

THE Gun Owners

33 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2008

Whatever happened to gun control?

by John Velleco

Remember when politicians were not ashamed of supporting gun control?

Many elected officials once proudly advocated banning certain handguns because they were “too small” and certain semi-automatic rifles because they were “too large.” Groups calling for total gun bans were taken seriously, and waiting periods on gun purchases were in vogue.

Those days, in the words of country music recording act Montgomery Gentry, are “Gone like a freight-train, gone like yesterday.”

The incessant clamoring for gun control slowly died down to the point that sitting office holders, and those seeking elected office from all political parties, are reluctant to discuss what gun control they support. Instead, anti-gun politicians highlight how strongly they support the Second Amendment.

The gun issue even played an unlikely role in this year’s Democrat presidential primary. As absurd as it may be, Hillary Clinton attacked Sen. Barack Obama for being a gun grabber, to which Obama responded that Clinton was no Annie Oakley.

This stands in stark contrast to the 2000 presidential contest, when Al Gore and Bill Bradley argued over who could contrive the more extreme gun control agenda. Nearly all experts agree that support for gun control contributed to Al Gore losing his home state of Tennessee and traditional Democrat strongholds like West Virginia in the general election.

It did not take long to sink in that gun control is a losing issue. This year, with 35 Senate seats and all 435 House seats on the ballot, most congressmen tread lightly on the gun issue. Many who have supported gun control for years have recently cast pro-gun votes

in an effort to hold on to their seats.

In many ways this is good news for gun owners. Politicians have changed their voting behavior, disingenuous though that may be, because of the influence of pro-gun voters.

The silver lining still clings to its dark cloud, however, as gun grabbers have not gone away — they have just become more elusive.

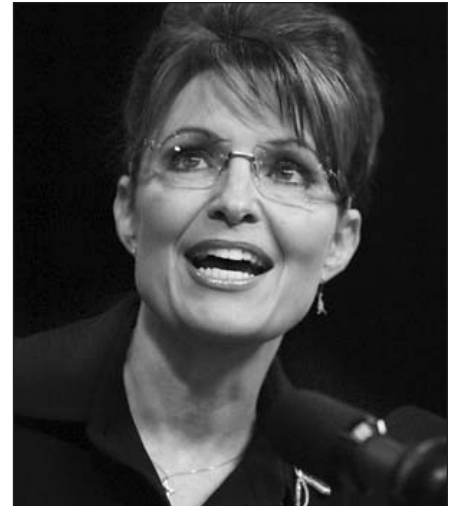
The latest vote in the U.S. House of Representatives to repeal the District of Columbia’s gun ban is a case in point. Forty-seven congressmen who voted in favor of the bill are rated “F” by Gun Owners of America. Included in this number are three Democrats who are running statewide for open U.S. Senate seats (Tom Udall in New Mexico, Mark Udall in Colorado and Tom Allen in Maine). Four congressmen who voted pro-gun also cosponsored a bill to ban so-called assault weapons.

On the campaign trail, almost no candidates for Congress admit to being against gun rights, making the task of compiling the Gun Owners of America congressional candidate rating both more difficult, and more important.

GOA determines grades for candidates first based on any past voting record. Then, all candidates receive a detailed questionnaire. But what about those with no record and who were not open enough to return a questionnaire that would reveal their true colors?

In past elections such candidates could be assigned grades by simply going to a campaign website. Learning what a candidate thought about issues like banning “assault weapons” and waiting periods for handgun purchases was lurking behind a button labeled “gun control.”

Not any more. For one thing, it’s virtually impossible to find a link that says “gun control” on any campaign website.



Most Americans were surprised when Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin was chosen by Sen. John McCain to be his running mate. GOA has previously documented McCain’s stand on the issues in recent editions of this newsletter. But where does Palin stand on the Second Amendment? (See Larry Pratt’s article on p. 8.)

If a candidate mentions gun rights at all (and most don’t) it is usually in the context of “protecting Second Amendment rights.”

A reader will find comments such as this one, referring to the recent Supreme Court decision striking down the gun ban in the nation’s capital:

I agree with the Supreme Court’s interpretation last week that an absolute prohibition against gun ownership violates the Second Amendment right for citizens to bear arms.

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**Special
Candidate
Rating Issue!**

2008 Candidate Rating Scorecard

Candidates who have established a voting record, either in the office for which they are running or in another elected office, are evaluated primarily on the basis of that voting record. However, sponsorship of pro or anti-gun legislation and other such factors can affect their grade.

If an incumbent or challenger has not established a voting record or demonstrated his or her position in some other way, that candidate is evaluated on the basis of his or her responses to the GOA 2008 Federal Candidate Questionnaire.

Every candidate, whether an incumbent or challenger, begins with an "A" and is then downgraded on the basis of each anti-gun position admitted to on the questionnaire or for each anti-gun vote.

A+: Pro-Gun Leader. Carries pro-gun bills, works with pro-gun groups and organizes against anti-gun legislation, speaks out for Second Amendment rights.

A & A-: Pro-Gun Voter. Philosophical sound. Always with pro-gun leadership but takes no leadership role.

B & B-: Pro-Gun compromiser. Generally leans our way but occasionally supports a particular anti-gun proposal.

C & C-: Leans Our Way occasionally. No philosophical commitment. Must be constantly pressured by the pro-gun movement or, if left alone, will vote against us.

D & D-: Leans Anti-Gun. Normally with the anti-gun movement, but strong pressure can sometimes move them into a non-vote (abstention) or an occasional

pro-gun vote, if they believe voting against us could cause their defeat.

F: Anti-Gun Voter. A philosophically committed anti-gunner. Does not carry anti-gun bills but can always be counted on to vote against us.

F-: Anti-Gun Leader. Outspoken anti-gun advocate who carries or cosponsors anti-gun legislation, plots and plans with anti-gun organizations to take away our Second Amendment rights.

NR: The candidate refused to answer his or her questionnaire.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to space limitations, only Republicans and Democrats are listed. Grades of third party candidates are posted on the GOA website: www.gunowners.org/votetb08.htm

United States House of Representatives

ALABAMA

01 BONNER (R) A-
Fuller (D) NR
02 Love (R) A
Bright (D) NR
03 ROGERS (R) A
Segall (D) NR
04 ADERHOLT (R) A
Sparks (D) NR
05 Parker (R) A
Griffith (D) NR
06 BACHUS (R) A-
07 DAVIS (D) D-

ALASKA

01 YOUNG (R) B
Berkowitz (D) C

ARIZONA

01 Hay (R) A
Kirkpatrick (D) NR
02 Thrasher (D) C
FRANKS (R) A
03 SHADEGG (R) A-
Lord (D) NR
04 PASTOR (D) F-
Karg (R) B
05 MITCHELL (D) C
Schweikert (R) A
06 FLAKE (R) A-
Schneider (D) F
07 GRIJALVA (D) F-
Sweeney (R) F
08 GIFFORDS (D) D-
Bee (R) A-

ARKANSAS

01 BERRY (D) C
02 SNYDER (D) F
03 BOOZMAN (R) A+
04 ROSS (D) B-

CALIFORNIA

01 THOMPSON (D) D
Starkewolf (R) C
02 HERGER (R) A
Morris (D) NR
03 Durston (D) F
LUNGREN (R) B
04 BROWN (D) NR
McClintock (R) A
05 MATSUI (D) F
Smith (R) NR
06 WOOLSEY (D) F-
Halliwell (R) D
07 MILLER, GEORGE (D) F
Petersen (R) B
08 PELOSI (D) F-
Walsh (R) B
09 Hargrave (R) A
LEE (D) F-
10 TAUSCHER (D) F-
Gerber (R) F
11 MCNERNEY (D) F
Andal (R) A
12 SPEIER (D) F
Conlon (R) NR
13 STARK (D) F
Chui (R) B-
14 ESHOO (D) F-
Santana (R) C-
15 HONDA (D) F-
Cordi (R) C
16 LOFGREN (D) F-
Winston (R) B-
17 FARR (D) F-
Taylor (R) NR
18 CARDOZA (D) D
19 RADANOVICH (R) A-
20 COSTA (D) D-
Lopez (R) A
21 NUNES (R) A-
Johnson (D) NR
22 MCCARTHY (R) A-
23 CAPPAS (D) F-

23 Kokkonen (R) A
24 GALLEGLEY (R) A-
Jorgensen (D) F
25 MCKEON (R) A-
Conaway (D) NR
26 DREIER (R) A-
Warner (D) NR
27 SHERMAN (D) F-
Singh (R) F
28 BERMAN (D) F-
29 SCHIFF (D) F-
Hahn (R) NR
30 WAXMAN (D) F-
31 BECERRA (D) F
32 SOLIS (D) F-
33 WATSON (D) F-
Crowley (R) F
34 ROYBAL-ALLARD (D) F
Balding (R) B
35 WATERS (D) F
Hayes (R) NR
36 Gibson (R) NR
HARMAN (D) F-
37 RICHARDSON (D) F
38 NAPOLITANO (D) F
39 SANCHEZ (D) F
Lenning (R) C
40 ROYCE (R) A-
Avalos (D) NR
41 LEWIS (R) A-
Prince (D) NR
42 MILLER, GARY (R) A-
Chau (D) NR
43 BACA (D) D
Roberts (R) C-
44 CALVERT (R) A
Hedrick (D) F
45 BONO MACK (R) C
Bornstein (D) NR
46 ROHRBACHER (R) A-
Cook (D) NR
47 SANCHEZ (D) F
Avila (R) A-



GOA's Erich Pratt (left) met with the "A+" rated congressman from Louisiana, Rep. Steve Scalise (R). GOA's Political Victory Fund worked hard to get Scalise elected in a special election earlier this year. In Baton Rouge, Scalise led the way in passing pro-gun legislation to outlaw and prevent the gun confiscation that occurred in New Orleans from ever happening again.

48 Young (D) NR
CAMPBELL (R) A-
49 Hamilton (D) NR
ISSA (R) A-
50 Leibham (D) F
BILBRAY (R) A
51 FILNER (D) F-
Joy (R) F
52 Hunter (R) A
Lumpkin (D) NR
53 DAVIS (D) F
Crimmins (R) B
COLORADO
01 DEGETTE (D) F-
Lilly (R) A-
02 Starin (R) C-
Polis (D) NR
03 SALAZAR (D) D
Wolf (R) B-
04 MUSGRAVE (R) A

Markey (D) NR
05 LAMBORN (R) A
Bidlack (D) NR
06 Coffman (R) B
Eng (D) NR
07 PERLMUTTER (D) F
Lerew (R) F
CONNECTICUT
01 LARSON (D) F
Visconti (R) F
02 COURTNEY (D) F
Sullivan (R) NR
03 DELAURO (D) F
Itshaky (R) NR
04 SHAYS (R) F
Himes (D) NR
05 MURPHY (D) F
Cappiello (R) C

Continued on page 3

Incumbents are listed in ALL CAPS.

Ratings

Continued from page 2

DELAWARE

- 01 Hartley-Nagle (D) NR
- CASTLE (R) F

FLORIDA

- 01 MILLER (R) A
- Bryan (D) F
- 02 BOYD (D) C
- Mulligan (R) A
- 03 BROWN (D) F
- 04 CRENSHAW (R) A-
- McGovern (D) NR
- 05 Russell (D) NR
- BROWN-WAITE (R) A
- 06 STEARNS (R) A-
- Cunha (D) NR
- 07 MICA (R) B-
- Armitage (D) D
- 08 KELLER (R) A
- Grayson (D) NR
- 09 BILIRAKIS (R) A-
- Mitchell (D) NR
- 10 YOUNG (R) B
- Hackworth (D) NR
- 11 CASTOR (D) F
- Adams (R) A
- 12 PUTNAM (R) A-
- Tudor (D) NR
- 13 Jennings (D) NR
- BUCHANAN (R) A
- 14 Neeld (D) NR
- MACK (R) A-
- Blythe (D) D
- Posey (R) A
- 16 MAHONEY (D) C
- Rooney (R) A
- 17 MEEK (D) F-
- 18 ROS-LEHTINEN (R) A-
- Taddeo (D) NR
- 19 WEXLER (D) F-
- Lynch (R) NR
- 20 WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D) F-
- 21 DIAZ-BALART (R) A-
- Martinez (D) NR
- 22 KLEIN (D) F
- West (R) A
- 23 HASTINGS (D) F-
- Thorpe (R) NR
- 24 FEENEY (R) A
- Kosmas (D) F
- 25 DIAZ-BALART (R) A-
- Garcia (D) NR

GEORGIA

- 01 KINGSTON (R) A
- Gillespie (D) NR
- 02 BISHOP (D) F
- Ferrell (R) B
- 03 WESTMORELAND (R) A
- Camp (D) NR
- 04 JOHNSON (D) F-
- 05 LEWIS (D) F
- 06 PRICE (R) A-
- Jones (R) NR
- 07 LINDER (R) A
- Heckman (D) NR
- 08 MARSHALL (D) B
- Goddard (R) NR
- 09 DEAL (R) A
- Scott (D) F
- 10 BROUN (R) A+
- Saxon (D) NR
- 11 GINGREY (R) A+
- Gammon (D) NR
- 12 BARROW (D) C
- Stone (R) A
- 13 SCOTT (D) F
- Honeycutt (R) A

HAWAII

- 01 ABERCROMBIE (D) F-
- Tataii (R) A
- 02 HIRONO (D) F-
- Evans (R) A

IDAHO

- 01 SALI (R) A+
- Minnick (D) NR
- 02 SIMPSON (R) A
- Holmes (D) D

ILLINOIS

- 01 RUSH (D) F
- Members (R) F
- 02 JACKSON (D) F
- Williams (R) F
- 03 LIPINSKI (D) F
- Hawkins (R) NR
- 04 GUTIERREZ (D) F
- Cunningham (R) NR
- 05 EMANUEL (D) F-
- Hanson (R) D
- 06 ROSKAM (R) B
- Morgenthaler (D) F
- 07 DAVIS (D) F
- Miller (R) NR
- 08 BEAN (D) F
- Greenberg (R) NR
- 09 SCHAKOWSKY (D) F-
- Younan (R) B
- 10 Seals (D) NR
- KIRK (R) F
- 11 Halvorson (D) A
- Ozinga (R) A
- 12 COSTELLO (D) C
- Richardson (R) F
- 13 BIGGERT (R) A-
- Harper (D) NR
- 14 FOSTER (D) B
- Oberweis (R) A
- 15 JOHNSON (R) A
- Cox (D) F
- 16 MANZULLO (R) A
- Abboud (D) NR
- 17 HARE (D) F
- 18 Schock (R) A
- Callahan (D) NR
- 19 SHIMKUS (R) A-
- Davis (D) NR

INDIANA

- 01 VISCLOSKY (D) F
- Leyva (R) A
- 02 DONNELLY (D) B
- Puckett (R) A
- 03 SOUDER (R) A+
- Montagano (D) NR
- 04 BUYER (R) A
- Ackerson (D) NR
- 05 BURTON (R) A
- Ruley (D) NR
- 06 Welsh (D) NR
- PENCE (R) A-
- 07 CARSON (D) F
- Campo (R) NR
- 08 ELLSWORTH (D) B
- Goode (R) A
- 09 HILL (D) B
- Sodrel (R) A

IOWA

- 01 BRALEY (D) F
- Hartsuch (R) NR
- 02 LOEBSACK (D) F
- Miller-Meeks (R) F
- 03 BOSWELL (D) C
- Schmetz (R) B
- 04 LATHAM (R) A-
- Greenwald (D) NR
- 05 KING (R) A
- Hubler (D) NR

KANSAS

- 01 MORAN (R) A-
- Bordonaro (D) D
- 02 BOYDA (D) B-
- Jenkins (R) C
- 03 MOORE (D) F
- Jordan (R) A
- 04 TIAHRT (R) A-
- Betts (D) D

KENTUCKY

- 01 WHITFIELD (R) A
- Ryan (D) NR
- 02 Guthrie (R) A
- Boswell (D) A
- 03 Northup (R) A-
- YARMUTH (D) F
- 04 DAVIS (R) A
- Kelley (D) NR
- 05 ROGERS (R) B
- 06 CHANDLER (D) D
- Larson (R) NR

LOUISIANA

- 01 SCALISE (R) A+
- 02 JEFFERSON (D) F
- 03 MELANCON (D) C
- 04 OPEN
- 05 ALEXANDER (R) A
- 06 CAZAYOUX (D) A-
- 07 BOUSTANY (R) A

MAINE

- 01 Pingree (D) F
- Summers (R) NR
- 02 MICHAUD (D) C
- Frary (R) NR

MARYLAND

- 01 Harris (R) A
- Kratovil (D) NR
- 02 RUPPERSBERGER (D) F
- Matthews (R) A
- 03 SARBANES (D) F
- Harris (R) NR
- 04 EDWARDS (D) F
- James (R) A
- 05 HOYER (D) F
- Bailey (R) A
- 06 BARTLETT (R) A+
- Dougherty (D) C-
- 07 CUMMINGS (D) F
- Hargadon (R) B
- 08 VAN HOLLEN (D) F-
- Hudson (R) B-

MASSACHUSETTS

- 01 OLVER (D) F-
- Bech (R) D-
- 02 NEAL (D) F
- 03 MCGOVERN (D) F-
- 04 FRANK (D) F-
- Sholley (R) NR
- 05 TSONGAS (D) F-
- 06 TIERNEY (D) F-
- Baker (R) D-
- 07 MARKEY (D) F-
- Cunningham (R) NR
- 08 CAPUANO (D) F
- 09 LYNCH (D) F
- 10 DELAHUNT (D) F-

MICHIGAN

- 01 STUPAK (D) B-
- Casperson (R) A
- 02 HOEKSTRA (R) B-
- Johnson (D) NR
- 03 EHLERS (R) C
- Sanchez (D) NR
- 04 CAMP (R) A
- Concannon (D) NR
- 05 KILDEE (D) F
- Sawicki (R) A
- 06 UPTON (R) A-



Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA) met this year with GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt (right) to discuss several of Broun's pro-gun bills. "I'm proud to work with GOA in the fight for liberty," said Rep. Broun, who earned one of the few "A+" rated grades in the House.

- Cooney (D) NR
- 07 WALBERG (R) A
- Schauer (D) NR
- 08 ROGERS (R) A-
- Alexander (D) F
- 09 KNOLLENBERG (R) A-
- Peters (D) F
- 10 Denison (D) NR
- MILLER (R) A
- 11 MCCOTTER (R) A
- Larkin (D) NR
- 12 LEVIN (D) F
- Copple (R) C-
- 13 KILPATRICK (D) F
- Gubics (R) A
- 14 CONYERS (D) F
- 15 DINGELL (D) F
- Lynch (R) NR

MINNESOTA

- 01 WALZ (D) D
- Davis (R) NR
- 02 KLINE (R) A
- Sarvi (D) F
- 03 Paulsen (R) A
- Madia (D) NR
- 04 MCCOLLUM (D) F-
- Matthews (R) A
- 05 ELLISON (D) F
- White (R) NR
- 06 BACHMANN (R) A-
- Tinklenberg (D) C
- 07 PETERSON (D) B-
- Menze (R) NR
- 08 OBERSTAR (D) D-
- Cummins (R) A

MISSISSIPPI

- 01 CHILDERS (D) A
- Davis (R) B
- 02 THOMPSON (D) F
- Cook (R) NR
- 03 Gill (D) F
- Harper (R) A
- 04 TAYLOR (D) C
- McCay (R) A

MISSOURI

- 01 CLAY (D) F-
- 02 AKIN (R) A
- Haas (D) F
- 03 CARNAHAN (D) C-
- Sander (R) A
- 04 SKELTON (D) C
- Parnell (R) C
- 05 Turk (R) NR
- CLEAVER (D) F
- 06 GRAVES (R) A-
- Barnes (D) F

- 07 BLUNT (R) A-
- Monroe (D) NR
- 08 EMERSON (R) A-
- Allen (D) F
- 09 Luetkemeyer (R) A
- Baker (D) NR

MONTANA

- 01 REHBERG (R) A
- Driscoll (D) NR

NEBRASKA

- 01 FORTENBERRY (R) A
- Yashirin (D) D-
- 02 Esch (D) F
- TERRY (R) B
- 03 SMITH (R) A-
- Stoddard (D) F

NEVADA

- 01 BERKLEY (D) F
- Wegner (R) B
- 02 Derby (D) NR
- HELLER (R) A
- 03 Titus (D) NR
- PORTER (R) A-

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- 01 SHEA-PORTER (D) C-
- Bradley (R) A
- 02 HODES (D) C
- Horn (R) NR

NEW JERSEY

- 01 ANDREWS (D) F
- Glading (R) C-
- 02 LOBIONDO (R) C
- Kurkowski (D) NR
- 03 Adler (D) F
- Myers (R) NR
- 04 SMITH (R) F
- Zeitz (D) NR
- 05 GARRETT (R) A
- Shulman (D) NR
- 06 PALLONE (D) F
- McLeod (R) C-
- 07 Stender (D) F
- Lance (R) B
- 08 PASCRELL (D) F-
- Straten (R) F
- 09 Micco (R) B
- ROTHMAN (D) F-
- 10 PAYNE (D) F
- 11 Wyka (D) NR
- FRELINGHUYSEN (R) D
- 12 HOLT (D) F-
- Bateman (R) NR

Continued on page 6

Whatever happened to gun control?

Continued from page 1

That may sound good at first blush, but a careful reading will reveal that this statement — made by a former mayor who had considered joining other cities in suing gun makers out of existence in 1999 — is almost meaningless.

Sometimes a candidate will be a little more revealing, such as in this comment posted by an “F” rated candidate: “I am a gun owner, target-shooter, and support our 2nd amendment right to bear arms.” Sounds good so far, but the candidate goes on to say, “I oppose military-style assault weapons, ‘Saturday Night Specials,’ and would support reauthorization of the assault weapons ban.”

Facing this kind of doublespeak, it is especially important that voters take advantage of tools like the 2008 Gun Owners of America voter guide.

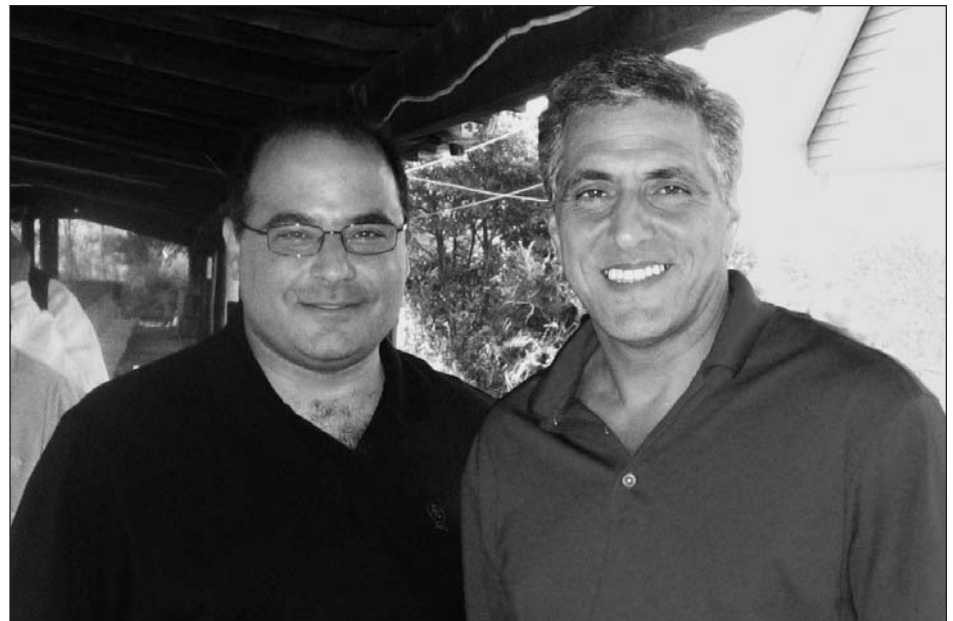
The stakes are high in this election, as they always are. The main focus is on the tight presidential race. If elected, Barack Obama would be the most anti-gun president this country has ever seen, and his vice-presidential candidate Joe Biden is just as bad. John McCain has been all over the map on the gun issue, but he did choose a stellar pro-gun running mate in Sarah Palin.

While the White House may be up for grabs, liberal Democrats are in firm control of both chambers of Congress. With all the media attention on the race at the top of the ticket, it is important to remember that it is in the Congress where most of the battles over gun rights occur.

There are some pro-gun Democrats in each chamber, but their numbers are few and they are not in leadership positions. Ironically, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid first came



Cynthia Lummis, running for Wyoming's lone House seat, was supported by Gun Owners of America Political Victory Fund in her victory over an anti-gun candidate in the Republican primary. Cynthia, a strong pro-gun leader, is locked in a tough battle in the general election.



Mayor Lou Barletta of Hazleton, Pennsylvania — who has earned an “A” rating from Gun Owners of America — has mounted a strong challenge to an entrenched incumbent. Barletta (right) is pictured here with GOA’s John Velleco at a shooting range near Hazleton in September.

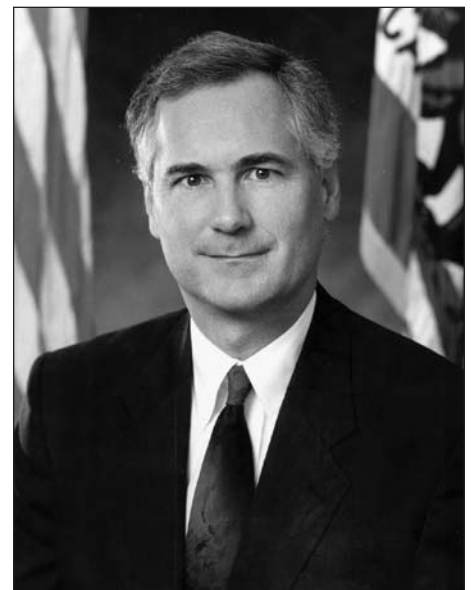
to power because many Democrats were successful campaigning on a pro-Second Amendment platform, yet their leadership ranks among the most anti-gun in history.

GOA strives to distinguish between “cover” votes designed to protect the anti-gun leadership and real pro-gun action. A bill that passes easily in one chamber with 266 votes does not reveal much about whether or not a person will fight in the trenches for meaningful, pro-gun reform.

An “A+” has been awarded to the few members of Congress who exhibited leadership by introducing pro-gun bills and amendments. Incumbents who earned an “A” grade stood with gun owners both in votes and in cosponsoring pro-gun legislation. Grades descend to “F-,” indicating anti-gun leadership.

Challenger and open seat candidates were graded, when possible, on records in previous elected positions. Others were graded based on answers to the GOA questionnaire and by other

research and information gathering. Candidates with an “NR” next to their name (meaning they refused to respond to the questionnaire) should be viewed with a jaundiced eye. They are probably hiding something. ■



In California's 4th congressional district, Gun Owners of America Political Victory Fund helped Tom McClintock win a brutal primary in which he was vastly outspent. McClintock, a state senator known for his leadership in the effort to recall California Gov. Gray Davis, faces an opponent in the general election who refused to respond to the GOA questionnaire.

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 fund-raising 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** 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.

Ratings

Continued from page 3

13 SIREs (D) F-
Turula (R) C-

NEW MEXICO

01 Heinrich (D) NR
White (R) NR
02 Tinsley (R) A
Teague (D) NR
03 Lujan (D) NR
East (R) F

NEW YORK

01 BISHOP (D) F
Zeldin (R) NR
02 ISRAEL (D) F
Stalzer (R) NR
03 KING (R) F
Long (D) NR
04 MCCARTHY (D) F-
Martins (R) NR
05 ACKERMAN (D) F-
Berney (R) NR
06 MEEKS (D) F
07 CROWLEY (D) F-
Britt (R) NR
08 NADLER (D) F-
Lin (R) NR
09 WEINER (D) F
10 TOWNS (D) F
Grupico (R) NR
11 CLARKE (D) F-
Carr (R) NR
12 Romaguera (R) NR
VELAZQUEZ (D) F
13 McMahon (D) NR
Stranieri (R) NR
14 MALONEY (D) F-
Heim (R) NR
15 Daniels (R) NR
RANGEL (D) F
16 Mohamed (R) A
SERRANO (D) F
17 ENGEL (D) F
Goodman (R) NR
18 LOWEY (D) F-
Russell (R) NR
19 HALL (D) F
Lalor (R) A
20 GILLIBRAND (D) C
Treadwell (R) NR
21 Burhmaster (R) NR
Tonko (D) F
22 HINCHEY (D) D-
Phillips (R) NR
23 MCHUGH (R) A-
Oot (D) NR
24 ARCURI (D) D-
Hanna (R) NR
25 Maffei (D) F
Sweetland (R) NR
26 Lee (R) A
Kryzan (D) NR
27 HIGGINS (D) D
Humiston (R) NR
28 SLAUGHTER (D) F-
Crimmen (R) A
29 Massa (D) NR
KUHLE (R) A-

NORTH CAROLINA

01 BUTTERFIELD (D) F
Stephens (R) A-
02 ETHERIDGE (D) F
Mansell (R) A
03 JONES (R) A
Weber (D) D-
04 PRICE (D) F-
Lawson (R) A
05 FOX (R) A

Carter (D) NR
06 COBLE (R) A-
Bratton (D) F
07 MCINTYRE (D) A-
Breazeale (R) F
08 Kissell (D) B-
HAYES (R) A
09 MYRICK (R) A
Taylor (D) NR
10 MCHENRY (R) A
Johnson (D) NR
11 SHULER (D) C
Mumpower (R) A
12 WATT (D) F-
Cobb (R) F
13 MILLER (D) F-
Webster (R) A

NORTH DAKOTA

01 POMEROY (D) D
Sand (R) A

OHIO

01 CHABOT (R) A-
Driehaus (D) C-
02 Wulfin (D) NR
SCHMIDT (R) A
03 TURNER (R) A-
Mitakides (D) F
04 JORDAN (R) A-
Carroll (D) A
05 LATTA (R) A
Mays (D) A-
06 WILSON (D) C
Stobbs (R) C
07 Austria (R) B
Neuhardt (D) NR
08 BOEHNER (R) A-
von Stein (D) NR
09 Leavitt (R) A
KAPTUR (D) F
10 KUCINICH (D) F-
Trakas (R) A-
11 Fudge (D) F
Pekarek (R) NR
12 TIBERI (R) A-
Robinson (D) NR
13 SUTTON (D) F
Potter (R) F
14 LaTOURETTE (R) A-
O'Neill (D) NR
15 Kilroy (D) F
Stivers (R) C
16 Bocchieri (D) B
Schuring (R) B
17 RYAN (D) D
Grassell (R) D-
18 SPACE (D) C
Dailey (R) C

OKLAHOMA

01 SULLIVAN (R) A-
Oliver (D) NR
02 Wickson (R) NR
BOREN (D) A-
03 LUCAS (R) A-

Robbins (D) D-
04 COLE (R) A-
Cummings (D) F
05 FALLIN (R) A
Perry (D) F

OREGON

01 WU (D) F
02 WALDEN (R) A-
Lemas (D) F
03 BLUMENAUER (D) F-
Lopez (R) A
04 DEFAZIO (D) D
05 Erickson (R) NR
Schrader (D) F

PENNSYLVANIA

01 BRADY (D) F-
Muhammad (R) NR
02 FATTAH (D) F-
Lang (R) NR
03 ENGLISH (R) A
Dahlkemper (D) NR
04 ALTMIRE (D) A-
Hart (R) A
05 McCracken (D) F
Thompson (R) A
06 GERLACH (R) A-
Roggio (D) F
07 SESTAK (D) F-
Williams (R) NR
08 MURPHY, PATRICK (D) F-
Manion (R) NR
09 Barr (D) F
SHUSTER (R) A-
10 CARNEY (D) C-
Hackett (R) A
11 KANJORSKI (D) D
Barletta (R) A
12 MURTHA (D) F
Russell (R) B-
13 SCHWARTZ (D) F-
Kats (R) NR
14 DOYLE (D) F
15 DENT (R) A
Bennett (D) NR
16 PITTS (R) A-
Slater (D) F
17 HOLDEN (D) D
Gilhooly (R) D-
18 MURPHY, TIM (R) A
O'Donnell (D) NR
19 Avillo (D) NR
PLATTS (R) A

RHODE ISLAND

01 KENNEDY (D) F-
Scott (R) NR
02 LANGEVIN (D) F-
Zaccaria (R) B-

SOUTH CAROLINA

01 BROWN (R) A-
Ketner (D) NR
02 WILSON (R) A
Miller (D) NR

03 BARRETT (R) A
Dyer (D) NR
04 INGLIS (R) A-
Corden (D) NR
05 SPRATT (D) F
Spencer (R) C-
06 CLYBURN (D) F
Harrelson (R) B

SOUTH DAKOTA

1 HERSETH SANDLIN (D) D
Lien (R) NR

TENNESSEE

01 Roe (R) A
Russell (D) NR
02 DUNCAN (R) A
Scott (D) F
03 WAMP (R) A
Vandagriff (D) NR
04 DAVIS (D) C
Lankford (R) NR
05 COOPER (D) D
Donovan (R) NR
06 GORDON (D) B
07 Morris (D) NR
BLACKBURN (R) A
08 TANNER (D) C
09 COHEN (D) F

TEXAS

01 GOHMERT (R) A
02 POE (R) A
03 JOHNSON (R) A-
Daley (D) NR
04 Melancon (D) NR
HALL (R) A
05 HENSARLING (R) A
06 BARTON (R) A-
Otto (D) D
07 CULBERSON (R) A-
Skelly (D) NR
08 BRADY (R) A-
Hargett (D) NR
09 GREEN, AL (D) F
10 MCCAUL (R) A
Doherty (D) NR
11 CONAWAY (R) A
12 GRANGER (R) A
Smith (D) NR
13 Waun (D) NR
THORNBERRY (R) B-
14 PAUL (R) A+
15 HINOJOSA (D) F
Zamora (R) NR
16 REYES (D) D
17 EDWARDS (D) D
Curnock (R) A-
18 JACKSON-LEE (D) F-
Faulk (R) A
19 NEUGEBAUER (R) A
Fullingim (D) A
20 GONZALEZ (D) F
Litoff (R) NR
21 SMITH (R) A-
22 LAMPSON (D) C
Olson (R) D
23 RODRIGUEZ (D) D
Larson (R) NR
24 MARCHANT (R) A
Love (D) NR
25 DOGGETT (D) F
Morovich (R) A
26 BURGESS (R) A-
Leach (D) NR
27 ORTIZ (D) D
Vaden (R) A-
28 CUELLAR (D) C
Fish (R) NR
29 Story (R) A
GREEN, GENE (D) D
30 JOHNSON (D) F
Wood (R) NR
31 CARTER (R) A

Ruiz (D) F
32 SESSIONS (R) A
Roberson (D) NR

UTAH

01 BISHOP (R) A+
Bowen (D) NR
02 MATHESON (D) C
Dew (R) NR
03 Chaffetz (R) A
Spencer (D) F

Vermont

01 WELCH (D) D-

VIRGINIA

01 WITTMAN (R) A
Day (D) NR
02 DRAKE (R) A
Nye (D) NR
03 SCOTT (D) F
04 FORBES (R) A-
Miller (D) NR
05 GOODE (R) A+
Perriello (D) NR
06 GOODLATTE (R) A
Rasoul (D) NR
07 CANTOR (R) A-
Hartke (D) NR
08 MORAN (D) F-
Ellmore (R) NR
09 BOUCHER (D) B-
10 Feder (D) NR
WOLF (R) B-
11 Connolly (D) F
Fimian (R) NR

WASHINGTON

01 INSLEE (D) F
Ishmael (R) C
02 LARSEN (D) F
Bart (R) F
03 BAIRD (D) D-
Delavar (R) A
04 HASTINGS (R) A
Fearing (D) D
05 McMORRIS RODGERS (R) A-
Mays (D) NR
06 DICKS (D) F
Cloud (R) A-
07 MCDERMOTT (D) F
Beren (R) D-
08 Burner (D) NR
REICHERT (R) A-
09 SMITH (D) F
Postma (R) D-

WEST VIRGINIA

01 MOLLOHAN (D) C-
02 CAPITO (R) A
Barth (D) NR
03 RAHALL (D) D
Gearheart (R) D-

WISCONSIN

01 RYAN (D) A-
Krupp (D) NR
02 BALDWIN (D) F
Theron (R) NR
03 KIND (D) C
Stark (R) A
04 MOORE (D) F
05 SENSENBRENNER (R) A-
06 PETRI (R) A-
Kittelson (D) NR
07 OBEY (D) F
Mielke (R) NR
08 KAGEN (D) D
Gard (R) A

WYOMING

01 Trauner (D) NR
Lummis (R) A



GOA's Larry Pratt (right) is pictured here with Idaho Rep. Bill Sali (R), who earned his "A+" rating after offering several pro-gun amendments to legislation in an attempt to repeal the National Park Service gun ban.

United States Senate

ALABAMA SESSIONS (R) Figures (D)	A NR	KANSAS Slattery (D) ROBERTS (R)	F B
ALASKA STEVENS (R) Begich (D)	C D	KENTUCKY Lunsford (D) MCCONNELL (R)	NR B
ARKANSAS PRYOR (D)	D	LOUISIANA LANDRIEU (D) Kennedy (R)	F NR
COLORADO Schaffer (R) Udall (D)	A F	MAINE COLLINS (R) Allen (D)	F F
DELAWARE BIDEN (D) O'Donnell (R)	F- NR	MASSACHUSETTS Beatty (R) KERRY (D)	NR F-
GEORGIA CHAMBLISS (R) Martin (D)	A C	MICHIGAN LEVIN (D) Hoogendyk (R)	F A
IDAHO LaRocco (D) Risch (R)	A B	MINNESOTA COLEMAN (R) Franken (D)	B F
ILLINOIS DURBIN (D) Sauerberg (R)	F- D	MISSISSIPPI COCHRAN (R) Fleming (D)	C C
IOWA Reed (R) HARKIN (D)	A F	WICKER (R) Musgrove (D)	A- NR

MONTANA BAUCUS (D) Kelleher (R)	D NR
NEBRASKA Johanns (R) Kleeb (D)	A NR
NEW HAMPSHIRE Shaheen (D) SUNUNU (R)	F A
NEW JERSEY LAUTENBERG (D) Zimmer (R)	F- F
NEW MEXICO Pearce (R) Udall (D)	A F
NORTH CAROLINA Hagan (D) DOLE (R)	F B-
OKLAHOMA Rice (D) INHOFE (R)	F A
OREGON SMITH (R) Merkley (D)	F F
RHODE ISLAND REED (D) Tingle (R)	F F

Presidential Race



REPUBLICAN McCain Palin	C- A+	DEMOCRAT Obama Biden	F- F-
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SOUTH CAROLINA Conley (D) GRAHAM (R)	A B	VIRGINIA Gilmore (R) Warner (D)	A NR
SOUTH DAKOTA JOHNSON (D) Dykstra (R)	D A	WEST VIRGINIA Wolfe (R) ROCKEFELLER (D)	A F
TENNESSEE ALEXANDER (R) Tuke (D)	A- NR	WYOMING BARRASSO (R) Carter (D)	A NR
TEXAS CORNYN (R) Noriega (D)	A NR	ENZI (R) Rothfuss (D)	A NR

Incumbents are listed in ALL CAPS.

Who is Sarah Palin?

Continued from page 8

tural Board during a policy dispute and installed a new board so they would shake up the Creamery Board which Palin could not touch. Since the former board had jurisdiction over the Creamery Board, the new board members were then able to “take care of business.”

This is the kind of housecleaning that is needed in Washington. Palin has shown that she can fire insubordinate employees. If she makes it to Washington, GOA can get her a list of people who need firing, or where such firings are prohibited by law, we can recommend which bureaucrats need transferring to a new office in northern Alaska.

It should not be forgotten that Palin defeated a three-term incumbent mayor the first time she was elected to that office. When she ran for governor, she defeated the incumbent Republican governor in the primary. Governor Murkowski had previously been a U.S. Senator from Alaska. She went on to



Sarah Palin and her daughter kneel over the carcass of the caribou that she had just shot.

defeat Tony Knowles in the general election, a former Democrat governor.

Not surprisingly, her primary and general election campaigns for governor were almost entirely grassroots-operated since the normal party committees and Republican donors were not available to the upstart who had taken them

on and beaten them. Some of these folks are no doubt among the mere 15 percent of Alaskans who do not approve of Sarah Palin today.

If the McCain-Palin ticket is elected, McCain will be the boss. But he better keep looking over his shoulder. ■



Who Is Sarah Palin?

by Larry Pratt

The media reacted in stunned disbelief when Sen. John McCain chose Alaska's governor, Sarah Palin, to be his vice-presidential running mate.

For rather different reasons, so did I.

In the run-up to McCain's announcement of who would be his pick, I had looked somewhat

into the background of Sarah Palin. My conclusion was that she was too conservative in general, and too pro-Second Amendment in particular, for John McCain.

So, when the Palin selection was announced by the McCain campaign, I was just as stunned as the media. Mine was a pleasant surprise — even, "too good to be true," but for the media, the announcement was the beginning of a nightmare.

How dare the Republicans choose an attractive woman who is an accomplished trailblazer with a beautiful family who has left a rather wide swath in her home town and in her home state? And, that picture (on page 7) of her and one of her daughters in the bloody snow kneeling over the carcass of a caribou she had just downed for future caribou burger! Beyond the pale!

Don't the Republicans know that the only acceptable female candidate must be one who angrily stamps her little foot to insist that there will be zero tolerance of (yuck!) guns?

For the media, it gets worse. A lot worse.

Sarah Palin was elected to be the mayor of Wasilla in 1996. In 1997, the Alaska legislature was considering a measure that recognizes the right of people in Alaska to carry a concealed firearm with no license or permit required whatsoever. This measure, which is now law, is very similar to that of Vermont's which has been on the books for nearly a century.

"Vermont carry," as real right to carry has been dubbed, is the question that more often than not separates the wheat from the chaff in the GOA candidate questionnaire. If a candidate does not fully support individuals being able to defend themselves without government interference, this is the issue where their knees buckle. In other words, the Alaska concealed carry law is a really big deal.

And Irl Stambaugh's knees buckled. As the Wasilla police chief, he opposed the carry bill in the legislature. So what did Palin — the politician who supposedly has no executive experience — do? She fired the police chief.

According to an *ABC News* article (September 3, 2008), the police chief went whining to the courts claiming that Palin fired him because the NRA told her to. But the court ruled that Stambaugh could be fired at will. Imagine, Palin as mayor had the prerogative to fire folks such as the chief. And she wasted no time taking care of business.

I subsequently interviewed a good friend of gun owners in Alaska for my Live Fire radio show (archived at the GOA web site: www.gunowners.org). He is talk-show host Michael Dukes out of Fairbanks. Dukes not only touted Palin's firing of the police chief, he added even more to the story of Palin's pro-Second Amendment steel.

Dukes enjoys owning and firing machineguns. He reports that before Palin's schedule changed drastically following the GOP national convention, he had planned to go machinegun shooting with the Governor. But, that is not all.

Dukes had learned from some machinegun dealers that they were not getting the signoff required by federal law from a chief law enforcement office. State troopers were the appropriate cops for where the dealers lived. So Dukes called the Governor to report that these troopers were arbitrarily holding up transfers of these firearms. She promised to get on it and report back right away.

A couple of days later, Dukes got a call from then-public safety commissioner, Walt Monegan. He told Dukes that there should be no further problem, and there were not.

The only question that will have to be answered after the passage of time is, will McCain let Palin be Palin? And will she be able to make the pro-Second Amendment case within the councils of a McCain administration and pull McCain toward the Constitution?

It is a tough question to answer because both Palin and McCain are strong-willed individuals.

Many have questioned whether Palin has the executive experience necessary to be a heartbeat away from the Presidency. But it may help to understand that she has made some very difficult decisions as mayor and governor in Alaska.

For example, she was willing to fire a lot more than just an insubordinate cop. She fired the entire Alaska Agricul-

Continued on page 7

THE Gun Owners

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