



BULLET magazine



Official journal of the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association,
the state's official NRA affiliate

Vol. 62 No. 2

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June 2023

Tom King: Every Walk of Life is Here



The Right To Bear Arms

see page 15

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President's Message

by Tom King

Where do we go from here?

It's the question I'm probably asked four or five times per day: "Where do we go from here?," and there are a couple of answers that apply.

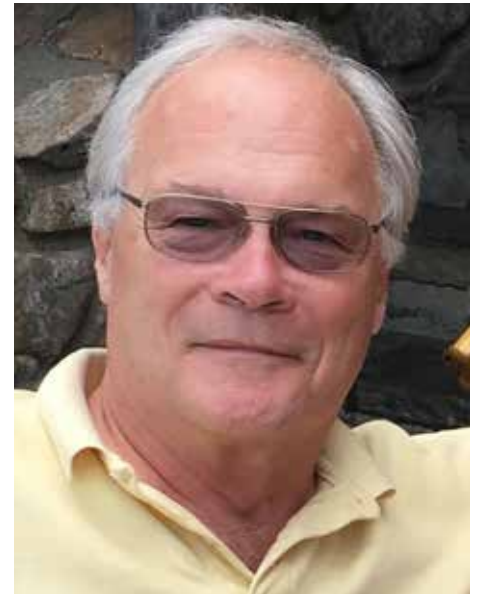
You can moan and say that New York is finished and you're counting the days until you can move out of the blankety-blank state to a place where your rights are respected. I don't know how many times I've heard this statement, but I must explain that people who feel that way just become part of the problem rather than part of the solution.

I understand retirement and moving to a warmer climate. However, I can't fathom moving to get away from unconstitutional laws—rather than fighting to restore your God-given rights. If our Founding Fathers had felt that way, we still would be having tea and crumpets rather than coffee and donuts. Now is the time to double down and fight these onerous unconstitutional laws. Do not let Gov. Kathy Hochul and her band of liberals scar you. They are just public servants who are misusing the power of their office to control your every movement—especially your

involvement and enjoyment of your Second Amendment rights.

How do we fight these so-called political leaders who want to take away your rights? We vote, we lobby, and we make our voices heard through our Second Amendment associations, such as the NRA and NYSRPA. We support candidates who support our beliefs, not false-flag imposters who turn on us as soon as they are elected. We continue to train our daughters, sons and grandchildren. We continue to expose new friends to the joys and camaraderie of the shooting and hunting sports. We continue to make sure our sports are the safest in the nation. Most importantly, we must speak up and get involved and support our supporters. We must vote for what our hearts and minds tell us not what our unions and political parties demand we do. We must proudly state: "I'm a proud and lawful gun owner and I'm sick and tired of being blamed for the criminal activities of a few." Be proud of who you are and what you stand for!

I do know this, the announcement of the demise of the NRA was very premature, we are recovering from the



misused COVID pandemic, just like everyone else in the world, and our recovery has been dramatic. Seventy-eight thousand, eight hundred proud NRA members attended the Annual Meeting in Indianapolis a few weeks ago. While most of the members present were armed there were no murders, overall crime was way down, and blood was not running in the streets. In the eight days I was at the meetings, I never saw an argument between any of the thousands of lawful gun owners in attendance.

So where does the real problem lie? ■



Study: Murder is more close-knit, not widespread

by Jim Collins

The left-wing politicians in Albany and Washington, D.C., tell us that firearm violence is out of control in America. However, a close look at the numbers indicates that murder takes place in concentrated areas in the United States. For instance, in 2020, 56% of known murder cases occurred in 2% of the 3,000 counties in the country. Contrarywise, 52% of the counties did not experience a single murder.

This is the finding of a study released by the Crime Prevention Research Center in January 2023 (“Murders in US are very concentrated, and they are becoming even more so”¹).

The CPRC found that while violent crimes—including murder—are spreading throughout Los Angeles County and other major urban areas at the national level, murder has become even more concentrated in only a few counties.

What does this mean? In its research, the CPRC broke down the U.S. counties into three categories:

1. No murders, 2. Few murders, and 3. Murders are common. Using

this breakdown, it determined that 52% of the counties—or 10% of the population—experienced no murders; 68% of the counties—or about 18% of the population—had no more than one murder; the worst 5% of the counties—or about 47% of the population—account for 73% of all murders.

According to the report: “In 2020, the murder rate was 5.84 per 100,000 people. If the 1% of the counties with the worst number of murders somehow were to become a separate country, the murder rate in the rest of the U.S. would have been only 4.31 in 2020. Removing the worst 2% or 5% would have reduced the U.S. rate to just 3.71 or 2.99 per 100,000, respectively.”

A note on gun ownership: Areas with lower gun ownership (urban areas) experience higher murder rates—rural gun ownership is 79% higher than urban areas. However, the study cautions: “One should not put much weight on this purely ‘cross-sectional’ evidence over one point in time, and many factors determine murder rates.

However, it is still interesting to note that so much of the country has both very high firearm ownership rates and zero murders.”

Murders tend to happen in very small areas of the county. And, while that concentration has increased since 2014, there are many counties in which murder is almost non-existent. In fact, 70% of counties account for just 3% of all murders in the U.S. Using this data, it’s easy to make an argument that murder is *not* a nationwide problem. Rather, it is a small concentration of urban areas that we need to focus on if we want to reduce the number of murders that take place in this country each year.

As always, may God watch over and protect the brave men and women serving us, at war, in our patriot Armed Forces and may God bless America! ■

¹ *Crime Prevention Research Center, 2023 (bit.ly/3Nz2qoI)*

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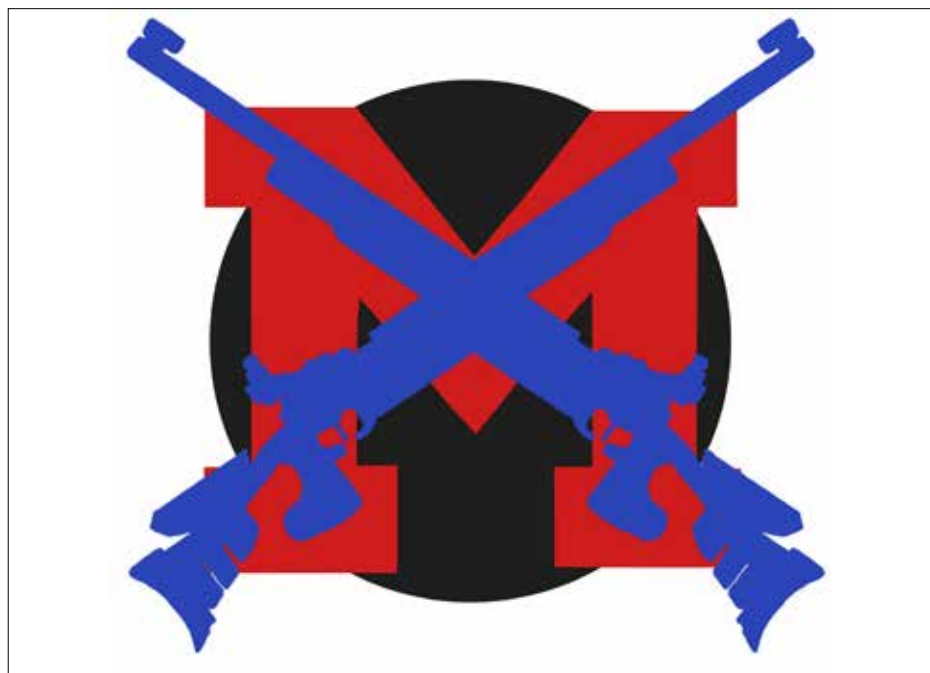
High School Air Rifle is Alive and Well in the North Country

Background

Air Rifle is a hidden gem during the winter sports season. Massena High School has fielded a Rifle Team since the 1930-31 school season. Many other schools fielded High School Rifle Teams in the past, but due to changes in funding and changing lead-remediation standards, most schools have terminated their rifle teams in recent years. The Massena Rifle Team is the last Section 10 team; this section encompasses St. Lawrence County. Massena was able to save its rifle team through the hard work, support and dedication of the late Coach Kevin McBath, the Massena Rod and Gun Club, and Rifle Team Booster Club headed by Barry Dietlein. Massena High School was affected by the closure of its on-site range, however, the Massena Rod and Gun Club saved the day by opening up its indoor shooting range to the team. The high school rifle season runs from early December to early March.

The team

Currently, there are 14 members of the team. The team has two team captains, Adrian (AJ) Murray (Class of 2023) and Jadelyn McMillan (Class of 2023). AJ has enlisted in the Marine Corps, and he will begin Basic Training at Parris Island in the summer of 2023. He is planning on serving as an infantryman. Jade plans on studying political science and pre-law at Boston University. It is a young team—most of the students have little or no previous



Massena Rifle Team logo, designed by Ella Thompson, Class of 2022

experience with shooting. Uniquely for the 2021-22 season, a foreign exchange student, Ai Tanahashi of Tokyo, shot with the team. Japan has enjoyed the sport and the North Country experience. The current coach is Chris Sanchez, a 9th Grade Global Social Studies teacher. Sanchez became the current coach in December 2019 when Coach McBath passed away after his battle with cancer. The team is equipped with Walther and Anschutz precision pellet rifles. These rifles are highly accurate and rely purely on pre-charged pneumatic cylinders to propel a match pellet. The Massena Rod and Gun Club provides SCUBA tanks to charge the air rifles. The team shoots Three-Position Matches (prone,

offhand, and kneeling) using the NRA Air Rifle rulebook. Previously, the team had used Remington 22 caliber target rifles and Walther spring-powered pellet rifles. The pre-charged air rifles are a great fit for the team because pellets are easier to find than match 22 Long Rifle ammunition. Generally, the team shoots postal matches, but it has restarted travel matches and tournaments after the COVID lockdowns expired. Massena has traveled to Plattsburgh Rod and Gun Club, South Lewis High School in Turin and traditionally has competed at the State Championship at West Point, N.Y. The Rifle Team was the only team at Massena High



The Massena High School Rifle Team 2022-23

that competed during the winter 2020-21 season.

The Adirondack League

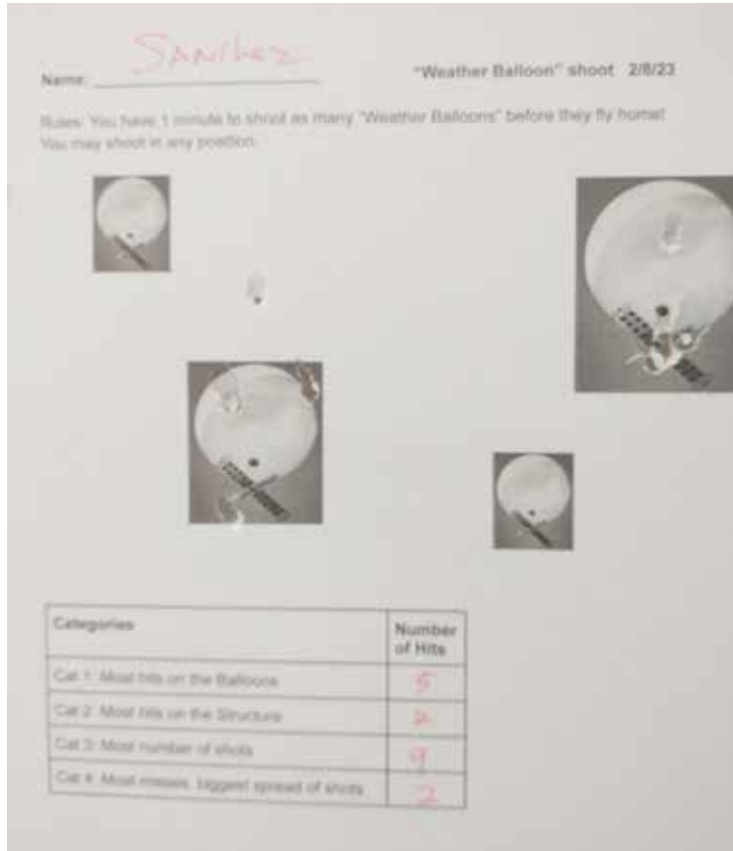
Massena High shoots with a larger grouping of schools in the Adirondack League. In the northeast, Northeastern Central High School, Willisboro and Beekmantown High are amazing teams. Clinton County has a huge friend in Northeastern Coach Peter Visconti. Visconti is instrumental in setting up teams in Plattsburgh; he really promotes youth target shooting. He also coaches the SUNY Plattsburgh Rifle Team and he has sponsored many in-person tournaments and matches with local schools. Plattsburgh R&G also has sponsored small-bore matches. Visconti also has done yeoman's work on a four-position National Rifle League VT Winter Postal League.

In Lewis County and Oswego County, South Lewis and Central Square field incredibly strong teams. Recently, Coach Ken Liddard hosted a three-way match between his school, Central Square and Massena. This was the first time since 2020 that these three teams have had an in-person match. The Adirondack League also shoots with Chaminade High School, which is a private Catholic school in Mineola, Long Island. Other programs include Cambridge High School in Washington County and Hoosick Falls in Rensselaer County

Team traditions

Massena loves road trips to Plattsburgh. The team tradition is to stop at the legendary Dick's Country Store and Music Emporium in Churubusco, N.Y. Many of the students are musically inclined and

they like to look at the instruments. Sanchez just looks at the rifle counter and smiles. Additionally, the team enjoys a hearty early dinner at Texas Roadhouse; for many of these students this is one of the few times they leave St. Lawrence County. At the end of the regular season, the team has a themed one-minute rapid fire match. This year's theme was Shoot the Weather Balloon. The team banquet takes place in April at the Massena Rod and Gun Club. Sanchez loves cooking, as well as eating and shooting. The team has a fun shoot with older service rifles and enjoys tacos and other Mexican foods to celebrate the end of a season. At the team banquet, the Most Valuable Shooter, Rookie of the Year, Most Improved Shooter and the McBath Award awardees are honored. The McBath Award is to honor the



"Weather Balloon" target

shooter with the best overall spirit and dedication to the sport. It is also a way to remember the contributions and hard work of Coach Kevin McBath.

Challenges

At the conclusion of the 2020 season, the New York State Public High

School Athletic Association decided not to support Air Rifle as a sport in the state. Previously, there was state-level support of the sport in terms of officials and referees. The NYSPHSAA ended its support of the sport due to a lack of growth in the sport. Despite this major change, Air

Rifle has grown in the Adirondack region; the league has expanded with four teams since 2020. The recent gun legislation passed in 2022 has not affected the sport up to this point. Typically, New York state has its championship at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. There was no in-person shoot for the 2020-21 season; instead New York state shot a Postal Championship. West Point declined to host the 2022-23 final match; Lancaster High School will sponsor this year's championship in the Buffalo area. Massena High School sent seven shooters to this competition, which was held March 11.

Ways to help

To remain viable in New York state, the sport needs to grow. Petition and work with your local school districts to start a high school rifle team. Often, there is a great interest in the sport, but the school district does not have the facilities. Local Rod and Gun Clubs are critical in offering their facilities to districts. If you have coaching experience, offer your talents to a local school district or club team. Help your local team's booster clubs, items like pellets, shooting apparel, and targets go a long way. ■

Chris Sanchez is a Social Studies teacher at Massena High School. He has coached Air Rifle for four years. His hobbies include teaching, casting bullets and service rifle shooting. He lives in Louisville, N.Y., with his wife and their cats.

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Apply for Camp Perry Today

by Stephen D. Kraynak

This issue of the *Bullet* contains the 2023 Camp Perry Pistol Team application. Please take note of the mailing deadline of **Saturday, May 13, 2023.**

It would be helpful if you applied ahead of the mailing deadline. If you are applying for a slot on the New York state teams, please take the time to complete all the questions asked.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend Camp Perry again this year due

to health issues. I was not the only team member who was dealing with health issues last year. Bob Henschel, a long-time team member and match director, also was dealing with a health problem and he was not able to attend as well. Fortunately, he will be attending Camp Perry this year, and he will be running the teams. The team application (in this issue of the *Bullet*) contains his name, address and contact information.

Once again, I wish to thank all the team members for their support and participation last year to make the NYSRPA Pistol Team a success and hopefully this year will be even better! ■

Editors Note: We are aware this was posted after the due date. It was sent to our email list in plenty of time to participate.



NYS Pistol Team Application for 2023 Camp Perry National Matches

Please print information legibly!

Name _____

Date of birth: month day year _____

Street address _____ City State NY ZIP _____

Phone number (day) _____ (eve) _____ (cell) _____

Email address (home) _____ Email address (work) _____

NYSRPA No. _____ *expiration date or Life member>> _____

CMP Competitor No. _____ CMP Classification No. _____

NRA No. _____

NRA Classification: MK SS EX MA HM (circle one)

NRA category: Civilian Senior GrandSenior Woman Service Military Police (circle all that apply)

Recent "2700" scores fired (outdoor)

Date fired _____ score _____ match location _____

Date fired _____ score _____ match location _____

**You may attach additional score documentation.*

Do you wish to be considered for the "Hardball" team? Yes / No (circle one) Have you ever fired on a Hardball team? Yes / No (circle one)

Enter recent Hardball scores below if you are applying for the HB team**

Date fired _____ score _____ match location _____

Date fired _____ score _____ match location _____

Date fired _____ score _____ match location _____

***You may attach additional score documentation.*

Additional questions***

Would you volunteer to be a team captain? Yes / No (circle one)

Expected arrival date at Camp Perry _____ Departure date _____

Are you attending SAFS? Yes / No (circle one) Are you staying off Post? Yes / N (circle one) If so, where? _____

Shirt size (circle one) S M L XL XXL XXXL

****Please answer all questions above. Additional information may be attached.*

Deadline: To be considered, entries must be postmarked by May 13, 2023 to be considered.

Mail completed applications to:

Bob Henschel
1909 Staley Road., Grand Island, NY 14072
Phone: (716) 465-8127; Email: otgs@roadrunner.com

Please Mail Entries As Soon As Possible

Creating Good Concealed Carry Habits

Carrying a firearm is like any other skill or tool. The more we practice and know the subject and use of the tool, the better prepared we are to use it.

Women who carry a firearm do so for different reasons. For some, it's a well-established habit; others are new and still need ideas on how to best implement the practice into their daily lives. Here are a few ways to make carrying a habit that happens easily.

IWB, OWB, Off-Body— All the acronyms

How you carry depends on certain variables. Those variables might change from day to day and person to person. Are you doing errands? Do you have to go into buildings where you cannot bring your firearm? Are you on a long trip through several states with different laws? Are you heading out camping, boating or backpacking? Whatever your adventures are, you might want to carry a firearm. The method that you choose for carrying has a term. IWB means Inside Waistband. EDC means Every Day Carry. A list of these acronyms can be helpful, but the act of carrying doesn't mean you have to turn yourself into a walking dictionary of terms. What you do need is a basic understanding of your options.

The law

In order to figure out your options, start with knowing the laws governing how and where you carry. You need a basic understanding of what is required where you live. Depending on where you work or the places that you frequent, reading up on your local and state laws can be very important.



Choices

The way that you eventually choose to carry is often very personal. But it can be determined by outside forces—like the weather. If it's very hot and you're wearing a tank top and running tights, the OWB holster someone would wear under a light jacket is not going to work. Maybe you carry off-body in something like a fanny pack.

Personally, I don't always have a bag in which I have my gun; most days, I wear it on my body. But when it's hot, it can be easier to have an off-body carry. I often use a bag with a hook-and-loop system that holds the holster with my firearm in place.

Driving? Hiking? Kayaking? Maybe you just have to go to the grocery store ... whatever it is, work toward developing simple habits and a plan that you can execute and will use versus acquiring the "perfect" set up. This means work on developing a method and gear that you can and will use instead of chasing after what a social media influencer suggests about the latest holster they are being paid to advertise. That's because even though you might discover some perfect items, but you're wasting time focusing on that instead of developing good skills. A spendy gadget is never better than time and money spent perfecting skill. I'd rather dry-fire and work on a

draw from my current pants and IWB holster and perhaps work on a little live fire at the range than buy a trendy item.

Driving?

If you get into the habit of carrying in your vehicle, whether that's in a bag, or in an appropriate receptacle in your vehicle (based on your state and local laws), it can be a sure way to always have some form of personal protection near at hand. If you are allowed by law to carry in a console or glove box, then ensure you still have a holster or some mechanism to secure the gun so it's not moving or jostled while you travel.

It's also a good idea to keep your firearm separate from where you keep your license and registration. Should you be pulled over by a police officer, you don't want to open a glove box and have the officer see a firearm and make the wrong assumptions about what you are reaching for. A study of your local laws is a good place to begin building habits for carrying in your vehicle. Understand whether your firearm can be loaded or if it must be unloaded and locked in your trunk. Spare magazines should be kept in a secure place as well, safe from potentially becoming a receptacle for the inevitable piece of dash compartment debris.

Bags and purses

If you carry a bag or a purse, think about something less cumbersome, so you aren't apt to forget it and be without your firearm if needed. Lugging around a giant bag isn't fun—between fanny packs and cross-body bags there are plenty of options. Practice your draw (using an empty gun of course!) with any bag that you use and make sure that your ability to

access your firearm, draw and reload is not hampered by the configuration, or zippers, straps, etc.

Recreational vehicles

Maybe your recreational vehicle is the baby jogger that you are pushing around the block, maybe it's a side-by-side as you work on a farm, or maybe it's a boat ... whatever your recreational style, look for a couple things as you prepare to carry:

- Clear access to firearm
- No risk of flagging others, especially when drawing
- Failproof method of securing the firearm during movement so it cannot fall out of your rec vehicle. This could be a dash-mounted holster with locking mechanism, a gun rack or a bag you would use in your car.
- Clear understanding of laws governing transporting firearms in your rec vehicle (e.g., a side-by-side on a paved road might be subject to the same rules as a car, and a boat might have its own set of restrictions.)

On your body

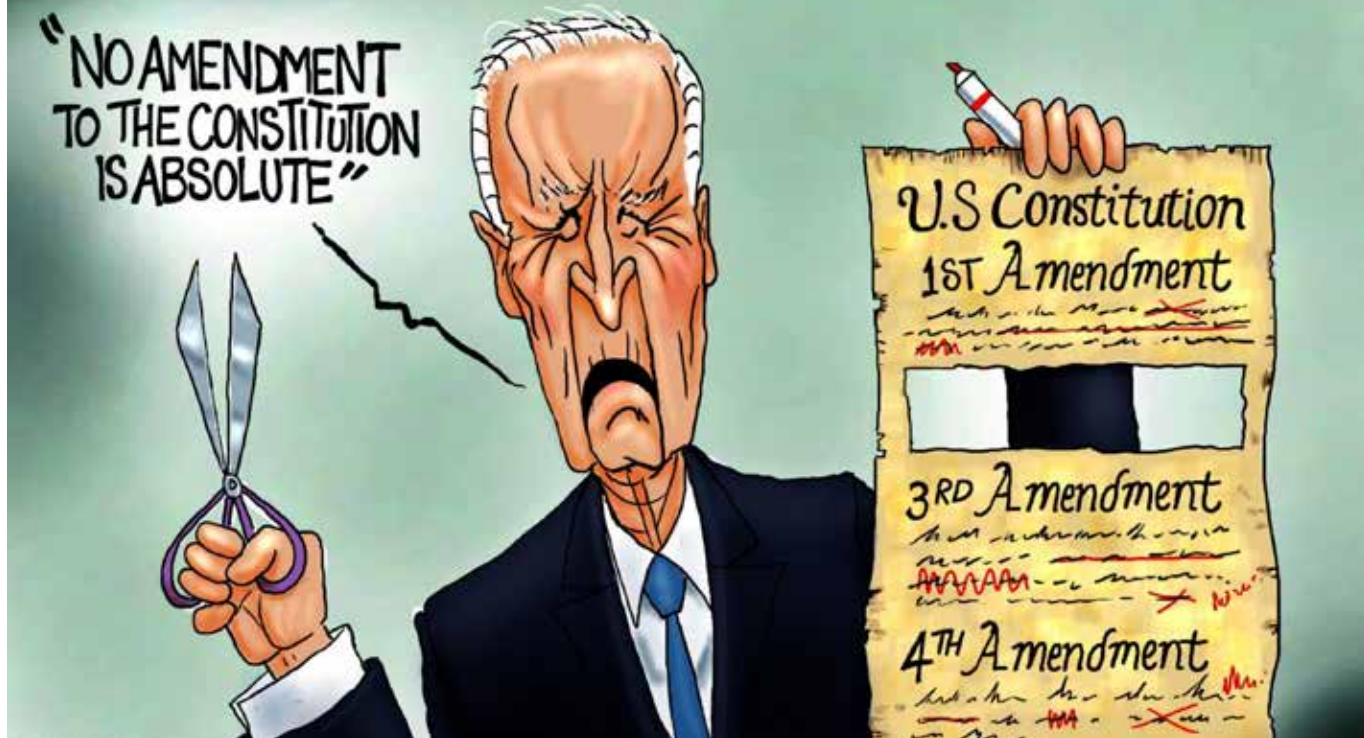
The simplest and surest way to have your firearm handy is to wear it on your body. If you build your wardrobe thinking about just the basics (a shirt and pants), you will very likely tend toward inside the waistband as a method of carrying. If you're driving or in a recreational vehicle, on-body carry solves the concerns about where the firearm is secured. If you're hiking, running, shopping—basically, anywhere you and your firearm can legally be—the way to ensure you have it is to have it on *you*.

Tips to make on-body carry work:

- Choose pants, shorts or a skirt with a waistband that will support a firearm and allow you to draw safely.
- Select shirts that allow you to access the firearm easily. If you want to conceal, this tends to mean a looser, non-restrictive shirt. However, keep in mind that anything with too much material can potentially end up in the way of your firearm as you re-holster or try to change mags.
- Find a lightweight holster that doesn't add a lot of bulk to your firearm ... look for one with fabric that protects your firearm from sweat, but still stays put.
- Consider carry leggings or shorts that have a method for securing your firearm built-in. A corset might also be a great option, since some clothes have no pockets.
- Being comfortable and confident with your firearm and the use of it is the best accessory to carrying one.

In the end, carrying a firearm is like any other skill or tool. The more we practice and know the subject and use of the tool, the better prepared we are to use it. ■

Reprinted from the NRA website



Bullet Advertisement Rates

Commercial/business advertisements are subject to space availability in any given issue of the *Bullet*.

Advertisements should be submitted in electronic format suitable for print reproduction (i.e., PDF, TIFF, etc.),

and at 300 dpi. Our graphic artist can create your ad for an additional fee. Faxed materials cannot be accepted. The rates for commercial/business ads are as follows:

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	Ad Size	1x	3x	6x
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½ page	4.625" h x 7.5" w	\$440.00	\$420.00	\$400.00
½ page vertical	9.5" h x 3.5" w	\$440.00	\$420.00	\$400.00
1 page	9.5" h x 7.5" w	\$800.00	\$780.00	\$750.00

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New York State Voter Registration

Register to vote

To register you must:

- Be at least 18 years old on the day of the election.
- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be a resident of New York State for at least 30 days before the election.
- Not be currently incarcerated for a felony conviction.

Qualifications

1 Are you a resident of the U.S.? Yes No

2 Will you be 18 years of age on the day of the election? Yes No

3 Do you have a felony conviction? Yes No

4 Do you have a mental health condition that prevents you from voting? Yes No

5 Are you currently incarcerated for a felony conviction? Yes No

Your name

6 First name

7 Last name

8 Birth date

9 Phone

10 Email

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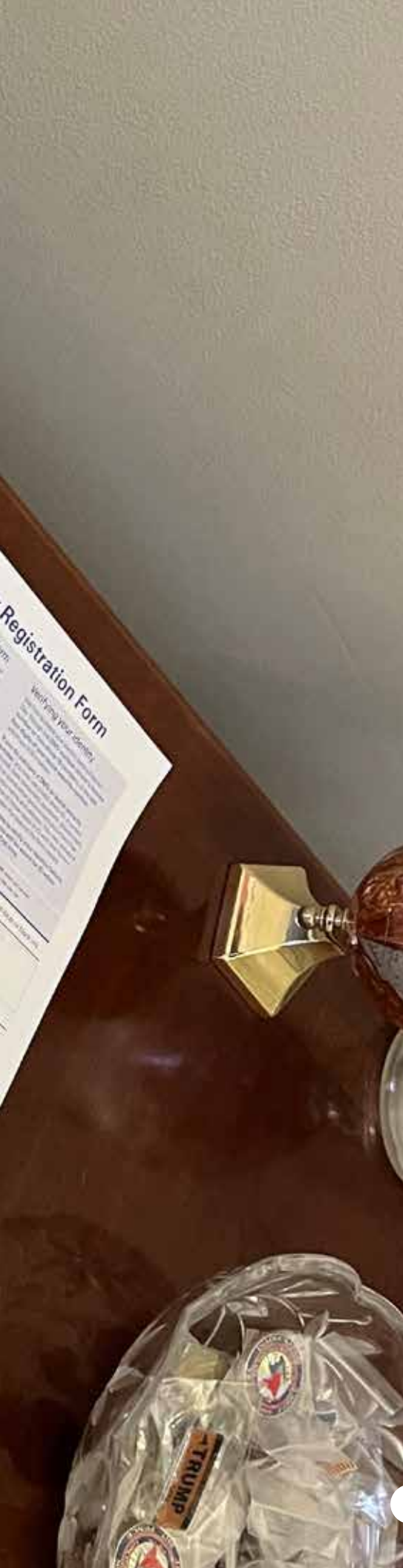
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The Right to Bear Arms

The history of the right to bear arms is complex and controversial

by Carl Gottstein

The Second Amendment enshrining our right to keep and bear arms has become one of the most contentious issues in American politics today. Some argue (correctly) that it is a fundamental right enshrined in our beautiful country's God-inspired U.S. Constitution, while others dismiss it as nothing more than a dangerous anachronism that needs to be curtailed for the sake of public safety.

This debate has played out in New York state as well, where the history of the right to keep and bear arms is a complex and often controversial one. The origins of the right to keep and bear arms in New York state—as a

matter of state law—can be traced back to our colonial period, when the Dutch and English settlers who inhabited the region also relied heavily on firearms for hunting, self-defense, and military purposes. As the colonies grew and developed, the right to bear arms became increasingly important universally—both as a means of protecting individual liberties, and as a tool for ensuring the security of the state—throughout all the 13 founding original colonies.

During America’s Revolutionary War, New York state played a pivotal role in the fight for independence, with thousands of our citizens taking up arms to defend our rights and freedoms. After we won our independence from England and in the years that followed, the right to keep and bear arms in New York state

was subject to a series of legal and political challenges.

The state’s racist Sullivan Law, passed in 1911—one of the earliest and most controversial gun-control measures in the country—required a license for the possession of firearms and prohibited the carrying of concealed weapons.

As we wrote in our brief for *NYSRPA v. Bruen*, “The law was passed with an avowed intent, supported by everybody from City Hall to the New York Times, to disarm newly arrived immigrants, particularly those with Italian surnames.” Seems early on New York Democrats had an anti-Italian bias. This is just an example of how basically racist issues resulted in what can clearly be interpreted as targeted anti-Second Amendment law.

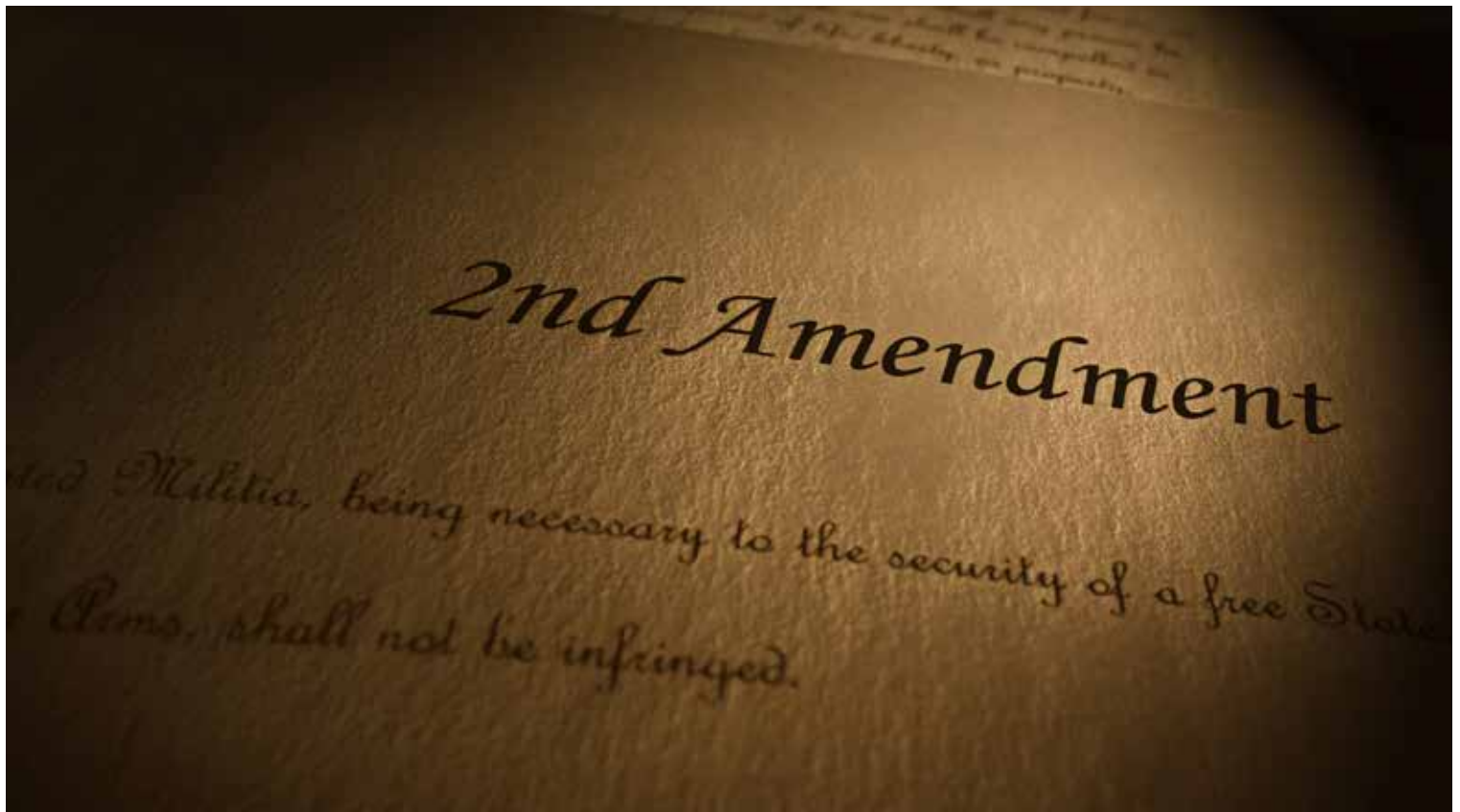
The Sullivan Law was widely criticized by gun owners and civil-liberties

advocates, who argued that it violated the Second Amendment and infringed on individual rights. But it has not been effectively pushed back on until recently. Despite on-going challenges, the right to keep and bear arms had mostly continued to be protected by the courts and by New York state law. However, in recent years, the right to keep and bear arms in New York state has come under relentless legislative attack, as lawmakers and activists have pushed for even more and more draconian gun-control measures.

The New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Act of 2013 is another controversial gun-control law. It imposes strict regulations on the possession and sale of firearms and ammunition, it draws strong opposition from gun owners and pro-gun groups. The *NYSRPA v. SAFE Act* was filed to challenge the constitutionality of the SAFE Act. Our lawsuit argued that several provisions of the SAFE Act violated the Second Amendment and the due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. Some of the provisions challenged in the lawsuit include: the ban on certain types of semiautomatic firearms; the limit on the number of rounds allowed in a magazine; and the requirement for background checks on all ammunition purchases. The case made its way through the lower courts and eventually to the U.S. Supreme Court—around the time that Justice Antonin Scalia died in 2016.

There is no evidence that the NYSRPA/NRA withdrew the *NYSRPA v. SAFE Act* lawsuit specifically because of Justice Scalia’s death. Scalia was known for his conservative views and strong support





of the Second Amendment, and his absence from the court could have had a significant impact on the outcome of the case. With the court evenly split between conservative and liberal justices, Scalia's vote would have been crucial in deciding whether the SAFE Act violated the Second Amendment.

Game theory strategy would point to the idea that NRA and NYSRPA decided to withdraw the lawsuit to avoid the risk of an unfavorable ruling possible without Scalia's vote. Alternatively, it could have been a strategic decision to wait until a more favorable opportunity arose to challenge the SAFE Act in court. Or both! Turns out the opportunities to challenge SAFE ACT's assumptions are blossoming everywhere as Democrats—including the Democratic National Committee and Joe Biden—

are nationally openly hostile to the Second Amendment.

However, New York state continues to be the belly of the anti-Second Amendment beast, here lives Bloomberg and his anti-gun organization, and here is where the battle can be best fought.

In review, the impact of the NYSRPA on the Second Amendment argument in New York has been tremendous due to several factors. Our nearly 152-year-old organization is enjoying a renaissance under the strong, focused and dedicated leadership of Tom King, president & CEO of our organization for well over a decade. After nearly 30 years of out-front representation and advocacy, King has become a well-known and respected figure in the gun-rights community, and his efforts have helped to mobilize remarkable NRA support for our organization's

core missions. We are talking about many millions of dollars in legal fees and services. With the NRA's help, NYSRPA has been historically successful in challenging restrictive gun laws in the state.

NYSRPA was a plaintiff in the landmark case of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. City of New York*. Our case challenged the city's ban on transporting firearms outside of the city limits. The regulations prohibited gun owners from transporting their firearms outside of the city, except to certain authorized ranges or shooting competitions. The lawsuit argued that the regulations violated the Second Amendment's guarantee of the right to keep and bear arms. Ultimately, the lawsuit led to a clear victory—one that was enjoyed by all gun-rights advocates and gun owners in New York City.

In 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case, but it was later dismissed as moot after New York City, the mayor and the governor amended the regulations—a huge and historic Second Amendment victory in New York!

The case of *NYSRPA v. Bruen* was obviously our most significant recent victory for supporters of the Second Amendment because it upheld the right to bear a concealed firearm—not just in New York state, but in America. The case challenged the state’s restrictive concealed carry laws, which required individuals to prove “proper cause” for carrying a concealed firearm in public. The NYSRPA argued the “proper cause” requirement violated our Second Amendment’s guarantee of the right to keep and bear arms. The case made its way to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled in favor of New York state’s concealed carry laws.

However, in April 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court granted *certiorari* in the case, indicating the court’s willingness to revisit the Second Amendment’s scope and application. The court heard oral arguments in November of 2021 and issued its

decision in June 2022, ruling that the “proper cause” requirement was unconstitutional. The decision was a landmark victory for supporters of the Second Amendment because it affirms the right to carry firearms for self-defense in public. The decision is particularly significant for residents of New York, which has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. The decision also has potential implications for other states with similarly restrictive concealed carry laws. This is a very big deal. We are doing good work not only for New York state, but for America.

The *Bruen* decision is reshaping gun laws across the U.S.—and propelling a series of court challenges to existing regulations.

However, the decision is being threatened in New York by Gov. Kathy Hochul’s hard line against the Second Amendment. While the outcome is still unknown, it is highly predictable based on recent U.S. Supreme Court precedent, so it’s likely to be a predictable win for the Second Amendment again. That’s why the leftist New York jurists are dragging their feet.

Lastly, NYSRPA has been effective in educating the public about the importance of the Second Amendment and the need to protect gun rights. The organization maintains a presence on social media, and in the recent past has regularly hosted events and rallies to raise awareness about the issues.

Overall, the success of NYSRPA impacting the pro-Second Amendment argument in New York can be attributed to a combination of things including: our strong and loyal network, our membership, our friends, our solid leadership, our successful legal challenges, and our public advocacy. The organization has helped to mobilize support for gun rights and has played a significant role in shaping the debate around the issue in the state and country.

In conclusion, the history of the right to keep and bear arms in New York state is a complex and often contentious one, marked by a series of legal and political challenges, as well as by the enduring belief in the importance of individual liberty and the right to self-defense.

While the debate over gun control is likely to continue in the years ahead, the right to bear arms remains a fundamental aspect of American society, and one that will continue to be fiercely defended by those who believe in its vital importance to a free state.

The only questions are: Do you believe in its importance? And, are you prepared to support the fight for our rights? When you are ready, we will be here.

We could use your help. ■

Jim Kneiper

Gun Maker



Custom Guns, Stock Making, Checkering, Rust & Nitre Blue

Cell: (540) 539-6810

jkneiper@yahoo.com

(518) 477-4577

Standing Guard: Biden's State of the Union Spin

by Wayne LaPierre
NRA executive vice president

As the old saying goes, there are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.

President Joe Biden, who has a long and well-documented history of trotting out all three whenever they suit his personal political agenda, gave us more of the same in his State of the Union address in February.

Before the entire nation, Biden declared:

“Ban assault weapons once and for all. We did it before. I led the fight to ban them in 1994. In the ten years the ban was law, mass shootings went down. After Republicans let it expire, mass shootings tripled. Let’s finish the job and ban assault weapons again.”

First of all, it’s important to remember that gun-ban politicians like Biden adopted the term “assault weapon” from the military in a deliberate effort to confuse the public and advance their agenda. They use it to mischaracterize a broad range of firearms used by law-abiding civilians.

The truth is the origin of “assault weapon” stems from the term “assault rifle,” which the U.S. Army defines explicitly as a selective-fire rifle chambered for a cartridge of intermediate power. The term “assault rifle” only applies to fully automatic firearms rather than the semi-automatic firearms that Biden and his allies want to ban.

And as we’ve seen countless times over the past many years, gun-ban politicians simply slap the “assault



weapon” tag on any firearm they want to eliminate—everything from shotguns, to pistols, to any gun with certain cosmetic features like a pistol grip or a folding stock.

As for the 1994 federal “assault weapons” ban, Biden knows it did nothing to reduce violent crime. He knows because a congressionally mandated study—conducted during his time in the Senate—looked at the effects of the first 30 months of the ban and found it had no impact on crime.

A follow-up study found that “the ban’s effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement.” And research conducted in 2018 also found no evidence that “large-capacity magazine” bans and “assault-weapon” bans affect mass shootings.

You and I may scoff at bumbling Biden and his lies, but make no mistake: The threat to our freedom and safety could not be any bigger than it is right now.

We have a president in the White House who has spent the past two years destroying our criminal-justice system. From pushing insane policies like no-cash bail, to his outright refusal to use the laws at his disposal to arrest, prosecute and incarcerate violent felons, Joe Biden and his fellow anti-gun politicians are flat-out determined to keep the worst monsters in society out of jail and on the streets.

And now they want to ban your guns and leave you defenseless in the face of the unprecedented criminal crisis they’ve enabled.

Just imagine if Stephen Willeford, the courageous NRA member who used his AR-15 to stop a mass shooter at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, had not been allowed to own the very firearm that Biden wants to ban.

“The police officers in my town are some of the best,” said Willeford. “Our deputies and officers did everything they could to respond to the active shooter in Sutherland Springs. But, as author Chris Bird wrote, ‘When seconds count, police are only minutes away.’ In our community, it was nineteen. It took 19 minutes for the police to make it across the county to our town, after the first 911 call. Every second of that time counted. I was my community’s first responder.”

Or imagine if brave NRA member Jack Wilson, who stopped a would-be mass shooter in his Fort Worth, Texas

church, had not been allowed to own the semi-automatic pistol that so many anti-gun politicians want to ban.

“I don’t feel like I killed a human being. I killed evil, and that’s how I’m processing it,” said Wilson. “I’m thankful to God that I have been blessed with the ability and desire to serve him in the role of head of security at the church.”

This entire issue all boils down to the most fundamental right any human being should possess: The right to stay alive.

It’s about whether you have a God-given right to protect yourself and your loved ones—not only with a bolt-action rifle, but with an AR-15, and not only with a six-shot revolver, but with semi-automatic technology. So that when a criminal—or several of them—invades your home, you’re not handicapped to

three rounds, or seven rounds, or any of the ludicrous and arbitrary proposals put forward by Biden and his ilk, but have as many rounds as you need to stop the monster who is threatening your life and your family.

You and I know that a strong and unified NRA is the only thing that stands between our most basic human right of self-defense and Joe Biden’s life-threatening gun-ban agenda.

I promise you, as long as there is breath in my lungs, I will never allow Biden or any anti-gun politician to take away my most basic human right. And because you’re an NRA member, I know you won’t, either. ■

Reprinted from the NRA



NY Court: “innovative” Gun Control is Unconstitutional



Well, that was interesting.

Our alert last week pointed out that “[g]un control advocates are ceaseless innovators in the realm of limiting freedom,” with one of these original ideas being so-called “red flag” gun confiscation laws. The alert added that these laws are open to challenge, citing *United States v. Rahimi*, [61 F.4th 443 (5th Cir. 2023)], a case invalidating a federal firearms prohibition that, like “red flag” orders, “works to eliminate the Second Amendment right of individuals subject merely to civil process.”

This month, a judge of New York’s Orange County Supreme Court followed an earlier Monroe County

judge in finding that the state’s “red flag” statute was unconstitutional.

The “red flag” law allows proceedings to be initiated by a relative, school administrator, district attorney, law enforcement and others. A police officer may rely on secondhand information (“upon the receipt of credible information”) as the basis for the application. A common feature of such laws allows an initial order to be issued “ex parte”—without notice of the proceedings to the person concerned, and with no opportunity to challenge the allegations.

Although the standard for an order refers to the mental health law, it requires no psychiatric or other

expert evidence. Instead, one of the factors that predisposes the court to make an order is evidence that the person acquired, at any time within the previous six months, a firearm, ammunition, or “other deadly weapon,” even if that acquisition was completely lawful.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul took steps last year to make it as easy as possible for state officials and law enforcement to secure “extreme risk protection orders.” In May, Hochul issued an executive order that requires law enforcement officers to seek an order in every case where there was probable cause to believe an order was justified. Three months later,

New York's State Police were reporting a 93% increase in the number of ERPO applications they had initiated. Concerns have consistently been raised about "red flag" laws—the lack of due process protections, the speculative, weak and one-sided evidentiary requirements, potential for abuse, and, according to Rand Corporation analyses, absence of qualifying studies showing that these orders are effective in reducing violent crime, suicide, police shootings, or unintentional injuries and deaths. Referring to New York's law specifically, the president of the New York State Bar Association pointed to "this statute's significant deficiencies" with respect to due process, privacy, right to counsel and other shortcomings, and called it "riddled with loopholes that failed to allow for basic constitutional protections."

The ruling in the most recent case, *R.M. v. C.M.*, illustrates just how one-sided the underpinnings of an ERPO may be. The initial order rested on an allegation that the respondent, C.M., had "brandished a loaded shotgun, cocked it, and pointed it at his neighbor during a verbal dispute." C.M. denied the allegation but, because the order was granted *ex parte*, his version of what happened was not before the court that issued the order. C.M. brought proceedings to vacate the order and challenged the entire statutory scheme.

In granting the application, the court explained that the law deprived a citizen of a fundamental right without due process of law. Although "a licensed physician" or "licensed psychiatrist" could be a petitioner, "there is no requirement that such licensed professional be a petitioner or

be involved in any manner to provide any evaluation or opinion whatsoever as a basis for the issuance" of an ERPO.

In contrast, under New York's mental health law, which used the same yardstick of "likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm," there could be no restriction of a person's liberty absent a physician's evidence that the person was suffering from a condition "likely to result in serious harm." Even so, a second doctor's opinion was necessary, consistent with the first doctor's opinion, for any detention extending beyond 48 hours. "Absent from New York's Red Flag Law is any provision whatsoever requiring even a single medical or mental health expert opinion providing a basis for the order to be issued," said the judge. The law had none of these procedural guarantees and "lacks sufficient statutory guardrails to protect a citizen's Second Amendment Constitutional right to bear arms."

Another potential problem was the law had no mechanism regarding representation of underage respondents and those confined for mental health supervision, who could not legally represent themselves in "red flag" proceedings.

Referring to Gov. Hochul's executive order that eliminated law enforcement discretion with respect to ERPO applications, the court observed that this may have pointlessly wasted police resources because the mandate applied regardless of whether the respondent was already otherwise prohibited from purchasing or possessing a gun. "While certainly well-intentioned, the far-reaching impact of the Executive Order has resulted in applications

being filed and hearings being held in hundreds of cases where seasoned law enforcement officers would have been aware that the respondents in those cases already were prevented from purchasing or possessing a firearm, rifle, or shotgun, thereby eliminating the necessity for an application to be filed."

A newspaper quoted the response of District Attorney for Orange County, who indicated that since last August, his office has handled 150 ERPO applications, of which 109 were granted. He called the decision a "game-changer," adding that, "I think the statute needs to be procedurally fixed." ■

Posted from the NRA-ILA, April 17, 2023

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Armed & Unarmed School of Security Inc.

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Narrowsburg, NY 12764
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Binghamton Rifle Club

Pistol
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pmatwey@stny.rr.com

Black Rock Fish & Game Club

31 Liberty St.
Highland Falls, NY 10928

Bog Trotters R&P Club

Eden, NY
(716) 992-4292
High Power Pistol
edendds@roadrunner.com

Brookhaven Pistol Club

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Binghamton, NY
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Burlington Flats Fish & Game Club

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www.bffgc.com

Busti Trap Club

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Jamestown, NY 14701

Camden Rod & Gun Club

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Tannersville, NY 12485
catskillmtnfishandgame1@gmail.com

Central Empire State Rifle and Pistol League

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Guilford, NY 13780
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www.cortlandpistolclub.net

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info@dcpistol.org

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Eaton Brook Rod & Gun Club

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 Hudson, NY 12534
 (518) 828-6111
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 Dave (518) 567-7991

Hudson Valley Sportsmans Assoc.

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 Wappingers Falls, NY
 www.HVSA.org

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PO Box 177
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 Trap & skeet, Sporting clays

Iroquois Arms Collectors Assoc.

245 Rumbold Ave.
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120
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 Iroquoisarmscollectors/
 iroquoisarms@yahoo.com

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 www.jamestownrifleclub.org
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Long Island Antique Historical Arms Society Inc.

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 Pearl River, NY
 Pearlrivergunclub.com

Peconic River Sportsmen's Club

Manorville, NY
 Club Office (631) 727-5248
 NRA registered matches
 High Power
 T. Najdzion (516) 982-0612
 Tnajdzio@optonline.net

Philmont Rod & Gun Club

65 Railroad Ave.,
 Philmont, NY
 Community Supported and
 Supporting
 Shotgun, Rifle, Pistol, Fishing,
 Archery, Outdoor 3-D Archery,
 Competition, Adult/Youth
 Instruction, Boating, Archery,
 Hunting, Trap
 prgc1923@gmail.com
 philmontrodgunclub.com

Pine Tree Rifle Club

419 Johnson Ave.,
 Johnstown, NY
 Fishing, Hunting, Shooting,
 Military, Buy-Sell-Trade
 NRA Basic Shotgun 6/9 Registration
 (518) 883-8605
 Skeet Tues./Thur./Sat.
 Trap Sat., 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
 (518) 883-8605

Plattsburgh Rod & Gun Club

Indoor Range
 NRA Rifle Matches League
 Competitions Junior Programs
 Equip & Instruction Provided
 P. Visconti (518) 534-1730
 roughridersrifleteam@yahoo.com

Pleasantville Rifle Club

Westchester County NY
 All Shooting Disciplines
 NRA Firearms Instruction
 M. Berman (914) 245-8618

Ramapough Sportsmens Assoc.

PO Box 366
 Nanuet, NY
 Smallbore, Pistol, Women's & Junior
 Activities

Rensselaer County Conservation Alliance

PO Box 179
 West Sand Lake, NY 12196
 www.RCCANY.com
 Trapperfrank12712@gmail.com

Ridge Runners Shooting Club Inc.

Champlain, NY
 www.ridgerunners.us
 www.facebook.com/
 ridgerunnersrange
 G. Graham
 back2biloxi@yahoo.com

Rockland Rifle & Revolver

Camp Smith
 Jim Treacy Jjingie6br@gmail.com
 5 Drury Lane
 Highland Falls, NY 10928

Rockland Rifle Club

West Point
 E. Mahecha emahecha@verizon.net

Rockdale Rod and Gun Club

PO Box 128
 Guilford, NY 13780
 (607) 764-8679
 rockdalerodandgun.com

Roosevelt Rod & Gun Club Inc.

PO Box 2458
 Seaford, NY 11783
 Hunting big & small game

Roslyn Rifle & Revolver Club

1130 Broadway, Westbury, NY 11590
 Indoor Pistol
 NRA Conv. Pistol Intnl.
 Pistol Sectional
 M. Gorman (917) 929-8717

Saranac Lake Fish & Game Club

PO Box 588
 Saranac Lake, NY 12983
 (518) 891-2560

Saugerties Fish & Game Club

168 Fish Creek Road,
 Saugerties, NY
 Trap Thurs. & Sun. (open to public)
 D. Zeeh (845) 481-4465

Shortsville Rod & Gun Club

Shortsville, NY 14548

Southampton Pistol & Rifle Club

919 Majors Path
 Southampton, NY 11968

Sportsmen's Club of Clifton Park

CMP Matches, Trap, Steel Shoots,
 Instruction
 scocp.org
 CMP
 David Friedman (518) 248-9480
 Trap
 John Donahue (518) 235-5582
 Steel
 Frank Hill (518) 406-8844
 One-on-One firearm instruction
 Saratoga Unrestricted Permit Course
 Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany Basic
 Pistol Permit
 Instructor@scocp.org

Springville Field & Stream

PO Box 106
 8900 Chaise Road
 Springville, NY 14141
 Springvillfs@gmail.com

Square Deal Sportsmen Inc.

Maine, NY
 USPSA/IPSC
 C. Brinser (607) 748-2771
 Highpower/CMP
 D. Canfield (607) 625-7571
 Deanfield@xcapfg.com

Stay Frosty Defensive Tactics Youth & Firearms Safety Education & Training

PO Box 336
 Freeport, NY 11520
 www.fosterstayfrosty.com
 stayfrostydefat@gmail.com
 @stay_frosty_defensive_tactics
 T.E. Foster (718) 810-0356

Stephentown Valley Rod & Gun Club

PO Box 545
 Averill Park, NY
 (518) 766-5350

Stuyvesant Rod & Gun Club

6469 Dry Harbor Road
 Middle Village, NY 11379

Sunrise Fish & Game Assoc. Inc.

93 Bayview Ave.
 Massapequa, NY 11758
 (516) 658-4057

Taconic Valley Rod & Gun Club

420 Dater Hill Road, Troy, NY
 www.tvrgc.com

Ten X Shooting Club Inc.

Lancaster, NY
 Smallbore, High Power, Sporterifle,
 Pistol, Air Rifle,
 Women and Jr. Activities
 Tenxshootingclub.com

Tioga Co. Sportsmen

Owego, NY
 NRA/CMP
 J. LaClair (607) 748-2369
 Sporterifle
 R. Colling (607) 699-9061
 Ruger Rimfire
 B. Waite (215) 688-0614
 CMP Rimfire sporter
 Conventional Pistol
 B. Aube (607) 754-6182
 IDPA
 B. Vernola (607) 754-0740
 Trap ranges
 L. Howe (607) 659-5069
 Skeet
 D. Mider (607) 642-8419
 5 Stand
 K. Gee (607) 237-6786
 Cowboy Action
 B. Compton (607) 659-4770
 Silhouette
 M. Porter (607) 687-2472

Tonawandas Sportsmen's Club Inc.

5657 Killian Road
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120
 (716) 692-2161
 admin@tonsportsclub.com

Trenton Fish & Game

CMP Matches Bullseye Rimfire/
 Center fire
 B. Kapfer (315) 896-6596
 Action Pistol
 B. Judycki (315) 732-0873
 Trap L. Pawlings (315) 723-5657

Tri-State R&G Club

Port Jervis, NY
 High Power, Pistol, Shotgun,
 Smallbore
 (845) 551-9265
 Ladies' Events
 M. Mann (845) 551-9265

Troy Pistol League

Troy, NY
 www.troypistol.com
 HsvictorR22@gmail.com

Trumansburg Rifle & Pistol Club

PO Box 10
 Trumansburg, NY 14886

Tupper Lake Sportsmen's Club

PO Box 1005
 116 Lake Simond Road
 Tupper Lake, NY 12986
 (518) 359-9715
 www.tupperlakearchers.net
 savagemw49@gmail.com
 Indoor/outdoor Archery
 3-D shoots
 Northern Challenge fishing derby
 (biggest in the region)

Twin City Shooting Club

North Tonawanda, NY
 Pistol, Light Rifle, Indoor Range
 www.twincityshootingclub.com

Voorheesville Rod & Gun Club

52 Foundry Road,
 Voorheesville, NY
 (518) 765-9395
 www.vrgclub.com
 Open daily @ noon
 Trap Sun. & Tues. at 1 p.m.
 Pistol Classes 1st Sat. & 3rd Sun.
 Wolfgang or Tony (518) 441-2160
 Berne Range 9 a.m.-1/2 hr. before
 sunset
 rangeinfo@vrgclub.com
 Archery: Clubhouse grounds target
 points only, brdheads prohibited.
 Crossbows bring own bolt backstops.
 Call club to book parties or events.

Walden Sportsmen's Club

1823 NYS Route 52
 Walden, NY 12586
 www.waldensportsmensclub.org
 Trap Sun. 9-12, year-round
 3-D Archery, Women's Sporting,
 Action Shooting, Boy Scout Training
 and Hunter Education

Wallkill Rod & Gun Club

Clays & 5 Stand
 Sun., 10 a.m., year-round
 Wed. evenings in summer
 Harry (845) 219-9327
 Bucky (845) 542-8571
 www.wallkillrodandgun.com

Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club

Waterloo, NY
 Smallbore, High Power, Sporterifle,
 Pistol, Women's & Jrs.
 waterloopc.com

West Canada Creek Association

5528 State Route 28
 Newport NY, 13416
 Shoot Trap Wed. at 5 p.m.
 Robert Grose (315) 219-2365

Whortlekill R & G Club

Hopewell Junction, NY
 Indoor Pistol and Handgun Instruction
 G. Robinson (845) 298-3263
 Shotgun
 J. Stern (203) 232-7896
 Hunter Education
 P. Scarano (845) 401-6636

Wilton Rod & Gun Club Inc.

153 Edie Road
 Gansevoort, NY 12831

Wolcottville Sportsmen's Club

1525 Phelps Road
 Corfu, NY 14036

Woodbury Field & Stream Club Inc.

PO Box 5
 Central Valley, NY 10917

If your club is a member and would like to be listed, email club info to: info@nysrpa.org

Nancy's Corner

by Nancy Lewandusky

Check your permit recertifications

Everyone with a pistol permit needs to go to the website <https://firearms.troopers.ny.gov/pprecert/welcome> to check out the date that their recertification is due.

New York state has changed the law for recertification from five years to three years. Due to this change, your recertification is due two years sooner than you might think. If you go to the website and click on "Recertify Pistol Permit," it will ask you to fill out some information. Then, it will tell you the date you need to recertify your permit, but this process will have to be done every three years.

Even if you have just recertified your permit in the past two years, please check out this information so that you are not in violation, and nothing happens to your permit. If you do not have a way to do this, or are unsure on what to do, please contact me at

(518) 272-2654 or info@nysrpa.org, and I can help you.

If you want to amend your permit from a restricted permit to an unrestricted permit, these requests need to be processed. You will not automatically go from restricted to unrestricted when you recertify.

To transition from a restricted to unrestricted permit, you must go to your local pistol permit office and fill out the form. You also must take a 16-hour course, with two hours of range time. Currently, I am working on compiling a list of places that offer these classes. Once the list is completed, I will post it on our website. If you know of a place that offers this course, please contact me so I can share the information.

The lawsuits

Thank you to all who submitted your information to be a plaintiff against New York state and its egregious gun laws. We have had a great response,



and we have forwarded all your emails to the legal team. The legal team will contact you if they are interested in having you as a plaintiff.

We are awaiting a decision from the Second Court of Appeals on the four lawsuits that were heard on March 20, 2023. We have been told the decision can come anywhere from now through June.

It was great seeing you all at the Syracuse and Hamburg gun shows. What a great turnout! If your area has a gun show that you would like to see us at, please email the information/details to me. ■



THE GUN OWNERS VOICE IN ALBANY!



GET MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION HERE

www.nysrpa.org



Are your friends members? If not, use the application below to sign them up. **Make copies if you have lots of friends!**

Application for Individual Membership

PO Box 278, East Greenbush, NY 12061

Please check one New member
 Renewal (NYSRPA # _____)

Name (Please PRINT) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

County (NYS residents only) _____

Phone (home) _____

Email _____

Date of birth (required) (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____

NRA Member? No Yes (NRA # _____)

For statistical purposes only, please indicate Male Female

Revised 1/1/2011

This application was referred to NYSRPA by: NYSRPA Membership # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Please select your enrollment type/term

- Active Military \$25.00 \$ _____
- Adult - 1 year (ages 18-64) \$30.00 \$ _____
- Senior* - 1 year (ages 65-over) \$25.00 \$ _____
- Junior - 1 year (under 18) \$15.00 \$ _____
- Family - 1 year \$50.00 \$ _____
- Life (under 65) \$500.00 \$ _____
- Life (ages 65-over) \$300.00 \$ _____
- Additional Voluntary Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

**Disabled American Veterans qualify for the Senior 1-year dues rate*

Please indicate your payment method:

- Check/money order (payable to NYSRPA)
- Visa MasterCard CVV# (required) _____
- Acct.# _____ Exp. _____
- Signature _____

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Editor Carl Gottstein
713 Columbia Turnpike
PO Box 278
East Greenbush, NY 12061

HAVE A NICE SUMMER!

MEMBERSHIP HOTLINE *(credit card orders only)*
(518) 272-2654
(Monday-Friday 9 A.M.-4 P.M.)



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email us at info@nysrpa.org

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Call 1-888-697-3524 with any questions

