

THE Gun Owners

43 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2018

Hillary Doesn't Get to Pick Supreme Court Nominee; Left Goes Nuts

by John Velleco

Minutes after President Trump announced his pick for the Supreme Court at 9:00 PM on July 9, radical leftists staged a rally on the Court steps screaming in opposition.

In their perfect world, Hillary Clinton should have been the president making this selection — and they still haven't gotten over it.

As for Trump's pick, it didn't matter who he nominated — the opposition was geared up to march in lock-step to defeat whoever was named.

The ultra-liberal group "The Women's March" even put out a press release that began: "In response to Donald Trump's nomination of XX to the Supreme Court, The Women's March released the following statement."

The nominee, of course, is Brett Kavanaugh from the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, where he sat for twelve years.

Kavanaugh's most high-profile opinion in a gun rights case has been commended by Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation for its fidelity to the text of the Second Amendment.

Continued on page 2

GOA Urges Senate to Confirm SCOTUS Pick



GOA's Erich Pratt spoke at the Supreme Court on the tenth anniversary of the *DC v. Heller* decision. The event came just days before the President selected a GOA-backed nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court.

U.S. Rep. Wants to Ban and Confiscate Commonly-Owned Firearms

by John Velleco

In 1995, California Senator Dianne Feinstein, talking about the gun ban she authored, told *60 Minutes* correspondent Lesley Stahl: "If I could have gotten 51 votes in the Senate of the United States for an outright ban, picking up every one of them, 'Mr. and Mrs. America turn 'em all in,' I would have done it."

Maybe that was a Freudian slip, as over the ensuing decades anti-gunners

derided claims that what they really wanted was to take guns away from American citizens.

But now, exploiting tragic shootings in Florida, Texas and Nevada, the anti-gun Left is growing bolder and showing its true colors.

It's no longer a conspiracy theory to say that anti-gunners are pushing for gun confiscation — they're saying it themselves, and it's becoming a reality.

Continued on page 6

Inside:

- See the pro-gun victories the media won't tell you about (page 3)
- GOA commemorates the 10-year anniversary of the *Heller* decision (page 4)

Hillary Doesn't Get to Pick Supreme Court Nominee

Continued from page 1

The Washington D.C. City Council, in a hostile response to the Supreme Court's 2008 *Heller* decision, passed onerous regulations which, among other things, banned so-called "high capacity magazines" and so-called "assault weapons."

D.C. resident Dick Heller challenged these regulations, but the district court relied on an "interest balancing test" and upheld all the restrictions.

On appeal, GOA/GOF filed a brief in the D.C. Circuit opposing any form of balancing tests. The circuit court, however, upheld the regulations (decided October 4, 2011) in an opinion by Judge Douglas Ginsburg.

Kavanaugh Embraces *Heller*

Brett Kavanaugh dissented from that decision, arguing for a textual and historical test, exactly as GOA/GOF had argued in the two *Heller* cases — an approach which Justice Antonin Scalia had embraced in *Heller* in 2008.

Kavanaugh stated: "In my judgment, both D.C.'s ban on semi-automatic rifles and its gun registration requirement are unconstitutional under *Heller*."

Kavanaugh went on to write: "In my view, *Heller* and *McDonald* leave little doubt that courts are to assess gun bans and regulations based on text, history, and tradition, not by a balancing test such as strict or intermediate scrutiny."

Such rulings are what led Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy to wail that "Brett Kavanaugh is a true Second



President Trump has nominated Brett Kavanaugh for the U.S. Supreme Court.

announcement.

Kavanaugh was nominated to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy. Some legal scholars and observers of the high Court believe it was Justice Kennedy who insisted that the original *Heller* decision contain language that would leave the door open for "reasonable restrictions" on gun ownership, and that such a concession was made by Antonin Scalia in order to win

Brett Kavanaugh endorsed a textual and historical test, exactly as GOA/GOF had argued in the two *Heller* cases, and this led Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy to wail that "Brett Kavanaugh is a true Second Amendment radical."

Amendment radical."

And incited Mom's Demand Action leader Shannon Watts to tweet:

Judge Kavanaugh has applied an extreme and dangerous interpretation of the Second Amendment when determining whether a law is constitutional, one that does not take into account a law's impact on public safety.

So in the anti-gun world, "radical," "extreme" and "dangerous" are words used to describe a jurist who believes that: "A judge must be independent and must interpret the law, not make the law," as Mr. Kavanaugh stated at his

Kennedy's vote.

Now that Kennedy is retiring, it is possible that the addition of a Justice who will faithfully interpret the Constitution as written could recognize the "individual right" interpretation to an even greater extent.

A full Senate vote is expected some time in September so that Kavanaugh could be seated before the October term of the Court begins.

And as gun owners watch the vote, they will undoubtedly reflect fondly on the fact that Hillary Clinton was not able to shape the Court for possibly a generation. ■

How to Place GOA



You can help protect gun rights for future generations by placing Gun Owners of America in your will or estate plans.

Here are some sample instructions to share with your advisor or attorney:

I give, devise and bequeath to Gun Owners of America (tax ID # 52-1256643), a non-profit, corporation in Springfield, Virginia:

- The sum of \$_____; or
- _____ percent of my estate; or
- Residue. I give my Residue to Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

Coast to Coast, States Rejecting Calls for Gun Control

— *But the media
wants to keep
you in the dark*

by Jordan Stein

As many state lawmakers go on recess for the summer, they leave their capitols without passing a word of gun control.

However, it was not for a lack of trying.

At an almost unprecedented level, anti-gun Democrats and turncoat Republicans are attempting to ram gun control through state legislatures.

And many of these bills come right out of the infamous billionaire Michael Bloomberg's playbook.

While his gun control agenda has been considered in many state capitols across the country, these efforts have failed — with a few exceptions — thanks to the grassroots activism of gun owners.

But if you were to listen only to the mainstream media, you would never hear about these tremendous victories.

One of the gun control measures being introduced all around the country — often garnering bipartisan support — is sugar-coated as a “red flag law” or an “extreme risk protection order.”

In reality, they should be known as Gun Confiscation Orders (GCOs).

In essence, a disgruntled family member or police officer could get a court order to have someone's guns confiscated and do it without any real due process.

GOA's Michael Hammond has explained the dangers of these laws in an *USA Today* column, which can be read here: gunowners.me/HammondRedFlagLaws. (*URL is case sensitive.*)

Constitutional Carry a Top-GOA priority



Tim Macy, chairman of GOA (left), hosted an event in San Antonio, Texas, featuring many pro-liberty state lawmakers like Rep. Jonathan Stickland (right). Stickland has sponsored the GOA-backed permitless carry bill in the Texas legislature. GOA is working in Texas and states across the country to pass Constitutional Carry.

GOA Successfully Fighting Gun Confiscation Orders

To date, with the help of grassroots activists across the country, GOA has been able to stall or defeat GCOs in more than a dozen states.

For example, the battle over this legislation in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania was particularly colorful.

In April, GOA's Larry Pratt spoke at the state capitol, warning against Gun Confiscation Orders.

Then, GOA joined local gun rights groups in rallying Keystone gun owners several times to lobby their state lawmakers against the legislation, thereby helping to kill it.

In fact, a pro-gun state legislator told GOA that the vigorous push against gun control convinced the House Speaker to spike the anti-gun legislation.

GOA Assisting No-Compromise Gun Organizations in the States

Moving to the West Coast, a GOA-backed suit brought by Oregon Firearms Federation stopped two Oregon ballot measures that would have turned the Beaver State into one of the most gun-controlled places in the country.

The worst of the ballot initiatives, IP-

43, would have banned many commonly owned semi-automatic firearms — and even some lever-action rifles.

It is particularly significant that a liberal court ruled in favor of the Oregon Firearms Federation, and against the anti-gun backers of the ballot initiatives.

In deep-red Idaho, GOA activists assisted a local group — the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance — to kill a “halfway” gun control bill that would have set the stage for Gun Confiscation Orders in the future.

In the Cowboy State, GOA worked with Wyoming Gun Owners to pass a good Stand Your Ground bill into law.

This is just a sampling of the pro-gun victories from around the country. But while gun owners should certainly celebrate these victories, they also need to recognize that the anti-gun Left will be energized for the next legislative battles.

After all, they have tremendous funding from Michael Bloomberg and anti-gun celebrities who have contributed millions to their cause.

It is said that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance — and that statement could not be more true.

It's critical that gun owners get vocal, get active and get to the polls — as our gun rights are in the balance. ■

GOA Before the Court



◀ Shall Not Be Infringed

GOA was heavily involved in the *DC v. Heller* case — and our brief was even recognized by liberal papers like *USA Today* which said that the GOA brief was clearly distinctive, being the only one to argue that the words “shall not be infringed” invalidated all federal gun control laws. (See related article on page 8.) Pratt’s speech can be viewed on GOA’s Facebook, Instagram or YouTube channel, or at gunowners.me/PrattSpeaksSCOTUS (*URL is case sensitive*).



▲ It’s an Individual Right

GOA’s Erich Pratt (right) with Dick Heller — the lead plaintiff in the 2008 Supreme Court case bearing his name — together on the ten-year anniversary of the decision. This landmark case affirmed that the Second Amendment was an individual right and spurred other pro-gun decisions like *McDonald* and *Wrenn*, as well as sparking pro-gun legislation like Constitutional Carry across the country.

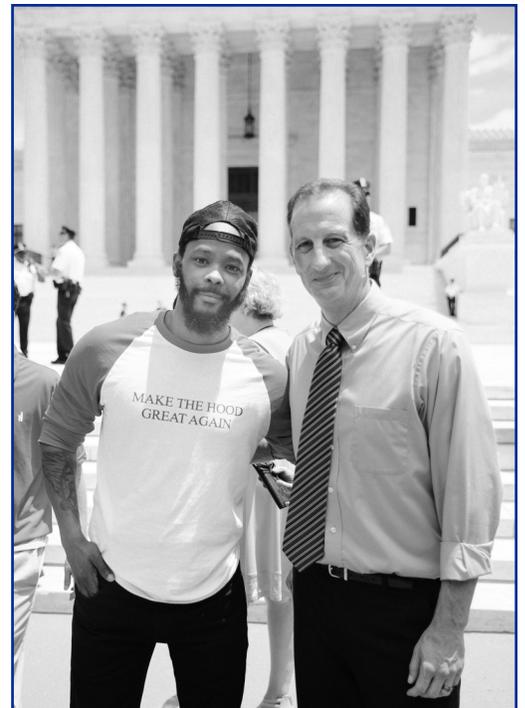


▲ Working with Pro-Gun Lawmakers

Erich Pratt, Executive Director of Gun Owners of America (left), with Congressman Thomas Massie (R-KY), who is one of the most outspoken pro-gun Congressmen and is the Chairman of the Second Amendment Caucus in Congress. Massie has also introduced GOA-backed bills to lower the age to buy a handgun (HR 5112) and eliminate the Gun-Free School Zones Act (HR 34). Additionally, he staunchly opposes banning bump stocks.

Know Your Rights!

GOA’s Erich Pratt (right) with Maj Toure of Black Guns Matter. Maj is a pro-gun activist doing excellent work promoting the right to keep and bear arms in urban and inner city areas.





GOA Supporting Freedom



◀ GOA Helping Pro-Gun Candidates

Jordan Stein, Director of Communications for GOA, (right) with Rafael Cruz, the father of pro-gun Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX). Rafael is a very passionate defender of the Second Amendment, as he has personally seen gun control's end game before escaping the communist regime of Cuba. Ted Cruz is running for reelection to the Senate this November.



▶ Sending Freedom Downrange

Erich Pratt, Executive Director of GOA, fires a Browning machine gun at a pro-gun rally and machine gun shoot in Iowa. Pratt also spoke at the event, calling out Republicans and Democrats who are selling out the Second Amendment.



◀ Pushing Gun Rights in the States

Rachel Malone, GOA's field director, is charging for gun rights in the Lone Star state. Malone has great experience in mobilizing grassroots activists, as well as being a firearms instructor. One of GOA's top priorities for Texas (as well as the rest of the country) is passing Constitutional Carry, which is already law in fourteen states.



▲ GOA Exposing the Anti-Gun Left's Hypocrisy

GOA's Erich Pratt appeared on Liz Wheeler's *Tipping Point* show this spring. Pratt informed viewers of a key study on self-defense that every gun owner should use, but also warned how the Left wants to use taxpayer money to brainwash the next generation against firearms. Wheeler's show can be viewed on the *One America News Network*, and this particular episode can be viewed on GOA's YouTube page at <https://gunowners.me/CDFundingOAN>. (URL is case sensitive.)

U.S. Rep. Want to Ban and Confiscate Commonly-Owned Firearms

Continued from page 1

United States Representative Eric Swalwell (D-CA) made just such a proposal in a *USA Today* article in May.

Swalwell proposes to reinstate the so-called “assault weapons” ban, but with a twist. He would add an Australian-type mandatory buyback component, and for those who refuse to comply... confiscation.

“[W]e should ban possession of military-style semiautomatic assault weapons, we should buy back such weapons from all who choose to abide by the law, and we should criminally prosecute any who choose to defy it by keeping their weapons,” Swalwell wrote.

In other words, millions of law-abiding Americans would be turned into felons overnight.

It Takes a Village

A proposal similar to Swalwell’s was enacted in the Chicago suburb of Deerfield, Illinois, this year.

The Village of Deerfield’s Board of Trustees voted to ban many types of semi-automatic firearms — including some handguns — and magazines holding more than 10 rounds.

The Board’s action was taken in response to the shooting in Parkland, Florida, not as a result of any local criminal activities. In fact, according to *NBC News*, “There hasn’t been a murder there in at least five years... Gun violence there is virtually non-existent.”

Nevertheless, residents who had been in lawful possession of the newly-banned firearms were required to sell



Rep. Eric Swalwell (D) wants to confiscate certain commonly-owned firearms from law-abiding Americans.

them or surrender them to the police chief.

Non-compliance would result in fines of up to \$1,000 per day and confiscation by police.

Twenty-four hours before going into effect, a circuit court judge blocked the new law — not a huge surprise because of the state’s preemption law, but it still had to be fought in court.

And this is a well-established tactic of the Left. They know they will not win every battle, but if they throw enough gun control at the local, state and federal levels, eventually some of it is going to stick.

Democrats Hope Gun Control Leads to Control of Congress

It is unlikely that Swalwell’s proposal would pass under the current Congress, but Democrats are hopeful that groups

like the Parkland teens will help bolster their numbers in November.

And they may not have far to go. A U.S. House bill to ban many semi-automatics (H.R. 5087) currently has 176 cosponsors.

To flip control of the House, Democrats need to flip 24 seats. If that were to happen, a semi-auto gun ban would be within striking distance.

Gun Owners of America has always maintained that gun control laws only move in the direction of even tighter restrictions. There is no one law that will satisfy the Left enough to leave the Second Amendment alone.

As Sen. Feinstein said more than twenty years ago, it’s simply a matter of what can be passed with the votes they have available. And sometimes they get help along the way from people who are usually supporters of the Second Amendment.

For example, many Republicans have recently jumped on the “Red Flag” bandwagon, apparently unaware that such laws are really Gun Confiscation Orders without due process protections.

And consider the national background check system. Thought by many on the pro-gun side to be harmless, background checks will ultimately lead to gun owner registration, which in turn can lead to confiscation.

This is particularly troubling considering the evidence that the BATFE has been illegally copying 4473 forms from gun dealers.

Therefore, under the ban that Swalwell proposes, many owners of such arms are readily identifiable to the government, and one step closer to Senator Feinstein’s dream for “Mr. and Mrs. America.” ■

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 as little as \$20 (with the remainder to be billed to you as a monthly charge to your debit or credit card) 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.

Gun Owners of America
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202
Springfield, Virginia 22151
703-321-8585
www.gunowners.org

As Heller Turns 10, are Gun Rights Better Protected Today?

Continued from page 8

lenge gun control laws.

A dispirited, anti-gun Justice Stephen Breyer predicted that the *Heller* court decision “threatens to throw into doubt the constitutionality of gun [control] laws throughout the United States.”

Both of them were right.

A pro-gun wave follows Heller

One month and two days after the *Heller* decision was decided, Morton Grove, Illinois, unilaterally repealed its handgun ban.

Several more gun bans would fall from coast-to-coast.

Some were repealed voluntarily. Others would fall after they were taken to court.

Of course, the *Heller* decision was instrumental in setting the table for the



GOA submitted an *amicus* brief to support Brian Wrenn (right) who successfully challenged DC’s restrictive carry law in 2017.

further protect the right to use a gun in self-defense.

In 2017, a GOA-backed case helped strike down the pernicious “may issue” carry law in DC — thus opening the door to hundreds of people who are now able to carry firearms there.

Dick Heller, who was the hero of the original 2008 case, recently told Gun Owners of America that he was the 801st person to get a carry permit in the District.

This is progress, considering that Heller lives in one of the most anti-gun cities in the country.

But again, the foundation for all this was laid in 2008 when the Court ruled that the Second Amendment protected the right of Heller to own a weapon in his home.

This is not to say that the majority decision in *Heller* was 100 percent perfect. It was not.

GOA predicted right after the case was decided in 2008, that there was “dicta” — or editorializing by the *Heller* majority — which would be used by future courts to go further than the Constitution allows in upholding certain gun restrictions.

Of course, this is exactly what has happened. And sadly, there are still many gun owners who are suffering under the oppression of very restrictive gun laws in certain states.

But this is why the U.S. Senate must confirm judges who will use the Constitution as their standard.

The President’s selection of Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2017 was a good pick.

And his selection of Brett Kavanaugh in July will be a *huge* improvement over the retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

If he is confirmed by the Senate, we should see more gun control laws being struck down around the nation. ■

GOA’s brief presented the greatest reason for the right to keep and bear arms, stating that “the Second Amendment right is to be exercised as a last resort to guard against tyranny.”

McDonald case in 2010 — a decision that made it clear that states and localities are not at liberty to infringe the right to keep and bear arms of the people.

That’s when the Chicago handgun ban was repealed.

Shortly afterward, Wisconsin and Illinois ended up getting their concealed carry laws.

The *Heller* decision also encouraged state legislators across the country to

Take Constitutional Carry. In 2008, there were only two states that had permitless carry.

But after being emboldened by the *Heller* Court, fully 28% of the states have now adopted Constitutional Carry.

GOA-backed case helps bring concealed carry to DC

Amazingly, concealed carry would even come to the nation’s capital, as well.

Upgrade Your Membership to the Patriot Level!



GOA Patriot

Become a Patriot Member today and receive:

- ★ A special custom membership card available only to Patriot members
- ★ Embroidered GOA baseball cap
- ★ Automatic entry into all GOA gun giveaway sweepstakes
- ★ *And more!*

Sign up at: gunowners.me/patriot



As *Heller* Turns Ten, are Gun Rights Better Protected Today?

by Erich Pratt

This past June was the ten-year anniversary of the *DC v. Heller* case.

While the majority opinion was not a perfect one, it is significant in that the highest court

Amendment.

Our brief also presented the greatest reason for the right to keep and bear arms, stating that “the Second Amendment right is to be exercised as a last resort to guard against tyranny.”

Again, we were delighted to see the Supreme Court echo this concept in the *Heller* decision. On pages 24-25, the

Court declared that a primary reason for having an armed populace is “to resist tyranny.”

For these reasons and more, the *Heller* case has been a “game changer.”

The “Dark Ages” prior to *Heller*

We tend to forget what it was like prior to *Heller*.

Before 2008, the anti-gun Left claimed there was no individual right to keep and bear arms — and that total and complete gun bans were supposedly consistent with the Second Amendment.

So gun owners who used firearms for protection, while living in a jurisdiction with a gun ban, had to live in fear of being prosecuted.

But that all changed with *Heller*, as it spent dozens of pages laying out the historical and legal case for the individual right to keep

in our land recognized the individual right of decent people to own a firearm for protection.

And perhaps just as significant, the Court recognized that this important liberty was a pre-existing right which preceded the Second Amendment.

GOA submitted a hard-hitting *amicus* brief to the Supreme Court prior to the decision.

In fact, after looking at all the briefs which were submitted in the *Heller* case, the editors at *USA Today* decided to use GOA for their “Opposing Voice” on March 19, 2008.

The paper’s editors told our attorneys that GOA had an argument that was clearly distinctive. They said we were the only ones to argue that the words “shall not be infringed” invalidated all federal gun control laws.

We were very pleased that the *Heller* majority followed our request to shoot down the DC handgun ban without resorting to a “balancing of rights” test.

Thankfully, the Court struck down the DC gun ban, ruling the ban was prohibited by the text of the Second

and bear arms.

The anti-gun Left was devastated.

The President of the anti-gun Brady Campaign said the *Heller* case would “embolden” gun rights activists to chal-



GOA helped Dick Heller (left) commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the Supreme Court decision which bears his name.

Continued on page 7

THE Gun Owners

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

Tim Macy
Chairman

Larry Pratt
Executive Director Emeritus

John Velleco
Director of Operations

Erich Pratt
Executive Director

Michael Hammond
Legislative Counsel

Jordan Stein
Director of Communications

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202
Springfield, Virginia 22151
703-321-8585
Website: www.gunowners.org

The Gun Owners publication is copyrighted. But copies may be made freely with attribution, giving GOA’s address, phone number and web site location.