

GOA's Top Ten in 2019



See what your Support and Activism accomplished!



1.

Three new states join the Constitutional Carry Club

GOA is aggressively pushing Constitutional Carry in state capitols across the country. This year, GOA helped three new states to join the Constitutional Carry Club: South Dakota, Kentucky and Oklahoma. This brings the total number of permitless carry states to 17, a boon for gun owners who should not have to get government permission to defend themselves. Additionally, Idaho expanded their permitless carry law to cover 18-20 year old residents, and Texas passed Constitutional Carry in times of emergency.



3.

Battling Red Flag Gun Confiscation Around the Country

GOA has actively fought against so-called “red flag” laws in every state that does not currently have one. The battle has been fierce, given that some conservative organizations have even come out in support of these Gun Confiscation Orders. But GOA has made it clear to legislators that “in no jurisdiction where the U.S. Constitution is applicable should ‘red flag’ laws ever be entertained as a ‘conservative’ option.” Pictured here is GOA’s PA Director, Dr. Val Finnell, testifying against red flags and other gun control in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



2.

Three Million Grassroots Messages Help Stall Gun Control

This year saw some of the most aggressive calls for gun control, including Francis Robert O’Rourke’s infamous line, “Hell yes, we’re going to take your AR-15.” Fortunately, GOA members mobilized in record fashion, sending over 3 million messages in opposition to gun control to President Trump and the Congress. The campaign has been enormously successful, as all gun control has stalled in Congress. In fact, high-ranking offices on Capitol Hill told GOA that were it not for the loud voice of grassroots gun owners, gun control would already have passed. Pictured here is mass shooting survivor and former Texas Representative Suzanna Hupp, flanked by GOA Executive Vice President John Velleco (left) and Senior Vice President Erich Pratt. GOA brought Rep. Hupp to Washington DC to testify against gun control before a Congressional committee.



4.

Resisting Universal Background Registration Checks

After the radical anti-gunner Nancy Pelosi took the Speaker’s gavel, she wasted no time in bringing up Universal Background Registration Checks for a vote. This bill would outlaw nearly every transfer of a firearm that doesn’t go through government screening — thereby creating a backdoor registry. Sexual assault survivor and GOA member Savannah Lundquist testified against this draconian bill, exposing how it would have no effect on criminals, but keep honest citizens like herself unable to defend herself. While HR 8 did pass the House, gun owners have managed to stall the bill’s momentum in the Senate.

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5.

Undoing UN Gun Control

One of GOA's priorities since President Trump assumed office was to remove the United States from the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. GOA officials began meeting with White House staff as early as 2017 to show how dangerous this treaty was and to encourage the President to unsign the treaty, something that he did earlier this year.



8.

New Hampshire Governor Slaps Down Anti-Gun Bills

Gov. Chris Sununu (right) is pictured here with GOA's New Hampshire director Alan Rice. After anti-gunners took over the majority in New Hampshire's state legislature in the last elections, they wasted no time in passing massive gun control restrictions — such as universal background checks, waiting periods and gun-free zones. High ranking officials in the Granite State urged gun owners to apply pressure on the governor, so GOA answered the call — issuing multiple alerts that mobilized gun owners across the state. Thankfully, Gov. Sununu also answered the call by rejecting every single gun control bill.



6.

Keeping an Anti-Gunner Out of the ATF

President Trump nominated Chuck Canterbury to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Unfortunately, while Canterbury had given lip service to the Second Amendment, his record did not back that up. As head of the Fraternal Order of Police, he led efforts which supported Universal Background Checks and opposed Constitutional Carry. GOA sent a letter to Republican leaders in opposition to Canterbury and mobilized grassroots gun owners to express opposition to him. Thankfully, this message was received loud and clear, as several key GOP Senators, citing Second Amendment concerns, came out in public opposition to Canterbury — a revolt which has effectively killed the nomination for now.



9.

800 Women Trained in Firearms and Self-Defense

Firearms instructor Rick Ector (a GOA life member) held a "Legally Armed in Detroit" firearm instruction day, where 800 women were successfully trained in basic firearm safety and self-defense. GOA's Erich Pratt also had an opportunity to speak at the event and encouraged the women with examples of how women have successfully used firearms in self-defense.



7.

Local Officials Stand in the Gap Between Tyranny and Citizens

GOA has been working with local governments across the country to pass "Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinances" which prohibit local government resources from being used to enforce gun control. Pictured between two GOA representatives is Arkansas Sheriff Chris Brown, who is a fierce supporter of local interposition against state and federal gun restrictions. "I believe that we have already seen ... overreach in many areas," Sheriff Brown said, "so I appreciate people and organizations like GOA who stand strong and refuse to compromise our rights away in the name of 'safety.'" With Sheriff Brown is GOA's Louisiana Director Joshua Barnhill (left) and GOA's Director of Communication Jordan Stein.

10.

A Hero Still Standing Strong for the 2A

After the tragic shooting in El Paso, the Republican leaders in the state caved on the Second Amendment, with even Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick calling for expanded background Checks. But GOA's Texas Director Rachel Malone organized a press conference to reject these Republican calls for gun control. The featured speaker was Texas hero Stephen Willeford, who used his AR-15 to mortally wound the Sutherland Spring shooter in 2017. Willeford exposed the dangers of gun control and highlighted the need for good guys to shoot back. Pictured here is Mr. Willeford (with the rifle he used in defense of Sutherland Springs), Rachel Malone (left), and Mrs. Willeford.

