

THE Gun Owners

38 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2013

Police Drop Charges against Teenager after GOA Comes to His Defense

by Erich Pratt

“I can’t thank Larry Pratt and Gun Owners enough for standing with Jared and his family during these difficult days. You were there when we needed you.”

— Ben White, attorney for Jared Marcum

Gun Owners of America came to the aid of a West Virginia teenager who was arrested after wearing a pro-gun shirt to school.

All charges have now been dropped against Jared Marcum, and he will not have a criminal record.

In April, the 14-year-old was ordered by a band teacher to change his T-shirt because the instructor did not like the shirt’s pro-gun message. The shirt stated “Protect Your Right” and pictured a rifle with a scope.

Jared was suspended from school, and later was arrested for supposedly “obstructing” an officer. He faced a \$500 fine and one year in jail.

The police then issued a gag order against the family and his attorney, preventing them from talking about the case. And as

if that wasn’t Orwellian enough, a reporter who tried to contest the gag order found herself being ejected from the courthouse. The reason?

If you guessed “obstruction,” then you move to the head of the class!

All of this heavy-handedness on part of the police led

Kurt Hofmann

Battling anti-gun bias in schools



Texas Rep. Steve Stockman (left) introduced H.R. 2625 in response to the zero tolerance policies that are “brainwashing” school kids into hating guns. His bill will defund schools that suspend children for *faux* gun offenses, like turning a pop tart into a “weapon.”

of the *Examiner* to say, “The Logan, West Virginia PD apparently has the most easily ‘obstructed’ police officers since the Keystone Cops.”



GOA’s Erich Pratt appeared on Fox News this year to lambast the “zero tolerance” mentality that keeps American youth ignorant of firearms. Not only have anti-gun advocates criticized the use of iPhone apps for virtual target practice, they have suppressed students’ speech at schools by punishing those who wear pro-gun shirts or who mention the word “gun” in the context of self-defense.

GOA draws national attention to zero intolerance policies

In the midst of all this, GOA helped ignite a national outrage after alerting and emailing activists in June as to what was happening in the Mountain State.

Gun Owners Foundation also set up a legal defense fund to assist the attorney who was taking Jared’s case *pro bono*.

Thankfully, the case is now over, as the police dropped all charges against Jared Marcum in June.

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- GOA once again derails Obama’s agenda (page 3)
- GOA successfully lobbies for state nullification of federal gun control (page 4)
- Polling indicates problems for Obama on gun control (page 5)



New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in a failed bid to influence the gun debate in Nevada. Bloomberg received a huge blow when Governor Sandoval vetoed a Universal Background Check bill in June.

Stunning Victory for Gun Rights Puts Bloomberg on His Heels!

by *Erich Pratt*

GOA members and activists did a tremendous job recently when they bombarded the Nevada Governor's office with phone calls — and the results were phenomenal.

Governor Brian Sandoval vetoed the Universal Background Check bill in mid-June, leaving the anti-gun Left in full-mourning.

The *Associated Press* reported:

It is a significant defeat for New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's

gun control advocacy group, Mayors Against Illegal Guns [MAIG]. The organization spent hundreds of thousands of dollars working to get the bill passed through to the governor.

Despite Bloomberg's fortune, his anti-gun MAIG simply didn't have the grassroots support behind it.

GOA was joined by other groups on Tuesday, June 4, in asking Nevada gun owners to urge Sandoval to veto the legislation.

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Police Drop Charges against Teenager after GOA Comes to His Defense

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With this victory behind them, the Marcum family is now considering legal action against the school district.

Zero tolerance or zero sanity?

While the Jared Marcum story has sparked national outrage, the sad truth is that there are many children who have experienced similar indignations.

"We've seen literally thousands of these kinds of episodes of zero tolerance since the early 1990s," said Russell Skiba, a zero tolerance expert at Indiana University who co-authored a 2006 study for the American Psychological Association.

There are thousands of stories, and they can be found all across the country:

- A seven-year-old boy was suspended from school near the nation's capital after chewing his pop tart into the shape of a gun.
- A school in Grand Island, Nebraska is asking a three-year-old deaf boy in preschool to change the sign he uses for his name because it resembles a gun.
- A seven-year-old Colorado boy was suspended for throwing an imaginary hand grenade into a box to blow up the imaginary forces of evil.
- A Texas student was suspended for making a "terroristic threat" that put the teacher in fear for her life. The crime? The student made a gun with the shape of her hand, while she and her friends were pretending to be police officers.
- A student in Calvert County, Maryland was initially suspended for ten days for merely saying the word "gun" on a school bus. Riding on the bus, the student verbally wished that he had been present with a gun to stop the Sandy Hook shooter. (His penalty was later reduced to one day.)

These stories are just the tip of the iceberg, and it's prompt-



Ben White, the attorney for Jared Marcum, thanked GOA its help in this case: "GOA and GOF's legal and financial support was critical to Jared's defense, to blocking the gag order which the government asked for, and finally obtaining a dismissal of all charges against Jared. Thank you for all you do and thanks for the GOA T-shirts!"

ed some in Congress to take action.

Rep. Steve Stockman introduces Student Protection Act

Texas Representative Steve Stockman (R) has introduced H.R. 2625, the Student Protection Act, in response to the "zero tolerance" policies in schools.

H.R. 2625 will cut funds for any school that punishes a student for wearing a shirt containing a pro-gun message ... or playing cops-and-robbers during recess ... or turning their pop tarts into "weapons" ... or extending their fingers to resemble a gun, etc.

Rep. Stockman says that so-called "zero tolerance" weapons policies in federally-funded schools are being used to "teach children to be afraid of inanimate objects that are shaped like guns."

And it's this type of brainwashing that makes H.R. 2625 so important, as Stockman's bill could go a long way to keeping tomorrow's adults from wanting to ban firearms.

Please stay tuned for further updates. ■

Erich Pratt is the Director of Communications for Gun Owners of America. Jason Weiser also contributed to this story.

GOA Once Again Derails Obama's Agenda — This time on the anti-gun Immigration Bill

by Michael Hammond

Say what you want about Barack Obama.

He is ruthless in pursuit of his vision for transforming America. And the America he envisions has no room for private gun ownership.

After Obama was unsuccessful in passing the Feinstein gun ban and the Toomey-Manchin gun registry bill, he moved onto another anti-gun strategy. Namely, if he could add 8-20 million anti-gun voters to the voting rolls, he could so change the electorate that gun confiscation, gun registries and comprehensive gun bans would be inevitable in the next 15 to 20 years.

And the most obvious way to do this would be to grant amnesty to between 11.5 and 20 million largely unskilled illegal immigrants currently in this country.

Make no mistake about it: This isn't about race. The wife of GOA's executive director immigrated to this country *legally* from Central America. Rather, it is about importing between 8 and 20 million non-law-abiding, Obama-supporting, anti-gun voters from a demographic that supported Obama in 2012 by 71%.

We've been to this dance before. In 1986, Ronald Reagan signed the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration amnesty bill. It promised border security in exchange for amnesty for those illegally in this country.

But the border security never came. Instead, millions of new anti-gun voters turned California from a "swing state" to a rabidly anti-gun far left paradise. And, having seen the first grant of amnesty, 11-20 million more illegals poured into this country in anticipation of the next amnesty bill.

The cost of the 1986 amnesty for the Second Amendment has been huge: semi-auto bans ... gun registration ... ammunition control and more. All of these have been the consequences in California of granting immigration amnesty in 1986.

But it's not just those living in the Golden State who have been affected.



The amnesty bill is about legalizing more than 8 million anti-gun voters from a demographic that supported Obama in 2012 by 71 percent.

In one case, a law-abiding security guard from Oregon is facing 15 years in prison because he had guns and ammunition in California across the border from his home.

The whole country will be like this in 15-20 years if we make the same mistake again, and allow Obama's immigration amnesty to pass.

But that isn't all.

Will a "Brady check for jobs" grease skids for gun control?

We successfully fought universal gun checks and registration because the American people have not quite gotten used to getting the government's approval before exercising their constitutional rights.

But under Obama's immigration bill's "E-Verify system," you would have to undergo a "Brady check for jobs" before being employed — even as a housekeeper. Americans could face stiff fines and even go to prison if they failed to comply with Obama's "Brady check for jobs."

How are we going to argue against getting the government's permission to buy a gun once the American people become comfortable with getting the government's permission to get a job?

But that's not all: In order to access the E-Verify system, you have to flash your "National ID Card." And, unless Obama, at his discretion, adds addition-

al ID's to those authorized by the bill, you would have to have one of the following: (1) A passport with a chip in it. (2) A driver's license in state *and only in a state* that complies with the federal "Real ID" law. (3) A social security card designed by Obama under this amnesty bill (which will probably be biometric).

So for those who have flagrantly violated our laws for years, there is amnesty, some state and federal benefits, and the forgiveness of some accrued federal taxes.

But for law-abiding Americans, there are harsh new federal tracking and job-approval requirements. And, ultimately, an Obama-approved electorate with no appreciation of our Constitution or the Second Amendment.

Senate Democrats dance to Obama's tune

The good news is that, thanks to the hard work of GOA members, it looks like we will be able to stop the Obama amnesty bill in the House.

In the Senate, *every* single Democrat danced to Obama's tune and voted for the anti-gun bill. The same was true with ObamaCare. So, next year, when your Democrat senator tries to seek

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While every Senate Democrat (including Chuck Schumer on the right) supported the anti-gun amnesty bill in June, another 13 Republicans followed Senator John McCain's lead in voting for the bill.



by Erich Pratt

GOA presents freedom awards to sheriffs championing nullification

Speaking to scores of sheriffs at a conference in Missouri this past May, GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt awarded two outstanding sheriffs with freedom awards.

The “High Noon Award” was presented to Wisconsin’s Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke, Jr., for “standing for truth when others run, for telling the truth even though politically incorrect.”

And Sheriff Denny Peyman of Jackson County, Kentucky, was presented with the “Nullifier of the Year” award by GOA for promising to not enforce any gun law that violates the Kentucky or U.S. Constitution.

GOA successfully lobbies for nullification laws

At least two states enacted laws this year to prevent any official in their respective states from enforcing federal gun control laws.

In Alaska, GOA asked Governor Sean Parnell to sign House Bill 69 — a bill that does several good things:

- It prohibits the state from enforcing gun bans, magazine bans, and gun registries imposed at the federal level.
- And it prohibits the federal gov-

Fast Fact:

The Obama administration conceded that guns are used more often to save life than to kill, “with estimates of annual [defensive gun] uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million per year.”

Source: Centers for Disease Control, in conjunction with the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council (June 2013).



GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt awarded freedom awards in May to Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke, Jr., (left) and Sheriff Denny Peyman of Jackson County, Kentucky.

ernment from regulating firearms made and possessed wholly within the state of Alaska.

Gov. Parnell signed HB 69 into law on June 24, making Alaska the most recent state to enact a nullification law.

Kansas also enacted a nullification law in April which renders any federal law that violates the Second Amendment as “null, void and unenforceable” in the state.

In Missouri, GOA lobbied hard for a nullification bill, but Gov. Jay Nixon (D) vetoed it in July. GOA is now working to override that veto in both legislative chambers, as legislators will take up the bill again in mid-September.

GOA assists efforts in CO to recall anti-gun Senate President

Democrat Colorado legislators used the Sandy Hook shooting as an excuse for imposing greater gun restrictions this past Spring.

Since then, there has been a grassroots effort to hold Senate President John Morse (D-11) accountable — an effort which GOA has aided.

The Colorado Secretary of State announced in mid-June that there were sufficient signatures to force a recall of

Senator Morse — an election which will probably take place in August or September, assuming that Democrat lawsuits seeking to nullify the recall fails.

In late June, citizens also secured enough signatures to force a recall of another legislator, state senator Angela Giron (D-3).

Both efforts represent the first time in Colorado history that a state legislator has been forced to defend his seat against a recall.

GOA opposing backdoor gun control efforts at HHS

The Obama administration has been trying to make an end-around Congress, implementing regulations to take away people’s guns.

To counter this, GOA submitted comments in early June to oppose the “see a shrink, lose your guns” regulations published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

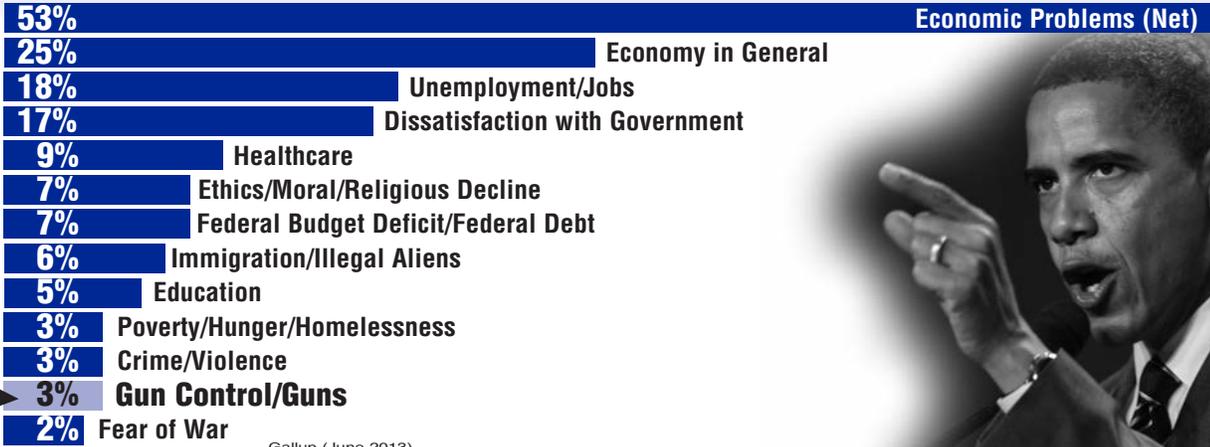
The HHS regulations would expand the abusive practices that have disarmed 165,000 military veterans, and apply them to average citizens, as well.

You can read GOA’s comments here: www.gunowners.org/news06032013.htm

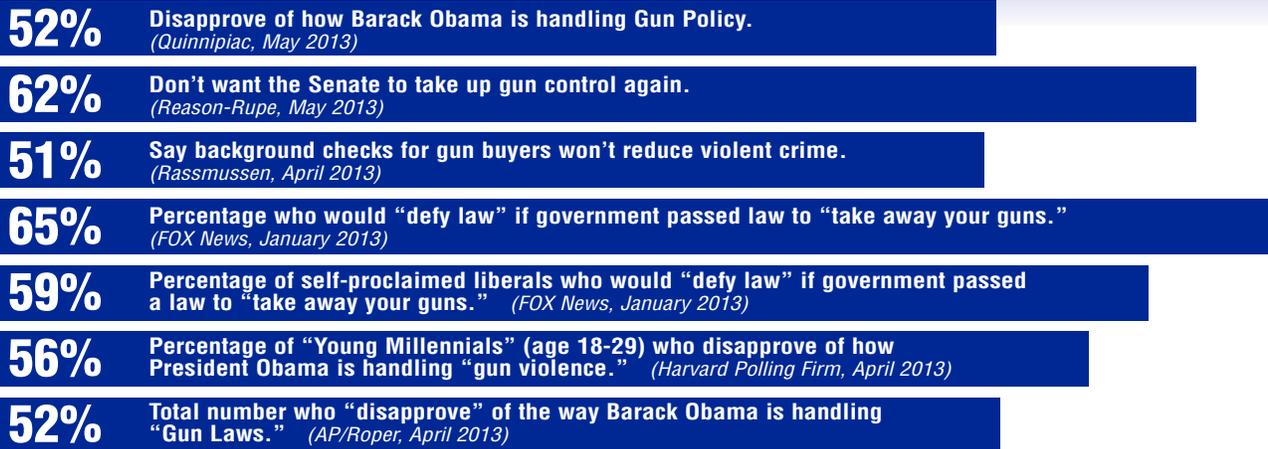


Polling Indicates Problems for Obama on Gun Control

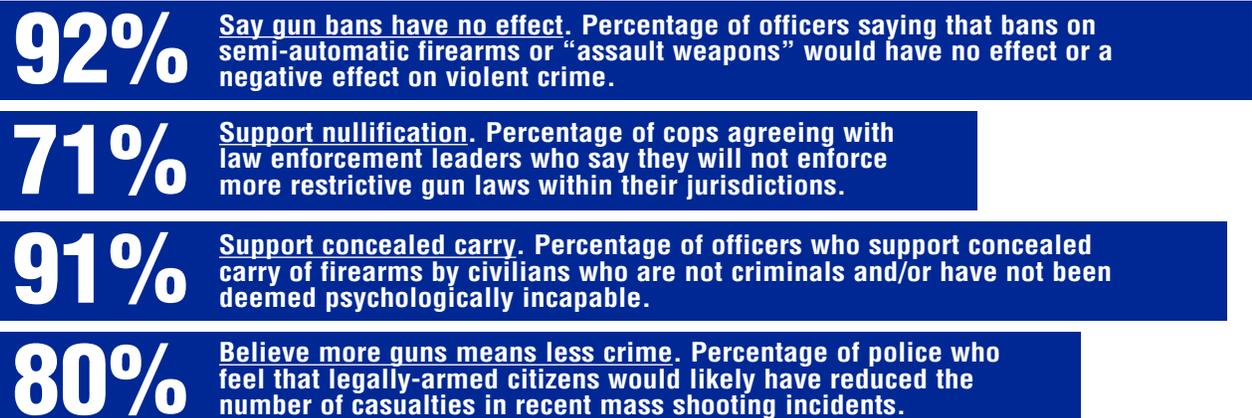
Few Americans Think “Guns” are Nation’s Most Important Problem



Majority of Americans Oppose Obama’s Gun Agenda



Police Say More Guns, not Fewer, is Way to Stop Criminals



Source: PoliceOne.com survey of 15,595 law enforcement professionals about U.S. gun control policies (March 2013).

Hypocrisy 101

by Christopher Stone

Perhaps Senator Ted Cruz said it best when he tweeted, “Anyone know if President Obama intends to perform background checks on the Syrian rebels before providing them weapons?”

Sen. Cruz was spot on with his question, and although it was more of a witty jab at President Obama, it should alarm every law-abiding gun owner that our President (and members of Congress) are willing to arm rebels in another nation while actively trying to disarm American citizens.

Let’s consider the double standard.

President Obama, Vice President Biden, Mayor Bloomberg and the anti-gun horde in the Senate have done everything in their power over the last seven months to strip Americans of their Second Amendment rights.

They want to control the private sale of firearms, mandate universal background checks, limit magazine sizes, persecute law abiding gun owners, and ban so-called “assault weapons.” With blatant disregard to the Second Amendment, they desire nothing more than to totally erase the constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Conversely, President Obama and his gaggle of anti-gunners are planning on sending weapons to the Syrian rebels as they continue fighting a civil war against their government. Keep in mind that these are rebels who could very well be loyal to Al-Qaeda.

Our President recognizes the need

for citizens in another nation to be properly armed in order to protect themselves against a tyrannical government, but he chooses to ignore our Constitution which he swore to uphold and which explicitly guarantees the right of citizens to be armed without infringement.

So our government trusts another faction, in the middle of a civil war, with possible terrorist connections, but they do not trust honest Americans with semi-automatic rifles. They are willing to funnel weapons to a group of rebels, with no questions asked, but claim it’s too dangerous for law-abiding gun owners to possess a 10-round magazine.

Will President Obama limit the Syrian rebels to 10 round magazines? Will the U.S. Senate mandate that all Syrians go through extensive background checks?

Of course not.

Instead, law-abiding gun owners in America are met with nothing but government infringements time and time again. It is imperative for everyone to draw attention to this blatant two-faced hypocrisy by the Obama Administration.

Officials say they must infringe upon our rights in order to keep us safe and secure.

But by framing the gun control argument around the government keeping people safe from all potential dangers,



What’s wrong with this picture?

Our President is willing to send weapons to Syrian rebels with possible terrorist connections, but he won’t trust Americans with semi-automatic rifles.

President Obama and the gun grabbers in Washington are determining how, when, where, and why people should have access to their Second Amendment rights.

Thankfully, through the activism of GOA members, we were able to defeat the Toomey-Manchin gun control monstrosity in the Senate and resist the tyranny of government overstep. But our job is far from over.

We can be sure that President Obama and all his gun control sheep will continue to lead an all-out barrage against the Second Amendment, even while aiding another nation in the name of freedom.

And what is our government doing to ensure our rights and our freedom? They have placed them on the chopping block of tyranny.

Welcome to Hypocrisy 101...class is now in session. ■

Stunning Victory for Gun Rights Puts Bloomberg on His Heels!

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The next day, reports the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, “2,200 people called his office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.... Four out of five calls [were] for the veto.”

According to the *Journal*, this onslaught was one of the chief reasons that the Governor set up a hotline number. His office simply couldn’t get work done as they were being “bombed” by calls from people who want

the governor to veto the gun control bill passed by the Legislature.”

Once the Governor set up a hotline number — and Bloomberg started running ads urging people nationwide to call it — GOA urged gun owners nationwide to call Sandoval’s office.

Within a week, more than 100,000 calls had been placed to the Governor.

The Governor was inclined to veto the gun control bill all along, but gun owners can be sure that — had the poll results gone the other way — he could have been easily persuaded to bow to Bloomberg’s pressure.

Nevada is a key state as it is home to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D)

and to “swing vote” Senator Dean Heller (R).

Defeating Universal Background Checks in the Silver State — with overwhelming numbers of callers opposing it — sends a powerful message from a Purple State, that Americans do NOT want additional gun control!

This is just the latest example which shows how activism from gun owners can make a difference.

GOA is especially thankful for all those who took part in this effort — making phone calls to the Governor and forwarding our email alerts so that others could express their opposition, as well. ■

Sen. Ted Cruz, the Ruling Class' Worst Nightmare

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Majority Leader Harry Reid's head.

Reid has called Cruz a "schoolyard bully" and referred to him as the "very junior senator" from Texas. Not only that, Reid was alarmed that Cruz might have taken advantage of the Senate rules to hold up the budget. For Reid, this is "bullying."

Imagine, using the rules of debate that are available to any Senator is "bullying" when used by Cruz. But when they're used by Reid to stifle his opposition — or when he threatens to violate the rules to get his way — well, that's just how one gets things done.

What we are really hearing come from Reid is a terrified whine that the federal spending geyser might get capped.

While not endorsing Cruz' politics, Democrat strategist James Carville said on ABC's *This Week*: "I think he is the most talented and fearless Republican politician I've seen in the last 30 years."

Democrats, however, aren't the only ones criticizing Cruz.

Cruz: "I don't trust Republicans"

When a number of Republicans complained of Cruz's aggressive posture during the gun-control debate, Cruz called them "squishes." During the

debate, Cruz signaled his support for the Second Amendment by visiting a gun manufacturer.

Cruz has been accused of fracturing the comity of the Senate, to which he responds: "Comity does not mean avoiding the truth."

When Sen. John McCain, a master at losing winnable national elections,



Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) with GOA Vice-Chairman Tim Macy (right)

called Cruz a "wacko bird" for blocking immigration "reform," Cruz said he was proud to be a wacko bird.

What is McCain to do now that his school yard bullying tactics have been thrown back in his face? Oh my, where is the comity of the Senate?

During the immigration debate, McCain urged the Senate to trust whatever the Senate Republicans come up with.

"Frankly, I don't trust Republicans," Cruz warned.

Matthews "compliments" Cruz, says he's an enemy of compromise

Outside Capitol Hill, the media have been relentless in pummeling Cruz. MSNBC's Chris Matthews, well known for his concern for the Republican Party (sarcasm alert), warns that Cruz is a disaster for the Republican Party.

Well, yes, there is something to that. For those Republicans who have joined the Democrats in the Ruling Class, Cruz is a one-man wrecking ball.

Matthews went on to complain that Cruz is the enemy of compromise. Indeed, the kind of compromise that has built the growing tyranny of big government for decades. The Ruling Class was not prepared for the arrival of one determined to challenge the legitimacy of the Ruling Class and its gargantuan government.

Matthews warned his viewers (however few they may be): "Pay attention to Senator Cruz because he is the unsmiling, contemptuous face of the wild, nasty, hard-right fringe of a party that once competed with the Democrats to be the country's governing party."

Frankly, that's what many of us have been waiting for.

The Second Amendment has an advocate in the US Senate who is eager to take the fight to the enemy. Three cheers for Senator Cruz! ■

GOA Once Again Derails Obama's Agenda

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your vote by contending that he's not a slave to Obama's far left agenda, remember these key votes.

In addition, fourteen Senate Republicans allowed themselves to be bought off by Harry Reid's bribes. These included \$1.5 billion (that's with a "b") in social welfare spending for Vermont Socialist Bernie Sanders — the so-called "Burlington Buy-out."

But we held virtually every Senate Republican who had not already committed to the Obama bill.

GOA activists making a difference in the House

The House of Representatives is holding firm. As a result of pressure from GOA members, the House Republicans have resurrected the "Hastert Rule" — an informal doctrine that the Republican Speaker will not bring up any legislation that does not have the support of most Republicans in the House.

Thus, Speaker John Boehner has stated that he will not pass an immigration bill that is supported by House Democrats — but opposed by House Republicans. If he sticks to this promise, the Obama amnesty bill cannot pass the House.

The battle is not over. As we say repeatedly, "You don't pop the cork until they bang the gavel."

But, given that we have spent most of the year fighting gun bans and gun registries, our members — with little lead time — have done a stunning job.

You have moved us back from the precipice, and have left anti-gun New York Senator Chuck Schumer and the immigration-supporting New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg scratching their heads and looking for a "path forward" for their anti-gun bill.

The war is not over. But the battlefield is looking good. ■

Michael Hammond is the legislative counsel for Gun Owners of America.



Sen. Ted Cruz, the Ruling Class' Worst Nightmare

By Larry Pratt

"Double-barrel" Joe Biden has marveled that a freshman Senator can have so much clout.

That legislator is familiar to gun owners and is none other than Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Texas.

The Washington Examiner put it this way:

The Vice President expressed frustration with his failure to pass more gun control laws, explaining to the crowd that every time he tried to win the support of a Republican Senator, they cited Cruz and [Kentucky Sen. Rand] Paul as the reason they couldn't join him.

Both of these new Senators have a commitment to their principles that is very unsettling to a chamber dominated by members who are not firmly anchored to a set of beliefs.

Cruz is quite outspoken, and that seems to drive the media crazy — more so than any other Senator. For example, he said recently that certain policies of President Barack Obama reminded him of stories he'd heard about the communist dictator Fidel Castro in Cuba.

While making it clear he's not likening Obama to communist mass murderers, Cruz did point out that our military is threatening to court-martial servicemen who share their Christian faith — something which is not unheard of in communist dictatorships.

Cruz also tells of Cuban soldiers under Castro coming into classrooms and telling students to "close their eyes and to pray to God for candy." They

would open their eyes and find no candy. Then, they would be told to pray again, but to Castro. Upon opening their eyes, they would find candy the soldiers had put on their desk.

"Integral to an oppressive government," Cruz said, "is undermining the faith in God and any other higher power that would distract from loyalty to the state."

Cruz' opponents lack arguments, resort to *ad hominem* attacks

One of Cruz' critics is former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, who resorted to a classic liberal ploy, claiming that Cruz is not a real Hispanic since he is opposed to illegal immigration. (Remember when we were told that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is not a real Black since he is a conservative?)

But Cruz is unfazed by critics like Richardson and says that:

In my view — if people are insulting you, if they're attacking your ethnicity — that tends to indicate that they don't actually want to engage in the substantive merits of the argument.

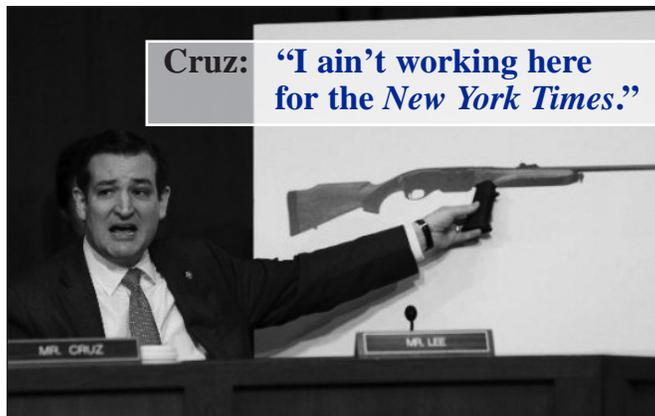
In the Senate, Robert Menendez (D-NJ) said that Cruz' opposition to Obama's drive for a new immigration law was spurred by "Obamaphobia."

Cruz tweeted in response that: "If supporting real immigration reform, not path to citizenship, is 'Obamaphobia,' guilty as charged. RT [or retweet] if you're a fellow 'Obamaphobic!'"

Living "rent free" in Harry Reid's head

Criticism of Ted Cruz goes all the way up to the top leader in the Senate. In fact, it seems that Sen. Cruz is living rent-free in Senate

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While Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) has become the favorite whipping-boy of the far Left, his sharp intellect and powerful ability to articulate constitutional principles has made it impossible for opponents to silence him.

THE Gun Owners

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