

# THE Gun Owners

39 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2014

## Obama moves to choke off American gun sales

by Michael E. Hammond

We've heard it all a thousand times: Barack Obama's dubious claims that he believes in the Second Amendment ... that he supports hunting and fishing ... that he only wants to make "reasonable, common sense" restrictions on your Second Amendment rights.

You know these claims are false, and that the man who won the "lie of the year award" in 2013 finds it difficult to tell the truth.

We all know that Obama's goal is nothing less than to crush the Second Amendment movement — and outlaw the possession of firearms in America.

But, now we have the "smoking gun" (so to speak). Obama has now moved to shut down every gun dealer and manufacturer in America by cutting off all credit from any financial institution — in addition to eliminating any ability of an FFL to process credit card payments through the banks.

In front-page articles on May 19 and 20 in *The Washington Times*, reporter Kelly Riddell described this concerted effort by the Obama administration to choke off gun manufacturing and sales in the United States by drying up credit to gun dealers and manufacturers.

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### GOA lobbying Congress to kill Obama's latest gun ban



GOA's Tim Macy met with Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), who has blasted Operation Choke Point as Obama's "newest abuse of power." GOA is encouraging Members of Congress to defund Barack Obama's efforts to shut down every gun dealer and manufacturer in America by regulatory fiat.

## GOA Challenges Connecticut gun ban in court

by William Olson

Gun Owners of America filed an *amicus* brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in May, challenging the draconian Connecticut gun ban.

The Connecticut law — now infamous for making criminals out of hundreds of thousands of otherwise law-abiding citizens who have refused to register their weapons — bans so-called "assault weapons" and "large capacity magazines."

In court, the district judge bought the old, tired arguments that the ban is nec-

essary to protect the police and further public safety. Despite finding that the ban "substantially burdened" the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, he felt the burden was not unreasonable in light of the competing public interest.

Never mind that these arguments were rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *DC. v. Heller*. As such, the district court used a judge-empowering "balancing test" to justify the ban.

GOA's brief argues that the judicial standard of review for Second Amend-

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- **GOA's Larry Pratt leaves liberal host tongue-tied (page 3)**
- **GOA helps defeat gun control in New Hampshire (page 3)**
- **Bloomberg attacks GOA once again (page 4)**

## ***Obama moves to choke off American gun sales***

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### **Obama using the FDIC to restrict Second Amendment rights**

The effort starts with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which has lumped gun dealers in the same “high risk” category as pornographers.

Coupled with Eric Holder’s Justice Department Operation Choke Point, the FDIC’s action has encouraged banks to destroy the gun industry by dropping dealers, freezing their assets, and refusing to process their on-line sales.

Already, thousands of gun dealers report being victimized by this adminis-

tration’s effort to destroy the Second Amendment by regulatory fiat.

And, if the gun dealer near you has yet to feel the pinch, just wait awhile.

As the owner of the gun manufacturer, the McMillan Group, persuasively argued in *The Washington Times* article, this is nothing more than an “attempt by the federal government to keep people from buying guns.”

In fact, it’s becoming increasingly clear that the Obama administration feels it can destroy a major political opponent of theirs — namely, gun owners — by destroying and demoralizing the Second Amendment movement.

California Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, who is chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, blasted the Obama administration’s attack on gun owners,

ing for the firearms industry by regulatory fiat.

Congressman Steve Stockman put it this way: “It’s pretty clear that, unless Congress uses the power of the purse to stop him, Barack Obama will use his ‘phone and his pen’ to ban guns by cutting off money for gun manufacturers and dealers.”

The Obama administration has done a lot of nibbling around the edges in its efforts to ban guns by the back door. But it has now taken us to the crucible of history. And Congress, by its actions, will show whether it is willing to take on the White House and the sycophant mainline press in order to save the Bill of Rights.

Legislators are proposing bills on a wide variety of fronts. Blaine Luetkemeyer, vice chairman of the House committee with jurisdiction, has called for legislation to block the FDIC’s insidious scheme. And good for him!

But, given that Obama will veto any free-standing legislation to save the gun industry, an appropriations rider is also necessary.

By the way, remember the Manchin-Toomey amendment from last year? It would have required private transactions to go through gun dealers.

Now we know what that was about. If you have to go to a gun dealer to transfer any gun — and Obama succeeds in shutting down every gun dealer in your state (or within 200 miles of your home) — the Second Amendment, practically, ceases to exist. ■

is up to the American people, not the government, to choose which weapons “secure” a “free state” against tyrants

unconstitutional “titles of nobility” for the state’s favored few. The Supreme Court has said that the Second Amend-

ment is a right that belongs to “all Americans,” not just “an unspecified subset.” ■

Gun owners can go here to read GOA’s brief: <http://tinyurl.com/pjfltbq>

*William Olson is the litigating attorney for Gun Owners of America.*

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***“It’s pretty clear that, unless Congress uses the power of the purse to stop him, Barack Obama will use his ‘phone and his pen’ to ban guns by cutting off money for gun manufacturers and dealers.”***

**— Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX)**

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tration’s effort to destroy the Second Amendment by regulatory fiat.

And, if the gun dealer near you has yet to feel the pinch, just wait awhile.

### **Obama’s choke hold is an abuse of power**

As Barack Obama no doubt understands, if American gun dealers and

saying that “Operation Choke Point is the Justice Department’s newest abuse of power.”

### **GOA working the “ground game”**

Already, Gun Owners of America is encouraging Members of Congress to defund Obama’s efforts to dry up fund-

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## ***GOA challenges Connecticut gun ban in court***

*Continued from page 1*

ment cases is the amendment’s text itself — “shall not be infringed.” If (i) a person is part of “the people,” (ii) a firearm is an “arm,” and (iii) the activity involves “keeping” or “bearing” — then the right is absolute, not subject to balancing against the interests the government has in violating the right.

Since it is abundantly clear that these requirements are met in this case, the Connecticut ban must be struck down. It does not matter if the state provides “alternate access to similar firearms.” It

is up to the American people, not the government, to choose which weapons “secure” a “free state” against tyrants

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***“GOA’s brief argues that the judicial standard of review for Second Amendment cases is the amendment’s text itself — ‘shall not be infringed.’ ”***

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— the stated purpose of the Second Amendment.

Our brief (which was also joined by Gun Owners Foundation) also argued that the Connecticut ban, by exempting favored government employees and those “persons” who submitted to the state’s registration system, creates

# GOA's Larry Pratt leaves MSNBC host tongue-tied

Larry Pratt went again into the lion's den recently to debate gun rights and concealed carry.

Among other things, the debate centered on anti-gun zealot Michael Bloomberg's efforts to spend \$50 million to circumvent the Constitution and impose greater gun control restrictions.

But the highlight of the video occurred just after the 6-minute mark, when Pratt absolutely left the talk show host fumbling for words!

You can check out the MSNBC clip — at <http://tinyurl.com/lm68jd9> — to see the debate for yourself.

Here's just a sampling of what many gun owners said on GOA's Facebook page:

- ***"Gotta love when Larry leaves the anti's speechless."***



- ***"Larry made that host look like an idiot."***
- ***"Excellent job, Larry Pratt!"***
- ***"Mr. Pratt was the only one making any sense. The other two were clearly 'unarmed.'"***
- ***"Larry for President!"***
- ***"Well done Larry."***

Gun owners can comment on recent debates and articles of interest on the GOA Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GunOwners](http://www.facebook.com/GunOwners). ■

# Gun Owners beats back gun control in New Hampshire

by Michael E. Hammond

Billionaire Michael Bloomberg targeted New Hampshire for his anti-gun crusade this year.

But thankfully, Gun Owners of America was able to defeat his attempts to pass gun control "lite" in the state.

The Granite State, perceived by Bloomberg as an anti-gun blue state, was to be the test case to show it was possible to enact gun control on a state-by-state basis, outside New York and Connecticut.

This is why gun owners all around the country should celebrate what happened in New Hampshire. We can all be encouraged by the fact that the Granite State has sent Bloomberg packing, licking his wounds.

First to drop was Bloomberg's universal gun registration, comparable to the federal Toomey-Manchin proposal. This was killed in the Democratic House on a procedural question by one vote.

Then, the House unanimously, by voice vote, killed another piece of legislation which was originally introduced to speed up the submission of names to the NICS system. This data dump would have included the names of individuals who have *not* been adjudicated of any disqualifying criteria in any court of law.

For example, the bill would have sent the names of people who had guardians to the NICS prohibited persons list. If a person was knocked unconscious in a car accident and the hospital appointed a guardian, then that person's name would be sent to NICS.

This defeat of the bill came after GOA had teamed up with the New Hampshire Firearms Coalition — a truly pro-gun

group in the state — to oppose the bill. GOA and NHFC both issued multiple grassroots alerts and made direct appeals to legislators in the state capitol.

GOA also authored op-eds in state newspapers.

## What part of "not be infringed" don't they understand?

Sadly, a couple of "pro-gun" groups had pushed the legislation in New Hampshire to send lots of additional names to NICS. They felt that, if the liberal media saw that gun groups were willing to assist in taking away gun rights from some people, then the "gun lobby" would be viewed more favorably.

Suffice it to say that this strategy never, ever works.

Many other states are now facing battles to send more names

***"Sadly, a couple of 'pro-gun' groups had pushed [gun control] in New Hampshire.... Sometimes we need to ask the leaders of 'pro-gun' groups: What part of not be infringed don't you understand?"***

to NICS. In New Hampshire, persons appointed guardians are supposedly given a modicum of due process.

But, in fact, all of their rights are routinely deemed to be waived. Innocent seniors who had spent all of their lives building a gun collection for their children would have suddenly found their names on the FBI's "gun ban" list, even though they posed no danger to anyone.

The bottom line: We need to look more closely at demands for more NICS submissions from supposedly "pro-gun" groups. And we especially need to look at whether people who are being pushed into the NICS system have actually received due process.

Sometimes we need to ask the leaders of "pro-gun" groups: What part of *not be infringed* don't you understand? ■



# Bloomberg launches offensive, attacks GOA's Executive Director

by Erich Pratt

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg made headlines earlier this year, after announcing his plan to spend \$50 million to change people's hearts and minds in favor of gun control.

As part of that effort, Bloomberg's Everytown.org made a video that attacks GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt and the NRA.

The ad mocks Pratt for saying things like, "There's no victory until we get guns in school to protect ourselves."

But the video clearly shows how out-of-touch the former mayor is with the American public — not to mention America's law enforcement.

Apparently, Bloomberg doesn't realize that more than 80% of police officers actually *support* arming teachers and principals as a reasoned approach to stopping school shootings.

And according to a 2012 poll by Gallup, 64% of the American public thinks that arming school officials would be an effective solution to preventing mass shootings at schools.

Interestingly, Bloomberg's Everytown.org set up their YouTube page to disallow any comments about the video.

Gun owners can go to GOA's Facebook page — at <http://tinyurl.com/lhu3mwl> — and tell him what you think!

## GOA countering Bloomberg's millions

Only time will tell how effective Bloomberg's \$50 million will be. But Bloomberg has shown anything but the Midas touch when it comes to pushing gun control, as he's lost almost every battle where he's spent his millions.

First, there was Nevada, where GOA and its allies defeated Bloomberg-backed gun control last year.

Then there was Colorado, when Bloomberg poured in hundreds of thousands of dollars in an effort to save two state senators who had voted for gun control. Bloomberg lost.

And, of course, he lost a major gun control battle last year in the U.S. Senate — despite the fact that Democrats control that chamber.

Gun Owners of America has launched a Task Force to track Bloomberg's spending activities and to counter his legislative efforts on Capitol Hill.

"I guess he's free to [spend his millions]; he's got money to waste," said GOA's Larry Pratt on MSNBC. "But frankly, I think he's going to find out why his side keeps losing."

## Bloomberg nominates himself for sainthood

Finally, in an interview with the *New York Times*, Bloomberg proudly claimed that his anti-gun crusade has earned him a place in heaven:

If there is a God, when I get to heaven, I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I'm heading right in. I've earned my place in heaven. It's not even close.

This amazing arrogance was roundly criticized, even by his fellow liberal colleagues.

But if Bloomberg thinks he's blessed because of his efforts to disarm the pub-

## GOA counters Bloomberg's message



Gun Owners of America has been making the case that Michael Bloomberg faces an uphill battle, given that a majority of Americans — as indicated in a recent Gallup poll — do not want stricter gun control.

lic, he should consider passages like I Samuel 13:16-22, where arms control was considered a curse; and Luke 22:36, where Jesus told His disciples to sell their cloaks and buy a sword (if they didn't already have one).

And as for breezing right through the pearly gates without an interview, and gaining entrance on the basis of his own very tainted efforts — does he really think that he can buy his way into heaven because of the millions he's spent on "social issues"?

Most people would find that disgusting. ■

## Are you a GOA Life Member yet?

Enroll as a Life Member at the special charter rate of only \$500, which entitles you to full member privileges.

Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of \$50 (*with the remainder to be billed to you*) or as a quarterly debit to your credit card for \$50 until your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.



When you contact us by phone, email or mail, please provide us with your name, address, city, state, zip and member number to begin enjoying your Life Member privileges with Gun Owners of America.

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# Gun Owners Winning at the Polls

by Christopher Stone

This fall's elections are absolutely critical.

In November, we will have the opportunity to reclaim the United States Senate from the hands of Harry Reid and his anti-gun cohorts. As Majority Leader, Senator Reid has made it his mission to limit our constitutional rights and has worked tirelessly to pass gun control whenever possible.

The House of Representatives is also in need of "reinforcements," as its leadership has been anything but enthusiastic about pushing good pro-gun legislation, such as concealed carry reciprocity and eliminating federal gun free zones.

Although we still have a solid block of Representatives leading the fight to restore our Second Amendment, we need more men and women who will sponsor pro-gun legislation to actively fight back weak-kneed legislators.

Thankfully, it's due to your activism and donations that Gun Owners of America Political Victory Fund has been able to identify and support great pro-gun candidates across the nation.

## Political Earthquake Shocks Washington Establishment

In an upset of historical proportions, GOA-backed candidate David Brat soundly defeated Eric Cantor, the Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives and second most powerful Republican in that chamber.

Cantor, who represents Virginia's 7th District, vastly outspent Brat, an economics professor at Virginia's Randolph-Macon College.

On the eve of the election, Gun Owners of America blanketed the district with phone calls to registered voters, hitting Cantor for his recent vote to expand gun control and noting that Brat stands 100% for the right to keep and bear arms.

Right up to Election Day, political commentators predicted a landslide win for Cantor, but voters rejected his support for bigger government and, in particular, his support of amnesty for illegal aliens.

Since the district is considered safe Republican, Brat is heavily favored to win the general election in November.

## More Victories Mounting

Other GOA-endorsed candidates have also won their primary fights and are preparing for the November elections.

Ben Sasse won the Republican Pri-



College professor Dave Brat, right, supported by GOA, defeated House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in a stunning primary upset.

mary in Nebraska and is heading into November with great momentum behind his campaign. He is a stalwart defender of the Second Amendment.

Alex Mooney won the Republican Primary in his fight to represent the 2nd Congressional District of West Virginia.

Gun Owners of America was proud to endorse both men early in their campaigns, and both Ben Sasse and Alex Mooney filled out our detailed candidate questionnaire with 100% accuracy.

tors in D.C.

In Georgia, Dr. Jody Hice is also gearing up for a runoff election on July 22, as he runs for the open seat in Georgia's 10th Congressional District. Dr.

Hice has been an outspoken advocate

for the Second Amendment on his radio show in Georgia. He and his wife have been outspoken proponents for concealed carry and advancing the cause of liberty when it comes to our right to keep and bear arms.

## Why It Matters for Our Future

Even if you cannot vote for Jody Hice, Ben Sasse, Alex Mooney or Dave Brat, we need these men in Washington fighting against the gun control

machine that's being led by Michael Bloomberg and his anti-gun cronies.

Your support of Gun Owners of America and the Political Victory Fund are vital in the battle to preserve this great nation. Our Founding Fathers knew the importance of a well-armed populace, and even George Mason, the Father of the Bill of Rights, refused to sign the U.S. Constitution because it did not include the guaranteed God-given right of all Americans to be

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***“Gun Owners of America Political Victory Fund has been able to identify and support great pro-gun candidates across the nation”***

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They have shown us their determination to fight for law-abiding gun owners in the halls of Congress.

They will have tough campaign battles over the course of the summer and beyond, but we are confident they will come out victorious in November because gun owners across the nation are fed up with the out-of-touch legisla-

armed without government infringement.

This no-compromise attitude is what guides Gun Owners of America, and we know that members like yourself carry this same belief.

Thank you for being involved in the fight to restore the Second Amendment. ■



## You just can't make this stuff up!



Readers of *The Washington Times* surely couldn't miss the irony when it reported this in May: "Police in North Carolina are looking for robbers who ignored a 'No Weapons' sign at an eatery and brought firearms to their crime."

### Restaurant gets robbed after declaring itself gun-free

A North Carolina BBQ restaurant was robbed at gun point in May, just a few days after it opened its doors for business.

The restaurant, known as The Pit, displayed a prominent "gun free" sign to let patrons know that self-defense weapons were not allowed on the premises.

According to a state blog, the owner actually "went out of his way to make custom signs to make sure we gun owners felt unwelcome."

Well, it sounds like the signs "worked perfectly," says Dan Cannon of GunsSaveLives.net. There were "no law abiding gun owners in the restaurant at the time of the robbery that we know of." ■

### GOA slams Justice Stevens for un-American view on guns

Gun Owners of America joined a chorus of organizations this spring in slamming idiotic comments made by former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

In a newly released book, Justice Stevens said the Second Amendment should be altered to say that people only have the right to bear arms "when serving in the militia."

GOA blasted the comments, adding that gun owners would welcome the opportunity to demolish Stevens' arguments in the court of public opinion.

If Stevens were to carefully research what our Founding Fathers said, he would realize that they did not establish a right to bear arms. They assumed it already existed and said that it "shall not be infringed."

Gun owners need not worry about Stevens' idea gaining traction. Even an anti-gun liberal, like Professor Alan Dershowitz, opposes Stevens' proposal.

"You don't amend the Magna Carta," Dershowitz said. "You don't amend the Bill of Rights. There are certain things that you just leave pristine." ■

### GOA looking to overturn ATF ammo ban

The ATF in April issued a Special Advisory banning the importation of Russian-made 7N6 5.45x39 ammunition.

In an earlier email to an importer, the ATF reasoned that, "A handgun has now been manufactured that chambers a 5.45x39 round. That now makes steel core 5.45x39 armor piercing under our definition..."

In its April statement, the ATF clarified that their determination applies "only to the Russian-made 7N6 ammunition analyzed, not to all 5.45x39 ammunition."

Nevertheless, Gun Owners of America is pushing Congress to defund this regulation and to cut ATF's budget. Long-time members of GOA will realize that this is not the first time that the agency has used the armor piercing language in federal law to ban ammunition after a new gun was created. ■

### Mexicans get the meaning of the Second Amendment

For years, Mexican citizens have been forced to endure tremendous hardships at the hands of armed gangs and drug cartels.

Crimes go unreported or are ignored by officials when they are reported. Like a scene out of *Braveheart*, members of the Knights Templar cartel will show up at the homes of defenseless Mexicans and say, "I really like your woman; I'll bring her back soon."

But citizens have been fighting back in several parts of the country this year — even taking arms from the police to restore order to their towns.

According to a website that covers politics in Latin America, "A group of ranchers, local businessmen, and farm-workers [in the state of Michoacan] armed themselves with hunting and sport rifles, machetes, and farm tools, and took over two town halls controlled by the Knights Templar." ■



# Stop trying to impose your anti-gun decisions on me!

by Tim Macy

Memorial Day weekend witnessed a tragedy in Santa Barbara, California, when a 22-year old nutcase terrorized a college town using a car, knives and guns.

In response, the media ran front-page articles all around the country about Richard Martinez, the father of one of the slain victims.

While I am very sorry for the pain inflicted on the Martinez family and all the families of those harmed and killed by Elliot Rodger, Mr. Martinez' statements deserve a response.

For starters, he portrays himself as some kind of expert because he actually shot a few birds on the family farm when he was a kid and was in the military — so he should know exactly what to do to solve the “gun” problem in America.

“I understand this is a complicated problem. I have friends who are in the NRA. I grew up on a farm. I hunted. I killed animals. I understand guns,” Martinez said. “But assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons? There is no need for those except for war.”

There is “no need” for these guns? Really? In a tiny blurb on page 4 of one newspaper that carried Mr. Martinez' statements above, there's a headline that says, “Resident Kills 1, wounds 1 in gunfight with intruders.”

The article goes on to say that a Tulare County, California, man was asleep in his home when he heard a door in the house being kicked in by

three or four intruders. He took his siblings, ages 8-18, to another room in the house, grabbed a gun, and the shooting started.

As stated above, he killed one bad guy and wounded another, while the police are looking for one or two more who fled the house. The 22-year old man, who probably saved the lives of his brothers and sisters, was also shot by the bad guys, but police say he is expected to survive.

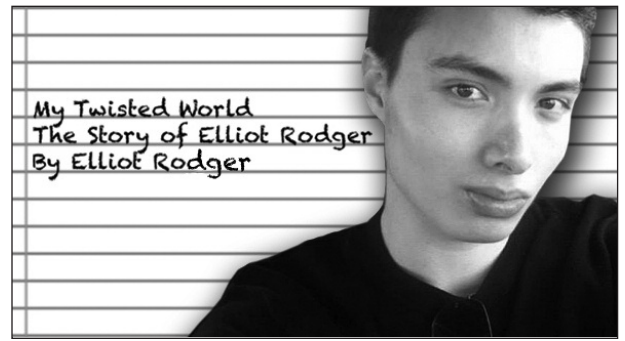
So Mr. Martinez... can you explain to me how this brave young man would have survived the attack of three or four gun-toting criminals and saved the lives of his family if he was not “allowed” to own a semi-automatic weapon?

If you or anyone else doesn't want to own the means of self-defense, especially in the face of multiple criminals out to murder or injure you or your family, that is your decision. But STOP trying to impose your dumb decisions on the rest of us.

Next, Mr. Martinez demanded something be done: “I'm angry with the leadership of the NRA who always want to characterize this as if it's a lone madman. That it's an act of nature we have to tolerate. I'm angered by how they have worked to normalize this.”

So Mr. Martinez, you have decided to blame an inanimate object and the NRA and not the “lone madman.”

## Guns deter crime



**In his 141-page manifesto, the Santa Barbara shooter indicated that he avoided certain places and times where he knew there would be a high concentration of police officers. Sadly, there are only 53 licensed concealed carry holders in the county of Santa Barbara.**

Hate to bring it to your attention, but the “lone madman” stabbed and killed people with a knife, ran them over with a car and shot them with a gun. None of these things could happen without the single main influencing factor — the “lone madman.”

Mr. Martinez, the liberal media and hard-left politicians will call for more gun control laws, even though California is considered one of the most gun-controlled — if not THE most gun-controlled — state in the nation. So how exactly did all these laws against law-abiding citizens stop this loss of life?

The fact is that time and again it has been proven that a gun-owning society is a safer society, and that guns save many, many more lives of law-abiding citizens than they harm.

Again, I say to Mr. Martinez... if you don't want the means to defend yourself, your home and family, don't buy it. But PLEASE quit trying to impose your bad decisions on me and my family and all of America. ■

## Time to Bring Back the Black Robed Regiment

*Continued from page 8*

until the end.

But serving in the military was not his final calling, as he also served in Congress for almost 20 years. As a Representative in 1877, Garfield wrote an article for *Atlantic Monthly* where he

emphasized the need for Christians to participate in politics:

Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. [And] if the next centennial does not find us a great nation ... it will be because those who represent the enterprise,

the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.

A good warning from the Congressman who would later become our 20th President — an encouragement to which Dan Fischer responds: “Bring back the Black Robed Regiment!” ■

*People can listen to Larry Pratt's June 7 interview of Dan Fischer at: <http://tinyurl.com/mo7153a>*



# Time to Bring Back the Black Robed Regiment

by Larry Pratt

Pastor and state Representative Dan Fisher (R-OK) has rescued a crucial part of our history from near oblivion — namely, the role that many pastors played in our War for Independence.

In his book, *Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment* (2013), Fisher examines the “patriot preachers” of the 18th Century who led their congregations to battle the abusive tyranny of the Redcoats.

I was familiar with the Shenandoah Valley (Virginia) Pastor Peter Muhlenberg because I have a reproduction of him on my office wall. It’s the famous scene where he removed his clerical gown, revealing his Colonel’s uniform of the Continental Army.

## A Bible in one hand, a musket in the other

On a Sunday in January of 1776, Muhlenberg preached a sermon on Ecclesiastes 3 in which Solomon wrote that, among other things, there is a time for peace and a time for war. Muhlenberg ended his sermon by saying that “now is a time for war.”

Having said that, he cast his clerical gown aside, strode down the aisle of the church, and recruited the men of his congregation. Together, they went off to fight with Washington, right through to the final battle of Yorktown years later.

Indeed, Muhlenberg was Washington’s spiritual confidant throughout the war. During a particularly perilous time in Virginia, Washington dispatched Muhlenberg to buck up the flagging spirits of the thinning ranks of the war-weary troops. The mission was accomplished.

What came as news to me was the large number of pastors who went off with their men to war. A number of times the men would tell their pastor, we’ll go if you lead us.

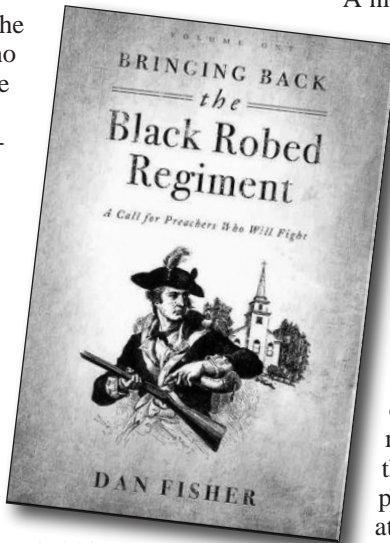
## The “shot heard round the world” came from the pulpit

The Founding Fathers explicitly believed that politics and religion had to be mixed. How fitting that the “shot heard round the world” was fired in front of Jonas Clark’s church on the Lexington green. During the battle, men went back and forth from the church to get ammo, because that’s where their powder and ball were stored.

A nineteenth century historian, James Adams, said that freedom was not born a bastard. Freedom was birthed when church and state were still married.

A British writer, Horace Walpole, said at the time, that “America has run off with a Presbyterian pastor.”

Pastor Jonas Clark and Deacon John Parker (who was captain of the Lexington militia) trained the men after the Sunday service every week. Clark’s house was guarded 24/7 the way Clivan Bundy’s Bunkerville, Nevada, ranch is today. Men came from all over New England to camp out around the Lexington church, even as men and women have come from all over the U.S. to spend a week or more at a time protecting Bundy from another potential attack by the Bureau of Land Management.



## Preachers, pulpits and politics

Rep. Fisher argues that, to the extent that politics today are dirty, it is because Christians have too often removed themselves from participation. He adds that preachers should teach about the biblical principles of liberty and government — indeed about all of life — so their congregations will have a template to use with politicians.

Failure to do so today, he says, has resulted in many Christians voting wrong.

As an interesting note, he mentions President James Garfield, who began his working life pastoring a church. When the War Between the States commenced, he entered the ranks of the Northern Army as a General and stayed

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## THE Gun Owners

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