

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 227

November, 2013

Dear Subscriber,

Senators **JERRY MORAN (R-NH)** and **JOE MANCHINI (D-NV)** led a bipartisan warning to Secretary of State **JOHN KERRY**'s recent signature on the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), telling him in a letter that **half the Senate has officially pledged to oppose the ratification of the ATT**. The signatories include five Democratic Senators and every Republican Senator except **Mark Kirk (R-IL)**. The letter, with its **50 signatories**, ends any prospect in the foreseeable future of Senate ratification of the ATT.

The signatories base their opposition to the treaty on **six points, including the Administration's decision to violate its own red line** by backing the adoption of the treaty through a majority-rule vote in the U.N. General Assembly.

They also note that, because ATT contains **"only a weak non-binding reference to the lawful ownership and use of, and trade in firearms, and recognizes none of these activities, much less individual self-defense, as fundamental individual rights,"** it could pose a threat to rights protected under the Second Amendment.

The national debate over **whether Americans can remain armed once they leave home** has scored another victory for gun rights. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the Illinois legislature has 180 days to come up with **some type of concealed-carry law**, overruling gun control proponents in the final holdout among the states - **leaving the nation's capital as the only place in the United States with a total ban on carrying concealed weapons**.

ALAN GURA, famous gun rights lawyer who litigated the Illinois case alongside a Chicago-based lawyer, said, "We've always believed we have a very strong case. The complete prohibition in D.C. is ridiculous."

The Illinois ruling is considered encouraging for the plaintiffs in a similar lawsuit pending in Washington, *Palmer v. the District of Columbia*, whose Democratic leadership has resisted attempts to improve its gun laws.

Mr. **GURA** sent a copy of the decision to the federal court that will decide *Palmer*, which he also is handling. The case has been languishing since 2009.

"The Bill of Rights is not a smorgasbord. You can't pick and choose the ones you want to respect," said **DAVE WORKMAN**, senior editor of *TheGunMag* publication run by the Second Amendment Foundation.

Republican U. S. Sen. MARK KIRK has come out in favor of Democratic Mayor **Rahm Emanuel**'s proposal to make illegal gun possession punishable by a mandatory minimum prison sentence of three years. **KIRK**'s support of the law is sure to gain the ire of gun rights activists. But in a paneled room of the Union League Club he said he was convinced after a ride-along with Chicago Police Supt. **GARRY MCCARTHY** in high crime areas.

Nine months after the horrific mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., **advocates of stricter gun-control measures have had little luck** in state legislatures across the country.

Gun-control advocates had hoped to pass new legislation in states where Democrats control the legislature and governor's office. **But only a handful of blue states** - California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, and New York - **have currently advanced substantive laws**.

Also in this issue: ● *Illinois bill tries to keep guns in the home* ● *Maryland gun law ruled constitutional* ● *Colorado's third recall?* ● *United Nations and plans for civilian disarmament* ● *Gun control groups go away in our Page 8 Parting Shot*

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

CALIFORNIA GUN LAWS: RIFLE BAN VETOED; LEAD HUNTING AMMO OUTLAWED

Gov. Jerry Brown has vetoed seven gun bills, including an effort to outlaw all semi-automatic rifles with detachable magazines. But he signed 11 others, including a ban on lead ammunition in hunting.

Most significant among the vetoed bills was SB374 by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, which would have banned all semi-automatic rifles with detachable magazines to the state's list of already banned "assault weapons."

Brown also vetoed efforts to let Oakland draft stricter gun regulations on its own and to give San Francisco and San Mateo County supervisors the authority to ban gun shows at the Cow Palace.

But the other bills Brown signed are bad for gun owners. One will require long-gun buyers to earn "safety certificates;" ban conversion kits that install high-capacity magazines; and extend from six months to five years the prohibition from owning firearms for those who have told about a credible violent threat to a psychotherapist.

Easily the most controversial gun bill signed by Brown was AB711 by Assemblyman Anthony Rendon, D-South Gate, to ban use of lead ammunition in hunting by mid-2019. The ban would be lifted if it comes in conflict with federal regulations.

IN THE STATES

CONNECTICUT LAWMAKERS REVISE GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Connecticut lawmakers who passed strict new gun control measures in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting have approved a package of changes to loosen the ban and expand the list of officials who can legally possess restricted firearms.

The revisions expand the list to include sworn and certified officers at the department of motor vehicles, the chief state's attorney office, the department of energy and environmental protection and some constables with police certification. It allows such officers to maintain possession of assault weapons and large capacity magazines after their service ends by registering them.

The bill also excludes Olympic target pistols from the assault weapons ban, and exempts curios and relics collectors from the ban. It allows assault weapons to be bequeathed to underage beneficiaries through establishment of a trust.

The bill also clarifies that criminal background checks are conducted by the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and only submitted for a federal background check at the department's discretion. Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said he supports the changes.

COLORADO GUN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS PREPARE FOR ANOTHER SENATOR'S RECALL

Nearly a month after successfully recalling two anti-gun state senators, Colorado gun rights activists are planning a recall campaign against State Sen. Evie Hudak, a Democrat who voted for new onerous gun control measures.

Unlike the previous recall campaign, in which gun rights activists unseated two senators in Democratic-leaning districts, Hudak, who is in her second term, seems like a prime candidate for defeat. She barely won re-election last year, defeating her Republican opponent by just 584 votes. The presence of a third-party candidate who drew votes away from the Republican probably helped her.

Colorado Republicans aren't fond of the recall. Despite the fact that a successful recall campaign by gun rights activists would end Democratic control of the state Senate, the state GOP chairman said that Republicans fear it could hurt their chances of bigger gains in 2014.

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report ® (ISSN 1079-6169) is published monthly by the Second Amendment Foundation, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. 10th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005. Phone (425)454-7012. FAX (425)451-3959. Please call or write if you have a question regarding your subscription.

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Published by:

Design: Northwoods Studio

Second Amendment Foundation

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POSTMASTER: send address changes to **The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report**, 12500 N.E. 10th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005.

Printed in the USA.

FLORIDA LAWMAKER FILES BILL TO ELIMINATE PUNISHMENT FOR WARNING SHOTS

Florida Rep. Neil Combee filed a "warning shot" bill Thursday after a Jacksonville woman received a 20-year sentence under Florida's mandatory sentencing laws for firing a warning shot during an argument with her estranged husband.

HB 89, or the Defense of Life, Home, and Property bill, would exempt from Florida's 10-20-Life mandatory sentencing provisions the display or discharge of a firearm when used as a warning, according to the bill.

Marissa Alexander was sent to prison for the 2010 incident. She has since won a new trial on appeal. "I can't imagine and don't believe anyone intended that '10-20-Life' should apply to someone who felt they were threatened," Combee said.

A poll of 415 website visitors asking "Should warning shots be legal?" voted 243 (59 percent) "Yes. They can suppress a tense situation without causing physical harm to the attacker" to 172 (41 percent) who voted "No. Shooting in the air or at walls can lead to unintended injuries to innocent bystanders."

IN THE STATES

ILLINOIS DELAYED IN ACCEPTING CONCEALED-CARRY PERMITS

In July, Illinois finally became the 50th state to allow people to carry concealed weapons. But it will be January before the Illinois State Police will accept concealed-carry applications.

"The Illinois State Police originally told us (applications would be accepted) Jan. 1, now they've backed it up to around Jan. 10 because they're not ready," Ron Darnall, owner of Darnall's Gun Range outside of Bloomington, said. "We understand now, instead of March, it's going to be April before the first cards are sent out."

Darnall is among the hundreds of firearms instructors authorized by the Illinois State Police to teach residents about the state's new law. "There are 900 instructors and 500 curriculums," said state Rep. Brandon Phelps, the Democrat author of the concealed-carry law. Phelps said fingerprints will be the biggest factor in determining eligibility.

SECOND AMENDMENT ALERT! ILLINOIS LAW WOULD STOP FIREARMS OUTSIDE HOME

In a bid to fight against criminal and gang possession of firearms on the street, Illinois state Rep. Mike Zalewski (D-21st Dist.) is set to propose legislation that essentially labels all firearm possession outside the home illegal. This measure – HB 2265 – does not differentiate between possession by law-abiding citizens and possession by criminals or gang members.

A law-abiding citizen who has a gun in his or her car for self-defense – but no concealed carry permit or Firearm Owner Identification Card (FOID)– could face extensive jail time for the victimless crime of exercising their constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel (D) supports the measure, as he is desperate to reduce the violence gun control has already caused in his city.

BURLINGTON VERMONT CITY COUNCIL APPROVES GUN CONTROL PROPOSALS

Burlington's City Council has voted to approve several gun-control measures: allowing police to seize firearms in cases of suspected domestic abuse, requiring trigger locks for safe gun storage and prohibiting firearms in bars. A fourth provision that would have created a permit system for the concealed carrying of guns didn't pass.

A forum before the meeting was packed with supporters and opponents of the proposed charter changes.

WASHINGTON GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES PUSH INITIATIVE TO EXPAND BACKGROUND CHECKS

Advocates of an initiative seeking to expand background checks for Washington state gun sales said they have submitted more than 250,000 signatures on their first batch of petitions delivered to the secretary of state's office.

I-594 would require background checks for online sales and private transactions, such as those that occur at gun shows. The checks would be conducted at federally licensed firearm dealers, where people already must undergo such scrutiny before purchasing a new weapon.

NEBRASKA FEDERAL JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF GUN-RIGHTS GROUPS

U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf in Nebraska has ordered the state to stop enforcing a law that prevents legal, non-citizens from getting a permit to carry a concealed handgun. The lawsuit argued that the law violates equal protection rights. It was filed on behalf of Carlos Nino De Rivera Lajous by the Second Amendment Foundation and the Nebraska Firearms Owners Association.

CALIFORNIA APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS ASSAULT RIFLE BAN

California's law banning possession of a semi-automatic assault rifle is constitutional, according to a state appeals court that upheld the law against a Second Amendment challenge. As the court's opinion explains, the Supreme Court's seminal Second Amendment opinion in *District of Columbia v. Heller* held that the right to bear arms is "not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose."

SAF PETITIONS FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS IN LONG-DELAYED PALMER CASE

The Second Amendment Foundation has taken the unusual step of filing a petition for a writ of mandamus in the case of *Palmer v. District of Columbia*, which was filed in 2009 and is still awaiting a ruling by the federal district court. This is SAF's case concerning right-to-carry in the District of Columbia, the last remaining jurisdiction in the nation where citizens cannot carry a firearm in any manner outside their home for personal protection.

**IN THE
COURTS**

COURT RULES ON 'STAND YOUR GROUND' COSTS

A Washington state appeals court, in a major ruling on the "stand your ground" debate over personal safety, said that a defendant who successfully uses a self-defense claim is entitled to reimbursement for lost wages and other costs, as well as legal fees. "The cost of a criminal defense often starts at arrest," the court wrote in its decision, affirming a lower court's award of nearly \$49,000, including \$10,000 in lost wages, to Tommy J. Villanueva, a factory worker.

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE ON LAW FORBIDDING FELONS TO HAVE GUNS

The state statute forbidding felons from possessing firearms cites a list of 150 offenses. Glen Draughter, a convicted burglar, was caught with a gun. Louisiana voters later passed a constitutional amendment that declared the right to bear arms is a fundamental one in Louisiana, and any gun law should be subject to the highest level of judicial scrutiny, a legal test so rigorous that it wipes out 70 percent of the laws that come up against it. Draughter is the test case for gun laws. The state's high court will decide.

TOP NEW YORK COURT LIFTS HANDGUN PERMIT RESIDENCY LIMIT

The Court of Appeals has concluded that New York pistol permits, which are issued by cities or counties, are not limited to people whose primary residence is in New York, reversing a 1993 decision by a midlevel state court. Alfred Osterweil's license application was denied in 2009 by a Schoharie County judge because Osterweil only had a part-time vacation residence there. Osterweil now has his permit.

JUDGE REFUSES TO BLOCK MARYLAND'S GUN LAW

A federal judge has refused to block implementation of Maryland's new gun control law, citing the late date of the challenge – just two business days before it was set to take effect – as an indication the law posed no imminent threat to core Second Amendment rights. Opponents will appeal.

U.S. SUPREME COURT TO HEAR A LAUTENBERG AMENDMENT CASE

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear *U.S. v. Castleman*, a Tennessee case involving the Lautenberg amendment that deprives individuals of second amendment rights if convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. James Alvin Castleman plead guilty to domestic assault then was found in possession of firearms and convicted of illegal possession under the Lautenberg amendment.

NEW JERSEY SECOND AMENDMENT SOCIETY FILES AMICUS BRIEF IN CONCEALED CARRY CASE

New Jersey Second Amendment Society filed a "friend of the Court" brief in a State Supreme Court appeal challenging New Jersey's "justifiable need" requirement to obtain a Permit to Carry a Handgun. The Plaintiff, Richard Pantano, is being represented by Evan Nappen, noted civil rights attorney.

SAF SUES IN NEW YORK OVER SAFE ACT MAGAZINE LIMIT

The Second Amendment Foundation has filed a lawsuit in federal district court to enjoin enforcement of the S.A.F.E. Act's limit on gun magazines to seven rounds. The limit is "arbitrary and serves no useful purpose other than to frustrate and perhaps entrap, law abiding citizens," said SAF Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb. The case is known as *Caron v. Cuomo*.

SUPREME COURT TAKES GUN RIGHTS CASE ON CONVICTED POLICEMAN

The case of Bruce Abramski, a former police officer who bought a gun for his uncle with no intent to deceive but was convicted of a felony because of the wording of a federal background check form, has been accepted for hearing by the U.S. Supreme Court. Because he was "acting as his uncle's agent to buy a gun," Abramski became a federal felon. Arguments are likely around February, with a decision before July 2014.

HIGH COURT WON'T HEAR MARYLAND GUN LAW CASE

The Supreme Court won't review a decision upholding Maryland's law requiring handgun permit applicants to demonstrate a "good and substantial reason" for carrying a weapon outside their own home or business. The high court refused to hear from Raymond Woollard and the Second Amendment Foundation, who say the law violates the Second Amendment. Attorney Alan Gura expressed disappointment, but said he is determined to get a ruling on the issue in one of the many promising cases now in lower courts.

IN THE COURTS

GUN GROUP SUES NEW HAMPSHIRE OVER NON-RESIDENT CARRY LICENSE DENIALS

The Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs filed suit against the New Hampshire Department of Safety over an illegal rule reversal that prevents New Jersey residents from qualifying for New Hampshire non-resident carry licenses. The change requires applicants to have a carry license from their home state in order to qualify for the New Hampshire non-resident license.

JUDICIAL WATCH SUES BLOOMBERG OVER DOCUMENTS SAF IS SEEKING

Judicial Watch has filed a lawsuit against anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office, seeking the same documents - communications between his office and the Mayors Against Illegal Guns - that the Second Amendment Foundation has sought since June.

SAF's request came after the New York Post and Politico reported in June that Bloomberg had sent a special counsel to Nevada, and that in an apparent attempt to conceal who he worked for, that staffer reportedly removed his City Hall e-mail address from the state of Nevada lobbying-registration Web site. Also, CBS News reported about that time that the MAIG website was being hosted on a city-owned server and administered by city employees.

Jill Farrell, Judicial Watch public affairs director, who said that to the best of her knowledge, her group's legal action is independent from anything SAF is doing.

OHIOANS FOR CONCEALED CARRY FILES SUIT AGAINST OBERLIN GUNS IN PARKS RULE

Ohioans for Concealed Carry filed a lawsuit against the city of Oberlin to nullify city ordinances they say still illegally restrict the rights of law-abiding firearms owners in parks. The lawsuit filed in the Lorain County Common Pleas Court is meant to address the city's failure to correct firearms legislation forbidding guns in city parks, which conflicts with state law.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SUED FOR MISUSE OF FIREARM PURCHASER FEE

A fee legally intended to do no more than fund the California Department of Justice's background checks of prospective firearm purchasers, is being used to fund general law enforcement projects, resulting in a lawsuit challenging the misuse of gun-related monies for other tasks. Several individual gun owners and the Calguns Shooting Sports Association filed the suit.

FEDERAL JUDGE SAYS FAST & FURIOUS LAWSUIT MAY PROCEED

Operation Fast and Furious, the federal gun-running scandal, is in the headlines after a federal judge ruled that a lawsuit against Eric Holder's Justice Department, filed by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, may proceed. Thus, President Obama can't assert executive privilege to keep records from Congress.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Newtown, Connecticut:** Hannah D'Avino, sister of slain Rachel D'Avino, a Sandy Hook school childrens' therapist, told reporters that in the immediate aftermath of her sister's death, she questioned her beliefs about firearms, initially blaming the gun instead of the sociopath who pulled the trigger. She now says, "It's not the gun that killed the kids. It's the mental illness that killed the kids." The womens' step-father, Peter Paradis, a lifelong responsible gun owner, accompanied the Sandy Hook group invited to the White House. "I have to say meeting the president was an honor. He's a very compassionate man, very genuine. I have to appreciate what he did," Paradis said. "What I don't appreciate is the politics. He used (the shooting) for his agenda. Our governor did the same thing. That's totally wrong."

● **Bellevue, Washington:** The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms concurs with Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble's suggestion that an armed citizenry is one way to meet the threat of terrorism like the attack on a Nairobi, Kenya shopping mall last month. Noble made this observation: "Ask yourself: If that was Denver, Col., if that was Texas, would those guys have been able to spend hours, days, shooting people randomly? You have to ask yourself, 'Is an armed citizenry more necessary now than it was in the past with an evolving threat of terrorism?'" CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb said, "Finally, someone gets it."

● **United Nations, New York:** One month after Secretary of State John Kerry signed the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty and just a few days after 50 U.S. senators said they will not ratify the agreement, a curious "high level panel" was held on Argentina's national program for the voluntary surrender of firearms in a U.N. conference room in New York. Dr. Julio Alak, minister of justice and human rights of Argentina, said that civilian disarmament "is a priority goal for the national state."

● **Montgomery, Alabama:** The Southern Poverty Law Center once described gun owners thus: "They are white, right-wing Americans, nearly all with an obsessive attachment to guns, who may represent a greater danger to the lives of American civilians than international terrorists." Last month, former Boston Celtics Hall of Famer Bill Russell was arrested for having a handgun in his carry-on luggage at Seattle's Sea-Tac International Airport. Russell is a black left-wing Obama supporter so attached to guns he was arrested trying to take his handgun on board a commercial jetliner and now faces a \$7,500 fine. Hmm...

● **New York City:** Mayor Michael Bloomberg's pro-gun-control super PAC dropped \$1.1 million on ads for Democrat Terry McAuliffe in the final two weeks of the Virginia governor's race. The billionaire New York City mayor's money was siphoned through Independence USA PAC into broadcast television commercials in the D.C. market, according to two sources tracking the air war. Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer also poured in millions. They're obviously expecting a return on their investment.

● **Brussels, Belgium:** Members of the European Union need to be wary of law enforcement challenges presented by the potential 3D printing of firearms, a commissioner said. Cecilia Malmstrom, home affairs commissioner for the European Union, said new technologies like 3D printing of weapons or munitions created an additional security obstacle to law enforcement officials.

● **Atlanta, Georgia:** CNN's airwaves sizzled when Piers Morgan confronted Second Amendment Foundation founder Alan Gottlieb with his rabid gun control agenda waving the bloody shirt of the Sandy Hook school shooting at Gottlieb and never changing the subject. Gottlieb told him bluntly, "That's probably why you don't have as many viewers as anybody else because people have turned you off."

● **Pasadena, Maryland:** Maryland residents bought guns in record numbers before a law took effect in October, with provisions aimed at keeping guns away from criminals and the mentally ill, and banning 45 types of semi-automatic rifles. "There's never been this kind of increase," said state police spokesman Greg Shipley, who added that about 1,000 people a day had applied for gun purchases before the deadline.

ARIZONA HOMEOWNER FINDS DRUG-ADDICTED INTRUDER AT HOME, SHOOTS

It was a wild weekend for a Phoenix homeowner. He returned home from work - as a security guard - to find an intruder in his home. Breathless and panicked, he told a 911 operator he just walked in on a burglar inside of his house and shot him. He said he saw lights on inside of his house and thought that was strange, so he grabbed a personal gun he keeps in his truck -- then walked inside. He told 911: "There was a side door open. There was a man there.. he said he was on drugs and he was walking at me.. anyway I need paramedics. I need the police department. I got my handgun out of my truck and.. I'm sorry.. I shot him."

Police found 22-year-old Aaron Fisher dead inside the house. The homeowner fired one shot, then ran to a neighbor's house to call for help. He says Fisher told him he's addicted to drugs before the shooting.

**GUNS
SAVE
LIVES**

SHELL GAS STATION FIRES CLERK FOR STOPPING ARMED ROBBER

A gas station clerk, Shannon Cothran, in Nashua, New Hampshire was working the late shift at the Shell gas station at 301 Main St. in Nashua when a man armed with a knife entered the store in an attempt to rob it. Refusing to be a victim, Cothran drew a Ruger LCP .380 handgun and pointed it at the would be robber, who promptly fled the store after realizing he brought a knife to a gun fight. Cothran credits his carrying and drawing the gun with possibly saving his life and certainly saving the store from a robbery. However, despite the overall positive outcome of the event, Cothran was notified just hours after the event that he was being terminated for violating the company's weapons policy which prohibits employees from carrying weapons at work.

OREGON MAN, 82, SHOOTS BURGLAR IN HOME

According to a TV report, the Marion County, Oregon sheriff's office says an 82-year-old man shot a man who broke into his Salem home. Sgt. Chris Baldrige said the shooting happened around 6:15 a.m. The intruder was injured and should survive, Baldrige said. Detectives said that John Rose, 82, and Mamie Rose, 83, were in their home when a man tried to break in. John Rose shot the man when he entered the home. The sheriff's office said investigators have been unable to identify the suspect, but he will face burglary and trespassing charges. He is currently in a Salem hospital. Baldrige said it appears the suspect was under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

ELDERLY SOUTH CAROLINA WOMAN GRAZES BAT-WIELDING INTRUDER

An elderly woman in Pendleton, South Carolina, found a man forcing his way into her home and attacking a younger woman with a baseball bat inside the home. Lt. Sheila Cole with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said the incident happened about 3 p.m. and the elderly homeowner then shot the man with a revolver, grazing his head. Cole said both the intruder and the younger woman were taken to AnMed Health. She said the suspect, identified as Richard Keese, 54, was being held at the county jail. He faces charges of attempted murder and burglary, according to the Anderson County Detention Center's website. The younger woman was treated for minor injuries at the hospital and released.

TEXAS ROBBER KILLED IN GUNFIGHT FINALLY IDENTIFIED

Beaumont, Texas police belatedly identified the suspected robber killed in a night shooting. Duayne Deandre-Devon Smith, 25, of Port Arthur, was killed when a business owner opened fire on three people accused of trying to rob a game room around 9 p.m. The store owner had a firearm inside the business and was able to grab it during the robbery, according to Beaumont police. The store owner wasn't hurt in the exchange of gun fire.

TEEN OPENS FIRE, KILLS HOME INTRUDER

The 18-year-old son of veteran Houston. Texas police officer Ken Patmon was home alone when he heard two men pounding on the front door, but they went around to the back of the house. "Not long after that, two unknown suspects entered our home without permission," the father told Sheriff's deputies. The men forced their way inside, meeting the teen head-on. "My son, trying to defend his home and himself, discharged my firearm, striking one of the suspects," Patmon said. The shot suspect died inside the home. The second suspect fled the scene.

Parting Shot

COLORADO GOVERNOR SUGGESTS GUN CONTROL GROUPS STAY AWAY

Gun rights advocates in Colorado are thinking "Two down, one to go" after successful recall initiatives that unseated two notoriously anti-gun Democratic state senators in September, Senate President John Morse and state Sen. Angela Giron.

Now the target is crude and rude anti-gun state Sen. Evie Hudak, a two-term Democrat from a suburban district north of Denver. She's noted for her snotty disdain for a rape victim who testified she would have been able to stop her rapist had she carried a gun on campus where she was assaulted. Hudak just sneered that the guy would have taken the gun from her anyway and probably used it against her.

If gun-rights activists collect enough signatures to force a recall vote, and Republicans succeed in gaining her seat, Democrats would lose their 18-17 edge in the state Senate. So it's odd for Democratic Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper to suggest that national gun-control groups stay away from the looming recall battle.

"Colorado is a state that people like to be themselves and solve their own problems," he explained to *USA Today*. "They don't really like outside organizations meddling in their affairs."

"It's probably not a bad idea" for gun-control groups, such as the one established by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, to curb their efforts, he said.

Bloomberg's group, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, contributed \$350,000 to the anti-recall campaign, but the efforts by groups from outside the state became an issue itself.

But there's more to it than just outsiders. Hickenlooper said, "We have this tradition of the Second Amendment and people's rights to self-defense and a certain suspicion that the government can't be trusted."

Again, that's an odd thing for someone who's part of the government to say, and Hickenlooper plans to run for reelection. But it's clear he was talking about Washington. The federal flood recovery efforts for Colorado's biggest flood in history have been pathetic or bossy at best and totally absent otherwise.

Gun rights advocates have more than usual reasons to harbor a "certain suspicion that the government can't be trusted." The same for the gun control mob.

National gun groups should take the governor's advice and just stay away.

Alan M. Gottlieb

Joseph D. Vukobratovic

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