

THE Gun Owners

31 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2006

As GOA racks up pro-gun victories in 2006...

Attacks on Gun Rights Expected to Increase

by Erich Pratt

Say hello to Nancy Pelosi, the new Speaker of the House.

The democratic congresswoman from California is rabidly anti-gun. She holds an F- rating from Gun Owners of America and has consistently championed socialist "values."

To be sure, she has worked hard to earn her failing grade.

Consider that Pelosi was one of only 99 Representatives who voted *in favor* of gun confiscation in July.

That vote saw more than 300 congressmen cast their ballots to prohibit federal agents from stealing firearms from law-abiding citizens.

It was truly an overwhelming majority who supported the Second Amendment rights of Americans.

But in that July vote, Nancy Pelosi joined the hardcore left in Congress to *support* gun confiscation. She actually voted to let government agents burst into your home and steal your firearms!



Incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is F- rated by Gun Owners of America. She supported gun confiscation in July, when she voted against legislation to prohibit federal agents from stealing firearms during a state of emergency. Speaker Pelosi's new Congress is sure to put gun owners on the defensive.

That's the woman who will be determining which bills will be voted on next year in the House of Representatives. Yes, there still may be a majority of congressmen who oppose the outright confiscation of citizens' guns.

But in Nancy Pelosi's new Congress, a bill to prohibit such gun confiscation would never see the light of day! She will decide what gun bills come to the floor.

So what can we expect under Speaker Pelosi's leadership?

Well, we can expect hearings on the need for more gun control. In the House, look for the new leader of the Judiciary Committee — rabid anti-gunner John Conyers (D-

MI) — to head up these investigations.

In the other chamber, you can be sure that Senators Kennedy, Schumer and Feinstein will be clamoring for more restrictions on your Second Amendment rights.

Continued on page 2

Election 2006

by John Velleco

What impact, if any, will the transformational 2006 Congressional Election have on Second Amendment rights?

While election 2006 may have been a referendum on many things (the President, war in Iraq, Jack Abramoff, Mark Foley for example), it does not translate into greater support for gun control at the grass roots level.

In 1995, President Clinton stood in the U.S. House chamber for the State of the Union address, and noted that 25-30 representatives were not there (following the 1994 election) due to votes for gun control; that was a referendum on gun control.

If anything, gun control was notable as a non-issue in this election. In compiling the GOA rating, researchers could hardly find a congressional candidate with any stated position on gun control on campaign websites.

That's not to say many of the newly elected will not support the anti-gun agenda; just that they recognize open support for

gun control will cost them at the polls.

Unlike the newly elected members, however, the Democrat Congressional leadership is completely beholden to the far left anti-gun extreme of its party.

House Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi (F-rated by GOA) is a

Continued on page 8

Inside:

- **Sarah Brady takes aim at GOA (page 2)**
- **GOA in the news (page 3)**
- **Grassroots help GOA win key legislative victories (pages 4-5)**

Attacks on Gun Rights

Continued from page 1

We will see scores of anti-gun bills flooding the Congress. When one looks at the types of bills that have already been introduced by members of Pelosi's party, you see things such as:

- Bans on ammunition
- Expansion of the Brady data base to include the names of countless, law-abiding gun owners
- A re-authorization of the semi-auto gun ban (a ban which President Bush is on record as supporting!)
- A prohibition on gun shows
- A gun ban that will prohibit any hand-gun from being sold which can not be "personalized" — thus preventing loved ones from using a spouse's firearm in an emergency.

The list goes on and on. There could be a lot of gun control debated over the next several months. So prepare yourself for what will be a rough road ahead.

In the meantime, however, one should not neglect the fact that 2006 was a real improvement for gun rights in many respects. Yes, it will be a challenge to preserve the victories that we accomplished this year.

But consider just some of the highlights that we achieved together in 2006.

GOA Pushes Emergency Protection

A little over a year ago — in the wake of Hurricane Katrina — police began stealing the guns of law-abiding residents in New Orleans.

GOA sprung into action, first, by posting videos of the gun confiscation on our website.

GOA then tried to get the offending officials prosecuted. But Louisiana Attorney General Charles Foti (D) — and the U.S. Inspector General — refused to investigate.

GOA found a more receptive attitude from legislators, as GOA-supported bills were introduced all across the nation. These Emergency Protection bills repeal state codes that grant tremendous "emergency powers" to the government — powers which authorize officials to regulate or ban firearms.

Ten states enacted their Emergency Protection bills into law, and at the federal level, President Bush also signed a similar provision into law this past October.

GOA spent a lot of time in Louisiana, getting gun owners in the state to lobby their own legislators in favor of a change in the law. The results were astounding.

GOA sets the grassroots on fire

The sponsor of the Emergency Protection legislation in the state, Rep. Steve Scalise, told GOA that, "I've had a number of

Sarah Brady Takes Aim at GOA!



In November, the Brady Campaign asked the Federal Election Commission to investigate GOA's practice of posting its candidate ratings on the Internet. Millions of gun owners rely on these ratings, and that is something the Brady Bunch would like to halt. In 2002, the Bradys rejoiced when Congress passed the Incumbent Protect Act, stating that "now the gun lobby's stranglehold on Congress will be broken." Indeed, they want to make it illegal for GOA to tell gun owners what their legislators are actually doing. But it should not surprise anyone that a group which doesn't understand the Second Amendment does not understand First Amendment freedoms as well.

[Representatives] come up to me asking to co-author my bill because they heard from members of Gun Owners of America in their districts in support of my bill." In the end, 80% of the House cosponsored his bill.

GOA's work in the Bayou State's House of Representatives, prior to the vote, was equally rewarding. Scalise also told GOA that,

I showed the DVD you sent me on our computer monitors during the debate, so all the members got to watch the confiscations — especially when they tackled that lady in her house on Magazine Street — while the debate was going on. Thanks again for sending that [DVD] to me because it was very effective in making the point that this legislation is necessary.

If you have ever wondered if your activism makes a difference, then wonder no more. The outpouring of grassroots support at both the state and federal levels was immense and effective.

After the Emergency Protection language overwhelmingly passed in the U.S. Senate, one office told GOA that, "They obviously got your message loud and clear. It was the most lopsided gun vote I have ever seen. There was some serious hand wringing on the democratic side."

"GOA was the only Second Amendment group in Washington opposing McCarthy's attack.... And thanks to the active of GOA members, this [Brady expansion] bill is dead for the year."

Why was there "serious hand wringing"? Because the efforts from gun activists made it VERY difficult for anti-gun Democrats to vote against the language offered by pro-gun Senator David Vitter (R-LA).

There were only 16 U.S. Senators who voted wrong. But if you look at GOA's Senate rating — at www.gunowners.org/109srat.htm — you'll see a lot more than just 16 F's in that chamber.

Many F's simply couldn't take the heat, and they voted to put a stop to gun confiscation. But this was not the only federal victory that GOA helped achieve.

GOA single-handedly slams the door on Brady Expansion

The following quote from a congressional office says it all: "Oh s—t! We got a lot of postcards and emails from GOA

Continued on page 3

GOA in the News



In October, GOA appeared on TV sets across the country and around the world. After three school yard shootings led to cries for more gun control, GOA spokesmen pointed out that the U.S. school zone ban has failed to prevent school murders, but that armed principals and adults have successfully stopped gunmen in their tracks. To view some of these debates, please go to <http://www.gunowners.org/svtb.htm>.

Attacks on Gun Rights

Continued from page 2

members.”

This shows the reaction from one Congressional office in response to the number of postcards and emails that GOA members sent in opposition to the McCarthy gun grab (HR 1415).

GOA members let their Representatives know they didn’t want an expansion of the Brady Law, and the activism paid off handsomely. This was an uphill task, as early on, the bill was expected to easily pass the House of Representatives.

But GOA members and activists overwhelmingly responded to our internet and postal alerts over the August recess, resulting in untold thousands of postcards and emails being dumped on legislators’ desks.

The immense tidal wave of grassroots opposition buried this bill as legislative offices on Capitol Hill have told GOA, “We’ve heard your postcards and emails loud and clear!”

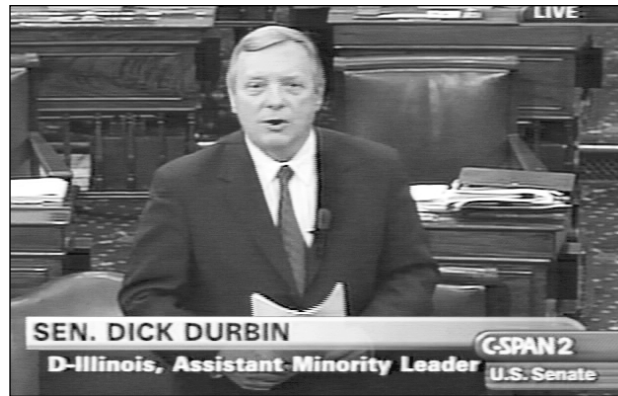
It’s a good thing those postcards and emails were sent by our members, too, because GOA was the only Second Amendment group in Washington opposing McCarthy’s attack.

The House Judiciary Committee was scheduled to vote on HR 1415 in early September. At that time, the committee reported two firearms-related bills to the floor of the House — but they specifically passed over the McCarthy bill (even though it was scheduled to come up for a vote).

GOA alone opposed the McCarthy bill as it would spend nearly \$1 billion dollars to further prop up and expand the unconstitutional Brady Law. And thanks to the active support of GOA members, this bill is dead for the year.

GOA helping gun owners to Stand Your Ground

Another victory for gun owners involved strengthened pro-



Supporting Gun Confiscation. “God forbid something like 9/11 should occur again; or Hurricane Katrina. It is an extraordinary circumstance where ordinary life is challenged Chaos is reigning, and they are trying to keep the society together.... [So] the police make it known that this will be a gun-free zone. We are going to confiscate every gun.... Is that unreasonable?”

— Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), July 13, 2006

tections for using guns in self-defense.

All over the country, Gun Owners of America pushed legislation modeled after the Stand Your Ground law that was enacted in Florida last year.

All together, more than a dozen states have now passed this legislation. Similar to Florida’s bill, these measures would do several things to improve people’s safety, such as:

- Remove the “duty to retreat” if you are unlawfully attacked by another, hence, allowing you to “stand your ground;” and

- Give a person the presumption of innocence if he or she shoots someone who had forcibly and unlawfully entered the gun owner’s home or car.

GOA has provided a helping hand in mobilizing gun owners in many of these states.

“Thanks so much for helping me push my Stand Your Ground bill through the legislature,” Rep. Calvey said. “This bill will go a long way to protect the safety of law-abiding gun owners in Oklahoma.”

GOA will continue to push for these laws in 2007, but in many states, we will be fighting a lot of defensive battles as well.

Gun Owners provides ‘silver bullet’ in killing San Francisco gun ban

One defensive battle that ended quite well involved the San Francisco gun ban.

Continued on page 6



Rep. Steve Scalise (R)



GOA's Larry Pratt and Sen. David Vitter (R-LA)

Senator Vitter praises GOA's work. "GOA's help in pushing my amendment to prohibit gun confiscation ... was a huge help, and it was very effective. I look forward to working on many other issues with GOA."

— Senator David Vitter (R-LA), July 13, 2006

GOA mobilizes gun owners in Louisiana. The GOA grassroots campaign to prevent future gun thefts was super-effective in the Bayou State. "I've had a number of [Representatives] come up to me asking to co-author my bill because they heard from members of Gun Owners of America in their districts in support of my bill," said state Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA). In the end, 80% of the House cosponsored his bill.

Scalise also told GOA that, "I showed the DVD you sent me on our computer monitors during the debate, so all the members got to watch the confiscations — especially when they tackled that lady in her house on Magazine Street — while the debate was going on. Thanks again for sending that [DVD] to me because it was very effective in making the point that this legislation is necessary."



"Oh s—t! We got a lot of postcards and emails from GOA members."

— As stated by a Congressional office to GOA lobbyist John Velleco (left) regarding the attempt to expand the Brady law.

Fighting an uphill battle all the way, GOA was the only Second Amendment group in

Washington trying to kill the Brady expansion. Success, however, came in early September when a tidal wave of grassroots opposition buried the gun grab bill. Legislative offices on Capitol Hill told GOA, "We've heard your postcards and emails loud and clear!"



GOA speaks to Pennsylvania legislators. With the sponsors of the Stand Your Ground bill standing behind him, GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt addressed legislators and gun owners on the advent of the bill's introduction in the Keystone State.



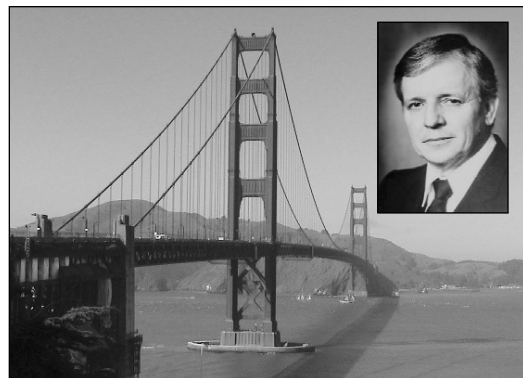
State Rep. Kevin Clavey (R-OK)

Victory in the Sooner State. "Thanks so much for helping me push my Stand Your Ground bill through the legislature," said state Rep. Kevin Clavey (R). "This bill will go a long way to protect the safety of law-abiding gun owners in Oklahoma."

GOA congratulates Indiana lawmakers for passing lifetime carry. GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt attended the governor's bill-signing ceremony in March. Pictured with Pratt are the concealed carry reform sponsors from both chambers: Sen. Johnny Nugent (R) on the left and Rep. Troy Woodruff (R) on the right.



Gun Owners Foundation weighs in on handgun ban. After San Francisco voters decided to ban handguns within their city limits, GOA's founder and chairman, Sen. H.L. Richardson (inset), submitted an amicus brief contesting the new edict. While serving as a California state senator for more than two decades, Richardson had drafted (and passed) preemption legislation which bans localities from doing what the Bay City did. In June, Superior Court Judge James Warren agreed with the GOF-funded amicus brief and overturned the voter-approved measure, citing Richardson's law as prohibiting the city from banning guns.



Attacking Gun Rights

Continued from page 3

After San Francisco voters decided to ban handguns within their city limits, GOA's founder and chairman, Sen. H.L. Richardson, submitted an *amicus* brief contesting the new edict.

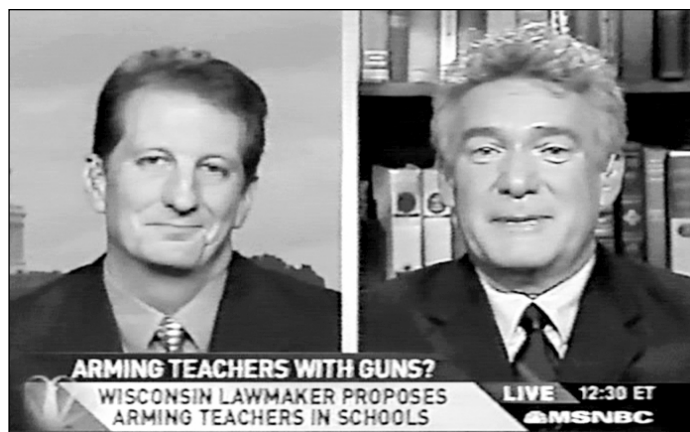
While serving as a California state senator for more than two decades, Richardson had drafted (and passed) preemption legislation which bans localities from doing what the Bay City did.

In June, Superior Court Judge James Warren agreed with the GOF-funded *amicus* brief and overturned the voter-approved measure, citing Richardson's law as prohibiting the city from banning guns.

Contributions to Gun Owners Foundation make victories like this possible.

One of GOF's other high-profile cases is in Montana, where we are helping to defend Rick Celata, the owner of KT Ordinance.

Celata's company makes parts kits for individuals who want to make their own firearms, which is legal as long as the owner does not sell the firearm to another person. The BATFE has



GOA's Erich Pratt (left) debated the head of the Brady Campaign in October, after three school shootings foisted the gun issue into the headlines nationwide.

raided Celata and confiscated all of his part kits, although the agency has yet to charge him with any criminal wrongdoing. Nevertheless, Celata's firearms have been put up for forfeiture.

Again, there were a lot of good things that occurred in 2006. Gun Owners of America hopes that you will stand with us so that these key victories don't evaporate. ■

HIT THE RIGHT TARGET! Give to Gun Owners Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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



What They're Saying About GOA

"Gun Owners of America is one of the most effective and important political organizations in this country.... [They] can mobilize gun owners from all across America, uniting them into a single powerful voice that politicians in Washington dare not ignore."

— **U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-LA)**

"Thank you for the good work you do for 2nd amendment and freedom."

— **Rep. Michael Pitts (SC)**



State Rep. Michael Pitts (R-SC)

"I really appreciate the work Gun Owners of America did to spread the word to your members so they could contact their legislators and help pass [my] Resolution."

— **Rep. Steve Scalise (LA)**

"Thanks very much for sending me information on guns being confiscated from people in New Orleans. The video recording was particularly compelling."

— **Rep. Pete Hinkle (NH)**

Endowing the future

Gun Owners of America member Jim Hammers agrees with the founders of the American republic — "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

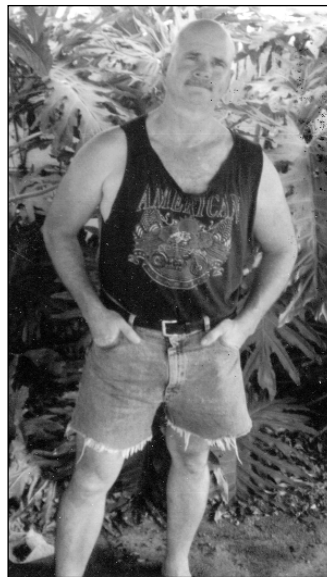
In order to insure that GOA is able to be vigilant indefinitely, if not eternally, Jim is one of the GOA members who has put the defense of freedom in his will. It is not unusual for GOA to be notified that we have been left in a member's will when it is too late to thank him.

Jim would appear to have notified us in plenty of time to thank him for leaving GOA in his will. As his picture shows, Jim appears to be quite hale and hearty.

Jim was attracted to Gun Owners of America because of its confrontational approach in the political arena. As a strong Christian, he also was pleased to find the Gun Owners Foundation fact sheet on the web — <http://www.gunowners.org> — dealing with the Bible and Gun Control.

Jim is not a P.C. sort of guy, even among gun owners. His favorite rifle is the AK which he admires for its rugged reliability. He also is partial to Harleys.

Jim Hammers, thank you very much. Your endowment of Gun Owners of America will go a long way to keeping us in the fight to keep our guns — and preserve what it means to be free Americans.■



**GOA member
Jim Hammers**

Every year, GOA has benefited from gun owners who put the defense of freedom in their wills. Please let us know if you have already put Gun Owners in your will or if you would like additional information. Estate and financial planning is available upon request.

A GOA Flashback: Five Years Ago...



After planes struck the World Trade Center towers in 2001, Gun Owners of America lobbied hard to get guns into the hands of U.S. pilots. The efforts paid off, as Congress later voted to allow guns in the cockpit. On September 11, 2001, there were only 33 federal marshals in the air — most of them working international flights. Today, there are several thousand pilots who have been trained to carry firearms on U.S. flights around the country.

Election 2006

Continued from page 1

charter member of the most extreme wing of the party she now leads. As the person who controls what bills come to the floor, Pelosi will be unable to say "No" to the appeals for more gun control by the likes of Sarah Brady and her congressional allies.

The Speaker's strongest House ally in the push for more gun control is long-time Democrat anti-gun activist John Conyers, the likely Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Almost all bills related to the Second Amendment will pass through Conyers' committee. The new Chairman, an extremist who advocates a total handgun ban, will control the schedule of the committee as well as which bills come up for committee vote.

The situation in the Senate may be worse. The expected new Senate Majority will be F-rated Harry Reid (NV) and the probable incoming Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee will be GOA F-rated Pat Leahy of Vermont

From there it really goes downhill.

The rest of the Democrats currently on the committee make up the Who's Who of the anti-gun movement:

- Ted Kennedy (MA), the mouthpiece for Sarah Brady in the Senate;
- Joe Biden (DE), who chaired the Judiciary Committee when the Brady bill passed in 1993, and who said at that time, famously, "The public and the Congress have spoken unequivocally, and I don't care what a minority wants;"
- Herb Kohl (WI), author of the "Gun Free Zones Ban;"
- Dianne Feinstein (CA), author of the so-called "Assault Weapons" ban;
- Russ Feingold (WI), democrat lead sponsor of so-called campaign finance reform;
- Charlie Schumer (NY), lead sponsor of the 1993 Brady law; and
- Dick Durbin (IL), one of the most outspoken gun control zealots in the Senate.

Gun owners should look twice at the above list. Most or all of these members will remain on the Judiciary Committee when the new Congress convenes in January, and will help shape American gun laws for at least the next two years.



Rep-elect Bill Sali (R-ID) was one of several candidates helped to victory by Gun Owners of America-Political Victory Fund.



Michele Bachmann (R-MN), a former state senator with a reputation holding the establishment's feet to the fire, won a tight race in the Gopher State.

Gun Owner Victories

There were several bright spots for gun owners this election. The 110th Congress will include the following "A rated" members who had the support of Gun Owners of America's Political Action Committee: Doug Lamborn (CO), Bill Sali (ID), Vern Buchanan (FL) Peter Roskam (IL), Tim Walberg (MI), Michele Bachmann (MN), Adrian Smith (NE), and Jim Jordan (OH).

With the exception of Buchanan, who has not held elected office, each of these new representatives have strong, proven pro-gun records in their respective state legislatures. In addition, Reps. Roskam, Walberg, Smith and Jordan are a vast improvement over the Republicans they are replacing.

Further, many of the incumbent Republicans who were defeated were not pro-gun. For example, Nancy Johnson (CT), Jim Leach (IA), Clay Shaw (FL), Curt Weldon (PA), and Charlie Bass (NH) were not strong gun rights supporters.

"The Democrat leadership in the House and Senate will unquestionably put gun owners on the defensive by seeking to renew the semi-auto ban, close down gun shows, and drastically expand the Brady gun control law."

In the Senate, ousted Republican Mike DeWine of Ohio was as anti-gun as Charlie Schumer. The same can be said for Lincoln Chafee (R-RI).

Democrat Senators-elect Jon Tester (MT), and Bob Casey (PA), as well as Jim Webb, claim to be pro-gun. It remains to be seen if they vote that way.

The bottom line: on a race-by-race basis, the pro-gun movement suffered a net loss of only a small handful of seats.

However, notwithstanding widespread calls for moderation within their ranks, the Democrat leadership in the House and Senate will unquestionably put gun owners on the defensive by seeking to renew the semi-auto ban, close down gun shows, and drastically expand the Brady gun control law. ■

THE Gun Owners

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

Tim Macy
Vice-Chairman

Larry Pratt
Executive Director

Erich Pratt
Director of Communications

John Velleco
Director of Federal Affairs

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102
Springfield, Virginia 22151
703-321-8585

Web Site: <http://www.gunowners.org>

The Gun Owners publication is not copyrighted. Copies may be made freely, but it is requested that attribution be made together with GOA's address, phone number and web site location.