

THE *BULLET*

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Why They Fought: The British Only Wanted “Sensible” Gun Laws too

Part XI

By Larry “Lorenzo” Swickard

“The men who established the American republic were acutely aware that they lived in a pivotal era in human history, and they eagerly rose to the occasion. They were all impelled by a love of liberty, but a large number were, in addition, driven by a desire for immortal fame---the grateful remembrance of a distant posterity. To put it simply, they wanted to remain alive and be cherished in your memory and mine. It may be that the Founders were as unlucky in their choice of posterity as they were lucky in their choice of time in which to live, for the American people are notoriously lacking in a knowledge of the past.”¹

Forrest McDonald

As I pen these words (for Millennials, a pen is a cylindrical tube fashioned from plastic filled with a chemical compound in a semi-solid state comprised of...oh never mind), young college-aged kids have exploded onto the streets, spontaneously of course, in reaction to Trump’s victory. Overwhelmed with hysteria, fear and loathing flying from their quivering lips like venomous spittle, and “*man-buns*” pulled in tighter knots, their rage is fueled over the terrifying prospect of having to pay their own college loans, for their own healthcare, and for pills-of-promiscuity (birth control) rather than continuing their swollen parasitical ride on the backs of hardworking taxpayers. Some shriek “*Trump is a fascist!*” others howl “*he’s a communist in league with the Russians*” (talk about Tourette’s syndrome), and some even say he’s the devil himself. If I were present at these outbursts of colossal petulant ignorance, before rocks and bottles began flying my way, I’d ask; on what Constitutional basis should their neighbors be forced to subsidize any aspect of their lives? Who’s the fascist now? Who’s the Bolshevik now? In today’s world, would this be a waste of time? Of course it would. The Left already got to them.

I’ve had similar exchanges with colleagues, liberal teachers, (I repeat myself) and at times was met with similar vitriolic streams of invective that Regan MacNeil (Linda Blair) in the *Exorcist* would have envied. This stems from the reality many young Americans are bereft of knowledge and understanding with respect to history, economics, and the nation’s founding political philosophy. Add to that Leftist public-school indoctrination and the result? Young people who equate notions of individual freedom and limited government with fascism and Nazism, their total opposites. Even as far back as 1987, Professor Allan Bloom noted; “Today’s select students know so much less, are so much more cut off from the tradition, are so much slacker intellectually, that they make their predecessors look like prodigies of culture” and “students now arrive at the university ignorant and cynical about their political heritage, lacking the wherewithal to be either inspired by it or seriously critical of it.”² If this was true in 1987, how much more true is it today? This deplorable state of affairs is not accidental. How many Americans today truly understand the significance of the War of Independence?

It must be kept in mind this war marked a period in history “when a people, essentially free by birth and by circumstances of their situation, became entitled, because justified by valor and endurance,” took “their place among independent nations.”³ America’s founders were completely aware of the importance of what they were doing to their posterity.

Rather than a conflict between two countries and two different peoples, the American Revolution was a conflict of ideas taking place on both sides of the Atlantic. Among Britons and Americans, there were those whose desire was for maintenance of the status quo, a monarchical system of rule joining government and church on the one hand and those who wanted to overthrow it in favor of popular democracy on the other. Forces supporting democracy in Britain, those opposed to the “*Restoration*,” (of British monarchy under William III), struggled to regain lost liberty whilst Americans of similar flavor fought to “preserve liberty.”⁴ Therefore, the American Revolution “was not a contest between opposing governments or nationalities, but between two different political and economic systems.”⁵

Americans, based on rights won by their English forebears, ethnically or philosophically, not only claimed these rights but that of self-rule as well. The right to keep and bear arms was won gradually and incrementally in Great Britain. From the Magna Carta (1215), Petition of Right (1628), and English Bill of Rights (1688) following the Glorious Revolution, this right was fought for an established as one belonging to the common man. Queen Mary II and King William III signed the English Bill of Rights guaranteeing the individual right to keep and bear arms.⁶ Taking over 400 years and at a price bought and paid for in blood, Americans were not about to surrender this right. Massachusetts Bay colony passed laws in 1645 requiring “all inhabitants” to have guns in their homes “fit for service” which meant well-maintained mechanically with a proper store of ammunition and powder to boot. So assiduously did Americans pursue this goal that, in 1767, William Gerard Hamilton, a member of the British Parliament, opposed new taxes on Americans. He warned about “a million people” lived in the colonies calculating “at least 200,000” had firearms and were not

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...dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to:

1. **Counter the designs of malicious legislators.**
2. **Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.**
3. **Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.**
4. **Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.**
5. **Network with other pro-gun groups to coordinate local, state and national strategies.**
6. **Train people in basic firearm safety and handgun defense.**
7. **Sponsor and support pro-gun legislation**
8. **Make politicians aware that gun owners are awakening from their accustomed apathy and**
WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER EROSION OF THEIR FREEDOMS

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CONTACT:

- Business correspondence - WMSA, P O Box 11144, Kansas City, MO 64119
- Editorial correspondence - E-mail to: Bob.WMSA@gmail.com
- WMSA Hotline/Fax - (877) 333-WMSA (9672)
- Web page - www.wmsa.net

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A COURT FOR GUNS

Representative Kevin Corlew, a Republican from Southern Platte County, has introduced a House Bill 152 to establish a "Gun Court" in Jackson, Clay, Platte and Cass Counties Missouri. The bill would require assignment of judges and staff to an "Armed Offender Docket" in single courtroom in each participating county. All cases involving guns would go to this docket.

Certain advantages are claimed for this docket. They claim it will promote consistency. By this they mean high bonds and heavy sentences and an extra fee just for the honor of being in "Gun Court." The vaunted "consistency" will last for as long as a judge is assigned; dockets rotate among the judges. Of course local rules and expectations will ensure that gun charges will be prosecuted to the point of persecution.

The Jackson County prosecutor moans that permitless carry forces her to dismiss a large number of carrying concealed weapons cases; cases she wanted to take to gun court. The excuse is that gun court would be like drug court. Drug court is designed to reform drug users. It takes first time offenders and gives them counseling to break their addiction. Gun court is designed to punish everyone and punish them severely and punish them without the formality of getting a conviction first. A mere accusation is enough. The neighbor from hell will have a stick to beat the adjoining homeowner. It is well known that anti-gun websites encourage people to call the police when they see a person with a gun under any circumstances. Some of the comments encourage people to exaggerate the situation, to lie, and claim that the gun owner is threatening people. This is enough to get an innocent party into gun court at a high bond facing severe sentencing. After time in jail on an unattainable bond and with his lawyer telling him the presumption of innocence does not exist in gun court and facing a severe sentence the innocent party will be tempted to



LIBERTY NOTES

By Kevin L. Jamison

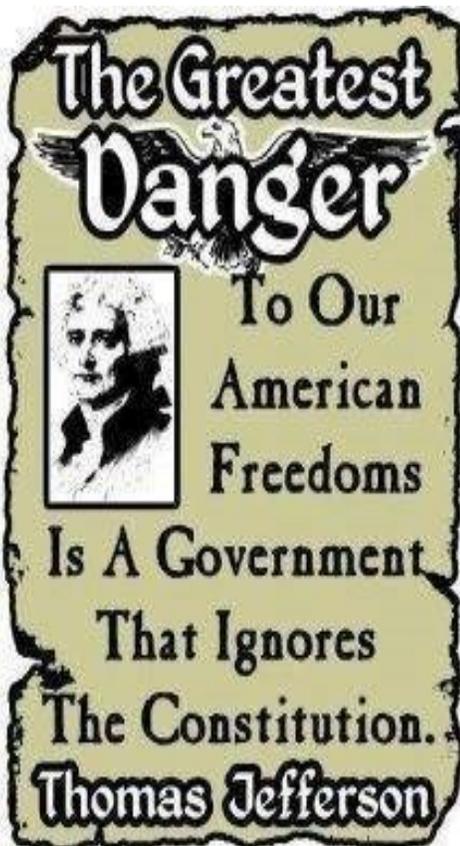
plead guilty simply to get a deal involving probation.

These specialized courts do away with the presumption of innocence in the pursuit of "efficiency." Destroying a person's life is not supposed to be "efficient." There is a long tradition of due process of law; it is even in the Constitution. The Constitution at Amendment 8, also guarantees that "Excessive bail shall not be required, . . ." By guaranteeing high bonds the advocates of gun court are saying that the Constitution does not live here anymore.

This is not a passing fad. Rep. Corlew has introduced this bill in several sessions of the legislature. We have seen gun courts in other parts of the country. At first the NRA supported the idea as part of its "Crimestrike" program. Then it saw that it was a mechanism to abuse gun owners and the support turned to opposition.

If this bill passes I will make more money. My grandchildren will lose the right of due process of law. The cost is just too high.

I thank-you for the honor of being your president.



It is a good day for Liberty.

Marc A. Stephens has sent out e-mail announcements that he has filed a Second Amendment case in the US Supreme Court. He had moved to New Jersey and found the licensing procedure to be arbitrary, capricious and incompatible with the history of the Second Amendment. This is not a new observation. Mr. Stephens has filed a petition with the Supreme Court, but it is a petition for Certiorari. This is a request for the court to consider the question presented after a full hearing. Mr. Stephens argues that the New Jersey licensing provision was racist in origin and thus contrary to the Constitution. Mr. Stephens seems to believe that this is the decisive point and that he is the first to notice it. This is not the case. Mr. Stephens has done a great deal of research but he is not a lawyer and it is rare for a "pro se" case to be accepted by the Court. There is always the possibility that other cases might be joined with this case.

Right now the Supreme Court is split 4-4 on the rights of gun owners. The Chief justice says that the Second Amendment does not recognize a right to keep a gun on the nightstand. To define a right in the negative, and a very negative definition, is a very bad sign.

A man in North Carolina has lost his license to carry. Mr. Brown saw two black men struggling with a white man. The white man begged for help saying that the other two were trying to kill him. Mr. Brown told his mother to call 911 and drew his gun ordering the participants to stop. One said that the white man was a client and to leave the situation alone. Mr. Brown fired a warning shot in order to get everyone's attention. That amped up the adrenaline of responding officers and Mr. Brown was arrested for misdemeanor assault and firing a gun in the city limits. The two black men were social workers trying to control a mentally handicapped resident of their group home. The article I read spoke of "racially charged" testimony from Mr. Brown; this is always bad. A warning shot is almost always a bad idea; even stupid. Up to that point Mr. Brown had acted under a reasonable assessment of the events. However at the point he drew a gun no one was being beaten. The supposed "victim" was outnumbered and claimed that he was being killed but the gun owner must take all elements into account. TV shows consistently portray African-American muggers attacking white victims. This had doubtless penetrated Mr. Brown's subconscious. The police were on the way and, in the absence of bloodshed, waiting for them to take charge would (obviously) be the better course of action. When encountering a struggle of this sort remaining aloof and calling the police is the wiser course. Intervene only when there is an immediate danger of kidnap, rape or human breakage endangering life or limb. Firing the gun is only justified in extreme circumstances.

Carl Smart, vice president of WMSA, has had an article published in the Kansas City Star. The article argues that the presence of a gun does not make your neighbor dangerous. It is encouraging that the Star asked WMSA for an article on this subject. It is encouraging that it was printed. Keep sending letters to newspapers and calls to radio shows. Mention your membership. Every little bit helps.

We have stopped the Social Security Administration rule making procedure to make 75,000 people prohibited gun possessors without individual hearings. We are in the process of repealing the VA practice of making veterans prohibited possessors without a hearing. We are in the process of making firearms suppressors legal at the federal level and to make a license to carry nationwide. We are making progress very quickly. Quick progress frightens some people but that cannot be helped. The usual suspects make the usual predictions of blood in the streets. We may take heart in the memory that they have made this prediction every time we have reformed the law and they have always been wrong. There will be an election in a year and a half. We may lose some or many of our friends in congress. We

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have to recover as many of our rights as possible while it is still possible.

Remington Arms has settled a class action lawsuit over the safety on its M 700, Seven, Sportsman 78, 673, 710, 715, 770, 600, 660, XP-100, 721, 722, and 725 rifles. It is alleged that the gun can fire unbidden due to the current trigger mechanism. Remington denies this and asserts that examples of accidents were due to lack of maintenance or kitchen table gunsmithing. I do not know the facts of the case. Remington is upgrading the trigger mechanism for free. Contact Remington for details.

The usual suspects claim that rape on college campuses went up after Utah legalized campus carry. What they fail to mention is that rapes at private colleges, which continue to ban carry, went up dramatically. Rapists went to colleges where they would not be shot.

As Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote:

*And the parson made it his text that week, and he
said likewise,*

*That a lie which is half a truth is ever the black-
est of lies,*

*That a lie which is all a lie may be met and
fought with outright,*

*But a lie which is part a truth is a harder matter
to fight.*

In St. Louis a twelve-year old boy was left alone in the house and shot himself to death while playing with a gun. His parents (in the biological sense) have been charged with involuntary manslaughter. The usual suspects claim this as another reason to restrict, ban or complicate the ownership of guns. There were drugs of various kinds all over the house which would seem to be relevant, at least to me. Charges of this sort are becoming more and more common in Missouri.

I've listened to audiobooks of "The Outpost" and "Red Platoon." They concern the same outpost in Afghanistan, the later the account of the Sergeant who earned the Medal of Honor defending the post. It would appear (in my cynical opinion) that higher headquarters wanted to re-enact the Battle of Dien Bien Phu and this was the ideal location. It was far out on a logistical tether, could only be supplied by air, was surrounded by mountains and the enemy could observe and shoot everything that they did. The enemy launched a massive effort to seize the outpost. The attack failed. Ironically the order had already been given to abandon the outpost. After beating off the attack and losing good men everyone got onto helicopters and flew away. This left the enemy with bragging rights to forcing them out. Sometimes I wonder. Other times I swear.

This country has many symbols; the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, Elvis. I believe that the Liberty Bell is the perfect symbol. Around the base of the bell is says "Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land." It has a crack. Like all liberties there is a flaw. It is the nature of our country that the usual suspects focus on the flaw and ignore the liberty.

We need people to step up and fill positions on the Board of Directors. Some of these positions require a trivial investment of time. Some do not. Think of it as an investment in your Grandchildren's rights.

We shall overcome.

Obama CDC Study: Silencers Best Option for Noise Reduction at Gun Ranges

With the introduction of the Hearing Protection Act, Congress is closer than ever to removing silencers from the purview of the National Firearms Act and ensuring that every American gun owner can easily make their firearm much quieter. Suppressed firearms are not only more enjoyable to shoot, but, according to a report by the Obama administration CDC's report on noise and lead at outdoor firing ranges, they're the only effective way to reduce the harmful noise levels.

According to the report, the level of noise on the range tested was very concerning. It was so high that their instruments actually couldn't accurately record the levels.

Noise monitoring results indicated that all participants' TWA noise exposures exceeded the NIOSH REL, some exceeded the OSHA AL, but none exceeded the OSHA PEL. However, noise dosimeter microphones and electronic circuitry do not adequately capture peak noise levels above the maximum range of the instrument, therefore, personal TWA noise measurements from gunfire noise using dosimeters should be interpreted cautiously. These measurements can underrepresent noise exposure and hearing loss risk from gunfire noise. Sound level meter measurements revealed that peak noise levels during gunfire were greater than 160 dB.

The CDC looked at a number of different solutions to reduce the exposure to the hazardous noise levels in shooting ranges and arrived at the same solution as every other logical gun owner: silencers.

The only potentially effective noise control method to reduce students' or instructors' noise exposure from gunfire is through the use of noise suppressors that can be attached to the end of the gun barrel. However, some states do not permit civilians to use suppressors on firearms.

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KEVIN L. JAMISON
Attorney at Law



2614 NE 56th Terrace
GLADSTONE, MO 64119
KLJamisonLaw.com
KLJamisonLaw@earthlink.net

OFFICE: 816-455-2669
RES: 816-453-2376
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April 15, 2017

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FOUGHT (Continued from page 1)

restrained by any law regulating their possession. These weapons were in private hands as there was no standing military.

In spite of extensive scholarly research decisively ending debate over the meaning of "militia," liberals continue to argue its meaning in the public forum as if an unsettled question. In general they contend the militia of 1775 is equivalent to today's "National" (sic) Guard. Some equate the 18th century meaning of "militia" with modern U.S. Army and or military reserve units. Therefore *Confiscationists* argue because possession of firearms is contingent on membership in a Guard, Army, or Reserve Unit, the same was true for militias in 1775. This is certainly not true. The reason Liberals make this dishonest and spurious claim is obvious; a significant number of Americans are either unfamiliar with or don't own firearms and can be fooled. In addition the meaning of "militia," as well as the pervasiveness of firearms ownership in colonial America, is typically not taught in public schools. If discussed at all, private firearms ownership is typically painted as an anachronistic necessity driven by threat of Indian raids. Because such threats are long gone, the need to possess firearms for other than hunting and sporting purposes is also gone. So goes the argument. But Americans who fought the War of Independence and drafted the Constitution of 1787 were not vague with respect to the need to keep and bear arms, in defining a militia, and why this was important: "A general militia, composed of all citizens capable of bearing arms was seen as superior to a select militia consisting of a selective group, which bordered on a standing army, the bane liberty."⁷

Americans drafting constitutions and a bill of rights for states during the war viewed standing armies as an enemy of liberty. Throughout history standing armies had been employed by kings, queens, emperors, and even democratically elected popular assemblies, against the people. The only counterweight to lethal force in the hands of a centralized ruling authority was a general populace also armed. In colonial America, if you could carry and shoot a gun, you were the militia. The U.S. Army, Reserve military units, and the "National" (sic) *Guard* do not qualify because they are a "select group" chosen, organized, equipped, and controlled by governing bodies be they governors or presidents.

On 6 September 1774, political leaders in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, published the Suffolk County Resolutions complaining, in part, about Governor Bernard's confiscation of privately owned gun powder.⁸ Today, in like fashion, when attempts by *Confiscationists* to ban specific firearms fail, they turn to limits and registration of ammunition sales. In California, they do both.

Paul Revere took copies of the Suffolk Resolutions to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia meeting for the first time on 5 September, 1774. General Gage addressed the Resolutions denying any "private property had been touched." However he exempted from his definition of "private," powder in storehouses not yet sold to citizens. *Confiscationists* play the same semantic game today excluding AR15's AK's and their derivatives from their definition of guns when denying they want to take them away. Due to its volatile nature, powder was typically stored in large buildings at the edge of or outside of town. Gage ordered "Storekeeper(s) not to deliver out any Powder from the Magazine, where the Merchants deposit it, which I judged a very Necessary and prudent Measure in the present Circumstances, as well as removing the Ammunition from the Provincial Arsenal at Cambridge" [Capitalization in the original].⁹ This would be equivalent to the U.S. government seizing all ammunition in manufacturing plants, warehouses, and on store shelves. Next, weapons and munitions in armories belonging to the states would be seized. A pretext might be "civil unrest" (riots and looting) largescale political protests (riots and looting), and economic upheaval (riots and looting). In fact, that is exactly what Gage argued; the violence of the mob necessitated his seizing the powder and arms before they fell into their hands.

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If former president Barak Obama (affectionately called Barak *Lobotoma* in some circles but I prefer to exercise proper decorum) had controlled enough levers of power, he would have pursued the following approach; 1) increase mental and physical health disqualifiers for purchasing firearms, 2) integrate health records with the instant background check system, 3) implement a background check system serving as a de facto registration program listing firearms purchased and owned by Americans, 4) ban firearms classified as assault rifles, assault-style weapons, and military style weapons, 5) magazine capacity limits for all semiautomatic firearms, 6) ban specific semiautomatic shotguns and handguns, 7) limit the number of firearms citizens may purchase and possess, 8) limit amount of ammunition legal to purchase and or possess, 9) Ammunition can be sold only for the caliber of firearm one owns, 10) ever tightening of the list of approved firearms legal to own. For such a system to work, self-surrender of banned firearms and or confiscations would necessary. No gun? Go to prison. Ask the Australians and Britons.

Colonial British authorities, working within the constraints of their technology, attempted to eliminate private firearms ownership by first limiting access to powder and ammunition and then, seizing every privately owned arm they could get their hands on.

Dr. Joseph Warren, "the [Boston] patriot doctor who carried pistols when making his rounds," led a committee from Suffolk County to meet with General Gage to discuss grievances contained within the Resolutions. Dr. Warren explained that fear among the populace their arms would be seized was fueled by Gage's "withholding the powder lodged in the Boston magazine as well as abuse meted out by British soldiers patrolling city streets accosting law-abiding citizens.¹⁰ Rather than assuage the fears of Bostonians, Gage asked why they went about armed. He rejected the notion fear among citizens was engendered by his actions, the same Britain had always employed in conquered territories and colonies. Instead he interpreted acquiring and bearing arms by citizens as an act of rebellion. At this or a subsequent meeting, Dr. Warren asked Gage why the British were building fortifications and had made "recent purchase of a large quantity of military stores from a private vendor" if their intentions posed no threat. Gage replied "the country people were all armed, and collecting cannon and military stores from all quarters, which, as they were not soldiers by profession, or under the least apprehension of any invasion, could indicate nothing but their intention of attacking his Majesty's forces in that town..."¹¹ Parallels between Gage's rhetorical questions and denials made by modern *Confiscationists* are too obvious to deny, to wit; they ask why Americans "need" to own "military style" firearms, "high-capacity" magazines, or want to carry firearms? Why do they stock up on firearms and ammunition when they, *Confiscationists*, have no intention of taking away anyone's guns? And then, like the British who painted worries of confiscation as the work of rabble-rousing propagandists and

liars, modern day liberals paint concerns about gun bans and confiscations as that of "radical fringe"; right-wing kooks whose brains are conspiracy addled, something to be laughed at because it could never happen here and no one plans to do so anyway.¹² Right.

Contrary to what Gage told the Boston Committee of Correspondence, cannons possessed by private citizens were indeed confiscated on his order. This was even after the Mandamus Council, men appointed by the King to replace Massachusetts' suspended colonial legislature and government, had ruled bans on firearms and confiscations illegal. Nevertheless, Gage seized firearms and powder without lawful authority. Who in North America had the power to overrule him?¹³

General Gage contended confiscations and bans were needed to deny their access to rebels and violent protestors thus, he was protecting the people. But Americans recognized the British were making themselves "more formidable" and this would render "the people less able to oppose them." The search for firearms was "constant" with no regard for private property rights whatsoever. If the British found anyone importing, selling, or transporting arms, privately owned or not, they were confiscated. There was no such authority for these actions in the colonies. British actions amounted to military occupation and subjugation of English subjects not at war with or rebellion against the Crown. The rights of Americans were essentially abolished by military fiat. This course of action had the effect of convincing Americans the British were going to do to them what they had done to the Scottish and Irish. Rather than fear and submission, Americans resolved to resist. "The country people were not only honing up their sharpshooter skills, they were organizing their militias from the bottom up rather than the top down." Gage was aware that people in other colonies had begun to arm themselves fearing Britain would do to them what it was doing to Massachusetts. How did the British occupiers respond to Americans in other colonies acquiring arms and powder, just in case? "The Redcoats instituted a general policy of searching places for arms and seizing them which only induced the populace to arm themselves further."¹⁴

Britain had a long history suppressing private ownership of arms through bans, confiscations, arrests, and executions, in any part of its empire resisting English rule as well its tax policies. When Americans voiced concerns the same process was in the offing for them, British officials accused them of engaging in baseless conspiracy stories and propaganda to whip up opposition to British economic policies. British officials, including General Gage, denied any intent, let alone plan to seize the privately owned arms of Americans, and then went about doing the very same. Gage argued cannon were "military" weapons, and powder and ammunition were seized for safe keeping. Americans faced a conundrum: if, rejecting British denials with respect to confiscations, they continued acquiring arms, the heat would be turned up on them with more British military occupations and suspension of colonial assemblies leading to loss of self-rule. But, if they trusted the British, giving up

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firearms and ammunition, and their trust was betrayed, they would no longer be capable of resistance. Once you turn them in, you can't get them back.

The history of Britain's tactic of disarming those who they planned to or had subjugated, especially in Ireland and Scotland, was the lesson guiding the decision by patriots and colonies not to acquiesce to British demands to surrender arms and ammunition. Unlike other parts of the empire, Americans were more united and determined to resist British tyranny and conquest and possessed the wherewithal to do so. The same forces are at work in America today to disarm Americans in recognition the armed freeman, then as now, remains the only bulwark and guarantee of liberty against government infringement which is the nature of those who would rule.

¹ Gary L. Gregg II and Matthew Spalding, editors, *Patriot Sage: George Washington And The American Political Tradition* (Wilmington, Delaware, ISI Books, 1999), 23; From Professor Forrest McDonald's "Todays, Indispensable Man."

² Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind: How Higher Education Has Failed Democracy And Impoverished the Soul of Today's Students* (New York, N.Y., Simon and Schuster, 1987), 51, 56.

³ Justin Winsor, editor, *The American Revolution: A Narrative, Critical and Bibliographical History* (New York, N.Y., Land's End Press, Son's of Liberty Publications, 1972), 1: Essay by Mellen Chamberlain.

⁴ *IBID.* 1-2.

⁵ *IBID.* 2.

⁶ Richard J. Hardy, *Government In America* (Boston, Massachusetts, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992), 31-33.

⁷ Stephen P. Halbrook, *The Founder's Second Amendment: Origins of the Right to Bear Arms* (Chicago, Illinois, Ivan R Dee, Publisher, 2008), 11-12.

⁸ *IBID.* 43.

⁹ *IBID.* 43.

¹⁰ *IBID.* 43-44.

¹¹ *IBID.* 44.

¹² Rightwing Watch at <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/organizations/gun-owners-of-america/> This organization writes in reference to Gun Owners of America specifically and gun owners in general: GOA is currently under the leadership of [Erich Pratt](#), but it was led for decades by his father, [Larry Pratt](#), now the Virginia-based group's executive director emeritus. Under Larry Pratt's leadership, GOA became a bridge between conservative lawmakers and the radical anti-government militia movement, linking guns to issues such as Christian nationalism and opposition to immigration reform. Much like the NRA, GOA promotes bizarre conspiracy theories and racial rhetoric in order to stir up panic about crime waves and imminent government seizures of firearms.

¹³ *IBID.* 30, 44.

¹⁴ *IBID.* 44-46.

Published in KC Star:

Gun laws are changing and as more people are carrying concealed weapons the hysteria is out of control. So let's take a deep breath and think. Are you afraid of the people you meet and work with every day? Are they killers or gangsters? No, they are not. They are every day decent people that may be carrying a gun. If you aren't afraid of them now why would you fear them when they may have a gun that you can't see? While the criminals that should be feared are already carrying guns. Concealed carry has been around for years so we know what is going on. The data shows that concealed carry license holders have crime rates so low it is hard to measure.

We have heard wild predictions of murder and mayhem for years. Fears of Wild West shoot outs in the streets with bullets flying from untrained gun owners are rampant. These claims miss the whole point of concealed gun carry. Concealed gun carry does not result in more shootings it prevents them! Studies have shown for decades that criminals avoid armed victims. It is like wolves picking sheep out of a flock. If they don't know if they will pick a sheep or a ram maybe it is a good day to hunt rabbits.

In the absolute worst case, that being a mass shooting, studies have shown that most of the victims are killed in the first few minutes of the attack. Also, most attacks occur in posted gun free zones. Every few seconds a victim is killed so it is critical that the shooter be challenged as soon as possible. By the time the police arrive most of the shooting is over. That is why it is critical to have armed people on site who can react in time. This is literally life or death. Armed guards are nice but often they are the first target. It is the same as with the wolves and sheep. Only the high likelihood of a concealed weapon can generate sufficient doubt to prevent the shooting or stop it once it starts.

We must stop the mixed messages our children receive about guns. On one hand we ban information about guns and teach irrational fear. While the mass media and video games project a world drenched in guns. Where characters die cleanly and a quick reset puts you back in the game. In a world where statistically half the homes have a firearm sooner or later our children are going to encounter a gun. We teach our children to look both ways before crossing the street so why don't we teach them how to be safe around guns? And just don't touch and be afraid just isn't good enough. We must teach real gun safety.

There is real evil in the world and people are beginning to sense that it is growing. It is sad but our society is going to have to become a harder target. We must be armed and capable of defending ourselves. The only way we are going to get through this is the only way we have ever gotten through hard times. We have to stick together. It can be scary but it is time to realize that sooner or later we just have to trust each other.

Carl Smart
Vice-President
Western Missouri Shooters Alliance

**Missouri Concealed Carry
and Self-Defense Law version 2.5
Updated information at a new low price
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How The 4th Circuit Court Of Appeals Is Trying To Kill The Second Amendment

It has been seven long years since the Supreme Court last heard a case dealing with the Second Amendment. And with confirmation hearings for Judge Neil Gorsuch set to begin later this month, there's renewed hope that the nation's high court will once again weigh in on one or more of the many cases having to do with our right to keep and bear arms.

There's no doubt that in the years since the court last spoke in the *McDonald v. Chicago* case, striking down Chicago's ban on handguns, lower courts have twisted the Second Amendment beyond all recognition in their zeal to uphold as many gun control laws as possible. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, in particular, has managed to nearly write the Second Amendment out of existence in a series of decisions issued over the past few years.

Most recently, in the *Kolbe* case, the 4th Circuit ruled that not only does Maryland's ban on guns it deems to be "assault weapons" withstand constitutional scrutiny, the arms in question are not even protected under the Second Amendment! Ten judges on the court ruled that these semi-automatic firearms are "like" the guns used by our military in combat theaters, and since the *Heller* decision said that "weapons that are most useful in military service—M16 rifles and the like" could be banned, these commonly owned firearms fall outside of the scope of the Second Amendment.

In the *Woollard* case, decided by the 4th Circuit in 2012, Maryland's restrictive policies for issuing concealed-carry licenses were upheld in a divided vote. Despite the fact that residents cannot obtain a concealed-carry license for the purposes of self-defense, and no provision allowing the open carrying of firearms exists in Maryland, the court held that since the state has a "substantial government interest" in reducing gun-related violence, the restrictions on the Second Amendment rights are permissible.

More recently, the 4th Circuit leveled another assault on the right to bear arms in handing down its decision in the case *Robinson v. United States*. Early in 2017, the court ruled that carrying a firearm, even legally, creates a presumption that the gun carrier is "armed and dangerous." In fact, the court went out of its way to say that to be armed is to be dangerous, and by exercising your Second Amendment rights, you lose some of your Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. In a concurring opinion, Judge James Wynn wrote that anybody and everybody who legally carries a gun is "categorically dangerous." Adding injury to insult, the judge went on to say that those individuals exercising their right to bear arms "sacrifice certain constitutional protections afforded to individuals who elect not to carry firearms," and therefore open themselves up to police searches simply because of their lawful carry.

To point out the errors in these decisions would take a book, not a column, though each of these decisions did come with dissenting opinions that are worth reading. Still, despite the rebukes in each of

these cases, the fact is these decisions carry the force of law from Maryland down to South Carolina. For tens of millions of Americans, the right to keep and bear arms doesn't encompass the right to own the most popular rifle in the United States, or to bear arms for self-defense outside of the home, or even to have a conversation with a police officer without being frisked and disarmed. Imagine similar restrictions on the exercise of the First Amendment: Your freedom of the press doesn't extend to modern communications like social media or email, you don't have the right to your freedom of speech outside of the home, and that carrying a sign at a political rally or protest gives the police the authority to frisk you because you're considered "dangerous." Decisions like those would gut the rights protected by First Amendment, just as the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals has gutted the rights protected by the Second Amendment. Hopefully the Supreme Court will step in soon and reaffirm what it has already told these lower courts: The Second Amendment is a real right, a fundamental right, and it must be respected and protected.

New Hampshire: Governor Sununu Signs Constitutional/Permitless Carry Bill Into Law!

Today, in a private signing ceremony, Governor Chris Sununu signed Senate Bill 12 into law. Similar legislation had been vetoed by former Governor Maggie Hassan for two years in a row, but thanks to your active involvement, law-abiding gun owners will now be able to carry their firearms without a required permit in the state of New Hampshire! This law goes into effect immediately.

Sponsored by Senator Jeb Bradley (R-3), SB 12 will repeal the license requirement to carry a concealed pistol or revolver, unless a person is otherwise prohibited. For those who choose to obtain licenses, SB 12 will also increase the length of time in which a license is valid from four years to five years.

In New Hampshire, existing state law recognizes the right of any citizen who can legally own and possess a firearm to carry it openly, either loaded or unloaded, anywhere in the state not prohibited by law. However, if a firearm becomes covered by a coat or if a woman prefers to carry a firearm for protection in her purse, he or she would need a concealed carry handgun license. The new law will extend permitless open carry to permitless concealed carry, allowing law-abiding gun owners to protect themselves and their loved ones in the manner that best suits their needs.

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Attend this years **Gun Rights Rally Day**

In the Capitol Building in Jefferson City
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
From 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Gun Safety = Gun Rights

Celebrating 13 year of Missouri Concealed Carry
Tell our legislators that our rights are important
Make plans to be there and bring your family and friends

For all other information call:
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Or Email at bob.wmsa@gmail.com

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MPS (Missourians for Public Safety)
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WMSA (Western Missouri Shooters Alliance)
MSSA (Missouri Sport Shooting Association)
And other Pro-Freedom Groups

www.missouricarry.com

www.missourisportshooting.org

www.gclastl.org

www.wmsa.net

www.mccw.org



We're having a raffle!

It's time for another fundraiser

This year we're raffling off an Extar EXP 5.56 Nato Pistol

We've limited the number of raffle tickets to only 500. Second, unlike some previous raffles, we will not mail tickets to members to sell. Tickets will be available at all General meetings and at events where WMSA has a table. Ticket stubs will be sent to you by return mail. Third, in addition to building our treasury for the coming year, this year's raffle is aimed towards gaining more WMSA members.

The tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$25 or 7 for \$50 dollars. Only 500 are being printed. If you buy one ticket, you have one chance in five hundred of winning. If you buy two tickets, your chances rise to two chances in five hundred. As an added incentive, bring in a new member at a General Membership Meeting and get a free raffle ticket. Any current member who brings in a new WMSA member gets a free raffle ticket for each new member added to our rolls.

Bring your prospective new member to a General membership meeting and when the new member completes the membership application and pays their dues, you are handed a ticket, no charge! The drawing for the pistol will be at the July 2017 Missouri Valley Arms Collector Show at KCI Expo Center.

Go recruit new members, get a free ticket for every member and exhaust our limited number of tickets.

Tickets can also be obtained via mail by sending a check to the WMSA, P.O. Box 11144, Kansas City, MO 64119.

If you win, what will you get? You get more than just the pistol. The pistol itself is a flat-top M4 clone.



Extar EXP 5.56 Nato Gen 2 AR Pistol
2 extra magazines
Soft case

Here's your chance for an AR Pistol. Come to our next General meeting and buy your tickets!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WESTERN MISSOURI SHOOTERS ALLIANCE

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to;

- 1) Counter the designs of malicious legislators.
- 2) Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.
- 3) Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.
- 4) Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.
- 5) Network with other pro-gun groups to coordinate local, state and national strategies.
- 6) Train people in basic firearm safety and handgun defense.
- 7) Sponsor and support pro-gun legislation.
- 8) Make politicians aware that gun owners are awakening from their accustomed apathy and
WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER EROSION OF THEIR FREEDOMS!

Date: ____/____/____

Name: _____

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City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Occupation: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Cell Phone: (____) ____ - _____

E-Mail _____

NRA member? ____ Registered Voter? ____

Check membership type:

____ Annual
\$25 (voting rights)

____ Senior
\$15 (65+)

____ Associate
\$10 (spouse, no newsletter)

____ Sponsor
\$100 (4 business card
ads per year.)

____ Sponsor
\$250 (12 business card
ads per year.)

<p>Mail to: Western Missouri Shooters Alliance P.O. Box 11144 Kansas City, MO 64119</p> <p>Hotline (877) 333-WMSA www.wmsa.net County: _____</p>

Dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment



Western Missouri Shooters Alliance
P O Box 11144
Kansas City, MO 64119

*...dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to
 keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment*

REMINDER *Next General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM
 Meeting located at Bass Pro Conservation Room, Independence, MO*

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Will Kraus—R -Dist 8
 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 320
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-1464

S. Kiki Curls—D -Dist 9
 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 434
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-3158

John Rizzo—D—Dist 11
 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 425
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-3074

Dan Hegeman—R -Dist 12
 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 332
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-1415

Ryan Silvey—R - Dist 17
 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 331A
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-5282

Denny Hoskins—R—Dist 21
 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 431
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-4302

Ed Emery—R—Dist 31
 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 420
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-2108

Rob SchAAF—R—Dist 34
 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 423
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-2183

Missouri House

Jim Neely—R—Dist 8
 201 West Capitol Ave Rm. 110A
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-0246

Delus Johnson—R—Dist. 9
 201 West Capitol Ave Rm. 302-1
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 (573) 751-3666

Pat Conway—D—Dist 10
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 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
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 (573) 751-3643

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Nick Marshall—R— Dist 13
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Kevin Corlew—R. Dist 14
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Jon Carpenter— D - Dist 15
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Noell J Shull - R. Dist 16
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Mark Ellebracht - R Dist 17
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 (573) 751-1218

Lauren Arthur - D Dist 18
 201 West Capitol Ave Rm. 101 D
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 201 West Capitol Ave Rm. 116-3
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Jeanie Lauer— R Dist 32
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 (573) 751-1487

Donna Pfautsch - R Dist 33
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Nathan Beard— R - Dist 52
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Gun Owners of America
www.gunowners.org
 703-321-8585

Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership
www.JPFO.org
 262- 673-9745

The National Rifle Association
www.nra.org
 800-672-3888

The Second Amendment Foundation
www.saf.org
 425- 454-7012

Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance
<http://www.gclastl.org/>
 866 385-GUNS (4867)

Missouri Sport Shooting Association
www.missourisportshooting.org/

Western Missouri Shooters Alliance
www.wmsa.net

Missouri Carry
 Online Forum
www.missouricarry.com

Arming Women Against Rape and Endangerment
www.aware.org
 877-672-9273

Women Against Gun Control
www.wage.com
 801-328-9660

NewsMax.com
www.newsmax.com

The Washington Times
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The London Telegraph
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The Drudge Report
www.drudgereport.com