

THE Gun Owners

37 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2012

GOA Fighting Against the Global War on Gun Ownership

by John Velleco

The pro-gun community breathed a collective sigh of relief after United Nations negotiators failed to produce a treaty regulating global arms trade.

“There is no consensus and the meeting is over,” said a spokesman for the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, which sponsored the month-long conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

However, while the demise of the ATT is a positive outcome for U.S. gun owners, it would be a mistake to believe that it spells the end of the effort to regulate small arms worldwide.

In fact, to global gun ban supporters like Amnesty International and Oxfam America, the ATT was a success whether or not a treaty was produced.

Sure, they would rather have had the treaty pass, and they complained loudly when it was scuttled. But the fact remains that the ATT represented the most serious discussion of global gun control in history and it ensures that small arms



GOA's Larry Pratt went on Fox News in July to discuss the Arms Trade Treaty that was being debated at the United Nations.

(read: your gun collection) will be part of future negotiations. And there will be another anti-gun treaty in the near future.

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House Cites Holder with Contempt of Congress — Gun Owners' hard work pays off

by Erich Pratt

The House of Representatives voted in June to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in criminal contempt of Congress by a 255-to-67 vote. Seventeen Democrats crossed party lines to support the contempt citation, which represents the first time in U.S. history that a house of Congress has ever taken such action against an Attorney General.

Let's be clear: Operation Fast & Furious was all about the Obama administration's attempt to make a case for gun control.

Columnist Ann Coulter summarized this quite well just prior to the vote when she said, “Administration officials intentionally put guns into the hands of Mexican drug cartels, so that when the guns taken from Mexican crime scenes

turned out to be American guns, Democrats would have a reason to crack down on gun sellers in the United States.”

Fast & Furious: An effort to justify calls for more gun control

This is precisely what internal ATF documents reveal. In her groundbreaking report last December, Sharyl Attkisson of CBS News quotes one law enforcement official who put the administration's duplicity quite succinctly: “It's like ATF created or added to the problem [by helping run guns south of the border] so they could be the solution to it and pat themselves on the back.”

Of course, that “solution” was noth-

ing other than new gun control regulations — such as the gun registration

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Inside:

- **What the Supreme Court's ObamaCare decision will mean for gun owners (page 2)**
- **GOA counters calls for gun control after Aurora shooting (pages 4-5)**
- **Why a “no compromise” approach to lobbying has not diminished GOA's success (page 7)**

ObamaCare Decision Means Feds Will Continue to Cull Gun Owner Information

by Mike Hammond

Led by feckless chief Justice John Roberts, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ObamaCare law by a 5-to-4 decision in June, with Roberts voting with liberals Breyer, Ginsburg, Sotomayor and Kagan.

While the decision means many harmful things for the American public, the Second Amendment community remains greatly affected, as the law requires Americans' medical information to be culled and entered into a

national database.

Centralizing these medical records will allow the FBI to troll a list of Americans for ailments such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to deny them their gun rights, in the same way that the Veterans Administration has already denied more than 150,000 veterans their right to bear arms.

Ironically, the *Boston Globe* reported just prior to the Court decision how snarky liberals have been shocked to learn that hundreds of pages of their



Some gun owners were surprised by Chief Justice John Roberts' ObamaCare ruling. But GOA warned back in 2005, prior to Robert's confirmation, that there is nothing in Roberts' short judicial record to indicate that his judicial philosophy involves "strict fidelity to the original meaning of the Constitution."

most intimate psychiatric notes have been posted into the database — available for reading by hundreds (perhaps thousands) of strangers who work for their provider.

Now, their most embarrassing recollections are semi-public knowledge, and this was done knowingly and unapologetically by the people to whom they were spilling their confidences. Their privacy is gone, and there is nothing they can do about it.

This is the danger that gun owners face — the sharing of medical information (like PTSD) that can be used in the future to deny them their right to purchase a firearm.

As for the ObamaCare decision itself, the Supreme Court ruled that the Individual Mandate (requiring all Americans to purchase health insurance) is constitutional under Congress' taxing power.

Thus, the government can force us to buy broccoli — or anything else — by simply imposing an enormous "tax penalty" for failing to do what the government orders us to do. There is *nothing* the government can't now do as part of its taxing power.

Incidentally, ObamaCare was passed

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James Madison and Thomas Jefferson gave states the blueprint for nullifying the anti-gun ObamaCare law.

How to Nullify ObamaCare

George Mason University professor Walter E. Williams recently made the case that states should nullify ObamaCare, and cited the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions as proof of how this can be done.

Thomas Jefferson drafted the resolutions for Kentucky; James Madison authored the protest for Virginia. Taken together, both resolutions gave constitutional reasons explaining why the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 should not be enforced in their respective states.

"I think the American citizens ought to press their state governors and legislatures just to nullify the law," Williams said. States should begin saying, "The citizens of such-and-such-a state don't have to obey ObamaCare because it's unconstitutional, regardless of what the Supreme Court says."

Williams also cited *Marbury v. Madison*, which said "all laws which are repugnant to the Constitution are null and void" to further the case for state nullification.

In this vein, State Representative Mike Ritze from Oklahoma is sponsoring a bill to nullify ObamaCare in the Sooner State. It's not just a feel-good, non-binding resolution. It's a bill that has teeth.

Here's what it says, in part:

"Any official, agent, or employee of the United States government or any employee of a corporation providing services to the United States government that enforces or attempts to enforce an act, order, law, statute, rule or regulation of the government of the United States in violation of this act shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction must be punished by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or a term of imprisonment not exceeding five (5) years, or both."

But won't the federal government just arrest citizens who are in violation of ObamaCare and ignore the Oklahoma law, should it pass? Walter Williams doesn't think so.

"I don't believe," he said, "that you could find a United States soldier who would follow a presidential order to descend on a state to round up or shoot fellow Americans because they refuse to follow a congressional order to buy health insurance." ■

ObamaCare Decision

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amid vigorous denunciations that Congress was imposing an enormous tax on the American people — and on the middle and lower classes. Thus, by allowing the Obama administration to now argue that it “fooled us,” the Court becomes a co-conspirator in Obama’s fraud.

The culprits? Well, certainly the tepid, political-wind-monitoring Roberts, who has sold himself to receive favorable media coverage by the liberal left and to get invited to the

swanky parties in our nation’s capital. Ironically, the Senate almost did away with the Senate filibuster in order to secure Robert’s confirmation to the Court.

If there is a silver lining to this decision, it is that the Court ruled that the Individual Mandate *cannot* be justified under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. This is good news for gun owners, as this text has been illegitimately expanded over the years to justify all kinds of unconstitutional laws — including gun control.

Americans now know what we need to do: We need to repeal the Individual Mandate through a legislative rider (or amendment) to the must-pass Continu-

ing Resolution, which Congress will take up around September 30. And perhaps, the ultimate way to get rid of ObamaCare is to get rid of Obama.

In the process, we will need to put a constitutional majority in control of the Senate and consolidate and even expand the anti-ObamaCare majority in the House.

But the first line of defense is to force a vote on must-pass legislation to repeal or “defund” the mandate. You can expect Gun Owners of America to be at the epicenter of this battle. So please stay tuned for updates! ■

Erich Pratt also contributed to this article.

House Cites Holder with Contempt of Congress

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requirements the Obama administration unilaterally imposed last year in the four southwestern states.

Hence, at its core, Operation Fast & Furious was intended to foster “gun walking” in order to create the perceived need for gun control. In February of last year, the Obama administra-

describing the internal deliberations between Justice Department officials, and why they decided to abandon the claims made in the February letter and to change their story ten months later.

Further complicating matters for House investigators like Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) is the fact that President Obama has exerted executive privilege over the documents and is refusing to turn them over.

This even has many Democrats concerned.

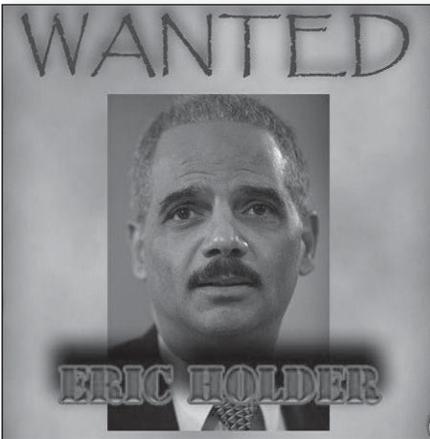
Georgia Democrat Rep. John Barrow explained his vote for the contempt citation, stating that “the Attorney Gen-

communicate that evasiveness is unacceptable.”

Gun owners should pat themselves on the back

Make no mistake about it — it’s been a long, hard road getting the Congress to act like it did in June. GOA had heard whispers on Capitol Hill — and seen articles in the media — indicating that the House leadership was initially cool to the idea of holding the Attorney General accountable in an election year.

That’s why your involvement — keeping this issue on the front burner



tion sent a letter to Congress denying this and falsely claimed they were not helping to “walk” guns south of the border.

But in December, after further whistleblowers came forward and more documents were revealed, the administration had to retract the February letter.

Part of what House investigators are now seeking relates to documents

eral has decided to withhold relevant documents. The only way to get to the bottom of what happened is for the Department of Justice to turn over the remaining documents, so that we can work together to ensure this tragedy never happens again.”

And Utah Democrat Rep. Jim Matheson (UT) also explained his vote, stating that, “The Terry family, the public and Congress deserve answers. Sadly, it seems that it will take holding the Attorney General in contempt to com-

for so many months — has been so crucial. You moved the House leadership to move this contempt citation to the floor today and to make history.

The contempt citation has set into place a series of events that could result in Eric Holder being held in contempt of court and, ultimately, land him in jail if he continues to hide documents related to Operation Fast & Furious.

So thanks for every phone call you have made and every postcard you have sent! ■

How did your Congressman vote on Holder?

The U.S. House of Representatives voted in June to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in criminal and civil contempt of Congress. To see how your Congressman voted, go to: <http://gunowners.org/congress72412.htm>

At GOA’s site, you will not only be able to view the contempt votes, but also see where your Representatives and Senators stand on other issues affecting your gun rights. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/bwxdqmp>

GOA Across the C

Countering calls for new gun controls in wake of Colorado shooting



GOA spokesmen rebutted calls from Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) to impose new gun control restrictions as a response to the July massacre in the Colorado movie theater.

Stumping for a pro-gun Congress



Facing a tough reelection, GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt traveled to Tennessee to stump for A rated Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (pictured to the right of Pratt).

Fighting anti-gun ObamaCare on all fronts



GOA's John Velleco was outside the Supreme Court in June when the Justices delivered their decision on ObamaCare. GOA will continue working to repeal the anti-gun law at the federal level — or falling short of that, to help states nullify the legislation when they come into session next year.



Aiding investigation into Fast & Furious

For more than a year, Gun Owners of America has been pressuring Congress to hold Attorney General Eric Holder accountable for his department's role in Fast & Furious — the program which helped put guns in drug cartel members' hands in order to justify calls for greater gun control. GOA has been very active throughout this process, providing grassroots support and material information for congressional investigators. GOA Vice-Chairman Tim Macy (left) is pictured here with the Chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA).

Country

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

July 26, 2012

Colorado Shooting Shows the Failure of Gun Control Laws

By **ERICH PRATT**, Director of Communications for Gun Owners of America

Last week's shooting in Colorado shows us, once again, the failure of gun control. The Century 16 theaters in Aurora were "gun free" zones, where citizens are prohibited from carrying weapons for self defense.

If this sad scenario sounds familiar, it should — as almost every large-scale massacre in this country has occurred in an area where guns are outlawed: Columbine High School, Virginia Tech, Fort Hood, etc. In all of these shootings, the victims were disarmed by law or regulation — yes, even the one at Fort Hood. They were made mandatory victims by restrictions which never stop the bad guys from getting or using guns.

Contrast these disastrous events — which occurred in "gun free" kill zones — with the Aurora shooting you didn't hear about. That shooting occurred three months ago at a church, which is not a gun free zone. A gunman drove into the New Destiny Church parking lot in Aurora, got out of his car, and started spraying bullets. Thankfully, a congregant with a concealed firearm shot and killed him, saving countless lives.

Despite this most valuable lesson, there have been calls on Capitol Hill to punish the millions of American citizens who have not — and will not — ever commit crimes. Among other things, gun control advocates want to limit the size of magazines, arguing that "no one needs that many rounds of ammunition."

This is a dangerous argument. If we turn the Bill of Rights into a "Bill of Needs," our liberties will be short-lived for sure. After all, who needs the dozens of newspapers and magazines that line the shelves of supermarkets? Or who needs a car that drives more than 100 mph?

But still, some ask, who really needs a magazine that holds lots of ammunition? Well, how about the displaced citizens who, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, had to fend for themselves against roving gangs? Or how about the Korean merchants who armed themselves with so-called "assault" weapons and large-capacity magazines during the Los Angeles riots? Their stores remained standing, while others around them burned to the ground.

This shows that when one is facing gang or mob violence — and the police are nowhere to be found (as occurred in both examples above) — you need more than just a six-shooter. Don't restrict the rights of decent Americans. Guns in good people's hands save lives.



GOA Fighting Against the Global War on Gun Ownership

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UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called the unraveling of the ATT merely a "setback," and insiders at the UN say they expect a vote at the next session of the General Assembly later this year to restart treaty talks.

The Obama administration continues to back a treaty and has already signaled its support for an additional round of negotiations after the next presidential election.

"While we sought to conclude the month's negotiations with a treaty, more time is a reasonable request for such a complex and critical issue," a State Department spokesman said.

The ATT was a convenient catch-all mechanism for the many streams of arms control measures that have been flowing from UN headquarters for years. Just because the ATT was blocked does not mean that all the streams will stop flowing.

Despite what happened — or didn't happen — this year with the ATT, the drive to ratify a treaty regulating small arms is alive and well.

GOA Members Play Big Role in Stopping Anti-gun Treaty

While the ATT sought to regulate trade on conventional weapons such as battle tanks and battleships, it was the small arms provisions that stirred the most opposition in the U.S.

Earlier this year, GOA began working with Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) in an effort to get Senators on the record opposing the treaty.

The Moran letter warned that in requiring nations to take "appropriate measures" in furtherance of the goals of the ATT, the treaty "will be used to push the U.S. in the direction of measures that would infringe on both Second Amendment freedoms and the U.S.'s sovereignty more broadly."

The fact that Sen. Moran and millions of gun owners in America rallied fifty other Senators to go on the record against the treaty was a huge obstacle for the Obama administration. It put

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Are Cars Really Safer than Guns?

by Erich Pratt

What do you do when life hands you a lemon? Well, you make lemonade, of course.

That's certainly what the Violence Policy Center has tried to do — given the sour set of facts they have had to deal with over the past few years.

In their recent report, "Gun Deaths Outpace Motor Vehicle Deaths in 10 States in 2009," they try hard to put a positive spin on declining murder rates, albeit unsuccessfully.

Consider that during the first decade of this century, 40 million new guns were manufactured for sale inside the U.S., even while the murder rate has *dropped* 14%.

In other words, Americans own *more* guns than ever, and yet there is far less murder and crime.

So what's the gun control lobby to do? Their basic tenet is that more guns will inevitably lead to more bloodshed. The statistics, however, betray their guiding principles.

The answer for the VPC is to try to scare people with a cute little jingle — proclaiming that gun deaths are now outpacing car deaths in several states.

To be sure, car deaths have consistently outnumbered gun deaths in the past, and they still do in the country as a whole. But now that gun deaths exceed car deaths in just one-fifth of the nation, is there a lesson that we are supposed to draw from this?

The Violence Policy Center thinks so. "The historic drop in motor vehicle deaths illustrates how health and safety regulation can reduce deaths and injuries," their study says. So if we would just apply more regulations upon firearms, they claim, then we'll all be safer!

Of course, it never occurs to the number-crunchers at the VPC that maybe we're experiencing fewer car accidents because fewer of the most aggressive drivers are on the road!

A Google search of the terms "fewer young people driving" turns up over 37 million hits. And a quick perusal through those articles reveals that the most dangerous age group has experienced a tremendous drop in the amount of time they spend in the car.

There are many reasons for the drop, including: higher gas prices, the current economic recession, concern for the environment by Generation Y-ers, and young folks' preferences for taking public transportation.

So one huge reason that Americans are experiencing fewer accidents is because the most dangerous age group is spending less time in their cars. Simple, right?

Yes, but it gets even worse for the VPC. A closer look at the ten states cited in their study reveals that, despite loosening their gun restrictions, these states are still experiencing less murder and violence.

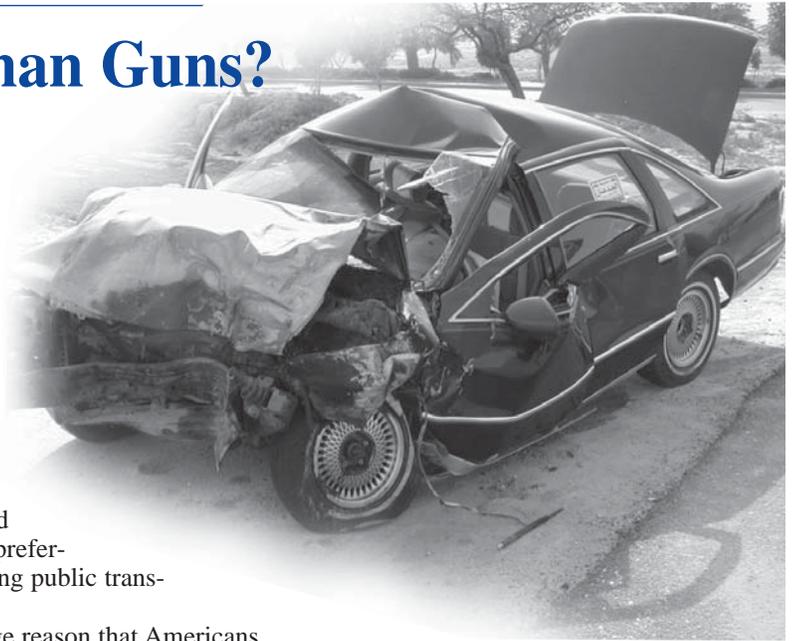
In other words, *fewer* government regulations have resulted in fewer gun deaths! (Oh, what is the Violence Policy Center to do?)

Take the state of Alaska, which adopted a constitutional carry law in 2003, allowing its citizens to carry concealed firearms without getting a permit or prior permission from the government. The VPC claims these types of carry laws "threaten public and private safety."

But are Alaskans really in greater danger of gunfire? No! The fact is that the murder rate in Alaska had *dropped* by almost 33 percent on the five-year anniversary of the law which allowed citizens to start carrying firearms without a concealed carry license.

Same with Michigan, which is another one of these "dangerous" states where gun deaths now exceed car deaths. The Auto State made it easier for its citizens to carry concealed in 2001, and like Alaska, they have seen their murder rate drop through the floor in the ensuing ten years — a drop of 15 percent.

Arizona also passed a constitutional



carry law in 2010 like the one in Alaska — meaning there are, potentially, millions of unlicensed citizens who are now carrying handguns concealed in the Grand Canyon State.

Despite there being more concealed guns on the street, however, Arizona's crime rate for this year is expected to be lower than in 2009, which is the year before the state's carry law went into effect.

A closer look at the other seven states which are highlighted in the VPC report reveals that the murder rates during the first decade of this century has *dropped* in each of those states — except Oregon where the rate remained constant.

So let's be clear. In all ten of these states which were studied by the VPC, the overall *drop* in their murder rates has corresponded with a *loosening* of gun laws at either the federal or state levels.

See why the folks at the Violence Policy Center have such sour faces? They have tried to sell the American public a lemon, but the statistics show that less government — and more citizens carrying firearms — has resulted in greater safety for individuals.

Sometimes the truth is a bitter pill to swallow. ■

Erich Pratt is the Director of Communications for Gun Owners of America, a national gun lobby with over 300,000 members.

Letter to the Editor



Does Taking a “No Compromise” Stance Hurt Efforts to Pass Carry Reciprocity?

Editor’s note: The following letter — sent by a frustrated gun owner who is disappointed that Congress has not passed concealed carry reciprocity this year — argues that GOA should compromise and adopt an anything-we-can-get attitude.

Dear GOA:

I told you, your national reciprocity plan would lead to no reciprocity. I was right.

You should have supported the one that required permits. Now we have nothing. It would have gave [sic] more impetus for Illinois to allow a permit system.

The all or nothing approach by libertarians can sometimes makes [sic] things worse. Learn to “compromise,” unfortunately, that’s what politics is.

B.B., Illinois

Dear B.B.:

Thanks for your email and the opportunity to respond. Actually, the Broun-Thune bill that GOA is backing does allow for the recognition of permits and would allow all carry permits to be recognized in every state across the nation. The beauty of this legislation is that it will *also* allow residents of *non-permit* states — otherwise known as “constitutional carry” states — to also enjoy the same reciprocity.

Moreover, the constitutional carry legislation that we are backing received a majority of support in the Senate (58 votes) when Senator John Thune offered it as an amendment in 2009. GOA is backing his current bill, S. 2213, which currently has 34 cosponsors — or ten times as many cosponsors as the compromise bill that would not protect the rights of citizens from constitutional carry states.

So with all this support for our bill, the question really is: Why should we even push a weaker bill, when the stronger bill has more support?

But let’s be clear. President Obama would have vetoed any and all versions of concealed carry reciprocity, and the veto would probably have been sustained by the Senate. Thus, had GOA compromised (as you wished we had done) we would have unilaterally surrendered a very important

development — the move toward constitutional “permitless” carry — for nothing.

We believe that next year, more may be possible if we haven’t already capitulated.

By the way, the problem Illinois has is *not* that there are too many libertarians running the state, it’s that there are too many Obama-clones that keep getting reelected. If compromise means constantly being in retreat — but redefining it as a victory — then we don’t want any part of that.

Having said that, we recognize that all our liberties can’t be won back in one giant leap. And to that extent, we are willing to take bite-size chunks in reclaiming lost ground — but being careful not to help impose new gun controls that will last for generations to come.

Voices in the established gun lobby asked us to compromise when we pushed for repealing the FBI gun tax in 1998 and the National Park Service gun ban in 2009. We refused to compromise ... we forced votes on both measures ... and both gun control laws are now in the dustbin of history.

We remain committed to defending our gun rights without “infringement.” Until the other side changes or repeals that language in the Second Amendment, we think it makes sense to keep using that “club” to put them on the defensive. ■

How to Place GOA

*in
Your Will*

GOA has received numerous inquiries from our members asking us how they can place Gun Owners of America in their will or estate plans.

Here are some sample instructions to share with your advisor or attorney:

I give, devise and bequeath to Gun Owners of America (tax ID # 52-1256643), a non-profit, corporation in Springfield, Virginia:

- A. The sum of \$_____;
- or
- B. _____ percent of my estate; or
- C. Residue. I give my Residue to Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, Virginia 22151.





Forest Service Zero, Ruidoso One

by Larry Pratt

Forest fires that raged through Southeast New Mexico this June threatened life and property — and well over 200 homes were actually lost.

Ruidoso is the population center of Lincoln County — a town that was especially threatened by the flames. Unhappily, a fire break had not been cut because of Forest Service threats to arrest villagers if they did.

Many of the residents of Ruidoso disregarded the evacuation order, choosing instead to stay and protect their homes. For those who have read my previous reports from Ruidoso, they will not be surprised to learn that one of the refuseniks included Dr. Ray Seidel.

A Forest Service agent went through the area to see if there were any who had not left. Many had not, and others refused even after threat of arrest. A Fire Service agent unconstitutionally trespassed on Seidel's property, walking in without any court order.

Seidel was threatened with arrest when Seidel said he was

staying to protect his property. Upon hearing the threat, and repeating his refusal to leave, Seidel put his hand on his holstered .45 and informed the agent that he had 30 seconds to get off his property.

For another 10 seconds the officer jabbered. Breaking into the stream of threats, Seidel told the Forest Service agent that he had 20 seconds left. The agent stopped speaking, took a long look of amazement at Seidel, turned and left.

Once in his vehicle he was heard on an open radio channel to say, "That guy is going to burn." It is to be hoped that the agent was referring to the danger of the fire rather than arson.

Thankfully, Seidel won the bet with the fire — he and his property prevailed unscathed — and he defended his liberty against Big Brother.

But Seidel was not alone. Many residents gathered in armed force and went through Forest Service roadblocks — including firefighters who were initially prevented from getting to threatened homes. The Feds were quite prepared to let people's homes burn instead of putting out the fire.

The firebreak will be cut shortly. Have a nice day, Smokey. ■

GOA Fighting Against the Global War on Gun Ownership

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the anti-gun side well short of the 67 votes needed in the Senate to ratify a treaty, and would have left the President "owning" an unpopular, anti-gun treaty in an election year.

Backdoor Gun Control Attempt

The President knows that he cannot get his anti-Second Amendment agenda passed through the full Congress, so he simply attempts to bypass that body whenever possible through Executive Orders, presidential directives, and international treaties.

GOA has helped to lay the groundwork to stop the UN small arms treaty. Since it first came up more than ten years ago, we have led the charge to make gun owners aware of its dangerous implications.

For now, thanks to the efforts of so many politically active supporters, we have bought some time before the next arms treaty. And that day will come. The gun grabbers know they're running a marathon, not a sprint. They are patient and will work out a more narrowly crafted



GOA helped Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) solidify opposition to the UN Arms Trade Treaty and got 50 other Senators to put their opposition to the ATT in writing.

treaty that still slices away at our liberty.

But GOA, the no-compromise gun lobby, will not budge when it comes to protecting the Second Amendment from enemies at home or abroad.

We agree with the late Senator Jesse Helms, who wrote back in 1959: "Compromise, hell! ... If freedom is right and tyranny is wrong, why should those who believe in freedom treat it as if it were a roll of bologna to be bartered a slice at a time?" ■

THE Gun Owners

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