

THE Gun Owners

28 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2003

As gun owners' rights advance in 2003

GOA Helping to Roll Back Gun Control

by Erich Pratt

What a year this has been for gun owners.

We won significant victories around the country and have witnessed much of the gun grabbing community in full retreat. Right now, another huge victory is within our grasp.

The federal ban on scores of semi-automatic firearms is set to expire within a few months -- a ban that was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1994 amidst tremendous media fanfare.

If this gun ban sunsets as scheduled next September, it will mark the biggest legislative victory that gun owners have experienced in the past two decades.

The political environment looks very good.

Gun control advocates are retreating. Gun control laws are being repealed. And none of this would have been possible without the support of active citizens such as the members of Gun Owners of America.

GOA's aggressiveness has caught the attention of political onlookers inside of Washington, DC.

"If it were not for Larry Pratt and Gun Owners of America, I shudder to think where our gun rights would be today," said Pat Buchanan, the MSNBC co-host of *Buchanan & Press*, one of the most fast-paced talk shows on TV.

"It is Gun Owners' members, showering the Congress with faxes, post-cards and telegrams who ensure that your Representative does not forget the promises made during the election season."



GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt appeared on ABC *World News Tonight* earlier this year to deliver gun owners' concerns with the far-reaching Patriot Act.

Holding legislators accountable

Ironically, much of the success that gun owners are experiencing today began in the midst of a crushing defeat in 1994.

Gun Owners of America and its members fought hard against the Clinton-Feinstein gun ban that year.

Members should remember the repeated mailings that GOA sent out . . . the daily faxes giving the latest intelligence from Washington . . . and, in some cases, even personal phone calls requesting action.

GOA staff were on the Hill daily lobbying members of Congress against the proposed ban.

In fact, a mini-firestorm erupted after GOA lobbyists hand-delivered a flyer to every House office stating "We will remember in November" -- a subtle reminder that gun owners would not forget how each member of Congress voted on the ban.

"We will remember in November"

Many House offices did not appreciate that message. Some openly laughed at the suggestion that a vote for the semi-auto ban could cost them their seat.

Those Congressmen are no longer in Washington.

To be sure, the vote was close, and gun owners lost by the razor-thin margin of a single vote in the House.

Some gun owners grew very discouraged, feeling that no amount of activism would make a difference in the halls of Congress.

But what those gun owners didn't realize is that the fight over the semi-auto ban enraged so many Americans,

it resulted in a mini-revolution across the country.

Gun Owners of America did remember who our friends and enemies were.

GOA published the names of anti-gun congressmen in their own districts, and we did our very best to hold each and every "traitor" accountable, no matter who they were.

For example, GOA was the ONLY

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- GOA is on the front lines defending your rights (pages 4 and 5)

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national gun lobby to actively oppose Rep. Jack Brooks, the powerful chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

GOA ran editorials in his district against him. We phone called his constituents. We supported his opponent against him.

Gun owners take politicians to the woodshed

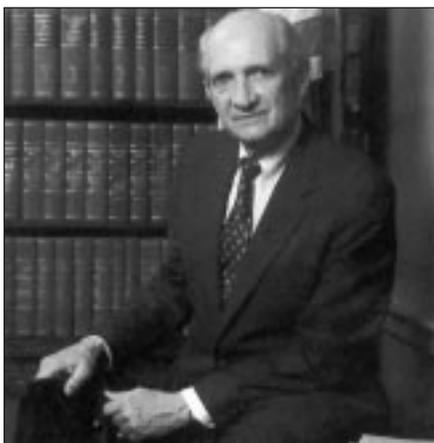
The result? Jack Brooks, and 60 other Congressmen like him, were unseated in November of 1994.

There were even more congressmen who lost their seats in that election. But *Campaigns & Elections* magazine number-crunched the data in the following months and reported that 60-plus congressmen lost their seats *because of the gun issue*.

President Bill Clinton admitted as much. On ABC's *Good Morning America*, he told Charlie Gibson that the Republican-controlled Congress "came to power after the 1994 elections because in critical races the people who voted for more modest things [sic], like the Brady Bill [and semi-auto ban] got beat."

Even while President Clinton admitted this fact, many Democrats refused to believe that gun control was a political liability . . . until the presidential race of 2000 and the defeat of Al Gore.

Gore's extremism on the gun issue



Gun Owners of America helped defeat Rep. Jack Brooks (above) in 1992 after he helped pass a crime bill that contained a ban on semi-automatic firearms. The defeat of Brooks, and dozens more like him, has helped convince legislators that gun control does not sell at the polls.



"Even though it does not attract headlines as the NRA does, Gun Owners of America is regarded as a key player [on Capitol Hill]." -- *The Hill* newspaper, October 29, 2003

caused him to lose three pro-Democratic and pro-gun states (Tennessee, West Virginia and Arkansas). It was only then that the lesson finally sunk in for many top-level Democrats.

Now, the mainstream media and the Democratic leadership are largely in agreement with Clinton's early assessment.

The Washington Post reported in October that "the gun issue contributed to Gore's defeat" in 2000 and could "backfire on the party again next year" if Democrats do not quickly lose their anti-gun image.

For this reason, Democratic presidential candidates are "distancing themselves from tough gun control," the article said, "reversing a decade of rhetoric and advocacy by the Democratic Party in favor of federal regulation of firearms."

With Democrats in large part fleeing the field of battle, pro-gun forces have been able to achieve significant victories this year.

Good News for Gun Owners Around the Country

Land of the Midnight Sun

Perhaps the most significant victory this year occurred in Alaska, where the state enacted a statute allowing its citizens to carry concealed firearms -- without first getting permits.

Gun Owners of America mobilized its members on two occasions during the bill's journey toward becoming law -- a law which is modeled somewhat after Vermont's.

No fees. No waiting periods. No invasive background checks. No requirement to be screened or fingerprinted like common sex offenders. Citizens can now carry freely in most places in Alaska without first getting a state-issued permit.

And then there were five

While Alaska's new law was by far the best new law of the year, several other states joined the concealed carry club.

Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri and New Mexico all adopted such laws this

year, bringing the total number of states that allow concealed carry to 45.

Most of these states can be classified as *shall issue* states, where citizens must be issued a permit after passing a background check. Vermont and Alaska are *free carry* states, where citizens can carry firearms concealed without first getting permits.

The battle to bring concealed carry to Missouri was quite dramatic, as the House and Senate overrode Governor

Bob Holden's veto of the carry bill by a razor-thin margin. It marked only the eighth time in Missouri's history that a governor's veto has been overridden.

The entrance of these four "shall issue" states into the world of concealed carry means there are now only five states that still deny their citizens the right to carry concealed firearms.

Saving our children

Earlier this year, GOA mobilized its

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Getty pictures

After GOA warned Representatives of the negative impact an education bill could have on gun owners' rights, several congressmen pulled their names from the legislation. The chief sponsor of the bill, Rep. Roger Wicker (above), later told *The Hill* newspaper that he was "shocked by the influence that Gun Owners of America has had on his bill" because it had faced such little opposition in the Senate.

What They're Saying About GOA

On GOA's no-compromise approach:

"Gun Owners of America is considered the most aggressive pro-gun lobbying organization."

-- **Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper covering Congress and politics**

On keeping legislators accountable:

"Gun Owners of America prefers a more high-pressure approach, putting the fire to the feet of lawmakers to make sure they know that a vote against gun rights will cost them their next election."

-- **Las Vegas Review-Journal, assistant editorial page editor Vin Suprynowicz**



Texas Rep. Ron Paul (right)

On GOA's killing the anti-gun education bill:

"The fact that the broadly supported bill has been put on hold shows the effect that one influential lobbying group can have on legislation."

-- **The Hill newspaper, October 29, 2003**

On lobbying Capitol Hill:

"Gun Owners of America is the only no compromise gun lobby in Washington."

I am grateful to have the friendship of the man who makes GOA the leader in defending America's precious freedoms."

-- **Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX)**

GOA Helping to Roll Back Gun Control

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e-mail activists to a dangerous education bill (H.R. 1078) that was on a "fast track" to George Bush's desk.

This bill would set up so-called Presidential Academies to train educators in history and civics, with no safeguards that the education would steer clear of the existing anti-gun propaganda that is already prevalent in the public schools.

We are pleased to report that because of GOA members' activism, six cosponsors of H.R. 1078 have removed their names from the bill.

These defections are incredibly significant and should not be underestimated. Congressmen rarely remove their names from a bill. The fact that not just one -- but six -- would jump off the bill is evidence of the immense grassroots pressure from GOA activists.

Because of the overwhelming opposition to the bill -- and the resulting hemorrhage that has ensued -- progress on the bill has slowed down.

Supporters wanted the President to sign the bill sometime in September. The bill seemed to be sailing along, even garnering a unanimous approval in the Senate.

But opposition from GOA members has put Representatives on notice that there are serious problems with the bill. The bill has stalled for now.

Please stay tuned for further updates on this legislation.

What next year will bring

What lies in store for 2004?

More gun battles, to be sure. The fight to sunset the semi-auto ban will be THE biggest battle of the year.

Gun Owners of America needs its members to stand with us in the trenches -- e-mailing, faxing and sending postcards to their legislators in opposition to the semi-auto ban.

GOA has already put the White House on notice that "We Will Remember in November." We will not tolerate any support for the unconstitutional ban, and we will need your help in getting that message through.

GOA will also continue fighting for real concealed carry in the states.



"A [CO Rep. Tom] Tancredo aide said the concerns raised by Gun Owners of America played a major role in the lawmaker's decision to withdraw his name as a co-sponsor" of an anti-gun education bill. -- The Hill, October 29, 2003

States like Ohio and Maryland are battlegrounds where the Brady Bunch is trying to deny people their constitutional rights.

And Gun Owners will continue fighting to win recognition/reciprocity at the federal level so Americans can carry firearms concealed outside of their home states.

GOA also wants to see the Citizen's Self-Defense Act passed, to protect the right of citizens to use a gun in self-defense. Your activism has already encouraged more than 40

Representatives to cosponsor the bill.

Finally, next year's elections will be very important. So you can count on Gun Owners of America to provide you with a Congressional scorecard before the election so that you can hold your legislators accountable.

Ultimately, our freedoms can only be lost if good citizens go to sleep and do nothing.

We hope you will continue to fight the good fight, and stand with us in 2004.■

GOA on the Front Lines



Captain Tracy Price (left) presented GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt with an honorary award in January. Price, who is Chairman of the Airline Pilot's Security Alliance, bestowed the award upon Pratt as a thank you for all the work that GOA and its members performed last year helping pass legislation to arm pilots.



Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (above), and five other cosponsors, pulled their names from an education bill after GOA alerted them to the dangers the bill posed for American gun rights. At one time, the bill was on a fast track to the President's desk, but e-mails and faxes from GOA activists have helped stall the bill for now. According to *The Hill* newspaper, the sense in Washington is that before the legislation is voted on in the House, it must be "amended to address the Gun Owners of America's concerns."



GOA lobbyist John Velleco (left) meets with congressional staff in October to discuss firearms-related issues.



After GOA alerted its e-mail activists in mid-April, thousands of gun owners contacted the President to protest his support for the Clinton-Feinstein gun ban. In the first 24 hours alone, Gun Owners generated more than 10,000 contacts to the White House, prompting Senior White House official Carl Rove to admit that he's received a "tremendous amount of e-mail" on this issue.



GOA's Director of Communication Erich Pratt appeared on CNN in May to debate the semi-auto ban with a representative of the Brady Campaign, the group formerly known as Hand-gun Control, Inc.

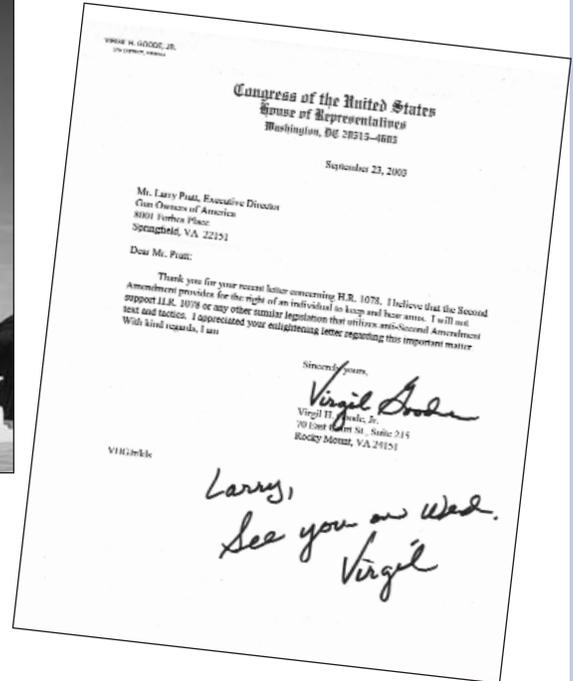
Defending Your Rights!



The Alaska state capitol in Juneau. GOA mobilized grassroots activists in the state as legislators were debating a bill to let citizens carry firearms without a permit. The legislation passed by overwhelming margins in both houses, and was signed into law in June.



Gun Owners of America, along with a group of other plaintiffs, has gone to the Supreme Court to challenge the constitutionality of election laws that squelch GOA's ability to use radio or television to hold legislators accountable for their voting record. During oral arguments before the Court in September, several of the Justices revealed they were familiar with GOA's written brief as they used GOA's arguments to poke holes in the government's case.



Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA) expressed his thanks to GOA for enlightening him to the dangers of the anti-gun education bill.



GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt (right) met with several Representatives this fall to brief them on gun control legislation in the Congress.



GOA's Larry Pratt meets with pro-gun Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ).

County Treasurer Stirs Rights Debate

by Larry Pratt

Should the Jefferson County (CO) Treasurer be handing out information that tells jurors they can vote their conscience? There are those who do not think so.

Former Colorado State Representative Mark Paschall, now the Treasurer of Jefferson County (suburban Denver), had made *The Citizens Rule Book* available at his own expense during a county celebration of its namesake, Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson did not have a high opinion of the judiciary, to wit:

You seem to think that the Supreme Court is the ultimate arbiter of constitutional interpretation, a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one that would place us under the tyranny of an oligarchy.... the Constitution has erected no such single tribunal.

The Citizens Rule Book has such seditious documents as The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitu-

tion. It contains other similar information such as this quote from John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court: "The jury has a right to determine both the law and the facts."

But to hear Paschall's critics, his booklet is an attack on our system of government. Bruce DeBoskey of the Anti-Defamation League is alarmed that Paschall is making the book available: "He is using his official position to add legitimacy to an extremist philosophy that undermines our government."

Apparently for critics such as DeBoskey, American government requires the people to do whatever they are told by a judge, no matter how outrageous and unconstitutional the judge's position might be.

The government schools have spent billions to indoctrinate Americans to do only what some government leader tells them to do.

Then, here comes Country Treasurer Paschall with his book of American

constitutional law and quotes from the country's founders saying we should think for ourselves. The shame of it!

"Shameful" is exactly the word applied to Paschall by an editorial in *The Denver Post*. The paper's editorial asked: "[It is doubtful that] this man -- who has been handing out free booklets on jury nullification, a corrosive abrogation of the rule of law and the fundamental concepts of American freedom -- really represents the 'party of Lincoln.'"

One way to alleviate the *Post's* concern for the party of Lincoln is to remind them that it was juries voting their consciences who nullified the application of the Fugitive Slave Act in many, many cases in the 1850s. This information should relieve the *Post's* concern -- unless they believe that those juries were also exercising a "corrosive abrogation of the rule of the law and the fundamental concepts of American freedom."

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Innocents Betrayed

What happens when self-defense is against the law?

In just 58 minutes, *Innocents Betrayed* opens eyes, shatters myths, changes minds ... and can save lives. A must-see, must-share film. Including footage supplied by GOA, it's the factual counterpoint to Michael Moore's infamous "Bowling for Columbine."

Use this film to answer the spouse, friend, relative or politician who wonders why private firearm ownership is so vital. To add future voters to the pro-gun cause, show this film to every high school and college student you know. People can't dodge the hard facts and searing photos.

This fast-moving, made-for-TV documentary shows how victim disarmament policies led to:

- Genocide in Russia, China, Germany, Cambodia, Uganda, Rwanda and more -- up to 170,000,000 lives destroyed.
- Persecution, mass murder, slavery, and terrorist attacks in the United States.

After seeing this film, GOA's Executive Director, Larry Pratt, wrote to the filmmakers:

"Great job! We at GOA will do all we can to help get this into as many hands as possible. You forcefully depict the foundation of gun control that permitted genocide around the world. You also took away the American ostrich argument that 'It can't happen here.' It already has, as *Innocents Betrayed* demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt."



BONUS -- with every order of *Innocents Betrayed*: Three Freedom booklets—regularly \$3.00 each—included **free!**

- "Gun Control" Kills Kids
- Will "Gun Control" Make You Safer?
- Do Gun Prohibitionists Have A Mental Problem?

Free Jump Start shipping until January 1
Order *Innocents Betrayed* Single Copy
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Innocents Betrayed DVD \$29.95 JumpStart

Order *Innocents Betrayed* Single Copy Plus Book
Death by "Gun Control"
Innocents Betrayed VHS plus Book \$41.90 JumpStart
Innocents Betrayed DVD plus Book \$41.90 JumpStart

Go to <http://www.gunowners.org/jpfoib.htm> or send your check and order info to:

JPFO, Inc., Dept GOA, P.O. Box 270143, Hartford, WI 53027
Operation Jump Start package pricing is available only for orders received before December 15, 2003. Specify DVD or VHS tape with your order.

HIT THE RIGHT TARGET! Give to Gun Owners Foundation

In many federal offices there are subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) pressures to give to the Combined Federal Campaign. Your boss may think his prestige depends upon getting everyone to kick in. The same thing happens in all too many corporations during the United Way fundraising drive.

You may have wanted to give but couldn't find a group that wasn't attacking your rights, let alone defending them, on the list of participating organizations. But that has all changed!

Federal employees now are able to designate **Gun Owners Foundation (GOF)** as the recipient of their gifts to the Combined Federal Campaign. Use **Agency Number 1054** for **Gun Owners Foundation** when you make your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or donation. Your gifts will go toward helping our legal assistance program protect the Second Amendment rights of Americans across the nation.

Also, if you work for a company that participates in the United Way, you too, may be able to designate that your gift be to **Gun Owners Foundation**. Many local United Way Campaigns allow **Gun Owners Foundation** to participate through their Donor Choice Programs. Some, however, do not. Check with your local United Way Agency. You will not only be helping people and protecting your rights, but you will also get a tax deduction.

Of course, anyone can always make a tax-deductible donation at any time to **Gun Owners Foundation** by sending the contribution directly to 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151.

One additional note. If you are employed by a corporation or organization which has a Matching Gift Program, please keep **GOF** in mind when making your donation. Thank you very much.



What Makes You Think We Read the Bills?

GOA's Founder and Chairman, California Sen. H. L. Richardson, wrote this book while serving in the senate in Sacramento.

It has been said that "A problem well defined is a problem half solved." That is what Richardson set out to do in this revised edition of his earlier book by the same title.

But solving the second half is the tough part. Richardson has pioneered the way to the solution, whether while serving in office or following his voluntary retirement in 1988. That is why he established Gun Owners of America in 1975 and has guided it to its present 300,000 member size and its role as an effective player in Washington.

In his forward to the revised edition, Richardson says: "The only way your local and state and national governments are going to represent you is if you and your like-minded associates tithe some of your time and/or money to keep an eye on legislators and, in the immortal words of one of America's greatest founders, John Adams, 'hit them on their snouts with a board' if they threaten to act against the public's rights and interests."

What Makes You Think We Read the Bills? is available from Gun Owners Foundation for \$10 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling. Checks can be sent to GOF at 8001 Forbes Place, Springfield, VA 22151. Credit card orders may be placed by calling 703-321-8585. Purchases may be made directly from the GOF bookstore online at <http://gunowners.com/bookst.htm>.



Score Another Success for Grassroots Lobbying

by Larry Pratt

The Hill is a Capitol Hill newspaper covering Congress and politics. A recent article was devoted to what seemed to *The Hill* as a surprising story: Gun Owners of America has stalled an education bill in the House after it passed

the Senate 90-0.

The bill, H.R. 1078, would throw \$25,000,000 dollars at the left-wing history establishment to run Presidential Academies called for in the bill. The Academies would train teachers how to teach the new history and civics standards mandated by the federal government.

When GOA learned that the standards -- as one discovers in the taxpayer subsidized textbook, *We the People* -- makes short shrift of the Second Amendment and individual freedom in general, the fight was on. The GOA e-mail list was notified of the bill, and the members of the House of Representatives immediately began to hear from their constituents.

To quote from *The Hill*: "The fact that the broadly supported bill has been put on hold shows the effect that one influential lobbying group can have on legislation.

"Before the group's lobbying effort, the bill was sailing through Congress. It has attracted more than 200 co-sponsors in the House and is supported by President Bush.

"But over the past few months, six House lawmakers have formally pulled their support of Wicker's bill, and it is not expected to reach the House floor this year."

The Hill's article went on to say that,

Even though it does not attract headlines as the NRA does, Gun Owners of America is regarded as a key player...A Trancredo [Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO)] said the concerns raised by Gun Owners of America played a major role in the lawmaker's decision to withdraw his name as a co-sponsor.

In an interview with the bill's sponsor, Roger Wicker (R-MS), it was clear that Wicker expected the same smooth sailing for his bill in the House that the companion bill in the Senate experienced. "Wicker said he is shocked by the influence that Gun Owners of America has had on his bill."

The article concluded on this note: "Some have speculated that before it is voted on in the House, the Wicker bill will be amended to address the Gun Owners of America's concerns."

Gun Owners of America's concerns will be addressed best by letting this legislation acquire the label "Rest in Peace." ■

County Treasurer Stirs Rights Debate

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Bernhard Goetz was the victim of two muggings in New York City prior to an event that catapulted him into fame without fortune. Before his third encounter with New York's worst, Goetz got his hands illegally on a handgun. When four punks subsequently threatened to open him up with their screwdrivers, Goetz shot all four of them.

Acquitted from charges stemming from the shooting, Goetz was put in jail because the jury convicted him for possession of an unlicensed firearm.

Imagine what would have happened had just one of the three tearful Goetz jurors known about their jury rights.

The three were literally in tears as they confessed to Goetz' attorney that they did not want to convict, but the judge said that they had to apply the law as he stated it.

The judge had said that if Goetz had an illegal gun, the

jury had to find him guilty and send him to jail.

Had the Goetz jury been fully informed of their rights, Goetz would never have set foot in a jail. Justice would have been done, even if the judge did not like it.

One of the Jefferson County supervisors has told Paschall that the supervisors are having the county attorney look into whether it is appropriate for Paschall to hand out *The Citizens Rule Book*. If the county attorney finds that it is not, Paschall will be told to stop handing out the book.

Paschall has no plans to stop educating voters and citizens about their rights. He believes that the county board of supervisors has no authority to compel him regarding the distribution of the *Rule Book*. Doubtless, the founders of the American Republic would have agreed. ■

The Citizens Rule Book is available for one dollar plus shipping from Gun Owners Foundation at <http://www.gunowners.com/books1043.htm>. Quantity discounts are available by calling 703-321-8585.

THE Gun Owners

Sen. H.L. Richardson (Ret.)
Founder and Chairman

Larry Pratt
Executive Director

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102
Springfield, Virginia 22151

Erich Pratt
Director of Communications

John Velleco
Director of Federal Affairs

703-321-8585
Web Site:
<http://www.gunowners.org>

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