It’s quite ironic when you think about it. Millions of Americans were celebrating our nation’s independence this past July, when United Nations delegates were discussing global gun control in the Big Apple.

To hear their stated goal, they only wanted to get firearms out of the wrong hands.

“Our targets remain unscrupulous arms brokers, corrupt officials, drug trafficking syndicates, criminals and others who bring death and mayhem into our communities,” said UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Like the Brady Campaign in our country, Annan says they’re only going after the bad guys. But this is far from the truth.

Talk show host Cam Edwards covered the UN conference and posted several excellent articles on www.townhall.com — many of them documenting the real agenda at the UN this past Independence Day.

According to Edwards, some delegates were crystal clear about their intentions. The representative from Indonesia unashamedly stated that, we believe that no armed group outside of the State should be allowed to bear weapons... In our view, the issue of ammunition should also be addressed in the context of the Program of Action because in the absence of ammunition, small arms and light weapons pose no danger.

There you have it. No private arms. No ammunition for those guns. One starts to get the idea that keeping guns out of the “wrong hands” is code for disarming anyone who is not associated with the government.

Of course, most delegates were more judicious in their word choice. The representative from the European Union described the Program of Action, which they were discussing, as “the key starting point for further action on small arms.”

The Brazilian delegate told his fellow colleagues that they should not “limit ourselves” to the current program, but rather they should “address the Program’s shortcomings” and “strengthen” it.

Doesn’t this sound reminiscent of what we used to hear from the Brady Bunch in the 1990s? Anytime they passed new gun control measures, we were always told, “This is a good first step!”

Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) hit the nail on the head when he said, The stated goal of the conference is to eliminate trading in small arms, but the real goal is to advance a worldwide gun control movement that ultimately supersedes national laws, including our own 2nd Amendment. Many UN observers believe the conference will set the stage in coming years for an international gun control treaty.

Continued on page 2

Questions & Answers
What is the UN Agenda Regarding Gun Rights?

The following interview took place between GOA’s Communication Director Erich Pratt and the Coalition for Constitutional Liberties (COCL), a privacy rights organization in the nation’s capital. COCL published the interview on the advent of the UN gun control conference this past June.

Q: You recently noted [in a GOA email alert dated 6/7/06] that Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI) had written a letter stating that the United Nations was not intent on costing Americans their Second Amendment rights. Should defenders of the Second Amendment believe statements like those of Senator Kohl which are reassuring that our Second Amendment rights will not be infringed upon by the UN?

Erich Pratt, GOA: Absolutely not.

Continued on page 4
GOA lobbies to cut off taxpayer funds to anti-gun UN

In the days leading up to the conference, Gun Owners of America activated its grassroots network, generating thousands of messages into Senate and State Department offices.

GOA used the mail, radio, and Internet for several months, urging gun owner support for legislation introduced by two Louisiana Republicans—Sen. David Vitter and Rep. Charles Boustany.

These bills, if passed, would instantly cut off US funds to the United Nations. Monetary payments could only resume if the U.S. President were to certify that the UN has NOT acted to disparage our Second Amendment rights.

An honest President would have a difficult time making that case.

In addition to contacting the Congress, GOA also urged gun owners to contact the State Department delegation which attended the UN conference.

Rep. Paul, in a column appearing on the day before the conference was to begin, praised gun owners for having responded to the call to action with “an avalanche of letters” to the American delegation, asking that none of our tax dollars be used to further UN anti-gun proposals.

US position mixed, support for some gun controls put forward

Ultimately, the U.S. Congress must pass the Vitter-Boustany legislation (S. 1488 and H.R. 3436) because gun owners will be very disappointed if our rights are left in the hands of State Department officials.

Listening to Robert Joseph, the State Department spokesman at the recent UN conference, one can only conclude that our nation’s position is something of a gun control “lite.”

On the positive side, Joseph did talk about our Second Amendment rights and promised that the U.S. would not sign on to any agreement that infringed those liberties. He also stated that restrictions on ammunition were “beyond the mandate” of the UN. This part was excellent.

But having sounded, briefly, like John Wayne, Mr. Joseph then contradicted his earlier support for the Second Amendment when he laid out the restrictions that the United States would support:

- Stemming the “illicit trade” in small arms
- Marking and tracing of weapons (that is, registration)
- Placing “effective controls” on weapons transfers (both import and export), and
- Destroying government-declared surplus and illicit weapons.

The underlying premise behind all of the U.S.-supported restrictions is that limiting access to firearms will somehow make people safer. Of course, isn’t this the assumption that drives every gun control proposal the Brady Bunch supports?

Gun control makes mandatory victims

Sarah Brady & Co. is always talking about “limiting access to firearms.” They want to reduce the “easy availability” of weapons. The reality, however, is that limiting access to guns only endangers people’s lives.

This is not only true in our country — such as in our nation’s (murder) capital — it is also true around the world.

In 1943, the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto would have loved to have had access to firearms — legal or illegal! In fact, the guns they used to ward off the Nazis for several weeks were certainly unlawful.

The Tutsis in Rwanda would have loved to get their hands on some illegal guns in 1994 to avert the massacre inflicted by the Hutus. Same with the victims of genocide in Bosnia (1995) and Darfur, Sudan (2004).

It’s a good thing that there was no UN in 1776 that was actively working to outlaw “illegal guns” from civilian possession. King George III did try to confiscate our Founders’ guns, but thankfully, they were astute enough to know that disarmament was the first step towards slavery, and so they refused to hand over their firearms.

Of course, the biggest fallacy in the “let’s limit access to firearms” ideology is that private citizens are not the greatest danger on the planet. No, that’s far from being the case.

The majority of murders committed every year are not from guns in private hands, but from guns in the hands of oppressive regimes! While UN officials love to claim that armed, private citizens commit about one-half million yearly murders (around the globe), they ignore the fact that tyrannical governments have killed almost two million people every year.

According to R.J. Rummel, a professor of political science at the University of Hawaii, that’s nearly two million non-combatants every year who have been murdered by their own governments. Add up the holocausts from the 20th Century, and you find that brutal regimes have been much more deadly than private citizens with guns. (See R.J. Rummel, Death by Government, 2000.)

UN small arms conference ends in “total meltdown”

One should not expect the bullies at the UN to suddenly realize that the governments they represent are the greatest threat to individual liberties. Moreover, they are not only a threat to their own people, but to us as well.

Rep. Paul has even stated that the “biggest threat” to gun rights in America today comes “not from domestic lawmakers, but from abroad.”

How can he make such an outrageous statement?

Well, consider that many anti-gun Democrats in Congress have stopped pushing extreme gun control measures after heavy electoral losses to their...
Good news out of California!

In June, San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren overturned voter-approved Measure H, a city ordinance that banned the private possession of handguns and the sale of all firearms in the city.

Gun Owners of America — and Gun Owners Foundation along with Gun Owners of California — underwrote the costs of filing a friend of the court (amicus) brief by the founder of Gun Owners, California state Sen. H.L. Richardson (ret.).

Sen. Richardson’s amicus brief was important in this case because, while in his service in the California Senate, he sponsored the law that prohibits what the voters of San Francisco recently did. California state law preempts, thanks to Richardson, any local measures banning or registering firearms.

Gun Owners is thankful that the courts did not disregard the preemption law Richardson enacted. We all know that courts frequently have a problem following the law and seeking guidance from the record of those who made the law.

Richardson’s preemption law has been upheld in previous cases, so with the obvious meaning of the law and the history of judicial rulings supporting it, prospects for overturning the plebiscite looked good all along.

Victory in court now frees the 42 percent of San Franciscans who voted against violating a constitutional right to own a handgun in the city.

The city has already announced it will appeal the ruling, even though S.F. Mayor Gavin Newsome has reportedly said that this effort was contrary to state law. Interestingly, the San Francisco Police Officers Association opposed the ban, saying the law nullified “the personal choice of city residents to possess a handgun for self-defense purposes.”

GOA would like to thank all of those who have contributed to Gun Owners Foundation, which makes lawsuits like this possible. Gun Owners Foundation is part of the Combined Federal Campaign — Agency Number 1054.

GOA wins battle in San Francisco courts!

– Thanks contributors for making battles like this possible

GOA Helping Illinois Freedom Fighters

Good news out of Illinois!

From left to right: John Horstman, GOA’s Larry Pratt, and Shaun Kranish, the founder of www.ICarry.org. Horstman was prosecuted for carrying a pistol in Illinois and has already been vindicated. Kranish is now facing a felony for the same thing — he legally carried a pistol in Illinois with the magazine outside the gun, which was concealed in a fanny pack. GOA’s foundation (GOF) has contributed to Kranish’s legal defense.

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

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

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

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

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

One additional note. If you are employed by a corporation or organization which has a Matching Gift Program, please keep GOF in mind when making your donation. Thank you very much.
Questions & Answers
Continued from page 1

The United Nations has already tried to impose mandatory gun controls upon countries like ours. Former Rep. Bob Barr (R), who has attended several global conferences, has noted how many countries are trying to impose binding restrictions such as gun owner registration. And Lawrence Auster, who was a reporter at the first global conference in 2001, recounted that the disarmament agenda at the UN is so blatant that they “unembarrassedly” admit they want to strip small arms from anyone who is not associated with the government because the possession of such weapons allows people to oppose the UN itself.

Ireland’s delegate, Auster reported, even went so far as to say that he wants no private weapons of self-defense to exist anywhere in the world. “All states must suppress private ownership of small arms and light weapons,” the delegate is quoted as saying.

Q: How long has the UN been pursuing an anti-Second Amendment agenda?

Pratt, GOA: The UN has been pursuing an anti-gun agenda at least since 2001 — that’s when more than 140 nations embarked upon a series of gun control conferences to hammer out various firearms restrictions.

In recent years, the UN has produced a video entitled Armed to the Teeth which is openly supportive of gun banning. It includes a scene showing American school students taking a pledge to never touch a gun. But the UN’s anti-gun bias goes back much further.

The UN has a long history of supporting oppressive governments, while at the same time, pressing for the disarmament of anyone who opposes those tyrannical regimes. Consider UN Resolution 713 which made it illegal for any country to help arm the Croatians or Bosnians against Milosevic and his invading Yugoslav army in 1991-92. It was not until the massacre of thousands of people (including children) at Srebrenica in 1995 that the UN finally saw the error of its ways and rescinded the irresponsible resolution.

And don’t forget Rwanda, where the UN helped arm the Hutu government, but then sat idly by when the Hutus disarmed and then massacred the defenseless Tutsis in 1994. About a million Tutsis died, as they were packed into churches and slaughtered, or herded into stadiums for mass executions.

Q: Who is behind the organization IANSA — the International Action Network on Small Arms? How much clout do they wield within the United Nations and with politicians and lobbyists within the United States?

Pratt, GOA: IANSA is the equivalent of the Brady Campaign at the global level. Founded in 1998, the organization is lobbying the UN for stricter gun controls all around the globe. IANSA is made up of over 500 organizations which are located in nearly 100 countries.

The IANSA website boasts the organization is recognized by the UN as an “important global NGO network with valuable expertise;” and its officials claim they were “instrumental” in harnessing global support for the UN Small Arms Conference in New York (2001).

IANSA has been funded by the governments of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Sweden and Norway, as well as by private organizations in the United States (including the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations).

Q: What can defenders of the Second Amendment do to protect this important right from being infringed upon by the United Nations?

Pratt, GOA: Gun Owners of America has generated thousands of letters, emails and phone calls to Capitol Hill — all from pro-gun Americans who are concerned about the global threat to their gun rights. People who are concerned about this threat can go to www.gunowners.org for more information.

Q: Members of the news media in our country are often not supporters of Second Amendment rights. They believe that controlling guns leads to controlling crime and fewer deaths. Any tips on how to make them more appreciative of the Second Amendment?

Pratt, GOA: The liberal media continues to lose the clout it once had. While I don’t discourage efforts to “convert” the media, I think our energy is best spent in bypassing them. Thank God for the Internet and for Talk Radio, because Americans are not as dependent on the liberal media as they were 20 years ago.

In the 1980s, Gun Owners of America could issue a press release, but we were virtually dependent upon the media to spread our point of view. It just didn’t happen. But because of the Internet today, we can — in the blink of an eye — alert hundreds of thousands of Americans to the threats against their Second Amendment rights and get multiple thousands of people to call their representatives in Washington.
Picking the right horse

by Tim Macy

There’s an old saying in politics that goes something like this — “How come it is that every time we elect one of us, they ain’t one of us anymore?”

It’s more than frustrating to help elect a “good candidate” only to watch them vote wrong on critical legislation. There are plenty of reasons why they “ain’t” one of us anymore:

• They never were.
• They quickly became one of the members of the “club” in the Congress, allowing their colleagues to bend their positions and votes on many issues.
• They began getting attacked by the liberal press and liberal groups to the point where — horror of horrors — they began to worry they might lose their next election because they actually stuck to principle.

That’s why Gun Owners of America has always tried to do our homework and pick candidates that would hold to principle against all odds in battles to protect the Second Amendment.

We have several fine examples of strong-willed members of Congress who have not only held to principle, but have helped lead the fight for Gun Owners.

Senator David Vitter, who GOA supported in the 2004 U.S. Senate race in Louisiana, has been named our Legislator of the Year for 2006 because he is carrying two different pieces of legislation to protect our guns.

The first bill will withhold funding for the United Nations if the UN continues to try and take away our right to own firearms as guaranteed by the Constitution.

You may have seen our video of citizens who are doing nothing but trying to protect their homes and property, having their guns taken away by law enforcement officials, rendering these honest citizens defenseless against roving bands of hoodlums in the days after the hurricane passed through the Gulf States.

Senator Vitter has proven to be more than just a “good vote.” He’s a leader to protect the Constitution and our individual rights.

On the House side of Congress we have Representatives Rick Renzi and Steve King.

Congressman Renzi has been a real friend of gun owners ever since we first helped him in 2002. It was a very hard fought victory and well worth the effort.

Renzi has introduced legislation this year to allow honest citizens to buy firearms in any state across the country, as long as they abide by the laws of that state before they pick up the gun.

Many people believe they can buy a gun anywhere in the country, but this is not the case — at least, not until Renzi’s bill passes and is signed into law.

Congressman Steve King is also leading the fight for gun owners by introducing legislation to reverse the law forcing gun dealers to sell a trigger lock with any gun purchased.

We at Gun Owners believe the trigger lock law puts America one step closer to forcing people to always have their guns locked up, rendering honest citizens defenseless against criminals who will never lock up their guns.

That’s why both Congressmen Renzi and King have received the Gun Owners “Defender of Freedom” award for 2006.

Picking the right candidates at election time is critical to protecting and preserving the Constitution. These three members of Congress prove the point and they deserve all our help in every election they face.

Tim Macy is the Vice Chairman of Gun Owners of America.

GOA Picks Legislator of the Year

GOA’s Tim Macy (left) and John Velleco (right) presented Sen. David Vitter (R-LA) with the Legislator of the Year award in June.

“Picking the right candidates at election time is critical to protecting and preserving the Constitution.”
Failure of International Gun Control

With a Presidential signature on such a treaty (even if the treaty were never brought to the Senate floor for ratification), the principles of the anti-gun treaty would be eroding the Second Amendment, through Executive Orders, and through the inclination of some courts to use unratified treaties as guidance in interpreting the U.S. Constitution.

This is why gun owners need to keep fighting these global attacks. UN delegates are hoping the General Assembly will take up the issue in the fall, so GOA will continue to keep you updated.

Meanwhile, let your Representative know that it’s time to cut off funds to the United Nations. Support H.R. 3436 and S. 1488!!

Gun Owners Foundation recently published a paper authored by its attorneys, William Olson and Herb Titus, entitled “Assessing the Threat to Second Amendment Rights posed by the U.S. Supreme Court’s Use of Foreign Law in Constitutional Interpretation.” This paper can be viewed at www.gunowners.com/fs0603.htm

Using the Census to Achieve Gun Control

Add to the census and redistricting games the Motor Voter Act, and vote fraud rises to an even higher level. The federal Motor Voter Act unconstitutionally tells states how to conduct elections without paying them for the trouble. People must be offered a chance to register when applying for a driver’s license or welfare. It is illegal to ask for proof of citizenship.

Many people get registered who could not care less about voting. As a result, there is a large universe of non-voters who cannot be purged from the voter rolls for eight years. This makes it rather easy for enterprising vote thieves to use the names of non-voters to vote on behalf of the non-voter.

As John Fund points out in his book Stealing Elections, there is “accumulating evidence that Motor Voter has been registering illegal aliens, since anyone who receives a government benefit may also register to vote with no questions asked. An INS investigation in 1996 into alleged Motor Voter fraud in California’s 46th congressional district revealed that ‘4,023 illegal voters possibly cast ballots in the disputed election between Republican Robert Dornan and Democrat Loretta Sanchez.’

Representative Dornan lost that election by fewer than 1,000 votes.”

In other words likely vote fraud took a pro-gun vote in the U.S. House of Representatives and replaced it with an anti-gun vote. Redistricting, counting by puffed up estimates of Democrat voters and voting by ineligible voters makes it so that a pro-gun conservative Republican needs a bigger and bigger margin just to win by a hair.

All Americans are disenfranchised by vote fraud, but it looks as if gun owners are especially at risk.
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Using the Census to Achieve Gun Control

by Larry Pratt

Demographers say that the red states are growing faster than the blue states, and that goes for the red counties within the blue states as well. So, conservatives in general, and gun owners in particular, only need to sit back and keep having babies, right?

Not necessarily. Ever hear of rotten boroughs? They were election districts in 18th century England that were designed geographically but had experienced huge losses of population so that only an old rotten, barely inhabited borough was left for some members of Parliament to represent. Other districts, of course, represented many, many more voters. Yet all members of Parliament had the same vote. Not very fair, most would say (except the members from Rotten, of course).

Well, the United States has its own rotten borough system in spite of the Constitution’s requirement to count all persons for apportioning the vote for the House of Representatives and then divide by the number of members currently established for the House.

That’s the theory. It doesn’t always work that way in practice. Gerrymandering is a term that dates back to Massachusetts Governor Eldridge Gerry who used the older rotten borough practice to favor his Republican party over the Federalist party in our early Republican era. Had it not been for Gerry we might use the term rotten boroughing instead of gerrymandering.

Modern advances in gerrymandering have been developed by a designer of legislative districts, Michael Berman, who was retained by California Democrats in 1980. The elections for the House in the next election (following the decennial census of 1980) resulted in six additional seats for the Democrats from the state of California alone. Perhaps it is worth noting that Michael’s brother Howard won his seat in 1982 which he still holds in 2006.

Business has only gotten better for Michael Berman. In 2001 California Democrats paid him $1.36 million to draw the state Senate and U.S. House districts. Democrat members of Congress from California paid Berman $600,000 ($20,000 each) for his services. One satisfied customer, Rep. Loretta Sanchez chirped: “I spend $2 million [campaigning] every election. If my colleagues are smart, they’ll pay their $20,000 and Michael will draw the district they can win in. Those who have refused to pay? God help them.” (Stealing Democracy: How to Rig Elections by Spencer Overton; Norton: 2006, pages 19 and 20.)

Keep in mind that these Democrats are tireless enemies of the Second Amendment and self defense. Berman’s districts tend to produce those on the far end of the political spectrum.

As clever as folks like Berman and his geek brigade are, they should not get all the credit for this massive election fraud.

The Census Bureau was used by the Clinton administration to put even more oomph into the vote grabbing for his party. The Census Bureau is in the Commerce Department which at the time was headed up by William Daley, son of the infamous rigger of Chicago elections, Mayor Richard Daley.

“Census sampling” was the term used by Secretary Daley and President Clinton to put lipstick on a pig, or in other words, to make vote fraud sound acceptable. The alleged problem was that illegal aliens were being undercounted because they try to be invisible. The problem with this argument is that it is an hypothesis, not a fact. The existence of invisible, uncountable persons was never proved.

But once the hypothesis was accepted as fact, “samplers” were free to pull estimates out of the air. For Democrats, the convenient thing about sampling was that it was assumed to be needed only in areas around hard-core, left wing blue jurisdictions. Fewer real persons who had actually been counted could be artificially inflated to equal the number needed for a congressional district population.

Voila! Rotten boroughs. Gerrymandering can be so embarrassingly obvious when population centers are connected by interstates and other equally heavily populated areas. But “sampling” avoids all those obvious signs of gerrymandering, as well as actually adds to the numbers of left wing Representatives more than the Democrats would have actually been entitled to.

Once we understand how the Democrats have been beating the population trends that are unfavorable to them, we realize what chutzpah Al Gore displayed in 2000 when he complained about voting irregularities — in Democrat run counties of South Florida! The next time you hear that “Bush stole the election,” you should find that so funny that you laugh out loud.

Continued on page 6