

THE Gun Owners

37 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2012

GOA Activism Positively Impacted Gun Rights in 2012 --Tremendous opportunities & challenges loom ahead

by Erich Pratt

There is no doubt. Gun rights will come under attack in the next four years.

The President who said that he was pursuing gun control proposals “under the radar” during his first term can now openly launch broadsides against our gun rights.

Just as Barack Obama told outgoing Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that he would have more “flexibility” after the election, we can expect an emboldened White House to pursue a UN gun control treaty ... more gun owner registration ... more Executive Orders designed to limit our rights ... more anti-gun Supreme Court Justices, etc.

While the challenges are obvious, GOA will continue to fight for your gun rights in this next Congress.

By using guerilla-style tactics, GOA was actually able to work with Congressmen to *repeal* gun control laws like the Amtrak and National Parks bans during the first Obama administration. No, Obama didn't support these repeals, but we were

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GOA appeared on Fox Cable News this year to defend Stand Your Ground legislation, after these laws came under fierce attack following the Zimmerman-Martin shooting in Florida. GOA also launched a national petition drive asking Florida Governor Scott to resist and, if necessary, veto any legislation that would repeal the state's Stand Your Ground law allowing citizens to use deadly force to defend themselves and their loved ones.

Status Quo Election Bad News for Gun Owners

by John Velleco

Republicans felt good heading into the 2012 elections. They were expected to take control of the U.S. Senate from Democrats, and had high hopes of defeating President Obama.

But on election night, instead of entering the promised land, they found themselves still wandering in the political desert.

From the outset of the election cycle, most observers agreed that Republicans would win at least the four seats needed to take control of the Senate. After all, Democrats had to defend 23 seats, the GOP only ten. But after the votes were counted, Senate Democrats wound up with a net gain of two seats.

Coupled with Barack Obama win-

ning a second term, the result of the Republicans' epic November disaster in Senate races represents a worst-case scenario for gun owners.

Obama Renews Call for UN Gun Control Treaty

The day after the election, the Obama administration signaled its support for renewing negotiations on the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

GOA members played a huge role in derailing a conference that was to finalize the ATT in July of this year. Working with Kansas Senator Jim Moran, GOA helped to gather more than 50 signatures from Senators on a letter pledging opposition to any treaty that impacted Americans' Second Amend-

ment rights.

Since the Constitution requires a vote of two-thirds in the Senate for a treaty to be ratified, the Moran letter assured that the ATT would not have U.S. assent. Global and domestic gun control activists complained that the Moran letter played a significant role in bringing down the ATT conference.

But following Obama's win, the U.S. voted in favor of a resolution calling for a new round of negotiations beginning in March of 2013. Central to the treaty would be provisions such as gun owner registration, so-called micro-stamping of ammunition, a ban on certain firearms, and a requirement that gun

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able to get these repeals inserted into “must pass” bills which Obama couldn’t afford to veto.

GOA will continue looking for opportunities to advance a pro-gun agenda next year, even in a “hostile work environment.” This is what GOA is good at doing.

Consider just some of the things that we were able to accomplish with your help this past year.

GOA media campaign in wake of Colorado shooting

The nation reeled in horror after learning that 12 people were gunned down in an Aurora theater — a so-called “gun free zone” — during the midnight showing of *The Dark Night Rises*.

Given that anti-gunners were using this tragedy to push their agenda, GOA launched a media campaign to inform Americans of the truth behind guns and crime:

- GOA opinion columns and interviews appeared in several outlets around the country, including *US News & World Report*, *The Washington Times* and *CNN.com*.
- GOA spokesmen appeared on dozens of electronic media outlets, including National Public Radio and Spanish outlets like *CNN Español*.

Over and over, GOA emphasized that Gun Free Zones actually embolden killers, who frequently choose these disarmament zones to perpetrate their crimes. But guns in good people’s hands often bring attempted massacres to a screeching halt.

GOA rallies troops against UN gun control

With the United Nations getting closer to its July deadline of wrapping up the Arms Trade Treaty, GOA stepped up its attack on the gun control accord, working with Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) to line up Senators against the ATT.

Initially, only about 20 Senators were willing to sign Moran’s letter, which was addressed to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President Obama.



GOA Vice-Chairman Tim Macy (left) meets with the chief congressional investigator, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), who has led the probe into Operation Fast & Furious.

So GOA pledged to launch a national campaign to get more signatories before the deadline.

GOA’s Larry Pratt even appeared on Fox Cable News to raise Americans’ awareness of the treaty.

After a slow start, the grassroots “heat” generated more than 50 signatures by the time Moran sent his letter to the administration.

When the administration pulled its support of the ATT at the last minute, media reports cited the Moran letter as one of the primary reasons the administration backed off, as they realized this gun control treaty would cost the President dearly in an election year.

GOA pursues justice in Fast and Furious scandal

GOA spent the entire year working to hold Eric Holder accountable for his role in and oversight of Fast & Furious, an operation which put thousands of guns into the hands of Mexican drug traffickers and which resulted in hundreds of innocent deaths.

The Obama administration hoped to use the collateral damage from these firearms to demonize American gun rights and to justify additional gun restrictions in the US.

For starters, Gun Owners of America filed suit in the U.S. District Court for D.C. to compel ATF to produce thousands of documents related to Operation Fast & Furious.

GOA also launched a petition drive to light a fire under House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH). Media reports were indicating that Boehner was get-

ting “cold feet” when it came to holding Attorney General Eric Holder accountable for his role in Fast & Furious.

The House leadership was resistant to pushing a contempt citation — claiming it was a distraction during an election year. Thankfully, the continual outpouring of grassroots support proved essential to countering this thinking and, ultimately, encouraged the House leadership to do the

right thing.

To wit, the House voted in June to hold Eric Holder in civil and criminal contempt of Congress.

GOA triumphant in the courts

Gun Owners of America began the year with a stunning victory before the U.S. Supreme Court. In *U.S. v. Jones*, the Court unanimously sided with GOA’s position in finding that the placement of a Global Positioning Device on an automobile constitutes a “search” for purposes of the Fourth Amendment.

This decision will have dramatic ramifications for gun owners, as it strengthens Fourth Amendment protections which keep firearms safe from illegal “search and seizures.”

GOA is pursuing several other cases in the courts right now, including the previously-reported concealed carry case in Maryland (see the October 22, 2012 issue of *The Gun Owners*).

Virginia’s one-gun-a-month law bites the dust

In one notable highlight, GOA celebrated the demise of a handgun rationing law that it has fought for roughly 20 years.

In the early 1990’s, GOA launched an intensive campaign to kill the one-gun-a-month restriction in Virginia and bring grassroots pressure to bear on those politicians who supported it.

The effort finally bore fruit this year, as Gov. Bob McDonnell was one of

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What They're Saying About GOA

"Gun Owners of America played a key role in my election. I could never overstate the importance of GOA's supporting my candidacy."

— Rep.-elect Steve Stockman (R-TX)

"I want to thank Gun Owners of America for coming into my district twice. Their involvement helped educate gun owners as to who the real pro-gun candidate was in this very close race."

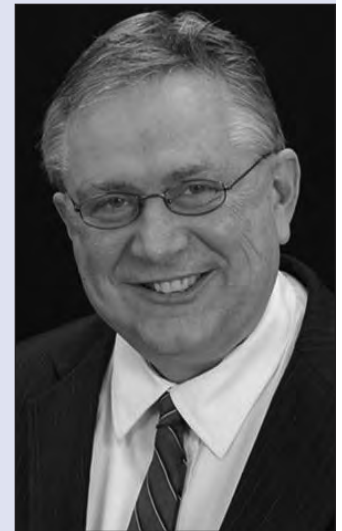
— Rep.-elect Keith Rothfus (R-PA)

"Thank you for making activism so easy! I can't say enough how great a help it is to have the 'contact your reps' section on the GOA site! It makes it very easy for me to let those people in Congress know that we ARE out here and that we aren't going away!"

— MM, South Dakota

"I want to tell you how much I appreciate GOA. America's rights are being trampled and it seems everything that involves freedom is in trouble! You people look out for these rights. It's an extremely important job! I tell people even if they are not involved with guns, they need to support GOA."

— JM, Indiana



Rep.-elect Steve Stockman (R)

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 10042** for **Gun Owners Foundation** when you make your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or donation. Your gifts will go toward helping our legal assistance program to 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.





GOA in



Pro-gun champion returns to Congress.

Steve Stockman (left) was, perhaps, the most aggressively pro-gun Representative in the 1990s, and he now returns to Congress with a 70% mandate from his Texas district. GOA's John Velleco spent several days in the district to help Stockman, who was an underdog in his primary, to get over the hump in July. His victory in November may well be the number one pick-up for gun rights in this election.



GOA punishing compromisers in Congress.

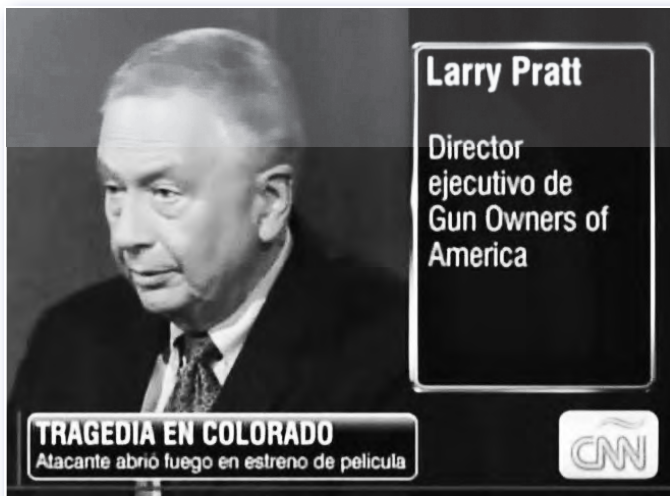
GOA's Erich Pratt meets with Keith Rothfus (right), who knocked off a "Blue Dog" compromiser in western part of the Keystone State. There was tremendous confusion in this race since another gun group had endorsed his opponent. So GOA made multiple trips into the district to help gun owners see that Rothfus was the real pro-gun candidate in the contest. Notable examples of other "Blue Dog" compromisers who lost their jobs in November occurred in North Carolina and Kentucky, where Richard Hudson and Andy Barr emerged victorious.



A Deborah in the making.

GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt traveled to Indiana to stump for Jackie Walorski, who as a state representative was a fierce defender of individual liberty — even being willing to take on members of her own party in defense of the Constitution. Walorski, whose uncompromising aggressiveness has been compared to the biblical Deborah, will be a welcome addition in the next Congress.

2012



GOA reaching Hispanics with the pro-gun message.

The recent elections showed what an important constituency the Latino population has become. This year, Larry Pratt was able to frequently reach out Hispanic audiences through Univision, Telemundo and CNN Español.



Supporting open and concealed carry in Michigan.

GOA's Erich Pratt (on left) spoke at the Legally Armed in Detroit dinner in August. Pictured with Pratt is Rick Ector, the event organizer who put on a wonderful banquet after having trained dozens of ladies (for free) in how to use firearms.



GOA working to hold the Attorney General accountable.

Gun Owners of America worked overtime this year to pressure Congress to hold Attorney General Eric Holder accountable for his department's role in Fast & Furious — the operation which helped put guns in drug cartel members' hands in order to justify calls for greater gun control. In addition to filing suit against the Justice Department, GOA worked to get more than 100 Congressmen to call for Holder's resignation and pushed the Republican Party leadership in the House to schedule a contempt citation against the Attorney General (which passed in June).



GOA launches second radio program this year.

While Executive Director Larry Pratt has been conducting his weekly News Hour program for years, veteran talk show host Bill Frady (pictured here) is on daily during the week from 6-8 pm (EST). Tune in at <http://gunowners.org/radio-live.htm>

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owners be licensed in order to make any firearms modifications.

The gun control lobby is optimistic that, with Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid still in power, the ATT could be ratified despite the objections of American gun owners.

GOA has renewed efforts with Sen. Moran and other Senators to set up a firewall to block the ATT or any treaty that infringes on the Second Amendment.

Obama's Anti-gun Court Packing Agenda

One of the most enduring legacies of any President is the mark left on the Supreme Court and other federal judgeships.

Obama will almost certainly be in a position to appoint one or two new Supreme Court Justices. His first two picks — Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — had track records of hostility toward the Second Amendment. Any future Obama picks will, if anything, be further to the left.

And with the Court split 5-4 on two landmark Second Amendment cases, if the President is able to replace a Justice who ruled with the majority protecting the Second Amendment, those cases can be reversed.

Since Democrats maintained control of the Senate, it will be more difficult to defeat nominees Obama puts forward for the Supreme Court and the lesser-noticed lower federal courts. Already, Obama has had 160 federal judges confirmed by the Senate to lifetime appointments.

Reid Seeks to Silence Opposition

One way conservative Republicans can stop Obama's radicalization of the courts — and block anti-gun bills — is through the use of the filibuster. Since this is the minority party's most effective defense against being completely overrun by the majority, Harry Reid has set "filibuster reform" in his sights.

If Reid is able to limit or eliminate the use of the filibuster, not only will Obama be able to push his agenda



GOA's Larry Pratt appeared on Fox Cable News to raise Americans' awareness of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in July. Plus, GOA pressed more than 50 Senators to send a letter to Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in opposition to the treaty.

through the Senate more easily, he will also be able to do it much more quickly.

The Senate was intended to be the "saucer that cools the tea," protecting the people from an impetuous House. Harry Reid would like to break the saucer.

Stonewalling Fast and Furious to Continue

Obama's reelection makes it much more likely that the Fast and Furious scandal, in which the government handed over thousands of weapons to some

approved of Fast and Furious.

But the White House refuses to cooperate with the investigation, withholding scores of documents from Issa's committee and giving conflicting and misleading testimony during congressional hearings. The House even took the extraordinary step this year of voting to find Holder in Con-

tempt of Congress, but he has not had so much as a slap on the wrist from the Chief Executive or the Senate.

Instead of coming clean on Fast and Furious, Obama continues to blame U.S. gun laws and gun owners for the violence along the Mexico border. Already, he has used drug cartel violence as an excuse to pass more gun control through executive action in the four southwest border states, and he continues to push for the reinstatement of the Clinton gun ban.

Obama Unleashed

At a nuclear security summit earlier this year, Obama put his hand on Russian president Dmitry Medvedev's knee and said, "This is my last election. After my election I have more flexibility."

Now, unencumbered by the prospect of ever having to run for office again and with his allies holding a firm grip on the Senate, Obama will be more strident than

ever in his quest to reshape America.

GOA is working with conservatives in the Senate in an attempt to preserve the filibuster, and strategizing with both House and Senate members on how to keep Obama and the Congress from further eroding the Second Amendment. ■



The President's reelection means that he will have a huge impact upon the direction of our country for years to come. In addition to already adding two Supreme Court Justices (pictured above), Obama has had 160 federal judges confirmed by the Senate to lifetime appointments.

of the most dangerous criminals on the planet, will continue to be covered up.

House investigators, under the direction of Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA), have found ample evidence to show that Attorney General Eric Holder and other top officials in the Obama administration knew and

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those who initially voted for the one-gun-a-month bill, but now has done an about-face by signing the ban's repeal into law.

Nullifying the NDAA

GOA battled .500 when it came to nullifying the recently-enacted National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA could impact all Americans, including gun owners, by allowing them to be indefinitely detained without trial, based on simple membership in certain pro-gun groups.

In Virginia, GOA worked with Delegate Bob Marshall (R) to enact a law forbidding state officials from helping the feds to enforce the NDAA. And while GOA helped push a similar nullification bill to Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer's desk, she (sadly) vetoed the bill.

GOA goes to the mat for Stand Your Ground laws

GOA appeared on Fox Cable News to defend Stand Your Ground legislation, after these laws came under fierce attack following the Zimmerman-Martin shooting in Florida.

GOA also launched a national petition drive asking Florida Governor Scott to resist and, if necessary, veto any legislation that would repeal the state's Stand Your Ground law allowing citizens to use deadly force to defend themselves and their loved ones.

GOA fighting for "constitutional carry"

Gun Owners of America has fought to liberalize carry laws around the country, so that Americans can carry concealed firearms without getting a permit, license or permission from state bureaucrats.

Currently, there are almost half a dozen states that enjoy "constitutional carry." We nearly added South Dakota to the list this year, as GOA helped push a concealed carry bill all the way to the governor's desk. Sadly, Gov. Dennis Daugaard (D) vetoed the bill, and the House failed to override.

At the federal level, GOA will continue pushing concealed carry reciprocity, so citizens can carry their firearms



Virginia Delegate Bob Marshall (R) thanked Gun Owners of America for helping him enact legislation nullifying the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012. Marshall's bill would prevent any state official from helping the federal government to arrest or indefinitely detain a Virginia citizen under the authority of the NDAA.

out-of-state. GOA worked with Senators John Thune (R-SD) and David Vitter (R-LA) to introduce a bill (S. 2213) that would allow non-licensed persons (from constitutional carry states) to tote firearms across state lines.

Not only that, GOA combined a lobbying and grassroots campaign that resulted in Thune and Vitter getting ten times as many cosponsors as the compromise version, which was introduced by Democrat Senator Mark Begich of Alaska.

Hence, the bill that YOU lobbied for

is now the 800-pound gorilla in the Senate! Look forward to seeing this issue resurrected next year as well.

GOA battling anti-gun judges

The fight against Obama-appointed judges will be another one of the chief battles facing us in 2013. This past year, GOA helped block Judge Elissa Cadish from being considered by the Senate. Cadish has indicated that she doesn't believe there is an individual right to keep and bear arms — a position which has invited the

ire of the gun-owning community.

No doubt, the stakes are going to be much higher over the next couple of years, as Obama will almost certainly get to nominate a couple of Supreme Court justices.

This means we have our work cut out for us. It's going to be a busy year in 2013, and we're going to need lots of help from our grassroots members.

Please stand with us, and help us frustrate the anti-gun agenda again in 2013. ■



How to Place GOA

in Your Will

GOA has received numerous inquiries from our members asking us how they can place Gun Owners of America in their 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:

- A. The sum of \$_____; or
- B. _____ percent of my estate; or
- C. Residue. I give my Residue to Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, Virginia 22151.



Bean Bag Diplomacy

by Larry Pratt

Another foreign policy disaster. Another attempt at cover up. It's just more of the lessons being learned from the September 11 Benghazi assassination of four Americans.

The foreign policy of the Obama administration is as delusional as their views on self-defense.

Generally, liberals are more afraid of possessing the means of self-defense than they are of being attacked by thugs. We not only see this in their foreign policy, but in the way they choose to govern here at home, as well.

Consider that Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet — the southern border “has never been more secure than in recent years” — Napolitano imposed the rules of engagement that contributed significantly to the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry on December 15, 2010.

Namely, Napolitano's “wisdom” required our warriors on the front line of our southern border war to fire a bean bag round before firing a real bullet. Evidently a real bullet might destabilize the “never been more secure” Mexican border.

On Brian Terry's last night on this earth, his team encountered an armed cartel rip crew out to steal the cargo of rival smugglers. Terry's first shot was his bean bag round. The next shot was from a smuggler, and Terry ended up dead.

So much for Napolitano's kinder, gentler border enforcement rules of engagement.

The same kinder, gentler rules of engagement pertained in Libya in the run up to the murder of the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans in Benghazi.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, Charlene R. Lamb, told the House Oversight Committee on October 9 that she had rejected requests for more security for the embassy and consulate. “We had the correct number of assets [guards] in Benghazi at the time of 9/11.”

In other words, even though embassy officials wanted more security, the liberal “show the enemy we mean no harm by disarming ourselves” mentality prevailed! But as always, this mindset of appeasement has resulted

in dead victims.

Another take on the “self-defense is useless” narrative came from the lips of Eric Nordstrom, the State Department's former regional security officer in Libya, during the Oversight hearing. “When I requested assets, I was criticized....It was a hope that everything would get better.”

Lt. Col. Andrew Wood had headed a 16-member U.S. military team assigned to protect the embassy in Tripoli, Libya's capital. Wood's team left Libya in August and was not replaced — in spite of repeated requests for more protection from Ambassador Chris Stevens.

In an effort to keep a “low profile,” the State Department had hired a British firm employing security guards and a “no bullets” rules of engagement to guard the U.S. consulate in Benghazi.

Of course, this is a beautiful picture of the appeasement mindset in action. It's like the State Department was trying to communicate to potential terrorists on the 9-11 anniversary that “we mean you no harm because, look, many of our security guards are not even armed!” No wonder Ambassador Stevens was so fearful.

Evidently his concerns were well-grounded because he was one of the four Americans murdered on September 11. “In the six months leading up to the September 11 assault, there were 13 documented threats or attacks on U.S. interests in Tripoli and Benghazi,” according to Bridget Johnson writing in PJ Media on October 11 of this year.

These decisions ultimately were the responsibility of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a vocal advocate of gun control in the United States.

Although not always articulated in debate, a key assumption of anti-self-defense advocates is that bulking up on the means of self-defense can only destabilize. Secretary Clinton acted out that anti-self-defense belief in Libya and denied repeated requests for more guards by Stevens.

Whether bean bags or understaffed protection details, United States policy has emboldened murderous thugs whether they be invading across the Mexican border or assaulting the U.S. consulate in Benghazi.

Since the requested enhanced military protection had been denied, asking us to believe that more U.S. military personnel for protection of our embassy and consulate would have been provocative does not pass the laugh test. ■

THE
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