

THE Gun Owners

46 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1976-2022

GOA-Backed 2A Sanctuaries Take Stand Against Biden Agenda

by John Velleco

The Biden administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) are at war with the Second Amendment.

But states and counties across the country are pushing back in unprecedented fashion, and Gun Owners of America (GOA) is helping to fuel their resistance.

Last year, GOA's activists helped to pass Second Amendment Protection Acts (SAPA) in over a half dozen states. And currently, over 1,900 counties have passed ver-

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GOA Exposes ATF's Gun Owner Registry



GOA Senior Vice President Erich Pratt appeared on Fox News in February and reported that the ATF has registered nearly one billion gun owners records — a list that could one day be used for gun confiscation. Ninety-four percent of the records have already been digitized. (See related article below.)

Facebook Censors GOA, Tries to Coverup ATF's Gun Registry

By Aidan Johnston

In a recent report, ATF admitted to Congress that it maintains nearly a billion gun and gun owner records.

But the agency's own admission did not stop Facebook and *USA Today* from teaming up to "Fact Check" and censor this news which has shocked the Second Amendment community in recent weeks.

Now found pinned below Gun Owners of America's Facebook post is a text box which states that GOA's information is "Missing Context" because supposed "Independent fact-checkers say this information could mislead people."

The average Facebook user might now be inclined to click a link that says "see why," which redirects to a so-called "Fact Check" article from *USA Today* — rather than the full story from

its original source.

Interestingly enough, when scrutinized, *USA Today's* so-called "Fact Check," which labels our claim of a partial national gun registry as "missing context," makes eleven FALSE statements and eight statements that are MISSING CONTEXT.

Indeed, by trusting in Facebook and *USA Today*, an individual is likely to walk away with the understanding that there is no searchable federal database or registry of guns or their owners, and that the ATF has only a few hundred thousand such records. Neither of those understandings is correct.

On the contrary, it is objective fact that ATF admitted to lawmakers that it is currently maintaining a searchable database of nearly one billion firearm

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GOA-Backed 2A Sanctuaries Take Stand Against Biden Agenda

sions of a Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance (SASO), many based on GOA model legislation.

These laws and ordinances prohibit state and local law enforcement from enforcing unconstitutional gun control laws and act as a buffer between federal overreach and the rights of America's gun owners.

Such laws are becoming increasingly important as the Biden administration ramps up its attacks on the Second Amendment through executive actions.

ATF Pistol Brace Rule

For starters, the ATF is seeking — through a Byzantine, arbitrary “points” system (ATF Worksheet 4999) — to classify pistols that utilize stabilizing braces as short-barreled rifles (SBRs).

Such a rule could bring as many as 40 million lawfully owned pistols under the Nation Firearms Act (NFA) rules, subjecting owners of such firearms to the same taxing and registration scheme as full autos.

Those who do not comply could be charged with a felony, subjected to heavy fines, prison sentences, and a permanent loss of gun rights.

This rule, expected to be finalized in August, represents the biggest threat to law-abiding gun owners in decades, and state-level SAPA laws are expected to be front and center in the ensuing legal battles.

Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation (GOF) are also preparing to bring separate legal challenges once a final rule is adopted, and GOA is working with pro-gun members of Congress on legislation to dismantle the NFA piece by piece.

ATF in Your Workshop...and Computer

Another Biden ATF rule is seeking to curtail the manufacture of homemade firearms, derisively called “ghost guns,” undermining innovation and technological advancement of a practice that is as old as the country itself.

The proposed rule would also severely limit the 3-D printability of commonly-available firearms.

A final rule on this action is expected in June, but GOA already has fought to protect these lawfully owned firearms in court.



Earlier this year, GOA won a preliminary injunction against the city of Philadelphia, prohibiting the city from enforcing ordinances banning the making of homemade firearms and the use of 3D printers to make guns and gun parts.

GOA will take this legal battle to the national stage when the final ATF rule is issued.

“We will never stop fighting...”

These Biden administration rules are just the tip of the iceberg.

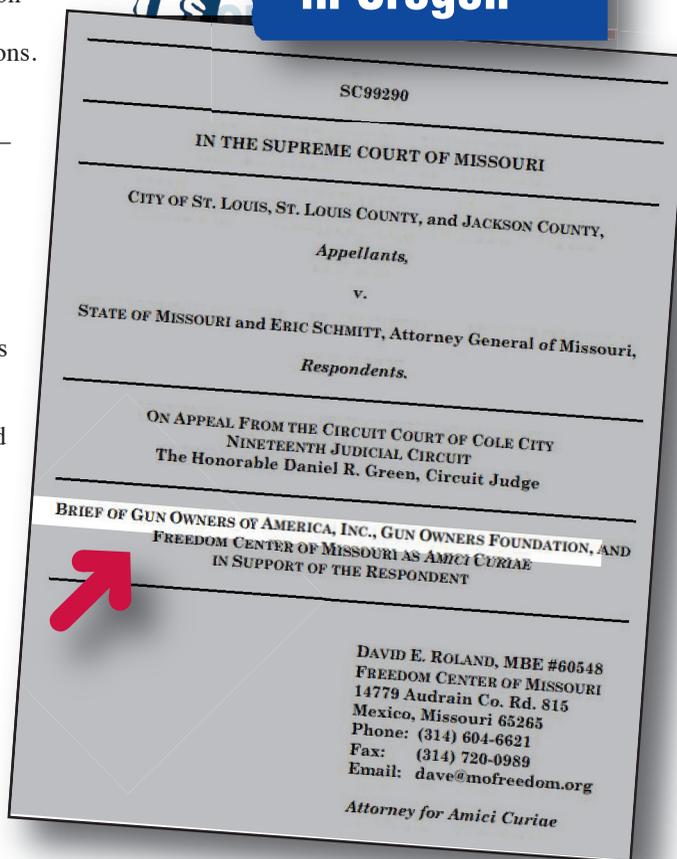
If Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is successful in abolishing the legislative filibuster, which requires 60 votes to pass controversial legislation instead of 50, the door will be wide open for more gun bans, gun owner registration, and even confiscation of banned firearms.

SAPA laws are an important component of GOA's overall strategy to frustrate the Biden gun control agenda.

And these laws are not simply symbolic, which is why the Department of Justice, headed by anti-gun Attorney General Merrick Garland, is suing the state of Missouri over its SAPA law (perhaps the strongest law of its kind in the country).

Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation filed an amicus brief defending the law.

In Oregon, GOA and GOF, alongside the Oregon Firearms Federation (OFF), took on Everytown for Gun Safety-backed challenge to a SASO that was passed



twice by voters in Columbia County.

The Board of County Commissioners, with the support of Everytown, attempted to invalidate the SASO, but a judge on the Columbia County Circuit Court sided with the pro-gun organizations.

GOA is currently lobbying within several states to enact or strengthen Second Amendment Sanctuary laws.

As GOA Senior Vice President Erich Pratt told the media after the Oregon legal victory, “[W]e will never stop fighting for an unfringed right to keep and bear arms, as well as defend the centuries-old practice of Lesser Magistrates interposing themselves to protect the people from unconstitutional laws.” ■

Facebook Censors GOA, Tries to Coverup ATF's Gun Registry

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transaction records which includes personally identifying gun owner information. This is precisely what gun owners are concerned about when they voice opposition to a national gun registry.

Leading up to the 2020 election, Gun Owners of America similarly was censored by Facebook, working with the French government, to cover up our reporting of the fact that Kamala Harris opposes the individual right to keep and bear arms. See gunowners.org/facebook-fec-violation.

Facebook went so far as to label as “fake news” a link to the Harris amicus brief which she filed in opposition to that individual right in the landmark Second Amendment *D.C. v. Heller* case.

Similarly to Facebook’s censorship of GOA in 2020, this *USA Today* hit piece is itself full of false and unsubstantiated claims.

Fact Checking The “Fact Checkers”

False Claim — ATF Out Of Business Records Do Not Constitute A “Searchable Database”

USA Today first claims that ATF’s out-of-business records, even though digitized and scanned into a centralized computer system, do not amount to a “searchable database.”

ATF’s out-of-business records are collected and maintained in an organized format, both digitally and physically, at the ATF’s Out-of-Business Records Center. ATF’s National Tracing Center then uses this registry to conduct what ATF calls Record Search Requests to identify personal identifying information to ostensibly “trace” (i.e., search for) guns used in crime.

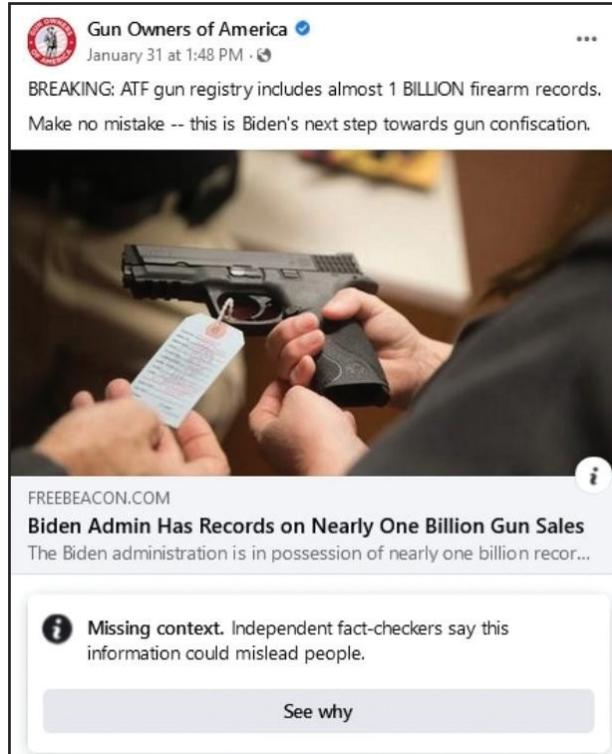
USA Today’s own sources disprove its own claim that there is no “searchable database.” April Langwell, chief of the ATF’s public affairs division, refers to “searching for records” and UCLA Professor Adam Winkler states “[t]here is a database.”

In other words, ATF maintains a database that it routinely searches but, in five instances *USA Today* claims this is “not ... a searchable database.” GOA rates this claim as FALSE.

False Claim — ATF’s Records Do Not Constitute a Prohibited “Registry”

Next, *USA Today* claims at least six different ways that ATF’s out-of-business “records are not stored in... a format consistent with a [gun] registry.”

Hilariously, *USA Today* engages in circular reasoning: Fed-



eral law prohibits a national gun registry, therefore ATF’s searchable database cannot be a national gun registry. Of course, an agency’s denial that it is not violating the law is hardly proof of its innocence. On the contrary, if this is not circular reasoning, it is hard to see what is.

What’s more, ATF in the past has been specifically cited for violating federal prohibitions on creating a centralized database, as recently as a 2016 Government Accountability Office report.

As GOA has explained, federal law both prohibits the creation of a registry of guns or gun owners, but also allows ATF to receive records when a gun store goes out of business. It is GOA’s valid legal interpretation that ATF’s decision to collect personally identifying gun and gun owner information and maintain it in a searchable database violates this statute of federal law.

Based on the entirely unsubstantiated nature of *USA Today*’s claims that ATF is not maintaining a prohibited gun registry, in addition to the numerous pieces of evidence showing that ATF’s database has crossed the line into an illegal registry, Gun Owners of America rates this claim as FALSE.

Missing Context — ATF Has “Hundreds of Thousands” Of Records

In two instances, the *USA Today* article states that “ATF does possess hundreds of thousands of firearm records.” Of course, ATF possesses not only “hundreds of thousands” of records, but also nine hundred and twenty million in addition to that. The fact that *USA Today* repeats its “hundreds of thousands” claim more than once indicates that perhaps this was not a grammatical error, but instead a deliberate attempt to deceive.

Indeed, the actual number of records maintained by the ATF is several orders of magnitude greater. To quote the ATF:

In total, ATF manages 920,664,765 OBR as of November 2021. This includes digital and an estimated number of hard copy records that are awaiting image conversion. It is currently estimated that 865,787,086 of those records are in digitalized format.

Based on ATF’s own statement that it manages nearly a BILLION out-of-business records, Gun Owners of America rates *USA Today*’s claim as MISSING CONTEXT.

Bottom line: The “fact-checkers” at *USA Today* missed quite a few things with their fake news censorship article on our ATF gun registry story. There are even more false statements made by *USA Today*.

To read the entire *Daily Caller* article on the GOA website, readers can go to: gunowners.org/atf-registry-censored. ■



Gun Owners of America

GOA's Industry Partnerships extend from Coast to Coast

GOA's Erich Pratt (center) is pictured here with two representatives from Kalashnikov USA, a company that recently partnered with GOA. Launched in 2020, GOA's Caliber Club program has partnered with thousands of gun stores and ranges across the country. GOA also has a Strategic Partnership Program that has affiliated with dozens of gun manufacturers, like Kalashnikov USA. People can find out more about GOA's affiliations with gun dealers and ranges at gunowners.org/caliber.



Judge Sides with GOA in Blocking Illegal Philly Gun Ban

GOA sued Philadelphia in state court after the city passed legislation banning homemade firearms. Months later, GOA won a victory when the judge entered a temporary injunction against the city to prohibit enforcement of the unconstitutional ordinance, although the case is still pending a final resolution. Pictured here is a JSD Supply MUP-1 belonging to one of GOA's staffers — a homemade pistol that is complete with the Patmos Revolution Slide and P-80 lower.



TUSC Presents GOA with Crypto-based Endowment

TUSC presented GOA with a donation of \$20,000 worth of TUSC coins. The donation will launch a cryptocurrency-based endowment as GOA begins to accept TUSC coins for donations. With cancel culture reaching new heights, GOA is thrilled to be working with pro-2A currencies that advance freedom's call. From left to right: GOA Board Member Sam Paredes, TUSC founder Rob McNealy and GOA's Erich Pratt.



GOA Helps Train Dozens of Women in Ft. Worth, Texas

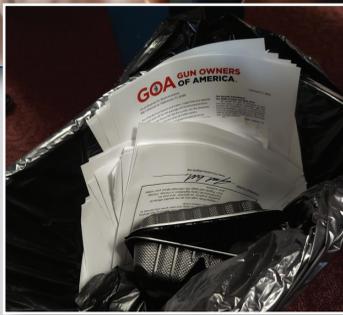
Handguns. Rifles. Full-autos. Activism training. All of this took place at GOA's Empowered 2A event in Ft. Worth in January. The event was organized by Antonia Okafor Cover (pictured on right), who is GOA's Director for Womens Outreach. Many participants were new to firearms, as a third had never shot before. Participants praised the head instructor, Desstoni Johnson, for her excellent teaching. At the end of the day, the women had shot over 4,000 rounds of ammunition during their training!

America on the Frontlines



◀ GOA Blasts Compromising GOP, Holds Their Feet to the Fire

GOA Florida Director Luis Valdes (left) delivers petitions to House Republicans urging passage of Constitutional Carry legislation in the Sunshine State. In this picture, Valdes confronts the chairman of the House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee (Rep. Chuck Brannan III) and asks him why he refuses to bring up Constitutional Carry for a vote. Seconds later, Rep. Brannan (who is pointing) turns and walks away, eventually ducking and hiding in a fellow legislator's office.



◀ Florida Grassroots in an Uproar after Legislator Trashes Petitions

In February, GOA's Luis Valdes returned to the Florida state capitol and joined many activist groups in delivering a second set of petitions to Rep. Chuck Brannan. This Republican subcommittee chairman has become the chokepoint in killing Constitutional Carry. The group left to visit other offices, but upon returning to Rep. Brannan's office 20 minutes later, they found his aide had already trashed the petitions. This incident has led to nationwide calls by grassroots gun owners who are urging Gov. Ron DeSantis to use the power of his bully pulpit to urge passage of Constitutional Carry.

GunsOut TV Gives Major Gift to GOA! ▶

One of the best ways that GOA can educate our members and the Second Amendment community is to connect with content creators such as GunsOut TV. Shermichael Singleton (left) and John Keys (right) have been a constant in helping us reach a new market of gun owners in a novel and exciting way. But that's not all. To show their gratefulness for GOA's backing, GunsOut TV partnered with others in the gun community to surprise us with a donation of \$10,000 to help us further our mission to protect, defend and restore the Second Amendment.

We want to thank GunsOut TV for this generous donation, and we want to thank the creator community at large who help us get our message out and encourage their viewers to take action.



◀ Constitutional Carry on the Move

GOA recently won praise for its work in enacting permitless carry bills around the country. For starters, GOA worked in all five states that enacted Constitutional Carry last year. But the battle was especially pronounced in Texas. Citizens for Renewing America reported the victory in the Lone Star State was only achieved by a small group of committed conservative legislators and by "outside pressure brought to bear by Rachel Malone at Gun Owners of America" (pictured here leaving the capitol after a long day of lobbying legislators). As 2021 came to a close, there were 21 permitless carry states, but we are pushing to expand that number this year.

Gun Owners Brace for Potential ATF Regulations ▶

Facing a stalemate in Congress, President Joe Biden turned to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to illegally regulate firearms and firearm accessories. As the public comment period opened, GOA rallied grassroots gun owners to speak out against the proposed infringements. GOA members and supporters are directly responsible for at least 120,000 comments, opposing both regulations on frames/receivers and pistol braces. Should the ATF follow through with their regulations, they will be met with lawsuits from Gun Owners of America and our Foundation.

FRAME AND RECEIVER ATF COMMENT PERIOD:

63,290 COMMENTS FROM GOA'S GRASSROOTS ARMY MAKING UP **21.5%** OF ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED

PISTOL BRACE COMMENT PERIOD:

64,030 COMMENTS FROM GOA'S GRASSROOTS ARMY MAKING UP **30.6%** OF ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED

GOA
GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA

GOA Mobilizing Hunters to Defend the Second Amendment

by Mark Jones

We all know the Second Amendment faces unprecedented threats, and there is no better time for GOA to announce our new Hunter Outreach Program called *Second Amendment Hunters*. America's over 16 million hunters represent a formidable force that can help protect and defend our God-given rights, and we ask all hunters to join us in this fight.

America's hunters appreciate principles of freedom and have played a role in defending American values since our nation's beginning. Many young shooters and Second Amendment advocates learn about firearms and gun rights because they develop an interest in hunting as children.

Today's American hunting system is known as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Under this system, Americans of all classes, races, and economic status have access to hunting — a right not granted to the citizens of most nations. Americans cherish our right to hunt and benefit from the use of wild harvested meat, recreational values, family time, and other aesthetic and cultural values.

American hunters should take careful heed of what happened in Australia and Great Britain where hunters were blindsided when those nation's politicians instituted firearms restrictions decades ago.

Millions of sporting arms were destroyed by those governments, and hunting has become relegated to an activity for the rich who can navigate those countries' tight firearms restrictions.

Because our freedoms face unprecedented challenges, hunters must engage like never before in our Nation's politics to keep America standing as the World's greatest beacon of freedom. GOA is standing with hunters and supporting their rights in many ways:

- Educating and mobilizing hunters to be active Second Amendment supporters.



- Recruiting hunters to become politically active at the national, state, and local level.
- Combating Second Amendment apathy within the hunting community.
- Demonstrating the safe and ethical use of firearms in hunting.
- Protecting the American hunting tradition and ensuring hunting opportunities for all hunters.

In June of 2021, GOA introduced Mark Jones, a *Certified Wildlife Biologist*[®] and GOA's National Hunter Outreach Director. Mark has over three decades of professional experience working with hunters and over four decades of personal hunting experience. He serves GOA on the frontlines, bat-

hibit or heavily restrict the transportation of legally harvested wildlife across state lines.

This effort would have crippled hunting opportunities for millions of Americans. GOA sent a strong response to federal agencies opposing this anti-hunting effort, and it can be read on GOA's website.

Regarding these petitions, GOA's Mark Jones commented, "These petitions threaten to change hunting as we know it in America and also represents a backdoor attack on the constitutionally-protected rights of gun owners."

The threats to our hunting tradition will not stop with extreme petitions from radical anti-hunting groups, and the Biden Administration has made disarming law-abiding citizens a cornerstone of their agenda.

We are at a critical point in the battle for our Second Amendment rights and our American tradition of hunting.

Many hunters are already GOA members, but we are asking *all hunters* to join us in the fight to protect our rights during these unprecedented times.

Hunters and non-hunting gun owners must all band together and stand firm to stop the assault against our rights that we are witnessing in America

every day. Please invite a hunter to join GOA and be on the lookout for more announcements about our Hunter Outreach efforts in the near future.

At this critical time in our nation's history, it has never been more important to acknowledge that "*The Second Amend-*

ment is not about hunting, but hunters should be 'about' the Second Amendment."

If you would like to learn more about *Second Amendment Hunters*, please check out our website at: gunowners.org/hunting and follow us on social media. ■

Second Amendment Hunters



facebook.com/2AHunters



instagram.com/SecondAmendmentHunters



twitter.com/2AHunters

ting any backdoor attacks on our Second Amendment or hunting rights.

One example of how GOA has already fought for hunters was when we opposed petitions that would have used Federal authority to heavily restrict the importation of legally harvested wildlife into the United States, as well as pro-

GOA Members Making Legal & Legislative Victories Possible

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before the state supreme court, the GOA case challenges I-1639 which labels most semi-autos as “assault rifles,” along with several other restrictions.

GOA is also appealing our bump stock case to the U.S. Supreme Court. After GOA won a tremendous victory before a three-judge panel last year, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals tied 8-8. This means the case reverts back to the initial district court decision which ruled on behalf of the ATF.

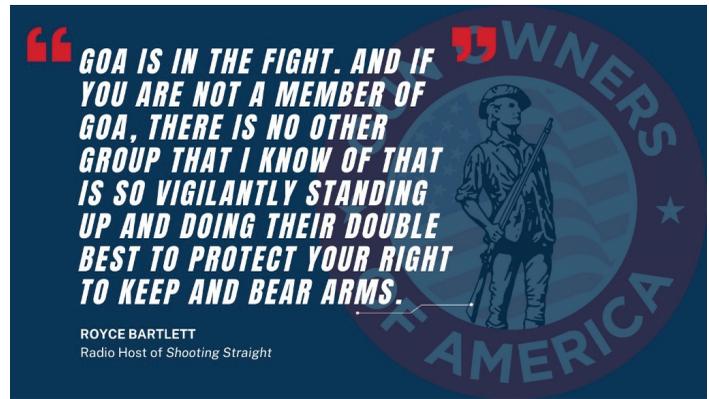
A big controversy in this case involves this question: Can ATF incarcerate people based on agency regulations that are contrary to congressional law?

Stay tuned for further updates on this important case.

State Representatives praise GOA activism

GOA members in New Hampshire are getting loud, and legislators are taking notice.

After testifying on several bills while at the legislature in January, GOA New Hampshire Director Alan Rice was approached by several state representatives. They told Rice how very impressed they were by the huge number of emails they have received from GOA activists.



To be sure, we hear these types of reports all over the country — which is why members like you deserve a pat on the back. The postcards and emails that you send truly do make a difference.

And GOA representatives can only be successful if legislators know that we are backed up by thousands of committed gun owners!

The above examples are just the tip of the iceberg. Many more could be given, which is why we are very grateful to all our members and activists for their help in preserving our liberties. ■



GOA Gets Nominated for Gundies' Awards

The Gundies is an award celebration for companies and new media creators that celebrate the Second Amendment and its community.

While many in the 2A community have faced demonetization and attempted cancellations by the anti-gun Left, this event is all about celebrating innovation and content creation.

Each person is nominated by the 2A community at large. And this is why GOA was thrilled to have not one, but three of its employees nominated for the category “Top Voice of the 2A.” The nominees were:

- Phil Reboli, host of GOA’s Minute Man Moment and Senior Policy Advisor;
- Antonia Okafor-Cover, who is GOA’s Director of Women’s Outreach; and,
- John Crump, who works in our IT department and is a writer for AmmoLand news.

We are incredibly blessed to have so many Gundies’ nominations this year, and we want to thank you, our members, for your continued support of our mission and

for allowing us to employ great advocates of the Second Amendment.

Add to the fact that GOA-supported GunsOut TV received nominations in two categories: “Breakout Creator of the Year” and “Influencer of the Year.”

We are also grateful to see the many pro-gun YouTubers who received nominations — people like Jared of Guns & Gadgets, Eric of IV8888, Hank Strange and others who have been very supportive of GOA’s work and mission.

Don’t forget to check out the Minute Man Moment on YouTube and GunsOut TV on the Warrior Poet Society Network. ■



GOA Members Making Legal & Legislative Victories Possible

by Erich Pratt

From coast-to-coast, GOA members and activists are making a world of difference.

At the federal level, the Senate filibuster is the last remaining

roadblock which keeps every draconian gun control bill imaginable from landing on Joe Biden's desk.

Red flag gun confiscation.
Universal Background Checks that register gun owners.
Supreme Court packing.
Vote Fraud legislation.

All of this would get passed without the Senate filibuster — allowing Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York to enact his ugly agenda with only 51 (rather than 60) votes.

The difference of nine votes makes all the difference!

And that's why GOA members in West Virginia deserve kudos for their efforts in January. Just days before a vote on whether to save the filibuster from any limitations, GOA members flooded Manchin's office with more than 2,500 phone calls.

And in Arizona, GOA members also responded in force by contacting Senator Kyrsten Sinema's office in large numbers.

Both Democrats broke ranks with Schumer and delivered to him a crushing defeat. Your activism makes a difference! But not just at the federal level.

GOA helps defeat magazine ban in New Mexico

In February, gun grabbers tried to ban the right to possess, buy, transfer, and sell standard-capacity magazines that hold more than 15 rounds.

But thanks to the emails and phone calls from the grass-

roots army in the state, we were able to apply pressure to State Representatives to kill this bill.

Special thanks go to all the State Representatives who fought to keep people's gun rights intact.

And special thanks go to Representative Stefani Lord (R) who used GOA's information on how citizens need multiple rounds for self-defense to lobby her fellow legislators in opposition to the ban!

GOA activists flooded Sen. Joe Manchin's office with more than 2,500 calls in just 8 days!

GOA's legal team fighting battles from coast-to-coast

Thanks to the generous support of GOA members, our attorneys are involved in several important legal cases around the nation. Here are just a few examples:

- GOA won a big legal victory before a three-judge panel in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in November. The judges rejected all of ATF's arguments and reversed the district judge who had restricted the right of Michiganders to bypass the NICS check when purchasing firearms using their state carry licenses.
- In another GOA case, a Pennsylvania judge entered an injunction against Philadelphia to prohibit enforcement of a ban on homemade firearms. (Read more about this case on page 4.)
- In Missouri, GOA is helping defend the Second Amendment Preservation Act which is under attack by the City of St. Louis and groups financed by Michael Bloomberg's money. As this newsletter goes to press, GOA is awaiting a decision before the state supreme court.
- GOA won a partial victory in Washington state when a district judge agreed with GOA that the infamous I-1639 was enacted in an unconstitutional fashion. Currently

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THE Gun Owners

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