

**WE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT  
TO DEFEND YOURSELF.**

COMPLIMENTARY. TAKE ONE.

# GUNNEWS



SECOND AMENDMENT NEWS AND MORE

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GUNS SAVE LIFE, INC.**

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AFFILIATED WITH ILLINOIS GUN RIGHTS ALLIANCE, JPFO, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR OUTDOOR RESOURCES AND OTHERS



Former State Senator Darren Bailey, pictured above, announces rather boldly that he will not comply with Pritzker's so-called "Protect Illinois Communities Act" gun registration mandate. Bailey is a life-long farmer and is running for US Congress in Southern Illinois. He's running against a Mike Bost who claims "no one's stronger on guns" while at home on the campaign trail, but when he goes to Washington, Mr. Bost supports gun control.

Photo courtesy Facebook (Darren Bailey).

# 1%

## IL gun registration compliance rate: 1%

(Guns Save Life) - The Illinois State Police posted the final numbers for the gun registration mandated by Gov. Pritzker's "Protect Illinois Communities Act." Just shy of 30,000 individuals, or about 1% of FOID holders, registered their self-defense firearms and accessories. Meanwhile, 2.4 million FOID holders chose to register... nothing.

The overall *non-compliance* rate was 99%, which speaks volumes for what most gun owners think about Pritzker's gun registration scheme. After all, we all know that confiscation usually follows gun registration by governments.

The governor, who reportedly spent millions of his own money to bring the Democrat National Convention to Chicago later this year, desperately wants to look "in control" like a strong leader. However, this gun ban "accomplishment" of his is not going as he planned. The press coverage of the mass non-compliance makes Pritzker look utterly feckless.

State Senator Darren Bailey has done his part making Pritzker look weak. Bailey, running

for Congress in Southern Illinois, made it very clear "I will not NOT comply" in multiple social media posts and interviews.

Pritzker's Illinois State Police have since announced they don't have any intention of prosecuting those who fail to register. Ultimately, they don't prosecute people. ISP arrests them. What's more, they can lie to the public. When we lie to them that's a chargeable offense.

### Join GSL at our monthly regional events

We invite everyone to join us at one of our regional grassroots meetings. They're free and open to everyone. You'll meet some outstanding people, keep yourself up to date on what's going on in Illinois and beyond. Plus you'll have a good time, hear interesting speakers and maybe even win a gun. Food, firearms and fellowship can always be found at GSL events!

Lastly, keep the faith. Obviously these are trying times for the gun owners in our state. At the same time, we continue to fight hard in court to get Pritzker's gun ban struck down. We will win, but it's going to take a while.

### Meeting changes:

**Peoria** meets on the second Thursday in February.

**LaSalle** meeting moving to the THIRD Thursday of the month in February.

More on page 2.

PRE-SORT STD.  
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**Rich Goodall, President**  
Guns Save Life.com  
P.O. Box 51  
Savoy, IL 61874



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## February 2024

- **Quincy:** Last Wednesday: **January 31, February 28**, March 27  
Eagles Club, 3535 N. Fifth Street, Quincy
- **Chicagoland:** Last Sunday: **January 28, February 25**, *No March Meeting (Easter)*  
American Legion Post 1198, 1631 Western Ave. Chicago Heights  
*Exhibits and conversation here at 4:30pm. Program at 5:30pm.*
- **Sangamon County:** First Monday: **February 5**, March 4  
SCHEELS, 3801 S. MacArthur, Springfield
- **Pontiac:** First Tuesday: **February 6**, March 5  
Pontiac Sportsman's Club. 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac
- **Decatur:** First Wednesday: **February 7**, March 6  
Coz's Pizza, 1405 East Village Parkway, Mt Zion (*Program at 6:45pm*)
- **Peoria:** First Thursday: **February 8**, March 7 (*Second Thursday meeting in Feb.*)  
Barrack's Banquet Center, 1224 Pioneer Parkway, Peoria
- **Danville:** Second Monday **February 12**, March 11  
Ela's Restaurant, 1111 E. Voorhees St., Danville
- **Champaign County:** Second Tuesday: **February 13**, March 12  
KC Hall, 1001 N. Ohio St., Rantoul
- **Northwest Chicagoland:** Second Wed: **February 14**, March 13  
Prairie House Tavern, 2710 Main St., Buffalo Grove  
*Dinner and conversation here at 5:30pm. Program at 6pm-ish.*
- **Charleston:** Second Thursday: **February 8**, March 14  
U Hotel Conference Center, 920 West Lincoln Ave, Charleston
- **LaSalle County:** **NEW! THIRD Thursday: February 15**, March 21  
Jamie's Outpost, 602 Clark St. Utica

**Dinner, conversation, exhibits at 6 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m.**  
Come on out and join us. Good food, good fun and good friends.

*Dinner is optional but we encourage attendees to eat to support the venue.*

**Meetings are free and open to all.**



Carolyn Voss shares information about the "Tactical Civics" organization which empowers people to make a difference in local governance.



Marc Roderick with a war trophy Japanese Nambu pistol.



GSL meetings are family-friendly events.

### Meeting Changes...

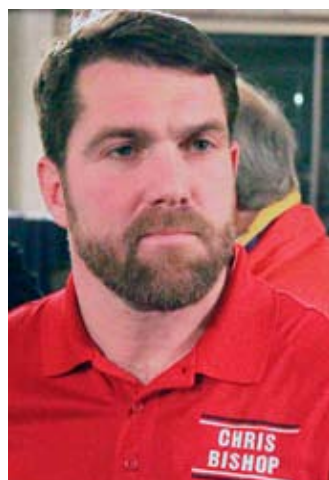
#### February.

Peoria will meet on the **SECOND** Thursday of the month because of a scheduling conflict of our hosts.

**LaSalle.** We will return on the **THIRD THURSDAY** in February after having no meeting in January because Jamie's Outpost is closed in January.



Darren Bailey made waves with his proclamation that "I will not comply" to Pritzker's gun registration scheme. He spoke in Charleston.



Chris Bishop, candidate for IL Senate, listens to an audience member after Peoria's meeting.



GSL VP John Coyne (right) with McHenry County Sheriff Robb Tadelman at our NW Chicagoland meeting.



Plenty of opportunities to win at GSL events!



Dan Caulkins joined us live from Eagle Pass, Texas during our Decatur meeting.



Lex Walker won the cornucopia of ammo in Peoria. He's also holding one of the "Government Watch List" ID badges he made. They're available for purchase as a fundraiser for GSL.



John Naese in Rantoul.



Justin Bawcum, Charleston's Regional Co-Director, with Chris D. who won a S&W Shield .380.



Rod W. won an Equalizer in Pontiac.



Dennis U. won a big box chock full of Federal target .22 ammo in Rantoul. He's pictured with Dick Brandt, our Champaign County Regional Director.



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To register, or for more information, visit

**GSLDefenseTraining.com**



## Meeting Highlights

### Pontiac.

At our Pontiac meeting we got some great news on a couple of firearm retailers. First the farm store in Pontiac was purchased by the Runnings chain a few months ago. Steve Schove shared an update of how things are coming as they're slowly transitioning to the new brand.



"We've got more ammo that I've ever seen," he says. They also have primers and reloading stuff. Guns are expected soon, perhaps by the end of the month. Other notables: they've got blades, night vision, thermal scopes and plenty more.



Brian Pflibsen, owner of South Post Guns in Streator shared an update. They've recently completed their indoor range after seven years, and their archery range is 99% ready to open. Yes, they have Class III full-auto guns available to rent, along with suppressed firearms. The list for rent includes ARs, MP-5, MPX, Bren, RPK, and AK and more. They have a manufacturers license and are working on adding a Tommy Gun to the mix.



One of the audience members commend Brian on the handicapped-accessible facility that's "super clean" and "state of the art."

Brian also talked about the "crash and grab" robbery they had a few years ago. The 9 perps caused upwards of \$140k in damages to steal 21 guns in 45 seconds. ATF grabbed up a few of the guns but none have been returned to South Post. Only three of the bad guys were prosecuted. Another was shot dead on the spot by leery gang members in Chicago and Brian was okay with that. Somehow audience members agreed.

Rod W. won himself a S&W Equalizer 9mm. Congrats to him.

### Decatur.

Dan Cooley brought us up to speed on the Industry side of things, saying ammo prices are going up but availability is good. Still lots of vagueness issues with gun registration.

State Rep. Dan Caulkins appeared via "Zoom" (thanks to modern technology) from Eagle

Pass, Texas where he and some other legislators saw first-hand scourge of illegal invaders over our southern border.

He spoke about his pending appeal to the US Supreme Court and how he got there. During Q&A, people asked about the border mess. Caulkins learned how the Biden Administration asked the cartels to shut off the flow of people for a few days while Congressional members toured the area a day earlier. The cartels stopped the illegals and the feds feverishly tried to clean the place up but weren't entirely successful.

Jay S. won the gun drawing.

### Peoria.

Retired USAF Col. Mark Hurley addressed the audience and left folks spellbound as he delivered a lengthy presentation about Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI, like a gun, is nothing more than a powerful tool. How it's used depends upon the people behind it.

It's used everywhere today. Everything from algorithms for search engines to suggestions on your social media feeds to facial recognition and surveillance. Col. Hurley urged everyone to store hard-copies of important documents and information just in case your on-line information becomes corrupted. He also urged everyone to protect as much of their personal information as much as possible, because that's valuable and companies (like Google) compile as much data about you as they can and sell it to others. Social media companies get very rich from marketing the information we freely hand over to them.

He cited some examples of how AI has been weaponized against Americans. Two big examples? The online censorship that took place ahead of the 2020 elections and during COVID (and still to this day to some degree).

Just be aware that AI is out there and watch out for algorithm bias. Educate those around you about it and work to protect your "digital" rights. Other countries have done this, but the US is lagging behind in protecting personal data (although Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act is, amazingly, on the cutting edge compared to other states).

Lastly, he recommended a few books.

- **Extreme Privacy: What It Takes to Disappear**
- **"Cause Unknown": The Epidemic of Sudden Deaths in 2021 & 2022**
- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR EVERYONE: A Gentle Guide to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**
- **How to Fight Artificial Intelligence (AI) (The Citizen's Guide to Fifth Generation Warfare)**

Chris Bishop, candidate for the Republican nomination for the IL Senate District 37 currently held by Win Stoller who is retiring. He's been a teacher and now works in private industry. In his spare time he continues his work as an award-winning wrestling coach. If you guessed he's strongly pro-gun and unabashedly conservative, you're a smart cookie. His life in politics started after the Dixon city corruption scandal in 2015 and he currently serves on the Dixon City Council.

A strong supporter of the police, he's also a big fan of SROs in the schools, especially after the Dixon Schools SRO Mark Dallas took out a misfit loser who tried to shoot up a high school graduation practice there in Dixon. Late last year Mr. Bishop did a ride-along with Peoria police where they saw nine shots-fired incidents in a single shift.

Lex W. won the gun.

### Danville.

John Boch shared a presentation on flashlights. In short, carry a tactical flashlight because you'll use it almost everyday - especially as you get older. Look for one with a momentary switch on the tailcap so if you're using the light defensively, you can momentarily illuminate to identify a target, then move and fire. "Flashlights are bullet magnets in a gunfight," he warned folks.

A regular at our Pontiac meeting won the case of .223 ammo. Congrats!

### Champaign Co. / Rantoul.

John Naese, one of the founding members of GSL's predecessor organization gave a great presentation on the early years of Guns Save Life. (See page 12-13).

Jeff Brownfield, candidate for the 52nd State Senate District also addressed the audience as a very pro-gun alternative to the Democrat incumbent appointed following Sen. Scott Bennett's death.

We also discussed the importance of folks turning out to volunteer as election judges and poll watchers. These are critical functions you can help out and make a huge difference towards election integrity. Contact your local County Clerk for more details on signing up.

Dennis U. won the massive haul of .22 target ammo after buying a single ticket. Congrats!

### NW Chicagoland.

We welcomed McHenry County Sheriff Robb Tadelman who savaged the SAFE-T Act and frankly, he didn't have a lot of kind things to say about the so-called "Protect Illinois Communities Act" either.

Bruce H. from downstate won the awesome .45 ACP carry gun on a ticket bought via a mail-in order.

### Charleston.

Darren Bailey addressed the audience, hot off his New Year's pronouncement that "I will not comply" with the governor's gun registration scheme. See more on page 14.

Carolyn Voss followed up on a presentation about Tactical Civics, an organization that helps people fight back against rogue, oath-breaking politicians by taking small, but meaningful actions instead of just sitting back and complaining. For more on the organization, visit tacticalcivics.com.



Lots of folks asked questions about Tactical Civics following Charleston's meeting.

Chris D. won the gun.

Can't make it to a meeting? Still want to win a gun?  
**Tickets are available!**



You can't make it to a meeting, but you want a chance to win a gun for as little as \$4? Here's your chance!

And yes, we've had several mail-in ticket winners in the past few months.

Indicate how many tickets you want for the gun you want (and city of drawing). Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. Or 25 (plus a bonus) for \$100.

GSL's Treasurer Joanne Chandler will electronically notify the Regional Directors of the mail-in tickets sold for their meetings so they can get them into the drawing. If you're late, we'll return your check.

Attn: Drawings  
Guns Save Life  
PO Box 8  
Clinton, IL 61727

### GSL Monthly Gun Lineup!

Chicago Jan: Taurus TX22 and Ruger Super Wrangler .22 Mag/.22LR  
Chicago Feb: Ruger 10/22

Peoria Feb: Canik 9mm

Danville Feb.: Iver Johnson 12ga. side-by-side 28" shotgun

NW Chicagoland Feb: Taurus 605 Polypro-tector .38

Charleston Feb.: Glock 42 .380



# Executive Director's Report

## Happy New Year!

by John Boch  
Executive Director

### Litigation.

Yes, Judge McGlynn ruled against our amended complaint seeking to gut the registration requirement in Pritzker's beloved gun ban law. Frankly, I think he did us a favor by not wasting our time with another round of arguments at the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

McGlynn's promised a tight timeline for briefs while he considers the case on its merits.

Like many of us, Illinois gun law guru Todd Vandermyde is frustrated by US Appellate Court justices ignoring their roles as inferior courts. He posted a video in recent days suggesting we quit playing nice and lobby for Congress to initiate impeachment action against some of these bad jurists.

As much as I like Todd, there's no way that dog's gonna hunt in Washington. Short of catching these guys and gals smoking crack or molesting kids on video, getting an impeachment through the Senate will never happen.

### Legislation.

The Illinois General Assembly has returned for Spring Session. Why should you care? They can pass bills with an immediate effective date with a simple majority - and we don't have the votes to stop them. So, for instance, if JB Pritzker wanted his buddies in the General Assembly to send him a bill to "close the existing owner loophole" and require gun owners who registered their banned guns to surrender them within 90 days, he could do so. Just such bill has been discussed among Team Pritzker.



Governor Jay Robert Pritzker

What else have they talked about behind closed doors? Well, Tom DeVore heard from an unnamed source who said Pritzker was also contemplating another means to grab up those registered guns. Instead of legislation, Pritzker might declare a state of emergency and issue an executive order to require those guns to be surrendered to authorities.

Pritzker's spokespeople deny DeVore's allegation but it fits nicely alongside the earlier leak we received.

### Wayne LaPierre out.

Days before his civil corruption trial began, Wayne LaPierre resigned his post at the National Rifle Association. Later that same Friday, LaPierre's former chief of staff Josh Powell copped a plea deal to testify against the NRA and LaPierre at the trial. In short, LaPierre's goose is cooked. Jail time isn't on the menu since it's a civil proceeding, but

restitution of misspent funds and penalties certainly are if LaPierre and others are found guilty.



Wayne LaPierre.

Also, expect most of the NRA's leadership to get the boot, along with the Board of Directors.

As much as I never thought I'd say this, Leticia James actions in this lawsuit might actually make the NRA great again. If she can excise LaPierre and his cronies from the NRA, the organization can spend a lot less on lawyers and luxury perks for leadership and invest that money on the core mission of fighting for our gun rights. If that happens we will all be better off for it.



### Whispers...

In addition to rumors of the governor desperately wanting to seize those registered guns through one mechanism or another, we're also hearing other whispers about desperate gun grabber plans for the rest of us. Specifically the gun control caucus among Democrats is trying to craft some form of legislation to allow the Illinois State Police to use the FTIP approval database to help find those who didn't register their naughty guns.

If our governor and legislative leaders spent half as much time cracking down on gang violence as they do harassing lawful gun owners, our state could have historically low firearm violent crime just like Florida did with their 10-20-Life sentencing enhancements. But that would require putting violent criminals in prison - criminals of every color. And the Black Caucus running Illinois has little interest in putting black and brown people in prison - and they say that publicly.

### In better news...

We're working behind the scenes to help remove some vagueness issues in the new batch of rulemaking by the Illinois State Police over the PICA gun and magazine ban. I can share a couple of examples, including inserting language exempting possession of Airsoft accessories from criminal penalties under PICA, as well as cleaning up language to codify that parts like springs and pins aren't "accessories."

We anticipate the Joint Committee for Administrative Rules will adopt this next batch of rules in their January 16th meeting.



## GSL weather-related meeting cancellation policies & procedures

Guns Save Life holds monthly meetings in almost a dozen cities across Illinois now.

Given the weather in Illinois as we go to press, we thought it a great time to share our meeting cancellation thoughts and procedures.

Generally speaking, no matter the weather, politics and our cause marches on and so do we. We've had meetings during and after ice storms, snow storms, and even during power

outages. Those sorts of events tend to make some great memories.

Ultimately, the final decision on whether or not to error on the side of caution and cancel a meeting rests with the Regional Directors.

We will also post any cancellations at the Guns Save Life web site as early as possible. **So if weather is looking \*really\* nasty, check at GunsSaveLife.com before starting your**

**journey towards the meeting venue.**

### Why would we cancel a meeting?

When forecasts call for severe ice storms with accumulation, exceptionally heavy snow storms (like a foot or more) or blizzard conditions we may cancel.

Again, if the weather seems iffy to you, check the GSL website for a cancellation notice. If there's not one there, there's a 99.44% chance the meeting is going to happen.

## LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SHOOT?

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Download an application at [dewittcountysc.com](http://dewittcountysc.com) or by mailing a request to DCSC, PO Box 322, Clinton, IL 61727.



## Measure filed to suspend driver's license for FOID noncompliance

Springfield (The Center Square) – A recently introduced Illinois Senate bill would strip the driver's license of a Firearms Owners ID card holder that doesn't surrender a revoked permit.



Senate Bill 2720, filed by state Sen. Julie Morrison, D-Deerfield, says that if someone's FOID card is revoked and they don't surrender [it], their driver's license could be suspended.

IT'S A TRAP! DON'T DO IT!

## ISP claims it 'won't pursue charges' against residents who didn't register guns by Jan. 1st

Springfield, IL (Effingham Radio) - The Illinois State Police won't pursue charges against Illinois residents who didn't register their weapons that fall under the new law by the January 1st deadline.

The ISP says the FOID Portal will remain open and people can submit endorsement affidavits at any time. Residents who fail to register weapons that fall under the law could face felony charges. More than 29-thousand residents have registered their assault weapons.

Final numbers in gun registration

## 29,357 FOID holders register one or more guns... 2.4 million register nothing

(GSL) - 29357 gun owners in Illinois registered firearms, accessories or ammunition during the three week window that just closed on December 31st. That makes for a good soundbite: "THOUSANDS of Illinois gun owners registered these guns," Pritzker can say – truthfully at that. It sounds impressive until you consider that 2.4 MILLION registered nothing.

FOID holders still have no idea they were supposed to register their "naughty" guns like a Ruger Target pistol?



And yes, running the numbers through the old calculator shows a 98.8% non-compliance rate.

How many of our state's 2.4+ million

## US Supreme Court denies Caulkins' certiorari petition

(GSL) - Dan Caulkins lost his challenge to the Illinois gun and magazine ban at the Illinois Supreme Court. From there, he appealed to the US Supreme Court.



In January, the US Supreme Court, without comment, denied Dan Caulkin's petition to have his case heard by SCOTUS.

## Rumors: IL Governor exploring 'Executive Order' to demand gun owners surrender their registered 'naughty' guns

(GSL) - Illinois gun control jihadists passed the so-called "Protect Illinois Communities Act" in the dead of night last January. The bill banned all manner of popular self-defense, magazine-fed, semi-automatic firearms, but it provided that existing owners could keep them if they registered them. That registration window closed December 31st with barely a 1% compliance rate.

introducing legislation in the aftermath of a high-profile "mass shooting" to require those who registered guns to surrender them within a short time period. Ninety days was mentioned at the time. Legislative allies of the governor would introduce the bill (likely as a gut-and-replace amendment in a shell bill), then legislative leaders would fast-track the bill and get it to the governor in the matter of days.



A frustrated Gov. Pritzker.

Now, a Facebook post from attorney Tom DeVore alleges that Governor J.B. Pritzker has explored the concept of using an executive order to declare a state of emergency and demand those who registered their self-defense firearms surrender them to law enforcement. Supposedly this would come on the heels of a high-profile mass casualty incident.

Those who fail to surrender their registered guns would likely face felony charges and potentially police knocks on their door as well.

While the governor's office might have declared the post "unequivocally false," it nevertheless aligns with another leak received by Guns Save Life last fall. In that leak, the governor's people had gamed out

The executive order plan also fits with J.B. Pritzker's love of using emergency executive orders to seize extraordinary powers. He did so with a series of emergency orders related to COVID, and now he's doing much the same with the illegal alien influx into the Prairie State. What's one more emergency order in the mix? Especially when few if any have the ability to block his edicts.

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**“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.”**

-- President John Adams

## Country Character



### Jury DUTY & a personal note

by Justin Thyme  
a GSL member

The American way of trial by jury is part of the checks and balances guaranteed by our constitution. The framers of our constitution did not wish to allow ultimate authority to any earthly being hence their claim at the onset ‘no king but Jesus’. We, as Americans, have the right to trial by a jury of our peers so that our fate is not left in the hands of one judge who may be corrupt. In the trial by jury system the decision must be unanimous, or the jury is hung which means they could not agree. One person can accomplish that. As a juror, it is your responsibility but it will take backbone or resolve to go against the others, but you must – you may be the only one that understands.

You may have heard the phrase “better twelve trying me than six carrying me”, an ode to the idea that upon doing something to save your life you would be cleared of charges by twelve sane people...

Many do not wish to serve on a jury but it is our responsibility as citizens hence the term “jury duty”.

I have talked to people that take evasive action to avoid jury duty, for example, some do not register to vote as they believe jury selection is from the voter registration pool. In my small survey of my county and surrounding area counties I found that while they drew jurors from the voter registry that was not exclusive. Other sources were also mentioned such as from the Department of Motor Vehicles and Social Security. So you could surrender your right to vote and still be called for jury duty!

I have yet to serve on a jury but I will not avoid doing so. It can be inconvenient and it doesn't pay well, but as an American citizen it is my responsibility, my obligation to contribute.

I would see my obligation as three fold. First of all, does the charge violate the Constitution? Then I would sort out the details of the law under which the defendant is being charged. Consider all the evidence whether concrete or circumstantial. Is it misapplied or out of context? Then at the end must come guilty or not. If the charge doesn't meet Constitutional muster or pass proper application, a “not guilty” verdict would be forthcoming from me and I will stand my ground to protect the not guilty.

If I was ever in need of a “trial jury” I would hope and pray for a dozen good, solid citizens who understand the United States constitution to come to my rescue. The rule called “golden” comes to mind. Do unto others as you'd have them do unto you.

When it is your turn in the hot seat, who do you want on your jury – twelve upstanding people who care about justice or twelve people who couldn't get out of it? You may make the choice for someone else.

**Fifth Amendment**  
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**Sixth Amendment**  
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district

shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

**Seventh Amendment**  
In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

**Eighth Amendment**  
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

*[Editor's note: I received this from “Justin”: “Have you found anyone to take up this column? We are not able to continue due to family obligations.”*

*Speaking as the GunNews Editor, this “Country Corner” column has been a joy for the last few years. Presented by a deeply Christian man from a similarly religious family, it often looks at the gun rights issue from a religious perspective without being preachy. We're going to miss Justin's submissions.*

*If you have ever considered writing for a bona fide publication (monthly circulation in the low 20,000s), here's your chance. It doesn't have to be this “flavor” but we have space for this and another column. Maybe even two more. I know we have two or three members who have flirted with sending regular submissions but they haven't formally jumped in yet. So we're still welcoming others to send submissions of good, old-fashioned human-created content for our readers. Contact us at jboch@gunssave-life.com]*

## LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

### Legal Defense Fund Donations...

Folks, it looks like we're going to the US Supreme Court to fight for our right to purchase, possess and transport the most effective firearms for personal defense.

We're urging people to donate directly to our legal teams to help make all of this possible.

To fund our Illinois litigation team:

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To help the national firm backstopping our IL team:

2ALC.org  
Second Amendment Law Center  
284C East Lake Mead Parkway  
Suite 530  
Henderson NV 89015  
(tax deductible)

We still absolutely endorse and support FFL-IL and their fund for our Illinois attorneys, however donations to them are not tax deductible. Aurora Sportsmen's Club's SADEC gets 100% of donations to the same place only in a tax deductible fashion.

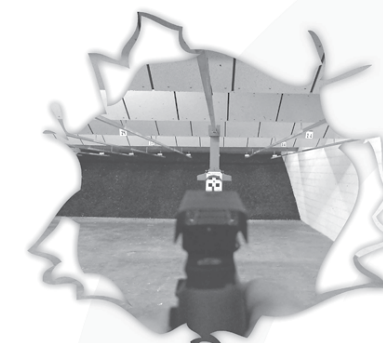
We would prefer folks send donations directly to the above funds. The easiest way for everyone involved is to make the donations online, but we've included mail addresses here for the non-computer savvy.



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In regione caecorum rex est luscus

## In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is King

by Desiderius Erasmus, a GSL member

# Abraham, Donald & John

This is not a gun column, although John Wilkes Booth shot Abe Lincoln with a .44-caliber derringer and Lee Harvey Oswald (and maybe others) murdered JFK with a rifle(s). Sirhan Sirhan shot Robert F. Kennedy with an Iver Johnson .22 revolver. And James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King, Jr. with a Remington Model 760 .30-06 rifle. But I digress.

Back in the day, a guy named William Wallace fought for Scottish independence. He lost and King Edward I had him jailed and then drawn and quartered (see *Braveheart*) and had his body parts shipped to Scotland to put the Scots in their place. He went medieval because he thought he could crush Wallace's idea of freedom for Scotland – which was part of England. It didn't work, and Robert The Bruce took up the sword for Scottish independence. Today almost nobody remembers Edward I (other than some royalty-history geeks), while millions have heard of William Wallace, who remains an admirable hero and martyr over 700 years later – not just in Scotland but around the world. So rather than eradicate Wallace from history, Edward cemented him in it.

Fast forward to today. Whether you adore, love, like, feel-neutral-about, dislike, hate or loathe Donald Trump, the actions of Trump's political enemies are almost certainly elevating him to martyr status. It is highly likely that Trump (unless multiple disparate juries employ jury nullification) will get convicted on some of the dozens of charges made against him, most brought in political regions that are unfriendly to him. They will sentence him to multiple prison terms, and because of the political venom in the country, some geniuses will push for really lengthy sentences; life if they can get it.

Because Donald Trump will be 78 by then, the practical effect of this process likely means that he will die in prison of natural causes. But the odds against him surviving are even higher. Prison murders are common, and what punk in for life wouldn't jump at the chance to finally "be somebody"? Or he might just "commit suicide" and when that's investigated we'll just find out that the closed-circuit security cameras somehow weren't working, and if that happens, most folks will believe to their core that the government is lying. But won't he have Secret Service agents? Maybe, but maybe not, and they'll be withdrawn as a parting gift. I would imagine that there is even talk inside the beltway if one of the charges should be capital, and Trump be sentenced to death. That's because many of Trump's enemies want to crush his ideas once and for all; ideas concerning freedom, independence, limitations of government, criminal justice, and nationally-centered norms versus some type of new world order. They don't understand that you can't crush ideas by marching your opponents to the guillotine, or putting them in prison, or sending F-16s to bomb them. You can only defeat an idea with a better idea.

Had they not appeared to be bullies using the judicial system to eliminate Trump from running, his detractors could have just fixed the election and made it criminal to say it wasn't legit. Or maybe they could have come up with better ideas and policies, rather than: inflation (especially food, used cars, fuel, hotels/motels), eliminating American

energy independence, uncontrolled borders, rampant crime and drug deaths, curbing fundamentals of the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments, and in general pitting races against each other. Had they not been responsible for all that, they could have easily won in 2024, and Trump would have been relegated in history with most of the one-term presidents. Like Carter. Buchanan. Fillmore. Harding. Hoover. And very likely, Biden.



But now? Trump will join Lincoln and JFK. "Abraham, Donald and John". Sounds like the title of a hit song. Bet somebody in Nashville is writing it right now. It won't just go Platinum; this baby is going Diamond, and not just this year but every year! Trump might approach the status of Nelson Mandela; who was incarcerated for 27 years by the apartheid mob. Or maybe MLK, Gandhi, or Joan of Arc. Maybe all the martyred saints in the Catholic church that have been around for hundreds of years. Because if you pound enough nails through a person into a piece of wood, pretty soon it becomes The Cross.



Once the realization of Donald Trump as a martyr sinks in, his enemies may scurry to pardon him, because they know that for every martyr, on the opposite side is the equivalent of a Pontius Pilot and Judas Iscariot – and who wants to be one of those guys? I don't think he would accept a pardon. He'll do what he has to in order to remain in jail. I don't think he cares if he dies there. It's only a few years. He's had a good life, achieved a lot, and provided a bundle to his widow and children.

For Donald John Trump, his small enemies have given him the gift of forever. And the more they try to punish and diminish him, the more his legend will grow. In the near term, as events unfold, more and more people are even now saying "Trump was right." And long-term, the votes of his enemies don't matter, because History's voters haven't even been born yet. Who are they going to pick as a martyr? Pound another nail in and find out.

## The Men who just wanted to be left alone

The most terrifying force of death comes from the hands of Men who wanted to be left alone.

They try, so very hard, to mind their own business and provide for themselves and those they love.

They resist every impulse to fight back, knowing the forced and permanent change of life that will come from it.

They know that the mo-

ment they fight back, their lives as they have lived them, are over.

The moment the Men who wanted to be left alone are forced to fight back, it is a form of suicide.

They are literally killing off who they used to be. Which is why, when forced to take up violence, these Men who wanted to be left alone, fight with unholy vengeance against those who murdered their former

lives. They fight with raw hate, and a drive that cannot be fathomed by those who are merely play-acting at politics and terror.

True terror will arrive at these people's door, and they will cry, scream, and beg for mercy... but it will fall upon the deaf ears of the Men who just wanted to be left alone!

- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

When democracy turns to tyranny...



The armed citizen *still* gets to vote.

## Sullivan Gun Club

2024 Events... Open to public



### Bowling Pin Shoots

Mar 9th, Apr 6th, May 4th, Jun 8th, July 13th, Aug 10th, Sept 7th, Oct 12th, Nov 2nd



### Rimfire Shoots

Mar 23rd, Apr 20th, May 18th, Jun 22nd, July 27th, Aug 24th, Sept 21st, Oct 26th, Nov 16th

Trap Shooting every Friday night  
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Matches start at 9a.m.

\$10 per firearm. Kids free.

Sign-in and warm up starting at 8a.m.

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## Mega-study finds that minorities don't receive harsher criminal punishments, but that academics said so anyway

*"Evidence for racial bias in the US criminal justice system has been consistently weak, and... scholarly narratives have too often ignored this."*

*(Daily Wire)* - An analysis of twenty years of academic literature found that there is little or no evidence that minorities are mistreated by the criminal justice system when it comes to punishment, despite assertions to the contrary by policymakers, media, and academics.

"In recent years it has become common belief within the scholarly community as well as the general public that the criminal justice system is biased due to race and class issues. We sought to examine this with meta-analysis. Our results suggest that for most crimes, criminal adjudication in the US is not substantially biased on race or class lines," professors Christopher J. Ferguson and Sven Smith of Stetson University found in a study to be published in the criminology journal *Aggression and Violent Behavior* and obtained by The Daily Wire.

"Overall, this is a cause for optimism," researchers concluded—though their findings also called into question the honesty and rigor of the work conducted by race-fueled scholars, whose weaknesses were highlighted this month in former Harvard president Claudine Gay.

As a meta-analysis, the study did not create a new dataset on criminal sentencing and race, but rather examined 51 studies conducted by others looking at the question since 2005. The numbers suggesting no or marginal racial bias in punishment were therefore collected by the existing studies, but those authors often claimed to have found racial bias in their writings, even when their numbers did not back it up.

"We express the concern that evidence for racial bias in the U.S. criminal justice system has been consistently weak, and that scholarly narratives have too often ignored this in favor of the systemic racism narrative," Ferguson and Smith wrote.

Some of the studies found no evidence of racism in criminal sentencing and said so clearly, but their findings were simply ignored by the media, politicians, and other academics, who at times did not acknowledge a single paper dissenting from their hypothesis in their citations.

"At present, we believe that the evidence on racial bias in criminal justice adjudication has been poorly communicated to the general public and policymakers. In many cases, it appears that data calling into question beliefs in structural racism in the criminal justice system are simply being ignored, both by scholars in the field and by policy makers," the new paper said...

"There was no evidence of a class effect, and Asians actually received more favorable treatment during criminal adjudication than Whites, albeit not at a level that met our evidentiary standard," the paper said.

Scholars determined to find racial bias were often able to claim to have made a statistically significant finding because court records allow for studies to include tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of cases. In science, the threshold for "statistical significance" is a balance between how big the effect is and how many examples were included in the study. In studies with huge amounts of criminal cases, even the most minute differences in criminal sentences can technically be called "significant." But in the common meaning of the word, a years-long prison term being a few days shorter or longer, on average, for different race or class groups is not actually significant, and is essentially "noise" in the data set, the paper said...

"Overall, the criminal justice system appears to be remarkably neutral, at least as relates to these issues, either when compared to the historical US criminal justice system, or historical systems throughout history," the authors of the new study found.

They said that progressive academics who misrepresent their own data — whether due to incompetence, the prioritization of ideology over social science, or the desire to publish a paper with a dramatic finding — may be causing real harm to society.

"We note the possibility that overstating the case for sentencing disparities may itself cause harm to minority communities through increasing racial discord, creating fear and mistrust, and reducing community cooperation with criminal justice authorities, which may lead to the experiencing of more crime," the paper said.



**Chicago crimes up 34% over last year,  
after 33% rise the year before**

Total major crimes reported in Chicago YTD, 2023 vs. 2022 vs. 2021

Major crimes	2021 YTD (as of 7/31)	2022 YTD (as of 7/31)	2023 YTD (as of 7/31)	Difference 2022 vs. 2021	Difference 2023 vs. 2022
Murders*	448	382	359	-15%	-6%
Criminal Sexual Assault	852	904	909	6%	1%
Robbery	3,971	4,659	5,475	17%	18%
Aggravated Battery	4,971	4,614	5,041	-7%	9%
Burglary	3,184	4,205	4,208	32%	0%
Theft Over \$500	6,423	10,669	11,709	66%	10%
Motor Vehicle Theft	5,352	8,071	17,153	51%	113%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,201</b>	<b>33,504</b>	<b>44,854</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>34%</b>

Source: Chicago City Data Portal: Crimes - 2001 to Present  
Note: Portal crime data differs slightly from CPD Compstat results, particularly for counts of Agg. Battery and Crim. Sexual Assaults. The difference does not materially impact the overall crime trend.  
\*Murders based on 7/30 CompStat (Week 31)

**WIREFPOINTS**

**SPOILER ALERT:** *It would require putting violent bad guys in prison...*

**Chicago's violent crime problem could be solved in a matter of months if our political leaders really wanted it to stop**

(GSL) - At GSL, we ridiculed Murder City USA Mayor Brandon Johnson's clumsy, dim-witted proposal to buy votes with reparations checks in order to reduce the rampant violent crime that's ravaging a formerly great city.

However, the crime problem in Chicago and other big cities across our state could be brought down in short order - IF Brandon Johnson and the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus really wanted to do so.

What's more, they wouldn't even need to reinvent the wheel to do so.

Florida had a violent crime crisis about twenty years ago. Instead of embracing "woke" criminal justice reform, the Sunshine State passed a 10-20-Life sentencing enhancement law.

Bad guys toting guns in the commission of violent crimes got a 10-year sentencing enhancement on top of the underlying crime's sentence.

Under the law, there were no options for plea bargains, probation or early release. This was hard time.

Discharge a gun while committing a felony? You get 20 extra years, effectively taking you out of circulation for a generation.

For those who wounded or killed anyone with the shots they fired, they unlocked the "25-years to Life" bonus level, keeping them locked up for essentially two generations.

In less than four short years, Florida's firearm violent crime numbers plummeted to *historic lows*.

Contrast Florida's response to real-world Chicago, where armed carjackers, armed robbers and road ragers who fire shots at other drivers are released without bail.

In Chicago, a drunk woman left a bar and got into an argument. She didn't have a carry license, but she did have a loaded revolver in her purse. In a fit of anger, she pulled the gun and fired five shots at those who angered her. The incident was caught on video (and is at the GSL website).

Police caught up with her and made an arrest. What did Cook County prosecutors charge her with? A misdemeanor.

In Florida, little Miss Dangerous would have been a guest of the Department of Corrections for a *minimum* of 20 years.

Implementing any programs to hold violent criminal predators responsible for their mayhem would require locking up bad guys. That's something the Illinois Black Caucus, Mayor Brandon Johnson and other radicals among the Illinois Democratic party refuse to do.

It's just so much easier for them to blame law-abiding gun owners for the mess those same politicians have helped create.

*Defending your right to self-defense in the courts*

**Illinois Litigation Update**

by John Boch

The best plans never survive first contact.



**Where we are headed.**

In their decision affirming Judge Frank Easterbrook's stay of Judge McGlynn's injunction blocking enforcement of PICA, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals utterly failed in its duty to faithfully discharge its duties as an inferior court to SCOTUS.

They ignored the US Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision and its "Text, History and Tradition" standard of review to assess a gun control law's constitutionality. They instead set up a whole new standard to evaluate whether the government could ban guns. Call it the "kissing cousins" rule: If it looks like something the military uses or can be made to fire full auto, it can be banned.

We asked for a stay to take the case directly to the US Supreme Court in a status hearing in the second week of January. Judge McGlynn turned us down, saying that the 7th Circuit wanted us to litigate this on its merits expeditiously. McGlynn promised a decision by July 4th.

So we can jump through the hoops McGlynn has outlined, or we can write a brief that addresses text, history and tradition as outlined by SCOTUS. McGlynn would be duty-bound to reject it and no doubt the 7th Circuit would do the same. We would then be betting the entire store on gaining *certiorari* in front of the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, McGlynn has indicated he's wanting to build a "full record" on the case, whatever that means.

I see two problems with playing nice: 1) it would legitimize this new made-up standard of bovine excrement from Frank Easterbrook and 2) we would spend a fortune to bring in "experts" to have a battle of experts with the state and its endless resources to argue that new craptastic standard.

Frankly, I'm not entirely sure what we are going to do. As I am finishing this issue, I'm also battling a bad case of influenza or RSV.

Why does McGlynn have to follow the 7th Circuit's idiocy when the 7th doesn't follow SCOTUS? Because he's got character and integrity. He understands his role as an inferior court.

Some of the other Illinois challenges to PICA may try to jump over the 7th Circuit. We wish them the very best. As much as we would like to be "the case" that wins, we don't really care how gun owners win so long as we all win.

**What's happened?**

First and foremost, Judge McGlynn ruled against our amended complaint after our oral arguments in December. Frankly, given the new "kissing cousins" standard created out of thin air by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, his options were limited as he's a man of character and integrity. Secondly, he did us a favor by keeping us away from another round at the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Meanwhile, Dan Caulkins' Hail Mary to the US Supreme Court failed. Despite some hopeful signs, his request for *certiorari* was turned away without comment. We suspect that the majority of Supremes wanted a better case. Frankly, most of his appeal was addressing the tainted justices, not 2A implications.

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## Mayor BJ's bold new crime-reduction strategy: **Reparations checks**

*Chicago (GSL)* - Try not to laugh at the new(ish) Chicago mayor's "grand plan" to reduce violence crime in America's Murder Capital. In a bid to tamp down the rampant violent crime that has only accelerated since his election, Mayor Brandon Johnson proposes using the "full force of government" to solve the problem by... issuing reparations checks to descendants of slaves.

This from the guy who runs America's largest open-air shooting gallery. In fact, the city of Chicago by itself typically accounts for nearly 4% of America's homicides while comprising about .8% of the country's population.

Johnson somehow neglected to mention that the Democrat Party has run Chicago

for almost a century. Hence any "neglect and disinvestment" came on his own party's watch. Furthermore, neither Johnson nor the Illinois Black Caucus had any announcements relating to reparations checks for the families of Union soldiers who died fighting to end slavery.



Mayor "Let's go Brandon" Johnson.

## MORE CRIME, LESS JUSTICE

### Chicago PD goes woke with new General Order

*Order demands officers do everything possible not to take 'youths' aged 14-24 into custody*

*Chicago (GSL)* - On December 29th, the Chicago Police Department issued a new General Order titled, "Interactions with Youth and Children."

It gives general guidance that "alternatives to arrest while connecting at-risks (sic) youths and children to diversion services as part of an integrated approach for community safety."

Even more shockingly, it urges officers not to take "youths" - those aged 14 to 24-years-of-age - and children "into secure custody unless no other effective alternatives exist."

In other words, don't arrest those who are driving the violent crime in Chicago. You can read it yourself at the GSL website.

*Getting the government they voted for... good and hard*

## Delivery driver shot on Chicago's West Side; union says drivers are quitting over safety worries

*Chicago (CBS)* -- A delivery driver was shot in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood Wednesday night, as we track an increase in violence targeting rideshare and delivery drivers across Chicago.



We are told the driver was doing OK late Thursday and was expected to recover. But with more and more such incidents, the or-

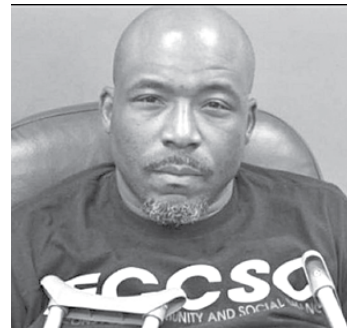
ganization that represents delivery drivers says people are quitting.

Chicago Police said the 38-year-old driver was dropping off food just after 8:30 p.m., in the 4200 block of West Hirsch Street, when he was approached by three men.

One of the offenders fired shots as he was getting into his car, grazing his back.

He drove himself to West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park.

"I throw my hands up in the air. I'm in disgust." And I'm like, it's another day, it's another driver," said Lenny Sanchez, who leads the Illinois Chapter of the Independent Drivers Guild. "What we believe is going on is that we we're being targeted."



Greg Sherman.

## 10-year sentence for 'anti-violence' worker who butt-shot himself

*Chicago (CWB Chicago)* — A 19-time convicted felon working as an anti-violence professional who shot himself in the butt inside a Bucktown gas station has been handed a ten-year prison sentence for possessing the firearm that wounded him.

Gregory Sherman, 45, served as his own attorney at times but was ultimately convicted of Class X armed habitual criminal during a jury trial this summer, according to court records. Following a series of post-trial motions, Judge Mary Brosnahan sentenced him this month.

## C-store to close after robber kills clerk

*Chicago (GSL)* - *CBS Chicago* reported on the robbery at the Half Moon Convenience store in the Grand Crossing neighborhood. A robber shot and killed the clerk, a policeman and father of three who emigrated from Jordan.

The owner of the store called the man his "brother" that he's known for three decades told *CBS Chicago* that it just wasn't worth it to keep the store open.

No arrests have been made.



## Chicago Public Schools 'Safe Passage' & 'Anti-violence' worker gets 4-year sentence for selling drugs, guns

*Chicago (CWB Chicago)* — Miguel Morales, a convicted murderer, Safe Passage worker, and gang intervention worker, has been sentenced to four years in prison for selling cocaine and a gun to an undercover Chicago cop during a long-term police investigation.



Morales, 50, pleaded guilty to manufacture-delivery of cocaine and selling a firearm without a valid Firearm Owner's ID card before Judge Carol Howard, according to court records. She handed him four years on the drug charge and a concurrent one-year sentence for the gun count.

Police were conducting a "complex" narcotics investigation on the South Side in late 2022 when Morales sold the undercover officer 30 grams of cocaine for \$1,200 before reporting for his shift as a Safe Passage worker, prosecutors alleged.



## JOIN US! Chicagoland GSL meeting

Last Sunday of the Month.  
Dinner & conversation at 4:30ish.  
Meeting program at 5:30.

Park Forest  
American Legion Post  
Chicago Heights, IL

NEXT MEETING:  
**Sun., Jan. 28th**



**Wed., Feb. 14th**

>> Meeting program at 6pm <<

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GSL, GSL Defense Training and the DeWitt County Sportsman's Club partner to offer

## FREE gun safety training for Education Professionals

June 22 & 23 at the DeWitt Co. Sportsman's Club

GSL Defense Training is offering a FREE 16-hour, ISP-approved Illinois Concealed Carry Class (Essential Carry) to faculty and staff of public and private schools in Illinois. This offer is available for everyone from the superintendent to educators to support staff. If you work for any school (even daycares) in any capacity, you're eligible. This is a one-time offer, and subject to availability.

**This class is for educators - especially those who aren't sure about guns or who are maybe afraid of guns or certainly anxious around guns.**



Our instructor team will patiently work with you to make you an expert at gun safety. We'll help ease your concerns and anxieties concerning guns. Should you choose to become a gun owner afterwards, we'll empower you with the knowledge, skills and abilities to use that firearm ethically and legally in self-defense.

### Why do we do this?

In short, to share our passion empowering good people and to potentially help them avoid an attack or to deescalate a confrontation. And if all that fails, for students to use a firearm as a tool of last resort to save innocent life. After all, someday the life they save may not only be theirs, it may be ours.

After successfully completing this class, you'll be an expert at making a gun safe should you or one of your kids or students encounter a gun.

You'll understand the legal, moral and ethical considerations about using force, and deadly force.



See more photos, course description and course evaluations from past students at the [GSLDefenseTraining.com](http://GSLDefenseTraining.com) website to learn more about our course and our instructors.



**Loaner guns and gear available at NO CHARGE.** Don't have a gun? No problem. We'll have plenty of loaners.

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**Participants will need to bring 250 rounds of either 9mm or .38 Special practice ammunition.** Don't have a FOID card? Class sponsors will have limited quantities of ammo available for roughly our replacement cost (about \$90 to \$180 depending on caliber).

Whether you're a new gun owner or an experienced shooter, GSL Defense Training can help. We help build the skills and mindset to use a

handgun safely and effectively. We want you to stay safe!

Our 18-plus expert, extensively-trained instructors, both male and female, bring diverse backgrounds and experiences to your benefit. They'll give you a solid foundation so that you can safely and confidently use your firearm for recreation or to defend yourself and your family.

With practiced lawyers presenting lethal force discussions, you can get answers to your legal questions and clarification of the laws on the use of deadly force. Not only that, but GSL Defense Training is also one of the few companies that excels at working with people with disabilities.



Over the past 20+ years, we've trained well over 4000 people to shoot and carry firearms safely and efficiently. Our classes are for anyone who wants to feel safe at home or out in public. Ordinarily, tuition for this class is \$180 per person.

Nervous about attending by yourself? You can bring a friend or family member to the class, but they'll have to pay the normal tuition, subject to space limitations. School staffers get priority.

For more information or to register, visit: [GSLDefenseTraining.com](http://GSLDefenseTraining.com).

*Again, our thanks to Guns Save Life and DeWitt Co. Sportsman's Club for teaming up with us to help make this possible.*

## Wreaths across America update

Springfield, IL (GSL) - GSL members joined other volunteers at Camp Butler National Cemetery on December 16th as part of Wreaths Across America. Each year, volunteers place Christmas wreaths on the headstones of our fallen veterans at National Cemeteries. Pastor Steve Holden serves on the team that organizes the event each year at Camp Butler and he shared the final numbers with us.

"This year we placed over 13,000," Pastor Steve Holden told us. That's just at Camp Butler alone. Wreaths Across America does many hundreds of thousands across the nation. Locally we had rain and some sleet, but as Pastor Holden says, "it's a small price to pay for the sacrifice our fallen paid for our liberty."



Try that in a small town...

### ' Hamas terrorists' play in downtown Chicago

Chicago (GSL) - Imagine spending the day with your family in downtown Chicago shopping and you run into these clowns? Why it's reason number 113,032 to make you glad you brought your carry gun.



## Join Guns Save Life today.



Membership application on back page.

# 30 Years of Guns Save Life

by John Naese

As we begin 2024, Guns Save Life has become a powerhouse gun rights organization, with members statewide and nationally, and 11 monthly meetings in various parts of Illinois. But it didn't start this way. As the mighty oak tree grows from a tiny acorn, so it was with GSL.

This month we'll discuss the early years of GSL and next month we'll detail what's happened more recently.

## The early years.

In 1994, I got a postcard from the ISRA, inviting all members in Champaign County to meet on a certain date in Rantoul. The ISRA wanted to start "grassroots committees" in each county, allowing members to get off the couch to make a difference through grassroots activism. We would be the "boots on the ground" volunteerism.

Seven of us showed up for that meeting. Frank Allen, an ISRA director, showed up and made the pitch for us to form a grassroots committee. When nobody volunteered to lead it, I raised my hand. Thus I became the first Chairman of the "Champaign County Grassroots Committee of the Illinois State Rifle Association". (Say that three times fast; we later changed the name which was a good thing.)

The first thing our committee did was get a printout from ISRA of all the members in Champaign County. Of the 88 names, barely half were still alive. We had our start though.

We started holding monthly meetings, discussing the news of the day and brainstorming ideas for activism on behalf of gun rights. Like now, morale among gun owners was down because of the national "assault weapons ban." We learned that we could grow attendance with good speakers and good meetings. We also instituted "tech time" where we would bring and talk about guns, platforms or shooting disciplines. And we started a newsletter.

## What did we do?

The grassroots committee was organized to give people opportunities to DO something. And we did. For example, when a local congressman voted against the "Assault Weapons Ban," his political opponent planned on a press conference and public protest at his office. We decided to crash the party.

With three days notice, we created signs and turned out about 100 pro-gun folks to offer our support for the Congressman. We marched on the public sidewalk and when the organizer showed up, she saw the crowd and just kept driving. She didn't even speak at her own press conference. We chalked that up to a big win for the good guys. And Tom Ewing won re-election.

While the grassroots committees were envisioned as the political Minutemen, the idea didn't really take root in most of the state. Of dozens of grassroots committees that were initially formed in various counties, only a handful remained after a few years. But those that did remain grew strong.

Also unfortunately, the ISRA started getting cold feet as we became more active and aggressive. We published newsletters without their editorial control. They were afraid we might go off the reservation, and as it turns out, we did. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

I chaired the committee for the first few

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years, and with the help of a Steering Committee, set the agenda and published the newsletter. Richard Klein took over from me and then Roger Dorsett became our leader. And we grew.



Richard Klein with the "father" of the Sangamon County group, Jim Butler.

We crashed gun buybacks repeatedly. We protested where we could make a difference. We even went to Springfield.



Then in 2000, the "Million Moms" was going to have a big protest in Champaign. So what did we do? We had a mole on the inside, so we turned out our people in the public park where the "moms" planned their big rally, taking the proverbial high ground before they could arrive. We rented the mobile sound stage from the Park District even though we had no intention of using it to keep it from the other side. Then we confronted them head-on. We called it "Freedom and the Flag meet the pink balloons."

Chalk up another one for the good guys.

## Fanny Pack Carry.

We pioneered "fanny pack carry" in Illinois about this time, calling it "Six Seconds to Safety." While Illinois law said that carrying unloaded guns, encased by those with FOID cards was legal, no shortage of police chiefs and prosecutors threatened arrest. We walked the walk despite those threats.

And for those few who got arrested, we didn't abandon them. We even joined with John Birch's Concealed Carry, Inc. to support Roderick Pritchett at his Cook County trial for carrying a gun (legally) in Chicago, even though it looked hopeless. Ultimately, he was acquitted.



## Burmas!

We also started our "Burma-style" highway sign program. Our first Burma set, along I-74 east of Urbana, set the tone for our style of activist thinking. It read, GUN CONTROL / IS RACE CONTROL / NOT CRIME CONTROL / AND IT'S UNAMERICAN.

That earned us front-page coverage in the local newspaper. I thought this was a great example of grassroots in action, so I got a dozen copies of that paper, and handed them out at the ISRA Board of Directors meeting that night. The ISRA board, far from being impressed, was utterly aghast! What do you mean doing this without our approval? We would never have approved that message; it's way too controversial.

It wasn't long after that when the Champaign County Grassroots Committee declared independence, and changed it's name to the Champaign County Rifle Association. We grew rapidly and put our heads together for a name that wasn't regionally limited, and a name that made a statement too. We settled on Guns Save Life. That became our tagline for our signs too. That decision also proved the start of our Guns Save Life website which has stirred the pooh for years, quite successfully at that.

And we continued to expand the Burma sign program to encompass dozens of sign sets seen a half-million times each day.



We showed up at parades to spread the pro-gun rights point of view, grabbing up headline news in dead-tree publications and TV stories on air. In short, to the anti-gun left, we were everywhere.



## IGOLD becomes big

Just because we separated from ISRA did not mean that we couldn't work together for mutual goals. One of our board members came up with the idea of a Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day or IGOLD. Once a year effort to get people to Springfield to lobby our pro-gun position. GSL actively promoted it and within a couple of years, thousands turned out. At its height, IGOLD mobilized over ten thousand of gun owners - during a snowstorm! Shortly after that, Illinois passed our concealed carry law after a federal court forced their hand.



## International Exposure

No, I'm not kidding. An actual real, honest to goodness writer and videographer (not a big pro-gunner, but not the usual anti-gun hack) did a video story on our activism and Burma Shave signs. He videoed a GSL meeting in Rantoul, where we had each table come together and write down ideas for new Burma



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slogans, and then we shared them with the meeting. There was lots of laughter and fun, and a segment of that made it into his video story, which was published nationwide in *The Atlantic* and was shown overseas on the *BBC* in Great Britain. (It's on our website under the "About" link...)



Shortly after that, *Russia Today* sent a film crew from Moscow to do a story on the unique group from the middle of America that celebrates America's gun culture.

We continued to hit more gun buybacks and we aggressively advocated for gun rights. We supported youth shooting camps and events at every turn.

Guns Save Life also brought Project Appleseed to Illinois, holding the (then) second largest event in that organization's history at Darnall's in Bloomington.



When our members were introduced to the Honor Flight organization flying veterans out to Washington, they reacted generously.



Over and over, Guns Save Life has showed ourselves as doers, not just talkers.

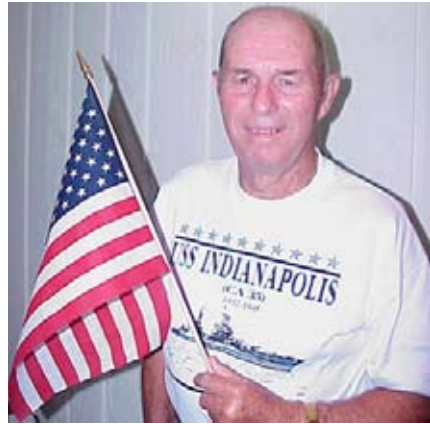
Eventually, more and more people liked what they saw in our *GunNews* and wanted some of that in their hometowns. Pretty soon we started launching satellite meetings to bring the fun and excitement of GSL meetings to other regions of the state.



### Exceptional Guest Speakers

One of the big draws at a GSL meeting is hearing the main speaker, because we try to always find someone worth hearing.

Tony Bilek, a Bataan Death March survivor spoke a year or two before his death.



We brought Earl Riggins, one of the few survivors of the sinking of the USS Indianapolis in World War II.

We also welcomed Charlie Dukes, who was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and finished World War II in German, then Soviet, POW camps.

Other times, history comes to life with re-actors.



We featured one of the Sentinels from the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery to speak. Along with one of the Americans held hostage in Iran at the end of Jimmy Carter's term as President.

We also have had famous gun guys and gals. We've had championship shooters like Tiffani Piper and exhibition shooters like Tom Knapp. Badlands Bill Oglesby, gunmaker and Cowboy Action shooter, and Tom Kilhoffer, world class revolver gunsmith and revolver shooter. At one of our meetings once, using dummy rounds, Kilhoffer demonstrated firing 12 shots from a revolver in as little time as it would take a normal human to fire 12 rounds from one magazine in a semiauto. The reload, with moon clips, was almost too fast to follow with the naked eye.

Meanwhile Bill Oglesby fires all five rounds in his revolver in what sounds like a single shot.

Politicians, both incumbents and challengers, are frequent guests at our meetings, and even though we are officially non-political (we don't endorse candidates or tell you who to vote for) they are allowed time to make their pitch and take questions from the audience.

One guy, campaigning for Judge, gave a dull presentation, careful to avoid issues that might appear in front of him. Earlier he mentioned he was a translator in Vietnam. One of the audience asked if he had ever been on any helicopter rides. The next twenty minutes had everyone perked up and sitting on the edge of their chairs. It proved a priceless impromptu presentation that few

of those present will ever forget.



Tech Time speakers usually bring fun toys for show and tell. We've seen collections of Garands, Mausers, shotguns, revolvers, semiautos, and even derringers. Sometimes Tech Time is even not about guns.

We don't just want people to come to our meetings, we want them to learn things, make friends and see that there are no shortage of great people out there that embrace America's gun culture. We encourage people to enjoy the shooting opportunities that exist.

GSL has continued to grow steadily, both in dues-paying membership and in meeting attendance.

Our newspaper, *GunNews*, has grown from a circulation of scores to tens of thousands today, enjoyed by both our members and by those who pick up free copies at stores and shops that put them out there to spread the word.

We hope you will continue to join us, on our website, in our monthly journal, and at our meetings all over Illinois. Make some new

friends, enjoy the camaraderie of old friends, and do something fun that will help preserve the rights that you grew up with.



Come out to a GSL event and join with us. A list of dates and locations is located in the yellow box on the front page. Join us if you like spending your time and energy with people who do more than just talk. At the same time we know how to have fun. And we love to make lemonade out of lemons.


Join our family if you haven't already. You'll be glad you did.



**Coming Next month: The last ten years...**

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## Bailey: We can still make a difference

Darren Bailey, a man who has spent as much time running against the establishment Republicans as he has against Democrats, spoke in Charleston. He came following his announcements at the first of the year that "I will not comply" with Governor Pritzker's gun registration scheme.



He noted that less than half

of the normal people in our state came out and voted in 2022, in part because a lot of them didn't vote think their votes really mattered. Even worse, when we do elect good people, too often they don't stand up and fight back, but instead the join the "go along to get along" caucus and do nothing.

Or worse yet, they tell voters they are strongly pro-gun and then sell us out. Such as in the case of Congressman Mike Bost. Bost talks a good game on guns at home but in Washington, he advocates for gun control measures. And when the votes weren't there to pass gun control schemes, Bost

joined disgraced Rep. Adam Kinzinger to call on the ATF to ban bump stocks through improper administrative rule-making.

2024's elections can be a catalyst for change. Your vote surely does count, particularly in local races like school boards, judges, state's attorneys, sheriffs and town councils. Those votes also count and then some for county and state officials. Sure, Illinois probably won't be voting red for President anytime soon, but Bailey urged everyone to make sure those normal people in their circle of friends gets out and votes. Those votes do count!

*What has Mike Bost done to throw sand in the gears of Pritzker's gun control scheme?*

## Mike Bost claims 'no one's stronger' on guns at home but he supports gun control in Washington, DC

(GSL) - Talk is cheap among so many politicians today. At election time they talk the talk about their support of issues their base cares about. Like Adam Kinzinger they talk tough about their support for things like gun rights. They make all sorts of empty promises. Then, after the election, their "leadership" on things like guns evaporates faster than a Freon spill in the summer sun.



Enter Mike Bost. In recent days he's repeated his bromide that "When it comes to guns, no one's a stronger supporter than Mike Bost."

Darren Bailey took Mike Bost up on his "no one's stronger on guns" challenge, urging Bost to announce that he would not comply with Pritzker's gun registry.

Mike Bost didn't say a peep.

Bailey risked a lot to boldly proclaim "I will not comply." What has Mike Bost done to throw sand in the gears of Pritzker's gun control scheme? Not a thing. So much for "fighting."

As if that wasn't bad enough, when Mr. "No

one's stronger on guns" gets to Washington, he actually *supports* gun control schemes.



For instance, Bost advocated for a ban on bump stocks. And when that didn't have the votes to pass the House, he joined the disgraced Adam Kinzinger in calling for ATF to ban the accessories through rule-making. Thanks Mike.

Mike Bost also supports ending private guns sales (he calls it "universal background checks"). That would effectively create a national gun registration database. We all know that gun confiscation follows gun registration.

Bost's campaign website doesn't show him fighting for Southern Illinois but instead showcasing endorsements from people outside of the district who really don't matter a hill of beans to the families of Southern Illinois.

At Guns Save Life, we can't endorse candidates due to tax code regulations, but we can educate voters. In this primary race between Darren Bailey and Mike Bost, there's a pretty big difference between the two when it comes to gun rights.



*Please keep all of the nation's prohibitionist Karens in your thoughts at this difficult time.*

## Latest NSSF gun production figures are terrible news for the gun control industry

(Shooting News Weekly) - We regret to inform the employees and devotees of America's billionaire-financed Civilian Disarmament Industrial Complex that we have some difficult news for them this morning. Our friends at the National Shooting Sports Foundation have been busy calculating, toting, cyphering, and compiling reams of data and have just announced their most current firearms production numbers.

All we can tell people like the always-demanding Moms, Giffords' oh-so-courageous advocates and the hoplophobic harridans at the Brady Campaign is...read 'em and weep:

- The estimated total number of firearms in civilian possession from 1990-2021 is **473.2 million**, according to data in reports such as ATF Firearms Commerce in the United States, ATF Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Reports and Congressional Research Service and including the collective ATF Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Report (AFMER) reports up to the 2021 edition.
- Total domestic firearm production reported in the 2021 AFMER was 12,521,614 – an increase of 28.6 percent over 2020 reported figures.
- Data indicates that **28,144,000 Modern Sporting Rifles (MSRs) are in circulation since 1990.**
- MSR production increased 32 percent from 2020 to 2021.** This increased the estimated amount of MSRs produced (since 1990) by 15 percent from 24.4 million to 28.1 million.
- In 2021, **21,037,810 total firearms were made available for the U.S. market**, which includes firearms that were domestically produced plus those imported, minus exported firearms. Of those, 12,799,067 were handguns, 4,832,198 were rifles and 3,406,545 were shotguns.
- An interim **2022 estimate showed a total of 11,217,388 total firearms were domestically produced.** Of those 6,148,877 were pistols,

830,800 were revolvers, 3,575,322 were rifles and 662,389 were shotguns. Those are interim reports and will be updated when complete reports are available from the ATF.

- Firearm and ammunition manufacturing accounted for over 12,400 employees producing over \$5.6 billion in goods shipped in 2021.
- From **1990 to 2021, 254,753,372 firearms** have been made available to the U.S. market.

Oh dear. We're now inching up on half a billion civilian-owned firearms. That's officially-speaking, of course... we'd bet dollars to donuts that the actual number is already well above the 500 million mark.

As the NSSF said . . .

*This report demonstrates the strength and durability of the U.S. firearm manufacturing sector and the U.S. firearm sales markets," said Joe Bartozzi, NSSF's President and CEO. "The data continues to show that the Modern Sporting Rifle is the most popular centerfire rifle sold in America today with over 28.1 million in circulation and being used for lawful purposes every day. The continued popularity of handguns demonstrates a strong interest by Americans to protect themselves and their homes, and to participate in the recreational shooting sports.*

Please keep all of the nation's prohibitionist Karens in your thoughts at this difficult, trying time. Thank you.



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# Armed American

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## Pro wrestler carjacked, shot in Philly, shoots back

Philadelphia, PA (National Wrestling Alliance) - National Wrestling Alliance (NWA) star and cancer survivor Blk Jeez, legal name Darnell Kittrell, survived an attempted carjacking on Thurs., January 11, at approximately 7 p.m. in Philadelphia. Kittrell, who was in his vehicle, was approached by four masked men. In the course of the incident, one of the assailants shot Kittrell in the hip, resulting in a non-life-threatening injury.



Darnell Kittrell, aka Blk Jeez.

Kittrell, who possesses a permit to carry a gun, used his legally registered firearm to defend himself and returned fire. The suspects fled the scene, and investigators are currently reviewing surveillance footage for leads. Kittrell was taken to a local hospital and is recovering.

## Scooter rider shoots robber after getting stabbed

Seattle, WA (KOMO) — A 37-year-old man in possession of multiple knives was arrested Tuesday night after allegedly stabbing a man and robbing him off his scooter in downtown Seattle. The victim reportedly shot at the suspect multiple times after being robbed.

## Biological dad shoots step-dad after daughter reports sex abuse

Houston (Breitbart) - A Houston, Texas, father shot his daughter's stepfather three times Friday around 8:30 p.m. after the stepfather was accused of sexually assaulting the daughter.

Click2Houston reported the girl wrote her mother a note in which she indicated her 30-year-old stepfather had allegedly sexually assaulted her.

The father came to the mother's house to ascertain what was happening, at which time "the daughter and the mother then stepped outside." Shots rang out as the two stood outside. The father shot the stepfather three times.

KHOU noted the father shot the stepfather "once in the stomach and twice in the legs."

[Editor: If dear old dad was aiming for the 'nads, he needs to practice his marksmanship.]



## Old man brings stolen chainsaw to a gunfight

South Bend, IN (ABC57) - A fatal shooting on South Bend's Beale Street in December was deemed a justifiable homicide by investigators, according to the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office.

Police were called to a home in the 1100 block of Beale Street on December 14 for a report of a shooting. When they arrived, they found 68-year-old Richard Davis suffering from a gunshot wound. He later died at the hospital.

According to the investigation, police were called to the scene by the homeowner, who admitted to shooting Davis once. The homeowner said he and his wife arrived home that night and were about to enter their house when their security alarm went off.

As he approached the back fence of his yard, the homeowner reported seeing Davis near the back gate with a chainsaw. Davis allegedly brandished that chainsaw and, fearing he'd be hurt or killed, the homeowner shot Davis once, according to police reports.



## Kid shoots murdering home invader in head while shielding women behind him

Northumberland County, PA (GSL) - Raise lions, not sheep. It is with great pride we report that someone raised a lion in Northumberland County north of Hershey, PA.

Cops there continue to investigate a double-homicide. Reports say two women and a juvenile fled their residence after a fight with 47-year-old Tracey Adams.

They fled to 31-year-old Brandi Hauck's nearby home for safety, but Mr. Adams came after them.

At the residence, Adams demanded entry. Hauck refused and he shot through the door, striking Hauck in the head, killing her. He then forced entry. (Hint: Don't be looking through a peephole in your door when some lunatic is outside of it!)

A juvenile, age unpublished, accessed a firearm then shielded the two women behind him. When Adams approached once inside, the juvenile shot and killed Mr. Adams with at least one round to the head.



## GO FIGURE: Gun control advocates strangely silent as 'Gun Violence Archive' data shows reduction in violent crime while 'permitless' carry expanded

(CCRKBA) - Data posted at the Gun Violence Archive website shows 2023 produced fewer homicides, suicides, and gun-related injuries than in 2022, which indicates the expansion of permitless carry laws, allowing more people to carry firearms for personal protection, did not result in more bloodshed as anti-gunners predicted.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms noted that GVA data traditionally drives the narrative from the gun prohibition lobby and its allies in the establishment media. The GVA is typically the first, if not only source quoted in news reports when the subject is related to violent crime.

"So far this year," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "there has been an odd silence from anti-gunners who were drowning us with 'Chicken Little' predictions of mass

mayhem now that we've got more states with permitless carry. But the data from their favorite source doesn't support those claims."



According to the GVA data, 2023 produced fewer homicides (18,906) than in 2022 (20,396) and fewer suicides last year (24,090) than the year before (27,038). The overall numbers reflect the reductions: 42,996 people died as a result of so-called "gun violence" in 2023, down from the 47,434 victims listed by the GVA for 2022.

"Lo-and-behold," Gottlieb observed, "the numbers don't support the narrative. You can bet if they did, the gun ban crowd would be crowing, but instead it appears they may be eating crow. Just last week, a study by the Ohio Attorney General's office shows how gun-related crime actually declined in six cities during the year following enactment of a permitless carry law in the Buckeye State.

"Tens of millions of honest citizens, exercising their constitutional right to keep and bear arms, have not been running amok, whether they live in permitless carry states or where a carry license is still required," Gottlieb added. "If the data shows us anything at all, it proves anti-gunners have been wrong about licensed concealed carry and constitutional carry. Maybe we should ask what else are they wrong about?"

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# NRA

## Where's the NRA?

by John Boch

I get the "Where's the NRA?" question now and then. It seems my peer at the Illinois State Rifle Association gets the same question. Our answers, however, remain starkly different.

ISRA's Rich Pearson wrote this in a January 12th email "update":

*Lots of folks seem to think that we receive support from the NRA and there has been a lot of misinformation about their involvement in the legislative process.*

*The NRA and ISRA are completely separate organizations. They do not support the ISRA financially or with other resources. As for the fight against the firearms ban, the NRA lobbyist did testify at a subject matter hearing in December 2022 along with several other groups including the ISRA. They did not testify at any hearings on the legislation itself during the time it was making its way through the Capitol in Springfield, nor did they testify at any of the public JCAR hearings in November 2023. [Emphasis original.]*

Nothing like throwing the NRA under the bus with lies, half-truths and well, you know the rest. The ISRA might be a "separate" organization, but it remains the NRA's official state-level association.

The NRA doesn't support ISRA? So when ISRA asks NRA to solicit its NRA members in Illinois to join the ISRA every year, that's not "support"? What's more, NRA does that at its own expense.

Hey ISRA, if you think being tied to the NRA is such a ball and chain, please resign your state affiliate status. Guns Save Life will be proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the NRA and its Institute for Legislative Action instead of throwing them under the bus. The NRA isn't perfect, but then again we don't walk on water either.

Did the NRA testify at hearings that served no purpose but to rubber stamp gun control legislation? Nope. Neither did GSL. Like most, I don't urinate into a hurricane force wind to see if I can somehow part the wind like Moses parted the Red Sea.

Yes the NRA has been scarce in Springfield of late. During COVID, lobbyists couldn't get into the capitol complex and the pols were laying low in their hotel rooms when not "working" during the day. Why show up if you can't work? Just to say you were there? That's just symbolism over substance.

And speaking of "being there," at least the NRA wasn't fighting for a "seat at the table" in negotiating the Protect Illinois Communities Act like ISRA was when they gave us the "FOID Modernization Act" which ended

private gun sales. How many lobbyists did it take for ISRA to give us FOID Modernization Act? Five? Seven?

What's more, after they finished "negotiating" the bill, the ISRA's lobbyists then testified as NEUTRAL on the bill! Imagine taking a "neutral" position as a gun rights org on a bill that ends private gun sales!

When the NRA-ILA's pros gave me a crash course in lobbying years ago, they made me well-aware of a golden rule: Don't help the other side make a bad bill better. Terrible bills make for easier court challenges and outright defeat in close floor votes.

Remembering back, how many lobbyists did it take when Pearson's ISRA negotiated our Red Flag law under Gov. Rauner? At least one ISRA lobbyist was present at the bill signing, and three if the Rowses worked as ISRA lobbyists at the time. Was ISRA proud of their work to give us Red Flags too?

You want to know who wasn't there? The NRA and GSL.

### The reality?

The candid reality is that the NRA is strapped for cash. The NRA-ILA isn't quite as strapped, but budgets are tight. That's why the NRA-ILA isn't more active with more litigation. Each of those lawsuits costs six figures, easy. Hopefully in the coming months that will change with Wayne LaPierre's departure along with his cronies in leadership.

If Letitia James wins her civil corruption trial against LaPierre and his buddies, look for big changes in NRA's management. There may be other changes too, including state affiliates. Time will tell.

Hopefully the NRA will become better able to direct resources towards gun rights advocacy, lobbying and litigation and less towards gold-plated lawyers defending WLP.

As for lobbying and the scarcity of NRA and GSL in Springfield? What purpose does it serve to send lobbyists to Springfield when the capitol building is closed to all but members and staff? Or to appear in front of committees where minds are already made up? You can have a whole army of paid lobbyists in Springfield, but if you don't have the votes to back them up, is that the best use of your time and resources? Just to say you're there?

Great, you're there. Harmon, Pritzker and Welch don't care. You're barely a pothole on the way to work for them.

Instead of throwing the NRA under the bus, let's work to win this fight no matter where it takes us.

The law is not a moral compass.

The people who hid Anne Frank were breaking the law.

The people who killed her were following it.



## MAIL CALL



### 'No Cash Bail' law yields violent habitual bad guy shot deader than an organ donor

Recently, we had an *incident* in our quiet little hamlet of Leland Grove, IL. It seems our neighbor just three doors away arrived home to find his house burglarized. Leland Grove Police and the Sheriff's K-9 unit responded and located the intruder sleeping in the homeowner's bed. After fighting with the police, he was eventually subdued and taken into custody.

I don't have many facts about this incident, but it doesn't require much imagination to see how something like this could go sideways in a hurry. Since the suspect was willing to fight with the police who were armed, it tells me this wasn't the dude's first rodeo, and that he had no fear of arrest or

punishment.

I can't say how I might have reacted in this situation. I may have pissed my pants and ran away. However, I do know I would have done so with a gun in my hand and I would not have found myself left to the tender mercies of a career criminal. I suspect most thugs would much prefer facing down a full SWAT team rather than one armed and terrified homeowner.

And that brings me to the sad case of Terrance Harris. *Channel 20 News* reports that Mr. Harris was arrested 12 times in the last 6 months and his impressive résumé lists numerous crimes against people and property.

Most recently, Mr. Harris was arrested for burglarizing Lanphier High School on November 7th. He was released the following day and rearrested 4 days later for doing it again. *D'oh!* In Illinois retail theft, burglary, and trespassing are no longer "detainable offenses", thanks to Governor Nitwit's Pretrial Fairness Act.

However, I'm certain we're all aware justice is sometimes delivered outside of the walls of a courtroom. Last Friday, Mr. Harris was found shot deader than an organ donor lying in the roadway near Delaney's Tavern. Case closed.

Gary Hetherington  
Springfield, Illinois

### GunNews Magazine

The monthly journal of  
Guns Save Life

John Naese, Editor Emeritus  
johnnaese1@comcast.net

John Boch, Editor Emeritus  
jboch@gunssavelife.com

Letters, including complaints or commendations, to the Editor are welcome. Please, limit your letter to 200 words. We reserve the right to edit or refuse publication of any submission. Anonymous letters are discouraged. Guest columns of 400 words are also welcome on timely issues, particularly those related to firearms, self-defense or similar topics. Letters and guest columns may be sent electronically to: [jboch@gunssavelife.com](mailto:jboch@gunssavelife.com).

Or you can mail your letter to: Guns Save Life, PO Box 51, Savoy, Illinois 61874



Our thanks goes out to Oleg Volk for his continued permission to use his creative work to help us in our gun rights advocacy work. You can see more of them at his websites:

[a-human-right.com](http://a-human-right.com)  
[blog.olegvolk.net](http://blog.olegvolk.net)





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# HOW TO MAXIMIZE your activism's effectiveness

NRA-ILA Frontlines Grassroots Field Coordinator Kelvin Curtis has spoken multiple times at our GSL meetings on how to increase your effectiveness as an activist. After all, we all only have some much time and energy. Maximizing one's effectiveness, through more efficient individual actions or leveraging our actions to reach more people help us achieve a greater impact.

What can we do as individuals? You can talk with your friends, neighbors and co-workers. That's a form of one-on-one advocacy.

Alternatively, you can call, write or meet with your local legislators. Constituent contacts make a real impact upon legislators. In fact, a constituent contact is easily as effective as a lobbyist contact. And obviously, your goal is to influence their votes to achieve great results for your efforts.

Try to meet with them when they are in their local offices. Dress nicely, have some talking points in mind, use clear and concise wording and be polite. Be honest and admit if you don't know the answer to a question. Also, make your point personal instead of relying solely on stock talking points.

Respect their time and consider a *short* "leave behind" summary of your points for the politician to reference later. Short as in a few lines, not a few pages.

If appropriate, offer yourself as a subject matter expert on guns for them to lean on if they have questions down the road.



Thank the politician for their time and consider sending a short follow-up letter revisiting one or two of your main points (like the "leave behind") and thank them again for meeting with you.

Want to make a bigger, better impression on them? Offer to run petitions for them ahead of the next election. Offer to march with them in a couple of parades. Pols always like to

have lots of supporters marching with their parade entries; it creates the perception of popularity.

Or volunteer to help with their campaigns in other ways - making calls, knocking on doors, etc. But don't volunteer and fail to follow through!



NRA-ILA's Kelvin Curtis.

To influence lots of everyday people in a single act, you can submit short letters to your local newspaper. *[Or submit your writing to Guns Save Life for publication!]*

Smaller newspapers often eager to publish letters to the editor. Larger newspapers require better writing, but it can be done.

For those just starting out, one great way to reach more people and improve your writing skills is through social media posts. Keep them short and sweet for today's "Twitter"-like short-attention spans. "Too long; didn't read" is a real thing, folks.

Regardless of the avenue you chose, be polite, professional and courteous. Speak or write clearly and concisely. Use some of those strategies from the Guns Save Life posted story entitled, "**Words Have Meaning**" on the gunssavelife.com website.

Don't be rude, threatening, self-righteous, overbearing, or make exaggerated or untrue claims. Don't claim power you don't have. Passionate is good. Lunatic? Not so much.

Remember, even though you may not have formal training in lobbying, as a constituent, you have a very influential voice with your State Representative or Senator.

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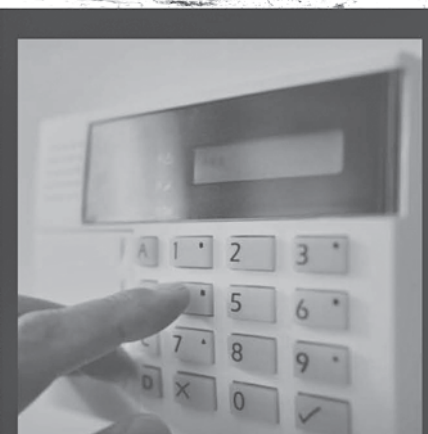
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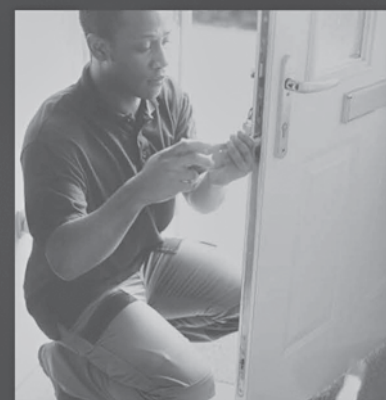
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## PROTECTING THEIR FAMILIES: Law-abiding Americans reject Biden's border invasion & imploding cities by buying guns

(GSL) - Americans know and understand that the only thing that stops bad people with evil in their hearts is a good guy (or gal) with a gun. Clearly, wise and prudent Americans recognize how our nation remains in big trouble. As such, these wise and prudent people have voted with their wallets to buy guns.

Data from the US Department of Justice shows the FBI performed over 29 million FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System checks performed, the fourth highest in the past twenty-four years. While on one hand, not all of those checks represent firearm purchases, on the other hand many states don't require a separate NICS check to purchase a firearm. Instead, presenting a valid concealed carry license is all that's needed.



People see the breakdown of public safety and law and order in our nation. We have an invasion of largely military-age males pouring over our southern border. Meanwhile life in many of our big cities resembles dystopian scenes from violent video games like "Grand Theft Auto."

Illinois' failed criminal justice reforms including the so-called "SAFE-T Act" releases armed robbers, armed carjackers and road ragers who shoot at other drivers without posting a nickel of bail. Even those arrested on murder and attempted murder charges are frequently released with an ankle bracelet and a notice to appear.



People have watched as big city mayors defunded the police - including Lori Lightfoot who slashed Chicago PD's budget by \$80M. Now people learn that over half of the highest priority 911 calls in Chicago don't have police available to respond.

Violent crime is everywhere and people are rightfully scared for their safety. When cops are minutes away, assuming that 911 answers at all, wise and prudent families are turning to the great equalizer: firearms.

Lawful firearm possession is the only deterrent against criminals as soft-on-crime political leaders of our state shred common-sense law and order for "woke" chaos.

Remember this famous quote from Robert Heinlein: "An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good when one may have to back up his acts with his life."



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# SHOOTING NEWS Weekly

## New national gun blog featuring Mr. Boch as writer: *Shooting News Weekly*

by John Boch  
(GSL) - *Shooting News Weekly* debuted last Thursday as a new firearms blog. It's a new venture by the *Outdoor Wire Network*. They're launching this new blog with former long-time *The Truth About Guns* editor Dan Zimmerman at the helm.

*Shooting News Weekly* remains a new venture and is just a baby at this point. We'll see what its tone and tenor will become. Since the *Bruen* decision came out in the summer of 2022, it's been a very busy time for bloggers and gun rights activists. Very busy indeed.

The *SNW* has another name besides Zimmerman that you may recognize: John Boch. I accepted an invitation to join the crew at *SNW* on a part-time basis, generating content on a wide range of topics ranging from news analysis and commentary to reviews to social commentary. Oh yeah, and gun rights activism.

It's be another iron in the fire for me in addition to my work in Illinois with *Guns Save Life*.

As a kid, I have fond memories reading magazines like the NRA's *American Rifleman*, as well as *Guns & Ammo*. Like many, I drooled over the pictures and was amazed at those guys who shared so much for readers. I remember the old writers like Ed Nowicki, Mas Ayoob and countless others. They were the great gurus of the gun community back then.

I never dreamed I'd replicate their roles forty years into the future.

I began writing nationally in 2011 for *The Truth About Guns*, kind of like my old role models. Yeah, trust me, it's not glamorous and we're not all knowing. Some of us might be all-learning, but we're never all-knowing.

Then I started writing there professionally in August 2016. My writing for *TTAG* put me in front of more eyeballs every week than those old dead tree pubs had monthly subscribers back in the heyday of Nowicki and Ayoob in the 70s and early 80s.

1650ish stories later, I'm now the senior writer at *TTAG* with Zimmerman's exit. *TTAG*'s still excited to keep me around even if I'm writing some stuff for *SNW*, and they like having a full-time gun rights activist on staff. After all, I usually net at least two or three of the top ten stories by readers each year.

Robert Farago, the founder of *TTAG*, recruited me based upon some of my writing in comments and my writing with the

*GSL* website. then St. Louis resident Zimmerman interviewed me in a restaurant there long years ago and I started writing for money for them a few days later.

It's been fun. It also gives *Guns Save Life* a lot of national exposure and has brought *GSL* some unique opportunities which have helped us over and over to further our mission defending your right to defend yourself.

One recent example? Remember when Springfield Police (and the Sangamon County State's Attorney Dan Wright) wouldn't return a Springfield resident's gun after seizing it because her FOID recently expired. This despite the fact she had gotten her FOID brought back into good standing?

I asked them very nicely in private emails to do the right thing and restore this woman's peace of mind.

After a few days, I think they blew me off as a nobody. Well, they FAFOD.

Oh my. What a difference a little national publicity does.

Within *two hours* of the story going live, the Sangamon County State's Attorney (now judge) Dan Wright called Rena Rojas. What timing, right? She called me minutes later as I drove down to the Decatur *GSL* meeting. I still remember her call to tell me how Mr. Wright didn't apologize for how poorly things were handled, but he did tell her they would finalize the process and she would have her gun back most Ricki-tick. I expected him to take action but I never dreamed it would happen within a couple of hours.

A few days later she picked up her gun.

Of course Mr. State's Attorney wasn't happy with me, but if I'm not causing consternation for those who aren't doing the right thing (no pun intended Mr. Wright), then I'm not doing my job.

That's just an example of the benefits of having a national megaphone for *GSL* to make a difference. You could be the next person who benefits from these unique resources *GSL* can bring to bear on your behalf.

Bottom line? *GSL* will now have two national megaphones with which to spread the word or to call for help. If you're not a regular at *The Truth About Guns*, become one. And go visit *Shooting News Weekly* (dot com). Bookmark it. You'll find some stuff there you like in the coming days and weeks.

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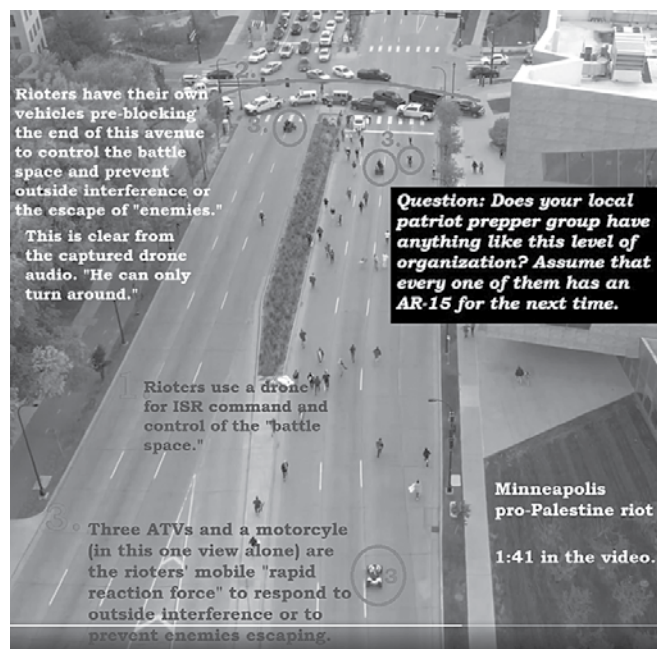
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*The real 'most dangerous terrorist threat to our homeland'*

## Have you been watching the pro-Palestinian 'protests' carefully? They're quite organized.

Writing about "street takeovers" by pro-Palestinian protesters in America, *Matthew Bracken* wrote this:

Notice the three rapid-reaction ATVs that arrive at 1:41. This was just a street takeover today, but they have command and control via a hovering drone and inter-squad radio/cell phones, so imagine them when they have their AR-15s and arrive in your cul-de-sac for a " Hamas-style" operation. They are organized.

When they escalate to Hamas terror tactics, it will be brutally effective.

They already have the guns and the organization. In this video they doxxed the man's car license #, why?

Sure, they can re-attack him at the riot, but they can also now find his home for retaliation. This is terrorism.



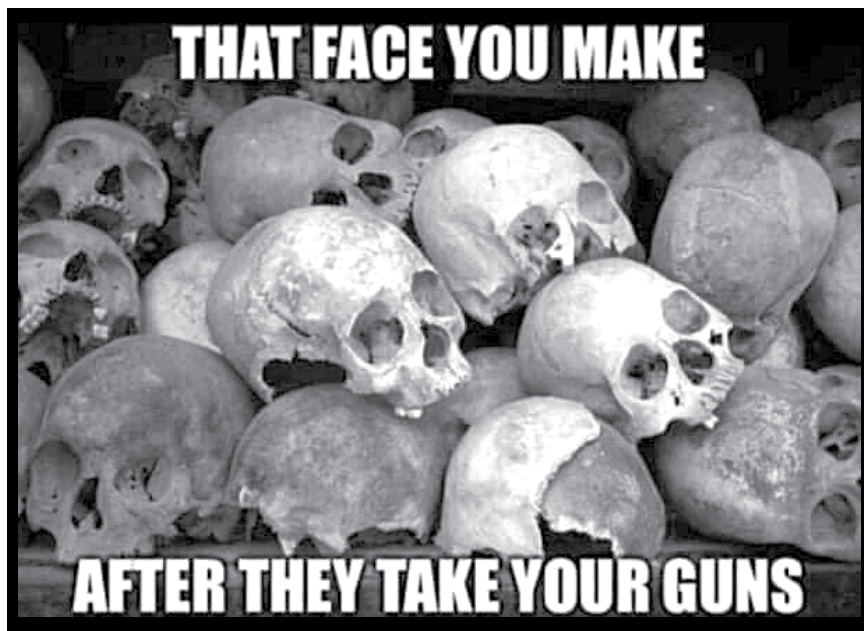
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*Not the Babylon Bee*

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**Y**es. If you didn't get a COVID vaccine this fall, you need to hustle and catch up.  
 [the coronavirus] isn't a seasonal virus like the flu is. It's with us constantly," says David Montefiori, director of the Laboratory for AIDS Vaccine Research



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## Calendar



### GUN SHOWS...

**Jan 27-28: Sauk Trail Gun Show**, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL. Dan Fritz 309 689-1934.

### February

**Feb 11: Kane County Sportsman's Show**, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL. Mick Stout (815) 217-2266  
**Feb 10-11: Quad Cities Gun Show**, QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island. Mark Craft. (309) 371-3593.  
**Feb 17-18: New Berlin Gun Show**, Sangamon Co. Fairgrounds. Patrick Keen (217) 971-1519  
**Feb 24-25: Decatur Gun & Knife Show**, Decatur Conference Center. Mark Craft. (309) 371-3593.

### March

**Mar 2-3: Kankakee Gun Show**, Kankakee County Fairgrounds Kankakee, IL. Mike (630) 363-3131.  
**Mar 10: Kane County Sportsman's Show**, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL. Mick Stout (815) 217-2266  
**Mar 16 - 17: Peoria Gun & Knife Show**, Exposition Gardens. Pope Creek Shows. Mark Craft 309 371-3593.

### GUN CLUBS

**Foosland Sportsman's Club**  
Shooting opportunities open to the public at the Foosland Sportsman's Club.  
**Second Tuesdays:** 6p Tuesday night trap shoots  
**Fourth Saturday:** Trapshoot starting at 10 AM. All open to the public.  
**Second Sunday:** Annie Shoot/.22 steel plate shoot.

**DeWitt County Sportsman's Club**  
**First & Third Sundays:** Breakfast at 8:30a.m. Turkey shoots afterwards. Open to public!

**Sullivan Gun Club LLC.**  
**Every Friday night:** Trap shooting under the lights. Open at 6p, Derby starts at 7pm.

**Oak Park Sportsmen's Club.**  
Falling steel match **First Mondays** starting at 4:30pm.

**Crete Gun Club.**  
Monthly meetings at 7pm on the **First Monday**. 1962 W. Exchange, Crete, IL. Open to all. Contact Howard Kaye at fxrt1984@gmail.com or 708 921-6768.

### FRIENDS OF NRA...

**Saturday, January 27: Southern Illinois Regional.** Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham.  
**Saturday, February 3: Logan County**, Knights of Columbus, Lincoln, IL.  
**Thursday, February 22: Salt Kettle FNRA.** St. Mary's Hall, Westville.  
**Saturday, March 2: Madison County FNRA.** Collinsville VFW.  
**Saturday, March 9: Shoal Creek FNRA.** Farm Heritage Museum, Greenville.  
**Thursday, March 14: Southeastern IL FNRA.** The Holiday, Olney.  
**Saturday, March 16: Kishwaukee Valley FNRA.** Ferandas, DeKalb.  
**Saturday, March 23: Macoupin County Patriots FNRA.** Concordia Hall, Staunton..  
**Thursday, March 28: Little Egypt FNRA.** The Pavilion, Marion..

For more info, visit [FriendsofNRA.org](http://FriendsofNRA.org).



## Blue states steal benefits for the poor, disabled to fund dubious 'anti-violence' programs

(Governing.com) - To tackle America's gun problem, a growing number of states are using Medicaid dollars to pay for community-based programs intended to stop shootings. The idea is to boost resources for violence prevention programs, which have been overwhelmed in some cities by a spike in violent crime since the start of the covid-19 pandemic.

An infusion of reliable federal funding, advocates say, could allow these nonprofits to expand their reach to more residents most at risk of being shot — or of shooting someone.



So far, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, New York, and Oregon have passed laws approving the use of Medicaid money for gun violence prevention, said Kyle Fischer,

policy and advocacy director for The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention, which has lobbied for the federal and state Medicaid policy changes allowing this spending. More states are expected to follow...

With gun control legislation stalled in Congress, the Biden administration has opened up federal Medicaid dollars to violence prevention as one of the ways states and cities can combat firearm violence. President Joe Biden announced the novel approach in April 2021, and now the money is starting to flow to interested states.

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## The Armed Women of America

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Visit [ArmedWomen.org](http://ArmedWomen.org) to find a local chapter.

## Wayne LaPierre resigns from NRA post ahead of NY State corruption trial

(GSL/TTAG) - The National Rifle Association publicly announced that long-time Executive Vice-President Wayne LaPierre will formally step down from his leadership position at the end of January. The embattled leader has faced all manner of criticism for a number of years which has culminated in a civil corruption trial that starts Monday in Manhattan.



Wayne LaPierre.

LaPierre, originally hired as a lobbyist in the 1970s rose through the ranks to become the nation's largest civil rights organization's leader through the years. More recently, he has become the public face of

the NRA. He cited health reasons for the sudden departure. The head of General Operations Andrew Arulanandam will take the helm as CEO and Executive Vice President on an interim basis.

On the same day that Mr. LaPierre announced his retirement, his former chief of staff Josh Powell agreed to testify against LaPierre and the NRA at the corruption trial in exchange for limiting his civil liability to a \$100,000 payment already made to the NY AG's office.

The corruption trial is a civil, not criminal proceeding meaning jail isn't a possibility. However, if the defendants are found "guilty" LaPierre and others can be ordered by the courts to reimburse the NRA for improperly spent monies as well as penalties.

## Federal judge strikes down firearm ban on USPS property



Tampa (Reuters) - A federal judge in Florida on Friday ruled that a U.S. law that bars people from possessing firearms in post offices is unconstitutional, citing a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling from 2022 that expanded gun rights.

U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, an appointee of Republican former President Donald Trump in Tampa, reached that conclusion in dismissing part of an indictment charging a postal worker with illegally possessing a gun in a federal facility...

Ayala, a U.S. Postal Service truck driver in Tampa, had a concealed weapons permit and kept a Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun in a fanny pack for self-defense, his lawyers said.

[Editor's note: This decision will likely be appealed. Don't rush out to pack your heater on Post Office property just yet.]



Sangamon Co. Sheriff Jack Campbell.

94 sheriffs say 'no thanks'  
**Sangamon Co. sheriff joins others refusing to enforce PICA gun & magazine ban**



## The people you meet...

One of our GSL family ran into NC's Lt. Governor Mark Robinson shopping for groceries at a High Point, NC grocery store in December. "He saw my hat and said he had dinner with Trump in Mar-A-Lago the previous week." They hit it off and had a nice little conversation. Unlike Illinois' Lt. Gov. with her quartet of armed guards, Robinson did not have any security.

CBP intercepts over a half-million illegal gun importations; how many did they miss?

## Illegal aliens tried to buy guns 48,000 times in past 25 years

Phoenix (Epoch Times) —The FBI logged more than 47,000 attempts by illegal aliens to purchase firearms at gun shops over the past 25 years, according to a group that monitors border security policy.



On Jan. 2, the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) reported the FBI currently has almost 14 million records of firearms applications that failed a national background check.

Of these "unique prohibiting events," the FBI index included 47,930 denied purchases of firearms by illegal aliens in the National Instant Criminal Background

Check System (NICS) between November 1998 and November 2023.

"While the 13.9 million unique prohibiting events cataloged in the FBI database represent events—not individual illegal aliens—the data point to large numbers of migrants in the market for firearms. Whatever the total may be, one is one too many," FAIR wrote.

The organization added that "the dangers posed by largely unvetted illegal aliens possessing firearms has been vastly exacerbated over the past three years, as the Biden administration has presided over record numbers of new illegal aliens entering our country.

"At the same time, federal policies and the proliferation of sanctuary jurisdictions that prohibit the sharing of critical law enforcement information will inevitably result in more Americans falling prey to criminal aliens."

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), there were 547,610 seizures of illegal weapons, including ammunition, gun parts, scopes, silencers, and body armor in 2023, which is consistent with the 595,154 total number of weapons seized in 2021.



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# The Bailey Challenge

by Chad Berck

On New Year's Day, Senator Darren Bailey laid down the gauntlet for the governor. He upped the ante by making it very clear that he would not comply with Governor Pritzker's precious PICA gun and magazine ban.



they can return our state to the post-Civil War gun control plantation. Disarmed blacks are easier to oppress. Disarmed gays are easier to bash. If you think mass shooters have killed too many people, just wait till you find out what governments of disarmed citizens have done.

To make an example of Bailey, will Gov. Pritzker go all in and kick down Darren's door? Will they kill him if he resists?

When Senator Bailey sat in his kitchen and stated his refusal to comply, he risked a lot. His words echoed the thoughts of hundreds of thousands of gun owners in our state and many millions more across the nation. Bailey made himself the canary in the coal mine.

Mr. Bailey has had enough. We have had enough.

Will Pritzker and Attorney General Kwame Raoul ride into town with their gang of Illinois State Police Loyalists and circle up around Senator Bailey's farm? Just imagine: On one side we would have Chicagoland outlaws like Billy Clanton, Tom and Frank McLaury and on the other side Darren Bailey as Wyatt Earp (or Doc Holliday). Unfortunately, it won't be Pritzker, Kwame and legislative leaders on the outlaw side. Instead, they'll send oath-breaking hired guns from the Illinois State Police to do their dirty work.

Pritzker, Kwame and plenty of other "leaders" in Illinois politics thirst for power and money. By disarming everyone as much as possible,

This high-stakes poker game has potentially life-changing consequences. Our "rule by decree" governor wants to become President of the USA. The mass non-compliance with his gun registration scheme makes the wannabe national "leader" look weak and feckless. Bailey's bold proclamation from the opposite end of the state (and the opposite end of the political spectrum) cannot go unanswered by Governor Jelly Bean if he wants to appear strong and powerful.

Time will tell if and when Team Pritzker wants to go "all-in" on this standoff.

Stay tuned and stay safe.

## Indy home invader shot with his own gun

*Indianapolis (GSL)* - Break out the violins, folks. A report by WXIN detailed how an aspiring home invader got the invasion part down when it comes to victimizing innocent people. He neglected to consider that the homeowner gets a vote in the matter too. In this case, Damon Swanigan, Jr., 22, lost control of his gun. The homeowner picked it up and shot him with it.



The homeowner Brent Smith, pictured above, escaped uninjured.

Damon managed to stumble outside onto the porch where he collapsed. At about the same time, a fusillade of rounds struck the front of the house (and maybe Damon too?) as Damon's fellow companions opened fire.

*A little humor...*

### John meets St. Peter and it goes poorly

John falls asleep next to his wife, in bed. After some time, he sees St. Peter. He thinks he's dreaming, but St. Peter assures him that he's real.

"You've passed away in your sleep," Peter told him. "Unfortunately, we're not ready for you yet. We'll need to send you back, but unfortunately, we can only send you back as a chicken."

John thinks about this for a moment, and agrees. There's a blinding flash of light, and when John opens his eyes, he finds that he's in a chicken coop.

The chicken next to him says "Hey, you haven't laid any

eggs today. The farmer will slaughter you if you don't lay any."

John replied, "I don't know how."

The chicken answered him. "It's easy. You just go 'bock bock boock' and squeeze real hard."

"Ok, I'll give it a try," John thought to himself.

He started clucking, "Bock bock BOOOOCK..." John squeezed hard and out pops a massive egg.

Chicken saw it. "Whoa! That's a massive egg!"

John smiled. "Watch, I think I can lay a bigger one."

Once more, John clucks. "Bock bock BOOOOOOOCK" and John squeezes harder than before, and out pops an even bigger egg!

"Goodness, that's the biggest egg I've ever seen!" said the chicken next to him.

John: "Hold on, this one will blow your mind! BOCK BOCK BOOOOOOOO..."

And at that moment, John's wife elbows him in the ribs and shouts "JOHN! You are dreaming! Stop pooping in the bed!"

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