

# THE Gun Owners

40 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2015

## Oklahoma Schools are No Longer Gun-Free Zones! *GOA working to repeal these gun bans in other states*

by Chris Stone

Oklahoma recently joined a growing cadre of states that have taken the best step for protecting children: they are allowing the potential victims to fight back.

On May 12, Governor Mary Fallin (R) signed legislation that authorizes law-abiding teachers and staff to carry concealed firearms while on school property.

It's not a perfect law, in that it requires the concealed carriers must be "specifically designated by the board of education." Nevertheless, it is a massive step in the right direction.

Too many times, we've witnessed the heart-wrenching news that no one wants to hear: An active shooter is on the loose, indiscriminately murdering innocent men, women and children.

And quite often, these madmen choose schools as their targets.

Even though concealed carry is legal in some form in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, federal law has prevented capable teachers, parents, and school staff from arming themselves to protect our children since the 1990's.

*Continued on page 2*

### Repealing Gun-Free Zones



GOA's Erich Pratt (right) meets with pro-gun Representative Thomas Massie (R-KY), the chief sponsor of H.R. 86 — a bill that would repeal the ban on carrying firearms around schools and make it far easier for law-abiding Americans to protect children without fear of breaking federal law.

## The Genius of July 4 Trumps Every Gun Control Argument

by Erich Pratt

The most amazing debate took place in the Grand Canyon State earlier this year.

It was a theological dispute surrounding two pro-gun bills that legislators were debating in the Arizona House of Representatives.

The hot topic was: "Is the right to keep and bear arms a God-given right or not?"

Lest some consider this to be an "angels dancing on the head of a pin" type of discussion, think again.

The answer to this question determines *where* our rights come from and *who* determines if there are limits to those rights.

The Founding Fathers made their position clear when signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They boldly told the rest of the world that the unalienable rights of every person are "endowed by their Creator."

And that's the key: Our rights come from God. That's why our Founders could say that our rights are "unalien-

*Continued on page 7*

### Inside:

- **GOA on the Frontlines (page 3)**
- **Mass shootings nipped in the bud (page 6)**
- **Why Independence Day came early this year (page 8)**

## GOA working to repeal gun bans

*Continued from page 1*

### Gun-Free Zones are killing fields

After an earlier version of the Gun Free School Zones Act was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1995, President Bill Clinton signed a renewal of the ban the following year. Clinton's ban reinstated the federal prohibition on law-abiding citizens carrying arms while on school property.

Sadly, we have seen the toll this unconstitutional and arcane law has taken on the most helpless citizens in the United States. Both the Columbine and Sandy Hook shootings might have never happened if teachers, parents, and school staff were allowed to arm themselves.

Every day, local news stories report how average Americans are able to deter and prevent criminal thugs from committing atrocities — stories which the national media often ignore. Yet one armed good guy with a gun stepping up and firing back does stop crime.

Just recently, we have seen several riveting examples of self-defense, including:

- An off-duty cop in Garland, Texas, who shot two ISIS terrorists dead in their tracks;
- A man in a barbershop in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who used his concealed handgun to stop a mass shooting;
- A carjacker in Atlanta, Georgia, who was held at gunpoint by a legal concealed carrier until police arrived;
- A 77-year-old man who shot and killed a home intruder in Redland, Florida.

The theme in these four examples? Honest, armed Americans stopped criminals with their firearms. There was no loss of innocent life, and each gun owner responsibly handled his firearm while engaging the criminal threat.

### Columbine survivor supports armed teachers



Colorado state Representative Patrick Neville (R-Castle Rock) was a student at Columbine High School on the day of the 1999 massacre. He says that if some of the teachers had been armed, "more of my friends would still be alive today."

### Police say armed civilians prevent mass shootings

In a survey of police officers by PoliceOne.com, respondents replied "80 percent feel that legally-armed citizens would likely have reduced the number of casualties in recent mass shooting incidents."



Gun Owners of America Chairman Tim Macy brought Officer Rob Young (left) to speak to Capitol Hill staffers in 2013. Officer Young — who as a child, survived the 1989 school shooting in Stockton, California — explained that the best way to stop school shootings is to arm teachers.

Rank-and-file cops agree that armed citizens are the answer. They know cops can't be everywhere at once.

Guns save lives — plain and simple. Yet, many of these same individuals are legally prevented from carrying the firearms if they were on school

property.

Thankfully, there are elected officials who are fighting back.

### H.R. 86 will repeal Gun-Free Zones around the country

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) has introduced H.R. 86, known as the Safe Students Act. This bill ends the Gun Free School Zones Act (GFSZA) and makes it far easier for law-abiding Americans to carry their personal firearms onto school property without fear of breaking federal law.

It should come as no surprise that Rep. Massie has an A+ rating with GOA and has been on the forefront of defending our right to keep and bear arms while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sadly, Rep. Massie's bill has less than 10 co-sponsors, and the "pro-gun" Republican leadership has yet to even consider allowing a vote on repealing the GFSZA.

### Columbine survivor supports armed teachers

Evan M. Todd was a student at Columbine High School the day two deranged students began murdering innocent kids. His life was barely spared, and thankfully he escaped with only minor injuries. But since the massacre, Mr. Todd has been clear about what he thinks concerning gun-free zones.

"I just want to tell people — just grab them and make them listen — that creating fake 'gun-free' zones doesn't work. Someone needs to be able to physically stop a killer. This means that good people need the right to bear arms."

This statement by Mr. Todd sums it up perfectly. Gun-free zones only create an illusion of safety. But criminals, by definition, are willing to break the law. A sign stating "no guns allowed" means nothing to a murderer.

In fact, if it does mean anything to them, it sadly means "you won't find any armed resistance here."

But it's armed resistance which keeps massacres from happening. ■

# GOA ON THE FRONT LINES



**Pratt on Fox & Friends.** GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt debated gun issues on *Fox & Friends* in June. Pratt made the case that firearms in citizens' hands are the ultimate defense against tyranny.

**GOA Victory in the U.S. Supreme Court.** In May, GOA helped achieve a tremendous victory for private property and the Second Amendment in *Henderson v. United States*, when the Court unanimously ruled against the government in a gun confiscation case.



**Pushing concealed carry.** GOA's Erich Pratt and Chris Stone met with Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) to discuss concealed carry legislation. Soon afterwards, she became the 27th cosponsor of the Senate's pro-gun reciprocity bill.



**As the Giant-slayer.** Earlier this year, PBS highlighted GOA's involvement in killing Obama's gun control legislation in 2013.



## GOA: Still No Compromise!

*"Gun Owners of America is a group that is over a million strong that is lobbying in Washington for the individual who is constantly up on the fight and will not compromise the fight. That is what's so awesome about Gun Owners of America."*

— Radio Host **Jim Coyle**, March 1, 2015





# Anti-gun Loretta Lynch Sworn in as Attorney General

by Michael Hammond

Loretta Lynch was sworn in as the 83rd Attorney General of the United States in April.

Lynch is an extreme, anti-gun advocate who supports reenacting the so-called "Assault Weapons" ban which sunset in 2004.

Sadly, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and his leadership team put a big, fat knife in the back of gun owners, as they helped ram through Lynch's confirmation.

McConnell did this, despite the fact that close to 50 senators had announced their intention to vote against Lynch. Not only that, there were pro-gun senators who were filibustering Lynch's nomination.

GOA was also prepared to work with Senators to invoke a parliamentary maneuver which would have defeated Obama's pick, because in the weeks leading up to the vote, Lynch didn't have the 60 votes necessary to shut off a filibuster.

Ultimately, 43 Senators voted against Lynch, which would have been two more votes than was needed to continue a filibuster and keep Lynch from being confirmed.

But Mitch McConnell led the betrayal against constitutionalists, and joined with Harry Reid to support Lynch.

## Sen. McConnell twists arms to get Lynch confirmed

To look at the final vote count, one would wonder: Why would so many Republicans vote to confirm President Obama's anti-gun nominee — given her anti-gun record, and given the fact that she wants to legalize millions of anti-gun voters?

The answer? Because the pressure to support her came straight from the top, straight from Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office.

Senate Republicans, who opposed Lynch, report that Majority Leader McConnell was quietly twisting arms, getting the support needed to overcome a filibuster.

Here's what was reported in one of the Capitol Hill newspapers:

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) worked quietly to round up more than 60 votes to end a filibuster of attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch, Republican senators say.

After holding up Lynch's confirmation vote for weeks, McConnell worked to ensure she would overcome a filibuster with a strong bipartisan vote, pitting him against Tea Party firebrand Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and other conservatives. (*The Hill*, April 23, 2015)

Having overcome the filibuster against Lynch, Sen. McConnell then voted *in favor* of the President's anti-gun nominee.

Texas Senator Ted Cruz excoriated the Republican leadership on the floor of the Senate for the way they rammed

this nomination through:

The Republican majority, if it so chose, could defeat this nomination, but the Republican majority has chosen to go forward and allow Loretta Lynch to be confirmed. I would note there are more than a few voters back home that are asking what exactly is the difference between a Democratic and Republi-

*Continued on page 5*



***"Eric Holder began disregarding the Constitution and laws after he was confirmed as Attorney General. Ms. Lynch has [already] told the Senate that's what she's going to do."***

***— Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), speaking in opposition to the nomination of Loretta Lynch (inset) on the Senate floor, April 23, 2015***

## Are you a GOA Life Member yet?

Enroll as a Life Member at the special charter rate of only \$500, which entitles you to full member privileges.

Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of \$50 (*with the remainder to be billed to you*) or as a quarterly debit to your credit card for \$50 until your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.



When you contact us by phone, email or mail, please provide us with your name, address, city, state, zip and member number to begin enjoying your Life Member privileges with Gun Owners of America.

**Gun Owners of America**  
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102  
Springfield, Virginia 22151  
703-321-8585  
[www.gunowners.org](http://www.gunowners.org)

## Anti-gun Loretta Lynch Sworn in as Attorney General

Continued from page 4

can majority when the exact same individual gets confirmed as Attorney General, promising the exact same lawlessness, what's the difference?

Great question from Senator Cruz: What is the difference between a Reid-run Senate and one that's run by McConnell?

### Loretta Lynch's anti-gun record

As things stand now, the Senate has confirmed a person who is expected to try to implement the semi-auto ban, which she supports, by executive fiat.

Apparently, it's okay with McConnell and a majority of Senators that Lynch stated, under oath, that she has no problem implementing Obama's unlawful, politically motivated amnesty orders — even though a federal court has found them unlawful.

And Lynch went on to feign ignorance on universal background checks and Operation Choke Point's anti-gun ramifications — even though she was under oath.

Of course, Obama apologists rant about how “qualified” Lynch supposedly is. But think about it: What if she had refused to enforce the 1964 Civil Rights Act? Would Obama have simply chalked that up to a “difference on policy”?

Why, then, should an anti-gun advo-

cate who spits on the Constitution's Second Amendment be treated as somehow acceptable?

It is almost impossible to think of anything which would be different if Democrats were still in control of the Senate.

### One Silver Lining

If there is one Silver Lining in the events surrounding the Lynch confirmation, consider this: In 2009, there were only 21 Senators who voted against Eric Holder to be Attorney General. There were few Senators who were

willing to stand against the Obama agenda.

But fast-forward to this April — after several elections have intervened to put Harry Reid in the minority — there were 43 Senators who voted against Loretta Lynch.

The bad news is that we are still at less than a majority. The good news is that we are getting close. ■

*Michael Hammond is the Legislative Counsel for Gun Owners of America. Erich Pratt also contributed to this article.*

## • The Benedict Arnold List •

Alexander (R-TN)

**Ayotte (R-NH)**

Burr (R-NC)

Capito (R-WV)

**Cochran (R-MS)**

**Collins (R-ME)**

Corker (R-TN)

Cornyn (R-TX)

**Flake (R-AZ)**

Gardner (R-CO)

**Graham (R-SC)**

**Hatch (R-UT)**

**Johnson (R-WI)**

**Kirk (R-IL)**

**McConnell (R-KY)**

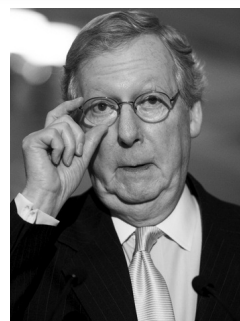
**Portman (R-OH)**

Roberts (R-KS)

Rounds (R-SD)

Thune (R-SD)

Tillis (R-NC)



*Senate Majority Leader  
Mitch McConnell*

**While every Democrat supported Loretta Lynch, the Republicans listed here cast their support for her, as well. Each one of them betrayed gun owners in April by voting to break the filibuster against her nomination. Then, there's the Senators whose names are bolded. They took the extra step of actually voting to confirm Loretta Lynch. In essence, they voted for Loretta Lynch twice — in that they not only voted to break the Republican filibuster, they also voted for her final confirmation.**

## How to Place GOA



*in  
Your Will*

GOA has received numerous inquiries from members asking 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:

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



## Armed Civilians Halt Potential Mass Shootings

There have been a string of attempted shootings across the country, over the past few months, where armed civilians have intervened to save countless lives.

And except in one case — where an off-duty police officer stopped the attack — these heroic efforts have gone virtually unmentioned by the media.

But gun owners should be aware that these incidents are occurring, and know that they can stay up-to-date on recent cases of self-defense by:

- Liking GOA's Facebook page at: [Facebook.com/GunOwners](https://www.facebook.com/GunOwners)
- And visiting GOA's Self-Defense Corner at: [tinyurl.com/nnr6l6a](http://tinyurl.com/nnr6l6a)



### Uber Driver Halts Mass Shooting in April

Seeing a gunman fire into a crowd of people, a Chicago Uber driver grabbed his pistol, stepped out of his car and fired at the perpetrator.

The driver, who is also a concealed carry holder, struck the gunman several times and halted the attack.

Assistant State's Attorney Barry Quinn praised the Uber driver for "acting in self-defense and in the defense of others."

### Police Say Armed Civilian 'Saved a Lot of People'

Police credited a concealed carrier with saving several lives, including those of children, in a Philadelphia barber shop this past March.

The incident occurred after a man pulled a gun and began

firing at patrons. Thankfully, a legal carrier pulled his gun and fired back, killing the aggressor.

Police Cpt. Frank Llewellyn said the situation could have been "a lot worse" and affirmed the concealed carrier "saved a lot of people in there."



### Firefighters Say They 'May Have Stopped a Massacre'

Chad Barker pulled up to a crowded fire station in May where children and firefighters were present, got out of his car and started firing his weapon.

But that was a big mistake. There were several firefighters present who possessed concealed carry permits. They drew their firearms and forced Barker to stand down.

Firefighters then grabbed Barker's weapon and detained him, until deputies could arrive. Barker was subsequently arrested and incarcerated.

### Texas Shows the World How to Deal with Terrorists

Making good on their threats to attack the U.S. homeland, two ISIS "soldiers" attempted to commit a massacre in Garland, Texas, this spring.

But even though they were heavily armed and wearing body armor, an off-duty police officer drew his service weapon and killed both gunmen.

Because the attack was met with lethal force by one of the potential "victims" at the scene of the crime, the incident was over in 15 seconds.

This compares drastically to the terrorist shooting at the *Charlie Hebdo* publication in France this past January.

There were no armed civilians who could shoot back. Even

the police who initially responded were unarmed. The attacks which began at *Charlie Hebdo* continued for 48 hours around the region, as Muslim terrorists murdered a total of 17 people (including police).

These killings occurred, despite the fact that France has the gun control laws that anti-gunners like Michael Bloomberg can only dream of. The gun laws in France are stricter than the laws in any state in this country. Civilians are prohibited from carrying firearms in France.

But turning a country into a gun-free zone did not prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons, and it most certainly did not keep the French people safe.

Fifteen seconds versus 48 hours — guns in the hands of good guys makes a whole lot of difference.



## The Genius of July 4 Trumps Every Gun Control Argument

*Continued from page 1*

able” — or that they’re incapable of being infringed. That means no waiting periods, no background checks, no gun or ammunition bans. Nothing.

Unfortunately, the notion of God-given rights is eroding. CNN’s Chris Cuomo, when confronted this year by an Alabama Supreme Court Judge who said that rights come from God, countered that rights actually “come from man.”

And one of the Arizona Democrats, who took the anti-gun position during their theological debate in March, claimed the right to keep and bear arms couldn’t possibly be a God-given right since — now get ready for this laugh line — “I know that God didn’t write the Constitution.”

Some might find humor in Arizona Rep. Sally Ann Gonzalez’s comments, but the implications of her views are no laughing matter.

Because here’s the problem: If rights don’t come from God, then where do they come from? Do “We the People” decide what our human rights are?

Good luck finding any unanimity there. The view that denies God as being the author of our rights must ultimately depend upon the 51% majority as the only practical way of defining them.

But then what happens when a majority favors slavery or segregation? Or favors the infringement of a basic

right like the protection of one’s self or family?

What happens is that people become mercilessly oppressed.

Consider the draconian gun ban in Chicago that had left many honest citizens defenseless for decades, thus leaving the city with a murder rate that was frequently the highest in the nation.

Not until the city’s gun ban — and later, its ban on concealed carry — was

no concealed carrier, and people would have been forced to wait for the police to arrive.

Not only that, this would have been just one more story where a crackpot goes on a shooting spree ... commits a mass murder ... and jumpstarts calls for gun control.

Thankfully, a good guy with a gun was not prevented from defending his life, along with the lives of many others.

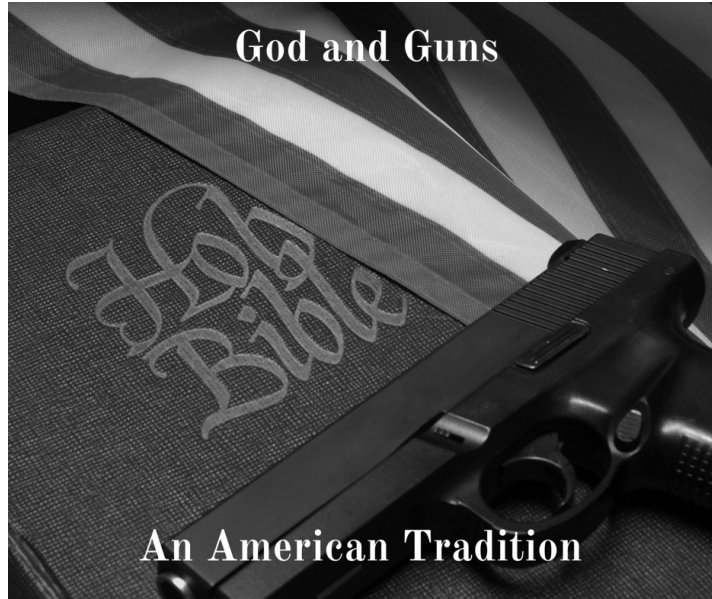
This is why the Supreme Court’s decision in *McDonald v. Chicago* was so key. In 2010, the Court struck down Chicago’s gun ban and affirmed that “self-defense is a basic right, recognized by many legal systems from ancient times to the present day.”

It didn’t matter if a majority of Chicago’s politicians favored gun control. The gun ban was in violation of the Constitution, which protects a “basic right” that has been recognized from “ancient times.”

Well, our Founders knew just how “ancient” this right is. Elbridge Gerry, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, said that, “Self-defense is a primary law of nature [and] the immediate gift of the Creator.”

As we celebrate our independence this year, we should be thankful for the wisdom and vision of our Founding Fathers.

Had their Declaration not articulated the “self-evident” truth that rights come from God, Chicago-style gun control might very well be the norm throughout the country — and we’d still be speaking British, too! ■



**In the Declaration of Independence, the Founding Fathers said rights are God-given and unalienable. By doing so, they placed all rights — including the right of self-defense — on a more concrete foundation than popular polls.**

struck down, did they experience a dramatic reduction in murder rates. Lives have been spared.

In April, an Uber driver in the Windy City used his concealed firearm to prevent a mass shooting, when he discharged six rounds from his weapon to stop a gunman who was firing into a crowd of people.

In years past, there would have been

## We Like Our Guns

*Continued from page 8*

Harrisburg last year, the 650,000 attendees were able to see exhibits of AR-15s and the like. Reed Exhibitions was forced to learn the same lesson that George III had been forced to learn — keep your hands off Americans’ guns.

Sadly, AR-15 phobia is not just a British thing. American politicians such as Barack Obama and former New York City

Mayor Michael Bloomberg have also waged a war against guns like the AR-15. And both have had to learn the same lesson as their British counterparts: Americans like their guns.

Efforts to enact a Congressional ban on AR-15s have failed, as have attempts to outlaw the sale of common ammunition for the firearm. And this has left both men extremely frustrated. The President recently told ABC News how “heart-breaking” it is that his administration has not been able to pass gun control.

That being the case, maybe Obama and Bloomberg would be happier if they moved to England. ■



## We Like Our Guns

by Larry Pratt

Independence Day festivities came early this year, as many Americans celebrated a fantastic anniversary in spring.

You see, it was this April that marked the first year we have been free from a British occupation, of sorts. We are no

longer subject to the pompous drivel that was dished out on a daily basis for years by CNN's British host Piers Morgan, who aired his last show on March 28 of last year.

Morgan was notorious for his anti-gun antics. His hatred for America's Constitution was legendary. And his attacks on gun ownership were relentless.

But it was the Middle America that he so ruthlessly despised who had the last laugh. Morgan later confessed that, perhaps, Americans were "tired" of him "going on" about guns.

Yes, we were tired of it; he was right about that. Americans do get tired of being lectured by people who are perpetually "stuck on stupid."

And that is why Piers Morgan has not been the only Brit to get "the boot" in recent years because he failed — or refused — to understand Americans' love of freedom.

Reed Exhibitions is a case in point. They are a British company that, for years, had run the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This was a popular show that was well-supported by gun owners up and down the East Coast.

But in 2013, they demonstrated what it means to be "stuck on stupid." Like Piers Morgan, Reed Exhibitions decided they were going to teach their American cousins a lesson about firearms. Indeed.

After the Newtown shooting in December of 2012, Reed Exhibitions decided that the 2013 Outdoor show would not permit the presence of AR-15s in their Harrisburg show. Such a firearm, reasoned Reed, would distract from the "theme of hunting and fishing, disrupting the broader experience of our guests."

Cabela's pulled out of the Harrisburg show, followed by many other companies and groups. The hemorrhage of companies led to the cancellation of the 2013 show.

Once the largest consumer outdoor show along the East Coast, Reed's Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show went the way of the Dodo bird and would never again open their doors under that management.

It got worse for Reed.

Reed had long worked with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) to put on the annual SHOT Show, a huge annual trade show for firearms and

related companies. After working with NSSF for over three decades, the NSSF fired Reed and hired another company.

Gun shows across the country began to announce that they would NOT ban AR-15s from their shows. The Harrisburg show was taken over by different management and opened up under a new name.

When the Great American Outdoor Show was held in

*Continued on page 7*



In two TV-debates with GOA's Larry Pratt, both of which went viral on YouTube, CNN's Piers Morgan (left) displayed a very serious case of "stuck on stupid."

## THE Gun Owners

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

**Tim Macy**  
Chairman

**Larry Pratt**  
Executive Director

**John Velleco**  
Director of Operations

**Erich Pratt**  
Director of Communications

**Chris Stone**  
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 copyrighted. But copies may be made freely with attribution, giving GOA's address, phone number and web site location.