gun control. That’s what these “demand” letters are all about -- they “demand” or require gun dealers in the southwest to send information to ATF whenever two or more semi-auto rifles (above a .22 caliber) are sold to an individual within a five day period.

That is outrageous, and it means that the top cop at the Jus-

GOA documents gun control abuses



In continuing the exposé of Michael Bloomberg's Tour of Lies, GOA's Erich Pratt turns the spotlight on some of the slimiest examples of gun control in this country. Gun owners can see the report on GOA's YouTube site at: <http://tinyurl.com/3q25hc2>

tice Department, Eric Holder, needs to go.

Fast and Furious occurred under his watch. And we know that information about departmental corruption went right up to his office suite.

So far, the Attorney General is stating that he didn't know what was happening. He claims that he only became aware of

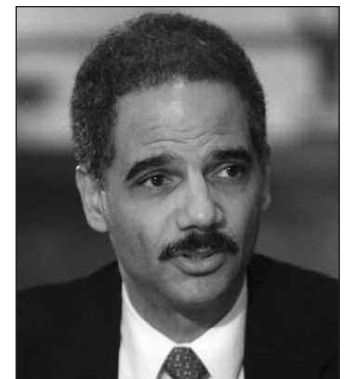
“The Obama Administration was using the influx of guns into Mexico — and the resulting violence — to clamor for more gun control here at home.”

Fast & Furious late in the game — sometime this year.

But as stated by Rep. Darrell Issa, the Chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the House:

How is it that the Number Two, Three, Four at Justice all knew about this Program but the Number One didn't? Is it because he said “don't tell me” ... is it because they knew what they were doing was wrong and they were protecting their boss? Or is it just that Eric Holder was so disconnected

Holder was either deeply involved or grossly negligent about this horrendous scandal that has left hundreds of people dead. Holder must resign. ■



Attorney General Eric Holder still has lots of questions to answer in terms of his knowledge about, and role in, Operation Fast and Furious.

Congressman Ron Paul Introduces Legislation to Protect School Children from Mass Murderers

by John Velleco

Columbine.
Virginia Tech.
Fort Hood.

What do all of these shootings have in common?

The answer is they all occurred in government facilities where the private possession of firearms was prohibited.

In Washington, unconstitutional legislation is commonplace. But sometimes unconstitutional laws can have deadly consequences.

The so-called “gun free school zones act,” written by radical anti-gun Senator Herb Kohl, is one such law.

Slammed through in 1996 as an amendment to a giant last-minute must-pass appropriations bill, the legislation disarmed school staff and other adults, leaving elementary and secondary school children defenseless to killers.

It also made it virtually impossible to drive your car down the street with your gun inside without violating the law by creating a 1000-foot so-called “gun-free zone” around every public and private school in the country.

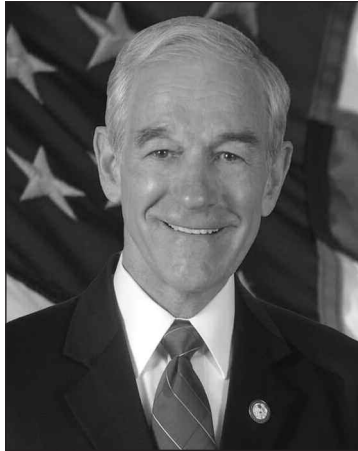
It’s “gun free,” that is, except for the criminals.

No one — including politicians, the police, or the individual citizen — can predict where the next deranged serial killer will attack. And yet politicians continue to create “criminal safe zones” such as schools, churches, parks, restaurants that serve alcohol, etc., where the law-abiding are disarmed.

The net impact of turning schools, in particular, into defenseless targets for serial killers has been dramatic.

When many people over the age of 40 were growing up, ROTC students would march up-and-down high school campuses with their semi-automatic M1’s — and no one would think anything of it. Shooting clubs on school grounds were also not uncommon.

But within a couple a years of the enactment of the Kohl amendment, two



Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) has an A+ rating with Gun Owners of America.

disaffected teenagers walked into Columbine High School secure in the knowledge that they would be the only ones in the school who were armed.

And, of course, Columbine triggered a slew of copycat episodes — laying a mounting string of innocent casualties at the feet of Herb Kohl and his misbegotten legislation.

It’s time to say NO to criminal safe zones. And a great place to

start is the blatantly unconstitutional gun free school zones act.

Thankfully, Congressman Ron Paul

(R-TX) agrees and has introduced legislation to do just that.

Rep. Paul recently introduced the “Citizens Protection Act of 2011” (H.R. 2613), which will repeal the Kohl amendment and thus remove the federally created criminal safety zones.

Rep. Paul is one of the few members of Congress who respects the Constitution and who actually introduces legislation to restore federalism. And, unlike some legislators, Paul has a history of forcing the House to vote on his pro-gun proposals, thus putting other congressmen on record.

GOA is proud to stand with Rep. Paul in the effort to repeal the unconstitutional gun free zones law. For anyone who cares about liberty, now is the time to work on getting the 218 votes we need to pass this important piece of legislation. ■

The key to winning public policy battles

Why do Republicans seem to keep losing? GOA founder and chairman Sen. H.L. “Bill” Richardson (Ret.) answers that question in the book “Confrontational Politics.”

During 22 years of legislative experience, Sen. Richardson found that the only thing that got things done was confrontation.

Democrats typically understand confrontation, like it and use it. Conversely, Republicans do not understand confrontation, don’t like it and flee from it.

Readers of “Confrontational Politics” will understand the keys to political victory and also learn about the lobbying philosophy that has earned GOA’s reputation as the only no-compromise gun lobby in Washington.

To order your copy today — at a bargain price which is less than half of what you will find at Amazon.com — go to GOA’s website at: <http://gunowners.org/store/confrontational-politics>



Another Story for the Hypocrisy Files

by Erich Pratt

It was just another one of the thousands of self-defense incidents that occur every day. But this one caught my eye.

Iowa Representative Leonard Boswell sprang to action when an armed intruder entered his home in July, attacked his daughter and demanded money from the family.

A Vietnam veteran, Congressman Boswell risked his own life to engage the intruder. And while Boswell, 77, was unable to overcome the burglar, the ensuing struggle allowed time for his grandson to retrieve a shotgun from another room.

Seeing that his firepower was grossly outmatched, the intruder fled the home and is reportedly still on the loose.

While this type of story occurs frequently in our country, the Boswell incident is interesting for several reasons. For starters, one should realize that the aforementioned shotgun was easily available in the home of a raging, anti-gun member of the Ruling Class.

Consider Boswell's record as posted on the website of Gun Owners of America, an organization that rates every congressman on their gun-related votes. According to that list, Rep. Boswell (a Democrat) has not cast a pro-gun vote since 2006 and has a "D-" rating with GOA.

Boswell has even voted for trigger lock legislation within the past five years, although it is highly doubtful that the shotgun retrieved by the grandson — the shotgun found in the Congressman's home — had a trigger lock attached to it.

In other words, what's good for you is not necessarily good for me. Can anyone say "double standard"?

Boswell comes from a long-line of Ruling Class hypocrites who have told the American people that they don't need guns, even while they rely on their own guns for protection:

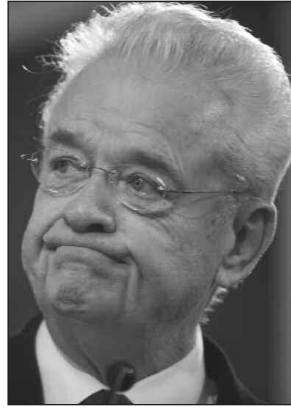
- Who can forget columnist Carl Rowan who once said that anyone found with a gun "should go to jail, period," but then he later used his own (illegal) handgun to shoot a non-violent teenager who was skinny-dipping in his pool;

- Or actress Rosie O'Donnell who also thinks people should go to prison for owning guns, but then hired armed security guards to protect her children — a pricey option which is unavailable for most Americans;
- Or Senator Dianne Feinstein who admitted in 1995 that she used to have a carry permit — even though just a few months earlier she told *60 Minutes* that, "If I could have gotten 51 votes in the Senate 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."

The Boswell self-defense incident is also ironic because anti-gunners frequently ignore cases like this when compiling their statistics. In 1986, junk scientist Arthur Kellerman derived a bogus figure which claimed that a gun in the home was 43 times more likely to kill the homeowner than to help him.

But Kellerman only reached that factoid by explicitly excluding self-defense episodes like the one in Boswell's home.

Kellerman stated that, "Mortality studies such as ours do not include cases in which burglars or intruders are



Anti-gun Democrat Rep. Leonard Boswell is another Ruling Class hypocrite who supports gun rights for himself, but not necessarily for others.

wounded or frightened away by the use or display of a firearm."

Really? Why not? Is chasing away a burglar an insignificant result for a homeowner? I wonder if Boswell would agree that his shotgun was insignificant in deterring that criminal attack.

Nevertheless, people still quote the bogus Kellerman "statistic" today as though it was the gospel truth. Contrast his figure with the several studies showing that citizens use guns in self-defense, anywhere from

1.5 million to 2.5 million times a year.

That breaks down to 4,000 to 7,000 times a day. And when you contrast this to the total number of gun-related deaths every year, one finds that guns are used 50 to 80 times more often to save life than to take life.

Of course, most of those defensive uses of a firearm — over 98% of them — occur just as they did in the Boswell home. Simply brandishing the firearm or firing a warning shot is enough to send the bad guys fleeing for their lives.

Thankfully for Boswell, acting like a hypocrite is not a crime. There's only one punishment that's really fit for such a member of the Ruling Class. Maybe Boswell's constituents will figure it out next year. ■

What to do about obnoxious, anti-gun "hypocrites" like Rosie O'Donnell?

Why, make an example of them... on a t-shirt, of course.

Check out the best-selling "Rosie" t-shirt, featuring a GOA logo and the message:

- If guns kill people, then...
- pencils miss spel words.
- cars make people drive drunk.
- spoons made Rosie O'Donnell fat.

The obverse also has a bold gun rights statement, asking "What part of 'Infringed' don't you understand?" Only \$15.50 at <http://gunowners.org/store/the-rosie-shirt> (plus shipping and handling).



Rosie back

Legislation Will Protect Gun Rights on Army Corps of Engineers Land

by John Velleco

Gun Owners of America is working with several members of Congress to repeal a gun ban on land controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Currently, guns are prohibited on Corps land, even when gun possession is otherwise allowed by state law. Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH) introduced legislation — the Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act (H.R. 1865) — to repeal the federal ban and simply allow state law to govern firearms possession.

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) offered similar language as an amendment to an appropriations bill, which passed the House on a voice vote in July. The fate of the amendment is unclear as it heads to the Senate.

The Gibbs bill, as well as the Gosar amendment, is modeled after a similar measure that became law in 2009 affecting National Park Service land. The Army Corps of Engineers was not part of that bill, something the Corps was quick to point out.

The Corps said in a statement: “Public Law 111-024 does not apply to Corps projects of facilities . . . [and the Army Corps] will continue to prohibit loaded concealed weapons on Corps properties regardless of the new law and notwithstanding any contrary provisions



Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH)

of state law.”

Rep. Gibbs’ bill will reverse the Corps’ decision and remedy the “oversight” of the lands bill.

“The Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act is a bipartisan effort that seeks to correct this oversight and

restore Second Amendment rights to law-abiding citizens while they are legally camping, hunting, and fishing on the 11.7 million acres of Army Corps recreational property,” Gibbs said.

“Families and sportsmen taking advantage of this federal land should not have to worry that their legally obtained concealed weapon permit is invalid.”

Of course, even small steps to protect the rights of gun owners are met with fierce — and irrational — opposition from the anti-Second Amendment crowd.

A year after the park service gun ban was repealed, the executive director of the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Vio-

lence told the *Zanesville Times* that something was missing at her yearly vacation to the Smoky Mountains—the “no guns” sign.

“This always has been a very peaceful place,” Toby Hoover said. “You go into the park, you stand there and think, ‘What are people afraid of?’ It’s amazing to me that they [people who actually believe in self-defense] spend all this time worried about how other people are going to treat them.”

Not surprisingly, Hoover could not point to any actual misuse of firearms in national parks. But then, there’s no reason to let the facts get in the way of the anti-gun lobby’s reflexive hatred of firearms.

Gun Owners of America applauds the efforts of Reps. Gibbs and Gosar, and will continue to push for repeal of a gun ban affecting over 400 lake and river projects, 90,000 campsites and 4,000 miles of trails controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers. ■



Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)

At ATF, 200 Murders Earns Transfers to DC

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Ironically, the very folks who were responsible for committing various federal felonies — involving illegal gun sales and exports — are now the very ones telling lawful Americans, “You need more gun control!”

Specifically, ATF has told dealers in the four southwest border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to submit sales reports for anyone who, in five days or less, purchases multiple semi-auto rifles of a caliber higher than a .22.

That order itself is illegal. ATF is only permitted to require multiple sales reports for handguns. The Newell/Chait

email (which is reprinted on page 3 of this newsletter) made it clear that the purpose of Fast and Furious was to put the blame for the Mexican carnage on gun stores and gun owners.

ATF clearly has no shame.

The DC headquarters of ATF, and some field offices such as the one in Phoenix, are led by criminally corrupt agents. They need to be put in jail.

Until Obama is no longer President, it is a no-brainer that Attorney General Holder, who has been complicit in this whole Fast and Furious debacle, will not order his own arrest. However, the House of Representatives could appoint an independent counsel and put him in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, who heads up the Capitol Hill Police Force.

When the Sergeant at Arms develops

a case dealing with crimes committed in the Capitol — for example, perjury and obstruction of justice (resulting from the refusal to hand over documents and answer questions) — the Capitol Hill Police Force could make arrests anywhere in Washington, D.C.

In addition, an Arizona prosecutor could seek indictments for people such as Newell, Voth and those above them — charging them with aiding and abetting the murder of a federal agent. Following indictment, the accused could be extradited to Arizona.

When some Justice Department and ATF officials begin telecommuting from their suburban homes, we will know that the end is near.

There is a way. Hopefully there is a will. ■

Eating Crow at the “Wild West” Saloon

by Erich Pratt

“Allowing guns in bars is a recipe for disaster,” said Virginia Beach Police Chief Jake Jacocks, Jr.

Jacocks made this statement in response to Virginia’s new law which allows residents to carry concealed firearms in establishments that serve alcohol.

“We can fully expect that at some point in the future,” Jacocks predicted, “a disagreement that today would likely end up in a verbal confrontation, or a bar fight, will inevitably end with gunfire if you sign this legislation into law.”

Well, Chief Jacocks is now eating crow, because guess what? Not only did the expected shootouts never happen, the number of firearms incidents which occurred in taverns and eateries went down over the past year!

The Richmond *Times-Dispatch* reviewed Virginia State Police records and discovered that gun-related crimes dropped after the new law went into effect. There were 153 gun-related



Police Chief Jake Jacocks, Jr. is eating crow these days, now that he’s heading into retirement.

crimes in establishments that served alcohol before the law went into effect, compared to 145 after.

So bars, taverns and restaurants are now safer after its patrons could start packing heat. Imagine that!

The *Times-Dispatch* did report that charges were brought against one permit holder — and one permit holder only — but those charges were later dropped.

Bottom line: concealed carry permit holders are a pretty well-behaved group

of people.

Sadly, people like Chief Jacocks think that gun owners can’t be trusted with firearms. *The Washington Times* quoted Jacocks as saying that it would be irresponsible to allow “anyone other than a law enforcement officer” to carry a handgun in a bar.

But Jacocks couldn’t be further from the truth. Allowing regular folks to own guns is exactly what the Second Amendment is all about. Says the *Times*:

When Mr. Obama took office, the public flocked to gun stores, fearing the imposition of new gun-control measures. Despite the unprecedented number of new gun owners, FBI crime statistics showed violent crime decreased 5.5 percent nationwide between 2010 and 2009. In Virginia’s major cities, the drop was 9 percent.

“The arguments of the gun-control crowd are like an annoying barfly that needs to be sent home,” opined the *Times*. “Expanding the rights of lawful gun owners makes everyone safer.” ■

Packing heat makes people safer

by Erich Pratt

How long would the Norway gunman have lasted in Texas, Wyoming or any state where residents can pack heat?

That’s the question posed by radio talk show host Michael Reagan in the wake of the July massacre which took the lives of 77 Norwegian victims.

The answer: the Norwegian gunman wouldn’t have lasted very long in one of our very pro-gun states.

“Tragically, Norway’s anti-gun hysteria resulted in laws restricting gun ownership by law-abiding citizens,” Reagan said, “leaving them exposed to gun violence at the hands of criminals such as [Anders] Breivik, who simply ignore anti-gun ownership laws.”

The son of former President Ronald Reagan says that concealed handgun laws reduce violent crime for two reasons. First, they reduce the number of



Radio talk show host Michael Reagan says the Norwegian gunman wouldn’t have lasted very long in a pro-gun state like Texas or Wyoming.

a gunman entered a Colorado church in 2007, intending to commit one of the greatest massacres in U.S. history, he was only able to kill two people —

attempted crimes because “criminals are uncertain which potential victims can defend themselves.” Second, armed victims are in a much better position to defend themselves, and “that’s just common sense.”

Consider a case that is well-known to Second Amendment activists. When

despite being armed with a thousand rounds of ammunition.

The reason was that he was met by Jeanne Assam, a concealed carry permit holder, who used her firearm to disable the gunman and save hundreds of lives at this church.

Reagan notes that gun ownership is not only a deterrent to bad guys on the street, but to thugs wearing badges as well.

“Our Founding Fathers understood the need for an armed citizenry,” Reagan says. “Thanks to the colonists who were armed, America triumphed over the strongest army in the world.”

According to Reagan, we need to be ever vigilant, as there are “always those who would trample on our rights as free Americans.” But as long as we retain the right to self-defense guaranteed by the Second Amendment, he says, our freedoms will be secure. ■



At ATF, 200 Murders Earns Transfers to DC

by Larry Pratt

In the tradition of the Weaver family murders and the Waco inferno, ATF has now brought us “Fast and Furious” with the highest body count to date: approximately 200. At the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), that merits

transfers for the four managers involved.

Fast and Furious was a project spawned at a multi-agency meeting in October of 2009 consisting of ATF, FBI, Border Patrol and Immigration, the IRS, Customs Enforcement and the Justice Department.

It began as an outgrowth of Operation Gunrunner, a typical sting operation begun in 2005 that targeted straw gun purchases. A legal buyer typically buys a gun after passing the Instant Background Check. But under Gunrunner, if something about the transaction was suspicious, ATF would surveil the purchaser until he sold the gun to a buyer who was not legally able to own a gun. At that point they would make an arrest.

But under Operation Fast and Furious, guns were, in fact, allowed to “walk” — with no arrests being made. Most of the guns went to Mexico’s Sinaloa cartel, but some also turned up at Arizona crime scenes.

One straw buyer bought over 700 guns. Another was an FBI informant and a felon the ATF knew nothing about. He did not pop up in the background check because the FBI was fiddling with the system.

Fast and Furious was directed by the Phoenix ATF office, when William Newell was the Special Agent in Charge of that office. When Newell testified before Congress this summer — “testified” would be more accurate — he mostly avoided giving direct answers.

An exasperated Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight Committee, exclaimed that he knew who Newell was: “A paid non-answerer.”

Committee member Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID) asked if there had been any email exchanges between him and National Security Council member Kevin O’Reilly, who works in the White House. One of the few direct answers of the day was “Yes.”

Then Rep. Labrador asked Newell if there had been any discussion of Fast and Furious. Newell replied that “We never had any specific discussions of Fast and Furious.” Rep. Issa jumped in and said to Newell, “Answer that last question without the use of the word *specific*.” The answer then was, “Yes, we did discuss it sometimes.”

Newell committed perjury when he first denied that guns were allowed to walk, but then later was forced to admit that they had. Contempt of Congress, a criminal offense, could possibly result.

Another coconspirator in the Fast and Furious debacle was William McMahon, who was the Assistant Director of the Western Division. He and Newell both admitted to having made mistakes, but said they would do the same thing all over again.

It is quite disappointing to know that McMahon was assigned to the Office of Personal Responsibility — the very office in charge of investigating Fast and Furious.

You might think that the transfers for Agents Newell and McMahon top the charts for bureaucratic chutzpah. But wait, there is more!

A third person worthy of a Washington reassignment is

“The failure of the President and the Attorney General to fire Melson and the other three officials who have been transferred to Washington means the Administration now owns the coverup. Can you say Richard Milhouse Obama?”

David Voth who was under Newell in the Phoenix office. Voth was part of the ATF team that allowed thousands of guns to “walk” into Mexico.

Last but not least, Acting Director Kenneth Melson has been transferred (read: demoted) to the Department of Justice Office of Legal Policy.

The failure of the President and the Attorney General to fire Melson and the other three officials who have been transferred to Washington means the Administration now owns the coverup. Can you say Richard Milhouse Obama?

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THE Gun Owners

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