

THE Gun Owners

37 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2012

GOA Putting the Heat on the Attorney General – Holder continues to sizzle on the Hot Seat

by Mike Hammond

It's becoming obvious that the corrupt, virulently anti-gun Attorney General Eric Holder thinks he can stonewall Congress in connection with his cover-up of the Fast & Furious Operation.

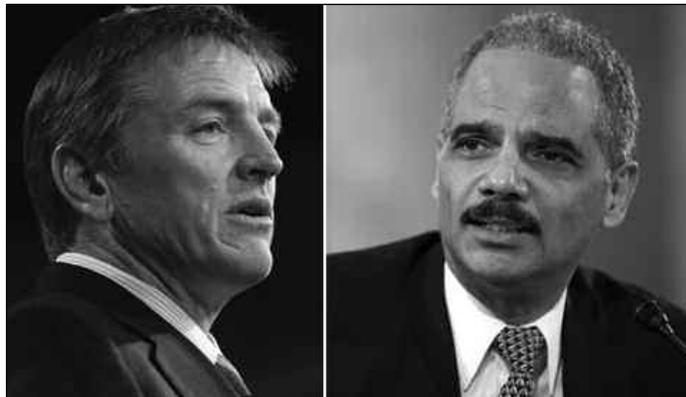
That Justice Department program sent over 2,000 illegal firearms to Mexican drug cartels, leaving over 300 Mexican nationals and two U.S. agents dead.

Yet, Holder continues to lie under oath and to stonewall Congress.

He has sent only 6,400 pages of the 83,000 documents demanded by a congressional committee — and many of these are nothing but blackened sheets of paper.

Furthermore, he has absolutely refused to provide documents which would tell Congress “what Holder knew and when did he know it” — claiming that these are “deliberative”

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GOA's grassroots have helped Arizona Republican Paul Gosar (left) to collect more than 100 cosponsors on his resolution expressing “no confidence” in Attorney General Eric Holder.

GOA Making Huges Strides on Constitutional Carry

by John Vello

Several pieces of legislation have been introduced on Capitol Hill dealing with concealed carry reciprocity.

Two of the bills treat concealed carry as a *right* belonging to the people. This legislation, introduced by Rep. Paul Broun (H.R. 2900) and Senators John Thune and David Vitter (S. 2213), provides full reciprocity to “Constitutional Carry states” and to Vermont, which does not issue or require permits.

Compromise legislation has also been introduced that grants reciprocity only to those people who jump through all of the government-mandated hoops to obtain a piece of paper declaring they have the right to carry firearms.

These compromise bills were introduced by Florida Republican Cliff Stearns (H.R. 822) and anti-gun Democrat Senators Mark Begich, Joe Manchin and Max Baucus (S. 2188).

To counter this, Gun Owners of

America worked extremely hard in the Senate to get support for the pro-gun Thune-Vitter bill, and to discourage Senators from supporting the other version.

The good news is that when the Thune-Vitter bill was introduced, it had garnered 30 original sponsors and cosponsors, while the compromise version was limited to only three.

Why Vermont Carry Matters

In Vermont, it has long been the case that law-abiding residents and non-residents alike could carry a concealed firearm, except for use in the commission of a crime. The state also has the distinction of consistently being ranked one of the safest states in the country.

The compromise legislation — introduced by Stearns and Begich-Manchin — does not grant reciprocity to residents of Vermont, as they require the presence of a physical permit in order

to qualify. The state would be forced to move to a permit system for purposes of reciprocity, in effect being punished for having a system that is “too pro-gun.”

Supporters of the compromise legislation protest that Vermonters would

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- **GOA wins key case before the U.S. Supreme Court (page 3)**
- **Gun Owners of America at work around the country (pages 4-5)**
- **Pratt encourages sheriffs to push back against federal abuses (page 8)**

GOA putting Heat on Eric Holder

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in nature.

And, perhaps worst of all, the House appears to be putting on the kid gloves and taking the pressure off this perjurer who continues to harass gun owners as the nation's chief law enforcement officer.

Holder invokes the Sergeant Schultz defense

In February, Eric Holder testified before Rep. Darrell Issa's Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. But rather than come clean, Holder offered nothing but excuses.

In the words of one Democrat, Holder adopted the Sergeant Schultz defense: "I know nothink!"

This, notwithstanding the fact that there were no fewer than seven memoranda sent to Holder (as early as July, 2010) briefing him on the Fast and Furious Operation, and the fact that his department was intentionally allowing guns to go across the border to Mexican drug cartels.

Yet, Holder smugly asserted that he didn't have time to read memoranda forwarded to him by his subordinates detailing criminal conduct by the department under his watch. (Never mind Holder's assertion that his management style was one that is "hands on.")

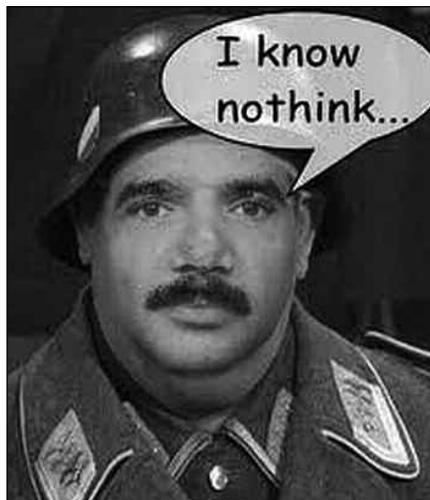
Which leads to this question: Could a hedge fund manager escape culpability by arguing that he didn't read letters from his subordinates or attorneys warning him of criminal misconduct?

Issa warned that if the Attorney General continues to obstruct his investigation, "this committee will have no alternative but to move forward with proceedings to hold you in contempt of Congress."

GOA staff has attended all congressional hearings on Fast and Furious and is working closely with House committee members to hold the government accountable for any wrongdoing.

"No confidence" in Eric Holder

One piece of legislation that GOA is actively pushing is known as the "Gosar reolution" — named after Arizona Congressman Paul Gosar, who is a



Attorney General Eric Holder adopted the line of defense made famous by Sergeant Schultz during recent congressional hearings, when he smugly asserted that he didn't have time to read memoranda forwarded to him by his subordinates detailing criminal conduct by the department under his watch.

member of Issa's committee.

H. Res. 490 finds that, as a result of "Holder's failure to properly control, monitor, or establish Operation Fast and Furious, it is likely Mexican nationals were killed or wounded by weapons sold through this scheme" — and that the victims of Holder's incompetence included U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry.

It goes on to resolve that the House has "lost confidence" in Holder, which is, basically, a call for him to resign.

"It is imperative that the citizens of our nation have confidence in our Attorney General," Congressman Gosar said in a statement.

"After months of evasive answers, silence and outright lies it is time that Congress speak up on behalf of the many people who have or will fall victims to the firearms in the flawed gun-running operation Fast and Furious," Gosar said.

Gosar's resolution currently has more than 100 cosponsors.

Fast and Furious leading to more gun control

Rep. Darrell Issa has made it clear that gun control, not crime control, is really the main objective of the Obama administration.

Rep. Issa pointed to recent ATF regulations to register many long-gun pur-

chasers in southwest border states as evidence:

The idea that regulations, without any approval of Congress, to create databases in the southwestern states...clearly shows that, in fact, this administration is more interested in building databases, more interested in talking about gun control than actually controlling [the Fast and Furious guns].

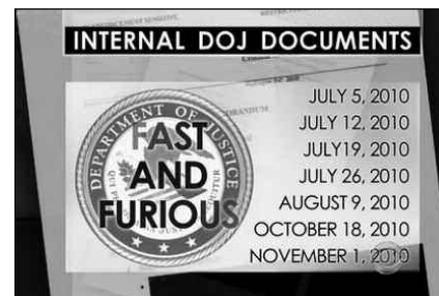
Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ), a strong ally of gun owners, went on to read from an email between Mark Chait, ATF Field Operations Assistant Director, and Bill Newell, ATF's Phoenix Special Agent in Charge of Fast and Furious. Chait wrote:

Bill — can you see if these guns were all purchased from the same [licensed gun dealer] and at one time. We are looking at anecdotal cases to support a demand letter on long gun multiple sales.

Thanks.

The demand letter Chait was referring to is a regulation (which is in vio-

Does he read his memos?



CBS News showed there were no fewer than seven memoranda sent to Attorney General Eric Holder (as early as July, 2010) briefing him on the Fast and Furious Operation — despite the fact that he claimed in May 2011 that he had only found out about the operation just "a few weeks ago."

lation of federal laws protecting gun owners' privacy) requiring more than 8,500 firearms dealers in four southwest border states to report multiple sales of long guns to the ATF.

In other words, the Justice Department helped to create a huge mess, and is now seeking more authority to regulate firearms to clean up their own mess. At the same time, the Department

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GOA Scores a Victory for Individual Privacy in the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court in January unanimously sided with Gun Owners of America in finding that the placement of a Global Positioning System on an automobile constitutes a “search” for purposes of the Fourth Amendment.

The majority opinion in *U.S. v. Jones* was written by Justice Antonin Scalia and follows GOA’s reasoning to throw out the “reasonable expectation of privacy” test which has been thought to be the dominant Fourth Amendment standard in recent years.

The Obama Administration argued that because the police could theoretically follow Antoine Jones’ car, he had no “reasonable expectation of privacy,” and thus, placing a GPS device on his car was justified. GOA argued, however, that this constituted an “unreasonable search and seizure” which violates the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution.

This decision will have dramatic ramifications for gun owners. Indeed, the Court looked to the Founders’ intentions with respect to the Fourth Amendment, which, until the latter part of the 20th Century, was understood to restrict the ability of police to “trespass” upon



the persons or property of Americans.

“This is no less than a fundamental transformation of American jurisprudence concerning searches and seizures,” said GOA’s Executive Director Larry Pratt. “And it is a transformation which throws out fake modern jurisprudence and restores the Founders’ intent.”

The “reasonable expectation of privacy” test flowed from a Justice Harlan concurring opinion in *Katz v. United States*, 389 U.S. 347 (1967). Gun Owners of America had argued that the Supreme Court should jettison that decision by an activist court, and a majority of the justices agreed.

“The ‘expectation of privacy’ test for searches and seizures arose without support in the text or historical context of the Fourth Amendment, and has proven wholly inadequate to protect the American people from their government,” argued GOA in a statement that was distributed to the national media.

Four members of the court — led by Samuel Alito, and joined by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, and Elena Kagan — argued for the continuation of the “reasonable expectation of privacy test,” but concluded that planting a GPS device on a car for 28 days constituted a Fourth Amendment “search” under that standard as well.

The Obama administration, which had argued that planting a GPS device on a car was not a “search” under the Harlan standard, was unanimously repudiated by the High Court. And the case is being cited by the mainstream media as a defeat for Obama and his Justice Department, which is led by Attorney General Eric Holder.

Said Pratt: “This is yet another failure by Eric Holder, the most corrupt and incompetent Attorney General in the history of the Republic.” ■

GOA putting Heat on Eric Holder

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has taken no action to hold anyone accountable within the government.

GOA pushing Boehner to move Gosar Resolution

Gun Owners of America is encouraging House Speaker John Boehner to move the Gosar resolution expressing “no confidence” in the corrupt Attorney General.

Obviously, it would be far better to just impeach Holder.

Even so, the House action condemning Holder would be so rare — would garner so much press attention and would receive such broad support in the House — that it would place enormous pressure on Barack Obama, in an elec-

tion year, to simply push Holder out the door.

This is a pivotal moment in history. If Barack Obama and Eric Holder are given a “pass” on their insidious role in the murderous Fast & Furious program, many Americans who care about the Second Amendment will go into the upcoming elections with no understanding of the moral corruption of this administration — and the consequences of that corruption, in terms of human life.

So GOA is encouraging all gun owners to sign and fill out their petition to Speaker Boehner. ■



GOA has fired up the grassroots and is encouraging House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) to schedule a vote on Rep. Paul Gosar’s “no confidence” resolution.

Michael Hammond is the legislative counsel for Gun Owners of America. John Velleco also contributed to this article.



GOA Around the Country

GOA helps nullify federal law to lock up citizens without a trial



Virginia Delegate Bob Marshall (R) thanked GOA for helping push his important legislation to the Governor's desk — a bill authorizing the state to nullify the National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA permits the military to imprison American citizens indefinitely, even without a jury trial.

"Twenty-four hours after the Virginia State Senate nearly killed my bill, thousands of Virginians [made] their views known," Del. Marshall said. "Groups [like] Gun Owners of America ... publicly endorsed HB 1160."

Hundreds of college students get pro-gun education



Benjamin Evans

GOA Director of Communications Erich Pratt was on the firing line in Texas, debating students on the right to keep and bear arms. Many students expressed that their views were changed as a result of the symposium. As stated by one student: "You have given me more of an interest in my rights and changed my views on how I defend myself."

Pratt addresses sheriffs from around the country



Earlier this year, GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt spoke to a large group of sheriffs, giving them many concrete examples of local interposition against out-of-control federal bureaucrats. This encouraged many sheriffs who admitted they had never even considered the authority they possess as the nation's top elected law-enforcement officials.

GOA speaks at the Kansas Capitol



GOA's Erich Pratt informed his audience about the federal government's war on gun owners, but encouraged them with examples of state interposition from around the country.

GOA's Larry Pratt meets with Carl Wimmer, who is now running for Congress. As a state representative in Utah, Wimmer had become a champion on gun rights issues. Not only did he introduce a Firearms Freedom Act — to exempt the state from most of the federal gun regulations — he also cosponsored a Constitutional Carry bill to let citizens carry firearms without getting permission from the government.

Targeting UN Gun Control



GOA Vice Chairman Tim Macy meets with Sen. Rick Santorum. As this newsletter goes to press, all of the Republican presidential candidates — except Mitt Romney — had promised GOA that, if elected, they would undo Obama’s support of the UN Arms Trade Treaty.

GOA Working for Constitutional Carry in South Dakota



GOA came very close to helping the Mt. Rushmore State become the latest constitutional carry state, which means that law-abiding citizens would have been able to carry firearms concealed without jumping through government hoops ... without getting prior permission ... or without obtaining a license or permit. Sadly, even though the bill passed overwhelmingly in both houses, Gov. Dennis Daugaard (D) vetoed the bill. The House subsequently failed to override his veto.

Supporting pro-gun candidates



Constitutional Carry

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simply have to obtain an out-of-state permit in order to be covered. But anyone who claims to be pro-gun should not be urging that *anyone* be required to get a permit to exercise a right.

So, should the compromise bills pass, the Vermont state legislature would be under enormous pressure to just pass a permit system of its own.

However, the pro-gun bills — introduced by Broun (H.R. 2900) and Thune-Vitter (S. 2213) — would recognize the right of Vermont residents to carry in other states.

“Rather than establish a national standard, our bill will ensure that law-abiding citizens are able to carry concealed firearms while at the same time respecting the laws of the respective states they visit,” said Sen. Thune.

Constitutional Carry

Following the lead of Vermont, several states have passed Constitutional Carry laws. Residents of these states do not need to obtain government permission before carrying a concealed firearm. This not only restores the right to keep and *bear* arms in these states, but it also is a matter of common sense.

Criminals, after all, are not inclined to line up at the sheriff’s office in order to obtain a permit to carry, so such requirements are only a burden to the law-abiding segment of society.

Alaska, Arizona and Wyoming have already enacted Constitutional Carry laws in the past. So has Montana, which enjoys a similar law that covers 98% of the state. And Texas enacted a “constitutional carry lite” law that applies to firearms carried in a vehicle.

In addition, Constitutional Carry legislation was introduced in many states in 2011-2012, including Colorado, Iowa, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota and Virginia.

The authors of Constitutional Carry



Republican Senators John Thune (left) and David Vitter have introduced S. 2213 — a bill to fully restore American’s Second Amendment right to “bear” arms by enabling citizens to carry guns out-of-state.

legislation, however, left in place a permitting system specifically for the purposes of reciprocity.

Although it is estimated that upwards of 6 million Americans have obtained permits, most have not. They are repulsed by a system that treats their liberty as a privilege granted by the government and that treats law-abiding citizens as if they were sex offenders. Most gun owners in Constitutional Carry states, therefore, would not benefit from the compromise legislation.

Concealed Carry “Experiment” Proves Gun Owners Right

The requirements to obtain a permit vary greatly from state to state — and they range from showing a “need” to carry, to passing written and range exams, paying fees, passing psychological exams, and more. After jumping through whatever hoops are set up by the various states, the “right” to carry concealed also expires after a certain length of time in almost all states.

Notwithstanding the difficulties imposed by the current permitting system, it is preferable to the alternative (forced victimhood). After decades of government-issued permits, however, what was intuitive to Second Amendment supporters has been borne out by experience.

When the modern concealed carry movement got underway in Florida in the late 1980s, critics proclaimed that

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Constitutional Carry

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the Sunshine State would become the violent Sunshine State.

But the predictions of blood running in the streets and minor altercations turning into shootouts did not occur in Florida, nor in the other states that have since passed concealed carry laws. In fact, permit holders have proven statistically to be among the most law-abiding segment of society.

Given that it's the good guys who are getting the permits, it has raised an important question: What purpose does the permitting system even serve? Would it not be better to free up law enforcement resources to go after real criminals, rather than registering and processing people who are least likely to ever commit a crime with a firearm?

Legislatures have begun responding to these questions with the passage of Constitutional Carry laws with the optional permit. But, since most gun owners will not get the permit, about 98% of the adult population will be left out of a reciprocity law that does not recognize Constitutional Carry.

Feds Continue to Bribe the States

There's also a more sinister aspect to the Stearns' bill (H.R. 822) and the Begich-Manchin counterpart (S. 2188): once the Congress holds out the incentive of reciprocity for permit holders only (the proverbial "carrot" the federal government regularly holds out to the states to impose its will), the momentum in the states to pass permitless carry will diminish greatly.

Legislatures will come under enormous pressure to just leave the permit mandate in place.

In this important respect, the pro-gun reciprocity bills in Congress (H.R. 2900 by Broun and S. 2213 by Thune-Vitter) do not pull the rug out from under state legislatures which are considering Constitutional Carry.

Harry Reid Empowerment Act

It was also clear from the outset that the Senate compromise version of the bill was introduced for only one reason: to keep Harry Reid in power.

Senate Majority Leader Reid likes to pretend he supports gun rights. So do a



Anti-gun Senator Mark Begich, who is flanked by Senator Chuck Schumer on the left, has introduced a compromise reciprocity bill (S. 2188). Begich's bill would prevent many citizens from carrying firearms out-of-state, unless they jump through government hoops and get registered like sex offenders. Ironically, this fear of registration could keep many non-permit holders in Begich's home state of Alaska from carrying in the lower 48 states, even though they can legally carry on the street at home.

lot of other Senators, particularly so-called "red state Democrats." Yet, many of them also voted for Eric Holder, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and a host of other anti-gun Obama appointees. They also supported the anti-gun ObamaCare legislation.

Reid and his Senate pals have stabbed gun owners in the back repeatedly. Now they're looking for a way to win back support, which they need desperately in 2012 if Democrats are to stay in the majority in the Senate (thus keeping control in Reid's hands).

They are simply trying to put one over on gun owners. But gun owners should not be fooled; Senators Begich, Manchin and Baucus are just pretending to be pro-gun, while at the same time undermining Constitutional Carry in the states.

We Have the Votes

It is also important to note that GOA's strenuous efforts to protect Constitutional Carry is not some "pie-in-the-sky" dream that has no chance of passing the Congress.

For more than a decade, GOA has taken the position that any bill that does not protect Constitutional Carry is flawed.

GOA flooded the Senate with emails and postcards and, in 2009, language almost identical to the current Thune-Vitter bill received 58 votes (it did not pass the Senate, thanks to Harry Reid

manipulating the process to require 60 votes for passage).

After the 2010 elections, there are probably somewhere between 62 and 64 votes to pass the bill in the Senate. There is also a clear majority in the House that would pass the Broun bill, H.R. 2900.

Any argument, therefore, that "compromise" is necessary in order to get a bill passed is without merit. And if Obama vetoes the legislation (he undoubtedly would do so to either bill), Congress could vote to override the veto, and if that failed, at least gun owners would know better who their friends are.

A "Right" or a "Privilege"

The activism of GOA members is having a tremendous impact in Washington — as evidenced by the fact that the Thune-Vitter bill was introduced with 30 sponsors and cosponsors, which is ten times the number of sponsors on the weaker bill.

Gun owners have sent a loud and clear message to anti-gun Senators Reid, Begich, Manchin, Baucus and others who are willing to compromise away the Second Amendment: gun ownership is a right possessed by the people, not a privilege granted by the government. ■

Why does Harry Reid need a Democrat-sponsored reciprocity bill?



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (left) and his fellow colleagues have stabbed gun owners in the back repeatedly, so now they're looking for a way to win back support from the Second Amendment community. The compromise reciprocity bill — or S. 2188, which was introduced by anti-gun Senators Mark Begich and Joe Manchin — is an attempt to give Democrats cover so they can stay in the majority and keep control in Reid's hands.

Sheriff Standing with the People

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Having falsely alleged that raw, unpasteurized milk sold by Hochstetler had caused several cases of food poisoning, the FDA filed a complaint in federal court to support their attack on the farmer.

I have consumed raw milk for years and can affirm that it is not only safe, but much healthier than pasteurized milk.

The threat of incarceration led the feds to withdraw their complaint against Hochstetler. This was even after U.S. Department of Justice attorney Ross Goldstein emailed the Sheriff that he would be arrested if he protected Hochstetler. When Sheriff Rogers refused to back down, the FDA cried uncle.

Rogers's communication to the feds seemed to have been quite convincing: "Any further attempts to inspect this farm without a warrant signed by a local judge, based on probable cause, will result in Federal inspectors' removal or arrest for trespassing by my officers or I." The feds have gotten used to acting without due process — in this case, that means not bothering to get a search warrant.

Rogers' campaign website listed his number one objective as "Upholding the Constitution." He is also concerned about the heart condition of his inmates and is determined to help "Provide Hope to Change a Heart." Under that header he says, "The Elkhart County jail has 74 church services a month and allows unprecedented access to ministry volunteers. Not only can we impact inmates for the here and now, but for eternity."

Sheriff Rogers requires his deputies to take three, two-day classes on the Constitution.

Sheriffs standing tall across the country

Sheriff Rogers is not alone in his love for the Constitution. Ellis County, Texas Sheriff Johnny Brown has stated that he would resist any effort by the federal government to confiscate firearms in his county.

Sheriff Joe Baca in Sierra County, California told his county commission



Sheriff Benny House of New Mexico.

that he will not enforce road closures on Bureau of Land Management and Gila National Forest Lands.

Sheriff Gil Gilbertson of Josephine County, Oregon has told the Forest Service that he will protect those using the forest in his county. He has written a short treatise entitled, "Unraveling Federal Jurisdiction within a State." It is actually a scholarly piece based on citations from the Constitution, court cases and statutes and concludes that the Forest Service has no authority in any county.

Siskiyou County, California Sheriff Jon Lopey has said: "I have told federal and state officials over and over that, yes, we want to preserve the environment, but you care more about the fish, frogs, trees and birds than you do about the human race. When will you start to balance your decisions to the needs of the people?...We are right now in a fight for our survival." Lopey spearheaded a coalition of eight sheriffs calling themselves: "Defend Rural America."

Mississippi sheriff puts the feds on "ice"

In the days after Hurricane Katrina, power was out for days. Food and medicine were about to be lost. So Sheriff Billy McGee of Forrest County, Mississippi — a Democrat — took action when he realized that a federal shipment of six trucks of ice bound for Hattiesburg turned out to be only

four. McGee went in search of the other two and found them being guarded by some Army reservists who possessed bureaucratic mindsets.

McGee took steps to secure the ice, but was told he was not authorized to take the vehicles. When a reservist would not get off one of the trucks, McGee had him handcuffed. The ice was delivered where it was needed in Hattiesburg, explaining why McGee is also known as The Ice Man.

Not surprisingly, the feds have brought suit against the Sheriff in federal court. Perhaps McGee will arrest any marshals seeking to interfere with the duties of a peace officer.

It is encouraging that men of integrity, who understand that the sheriff is the top law enforcement officer in his county, have been elected in counties around the country. We should be looking for more who fit this description. ■



After residents of Otero County were told by the Forest Service that they could not cut fire breaks to protect their homes, Sheriff Benny House told federal agents they would be arrested if they intervened. Not only were the trees cut down without opposition from the feds, the first two trees were cut down by Republican Congressman Steve Pearce (above).

Please let me know if you are aware of any constitutional sheriffs. You can go to our website at www.gunowners.org and use the contact button on the website to send me their names and stories.

You might also go to the online GOA bookstore and get Sheriff Richard Mack's treatise on the power of the county sheriff. You can get *The County Sheriff: America's Last Hope* at <http://tinyurl.com/86cdo92>.



Sheriffs Standing with the People Against the Feds

by Larry Pratt

There is a stirring of freedom that is taking place around the country. And it's being led by elected sheriffs who are threatening to arrest federal agents if they attempt to enforce unconstitutional

federal acts in contravention of state law.

I was first alerted to this by a GOA member, Dr. Ray Seidel of New Mexico, who filled me in on several acts of local interposition in his state — all of which underscores the importance of the office of the sheriff and the militia.

Following new federal legislation, the U.S. Forest Service moved to close off most of the Gila National Forest. A protest rally was held in Deming, New Mexico and, afterwards, a militia of sorts was formed. Many lingered after the event and exchanged phone numbers. They agreed to be available at any time a call would be made. They always have rifles, ammo and other gear in their vehicles. Word was sent to the Forest Service that any effort to impede visitors to the Forest would be resisted.

In the Southeast corner of the state, many landowners have working oil wells on their property. The EPA told the oil operators they would have to stop operating their wells because there was too much risk of harming the environment. At a town hall meeting convened by the EPA, a woman in her 60s rose to address the feds. She pointed out that her land had been in her family for over 200 years, and she was not about to let some official from an unconstitutional bureaucracy tell her what she could or could not do with her land.

The woman ended by warning the feds that her family has many guns and a huge supply of ammunition, and they would use all of it if needed to keep the EPA off of their

land. The locals who had packed out the hearing room jumped to their feet with a shout and prolonged applause. That was in August of last year. As of this writing, oil was still being pumped at full tilt.

In Otero County, villages in the mountains are surrounded by forests. The county commission voted to establish an 80,000 acre plan to manage forest overgrowth. Residents wanted to cut fire breaks to protect their homes in Cloudcroft, but the Forest Service said, "No." The residents responded that they had to for safety's sake and were

going to construct the fire break in spite of the Forest Service. Residents were told that if they cut down any trees, they would be arrested. But Sheriff Benny House told the Forest Service that if they made any arrests, they would be arrested for false arrest.

Not only were the trees cut down with no opposition from the feds, the first two trees were cut down by Congressman Steve Pearce (R). Would that there were many more like Rep. Pearce. The folks in the Second District are blessed with a constitution-supporting congressman and a number of constitutional sheriffs backed by the militias of their counties. This is the way that local governments can push

back and help the feds to live within the limitations that have been placed upon them in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Indiana sheriff clashes with the FDA

If you think what's happening in New Mexico is exciting, the even better news is that sheriffs in other states are doing the same.

Sheriff Brad Rogers of Elkhart County, Indiana has told Food and Drug Administration agents they will be arrested if they go on Amish farmer David Hochstetler's land.

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Larry Pratt meets with Indiana Sheriff Brad Rogers, who threatened to arrest FDA agents who were harassing a dairy farmer in his county.

THE
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