

Affiliated with the NRA and CMP

www.ncrpa.org

Vol. 49, No. 2, 2020

# North Carolina House Bill 1209

On May 26, 2020 House Bill 1209 was filed by the Democrats in the North Carolina house of representatives. 1209 expands the permitting system in North Carolina to include semi-automatic rifles with a magazine external or internal with a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Not only does 1209 have a general description but also includes a list of more than 100 semi-automatic rifles to fall under purchase by permit only.

On the other side, the North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association in conjunction with the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the National Rifle Association has been working to eliminate the requirement of a pistol permit to purchase a handgun from a licensed firearms dealer. This is a Jim Crow era law so that unconstitutional discretion may be exercised by Sheriffs. Each county Sheriff would still issue pistol purchase permits, but Firearms dealers would not require the permit to make a sale. So, a permit would still be available for an individual to make a purchase from another individual with a permit as is now the current law although seldom practiced and pretty much unenforceable. This availability of permits is also endorsed by most retail firearms dealers so that a sale can be made at a gun show when NICS system presents a delay or the NICS system shuts down because of high volume of checks, which happens frequently. The sale can still be made with a permit.

As a tool to be used by current era Democrats, Jim Crow is not dead. Unconstitutional restrictions still need to be applied on firearms purchasers as much as any group throughout history. For their strength, they need to control as many citizens as possible. No matter what they say their actions tell the story. The proposed 1209 bill requiring expanding the permit system is the continuing story of expanded strength of Democrat Governance and the diminishing of the strength of citizens, gun owners and purchasers.

It is important for every NCRPA member to become active in the up coming election and to get as many fellow citizens to become active also. Voter registration is a strong beginning and to make sure all go to the polls. The strength of Citizens over government especially on firearms issues is critical to the survival of our rights and the death of Jim Crow.

## Website Update

We are currently in the process of a major overhaul of the North Carolina Rifle and Pistol Association website – www.ncrpa.org. Along with much needed changes, we now have the capability to accept Credit Card payments for new membershipsMembership renewal and Donations. Members are also able to update their contact information online as well.



Offical Publication of the North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association

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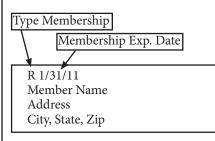
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Published Quarterly: February, May, August, October

Deadline for submissions is the first day of the month prior to the publication date.

### Newsletter Label

The following is an explanation of your State Shots mailing label.



### **TYPE MEMBERSHIP**

EXP	Expired			
R	Regular Resident			
NR	Regular Nonresident			
TR	Temp Regular Membership			
J	Junior Resident			
NJ	Junior Nonresident			
L	Life Membership			
TL	Temporary Life			
CORP	Corporate Membership			
CLB	Club Membership			
COM	Commercial Membership			
NRASA	NRA State Association			
LEG	Legislator			
<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>				

1/31/11 Expiration Date L-144 Life Member Number

# **State Shots**

Our publication of the Association comes out four times each year. Your articles and opinion pieces are welcome. If you or your club has an activity that would be of interest to the entire state send us some pictures and story of your event or future events. The submission deadline dates for each issue are as follows:

> February 2 2020 May 10 2020 August 30 2020 December 12 2020

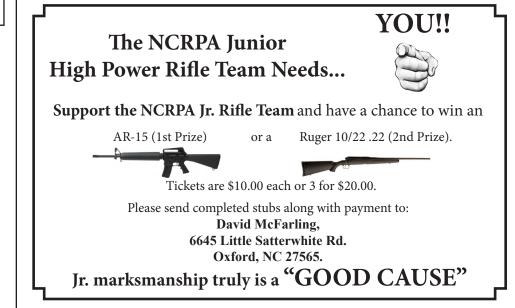
We welcome your input. Everyone wants to hear from you.

# **NCRPA Meetings**

The Board of Directors meet four times each year to conduct the business of the Association. The schedule for 2019 has been set:

January 26 2020 Moore County Wildlife Club May 3 2020 Moore County Wildlife Club August 23 2020 Moore County Wildlife Club December 6 2020 Durham Pistol & Rifle Club

The membership is invited and encouraged to attend the meetings for member input and interest. The meetings will begin at 11:00 AM and end around 3:00 PM. Lunch will be served to all who attend but please let us know if you are going to attend so that there will be enough food prepared. For information on following meetings please go to www.ncrpa.org the meetings are on the front page.



# **Press Release**

Date: 29 April 2020 For Immediate Release From: North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association (NCRPA) Contact: Fred Edgecomb 910.385.7733 fredgecomb@gmail.com https://www.ncrpa.org/

North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association seeks to remove the Pistol Purchase Permit requirement

The North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association (NCRPA) announces an initiative to end the state's Pistol Purchase Permit regulations. "Our members and member-gun clubs are eager to begin a statewide grassroots campaign to end Jim Crowe Era-like gun laws," says Fred Edgecomb, NCRPA President. "The NCRPA has increased our lobbying representation in the state legislature to include a team of highly respected lobbyists from the prestigious law firm of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP. This team will be in addition to, and provide support for, our current lobbyist. Further, we intend to educate the public about this antiquated and unsafe law."

Jim Crow was the name for a system of laws to prevent freed slaves from protecting themselves during Reconstruction and was banished by the Civil Rights Acts of 1954 and 1964. Yet the legal foundation of restrictive and oppressive gun control persists and continues to hobble the right to keep and bear arms today in the form of a Pistol Purchase Permit.

In order to purchase a handgun in North Carolina, a citizen must first apply to their local sheriff for a Pistol Purchase Permit. The applicant must appear in person with a government ID, pay a fee, and undergo a criminal background check. There are no state permitting requirements to buy a rifle or shotgun. However, a potential firearm purchaser undergoes the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check at the time of purchase. This "instant check" provides the firearms dealer with pertinent information and approval to purchase the firearm at the time of sale. Or, the sale is disapproved.

"A pistol purchase permit is good for five years from the date of issue and herein lies the problem," says Edgecomb, "During that five-year period, an individual can commit a felony, abuse drugs, or ignore a restraining order, yet not be required to undergo a background check because their permit is current. That is not a safe way to protect the public."

Last month the NCRPA issued a press release opposing a local official's exploitation of the COVID-19 pandemic stating that, "During a crisis there should be no doubt about our ability to protect and defend ourselves and loved ones, yet Wake County Sheriff Gerald Baker has taken action that could leave law-abiding citizens defenseless. His office announced that it will not issue new Pistol Purchase Permits until at least April 30th." While Concealed Handgun Permit holders and those with an approved Pistol Purchase Permit could still obtain handguns, that left new prospective gun owners especially vulnerable.

"This is another example of why the pistol purchase requirement is antiquated and unwarranted, especially during a time of upheaval. Law abiding prospective gun owners need not be prevented from exercising their Second Amendment rights," says Edgecomb. Due to pressure from NCRPA members and other Second Amendment supporters, the sheriff resumed processing permits in a timely manner.

The NCRPA will seek to remove the Pistol Purchase Permit requirement in the upcoming legislative session.

xxx

The North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association was established in 1938 as the sole state-wide organization affiliated with the National Rifle Association. Our mission is to protect and preserve our Second Amendment right to bear arms and to promote and preserve the shooting sports, the safe use and storage of firearms, and the principles of marksmanship and self-defense.

NCRPA membership is the life blood of our association, but did you know that you could also make a DONATION? Your donation, no matter how large or small, will help support all our shooting programs, including the NCRPA Junior High Power Rifle Team the future of America's shooting sports!

Send your donation to: NCRPA, PO Box 4116, Pinehurst, NC 28374. We will also be able to take donations at www.ncrpa.org very soon as well.

# **The North Carolina Court Candidates**

You may not know their names or know what they do, but be assured they are vitally important to your freedoms. The Second Amendment and laws designed to protect the right to keep and bear arms are meaningless if they are not adequately enforced in our courts. To that end, your board sent a Questionnaire to each of the candidates for the North Carolina Supreme Court Justice, Associate Justice, and for the Court of Appeals. This is a partisan race, but your Board will not take a position regarding political party registration or their responses. We seek to educate our members so you can make an informed decision and vote with confidence in the November election. Below are the responses to the following Questionnaire.

- 1. Are you a member of the National Rifle Association?
- 2. **If so, why?**
- 3. If not, why not?

4. **Are you a member of the Federalist Society?** (The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is a forum for legal experts, founded in 1982 on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.)

### **Questionnaire Responses**

NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Seat 01 Cheri Beasley (Dem) https://www.chiefjusticebeasley.com/ No Response

NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Seat 01 **Paul Newby** (Rep) <u>https://www.paulnewby.com</u>

### Are you a member of the NRA? Yes (as are my wife and daughter)

**If so, why?** I'm a NRA member because the NRA works to protect our right to bear arms. As our Framers understood, the right to bear arms is foundational to our other rights. Our rights come from God: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (property). Both our federal and NC constitutions protect these rights and also protect the right to bear arms. I appreciate the NRA's educational efforts, teaching about the history of gun ownership rights in America as well as gun safety.

### Are you a member of the Federalist Society? Yes

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 02 Lucy Inman (Dem) https://www.lucyinmanforjustice.com/

#### Are you a member of the NRA? No

**If not, why not?** Since becoming a judge, I have abstained from membership in organizations advocating for the protection and enforcement of legal rights, and in particular constitutional rights, because I believe it is necessary to maintain the appearance of impartiality to parties before the court, counsel, and the general public.

**Are you a member of the Federalist Society?** *No. I have, however, attended Federalist Society programs over the past decade, in North Carolina and in Washington, DC.* 

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 02

#### Philip Berger, Jr. (Rep)

#### http://philbergerjr.org/landing/justice/

**Are you a member of the NRA?** I am not currently a member of the NRA. I was a member several years ago. **If not, why not?** As a judge, I am bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct. In this capacity, I am to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. As such, I am not a member of any organization that advocates for a specific issue because a party to a lawsuit could move to disqualify me from hearing a case on the basis of that membership. I realize other judges have different views concerning mere membership. However, this personal policy allows me to do my work with limited scrutiny. For example, if I were currently a member of the NRA, a party could make a motion to disqualify me from hearing cases involving guns or the Second Amendment. My preference is to do my work and avoid these types of motions.

#### Are you a member of the Federalist Society? Yes

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 04 Mark Davis (Dem) https://justicemarkdavis.com/ No Response

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 04 **Tamara Barringer** (Rep) https://www.tamarabarringer.com/

#### Are you a member of the NRA? No Are you a member of the Federalist Society? No

While I am not a member of the NRA or the Federalist Society, my voting record as a Senator in the North Carolina General Assembly reflects my support of our Second Amendment Constitutional Rights, as evidenced by my earning an "A" rating with the NRA as a NC Senator.

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 04 **Patricia Shields** (Dem) <u>www.shieldsforjudge.com</u> *No Response* 

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 04 **April Wood** (Rep) https://www.judgewoodforcoa.com/

**Are you a member of the NRA?** *I am not a current member of the NRA.* **If not, why not?** As a judge, I believe that I should not belong to advocacy groups or groups that lobby about specific issues. I fully support the U.S. Constitution and all amendments thereto, including the Second Amendment right to bear arms. As the daughter of a U.S. Marine, I learned how to handle firearms and to shoot them at a young age. As a holder of a concealed weapons permit, I regularly carry a pistol for self-defense. Although I am not a member, I support the mission of the NRA and the NCRPA. **Are you a member of the Federalist Society?** Yes



Are you a member of the NRA? No If not, why not? No reason other than I have never owned a gun. Are you a member of the Federalist Society? No

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 05 Willie <u>Fred</u>erick Gore (Rep) http://judgefredgore.com/

Are you a member of the NRA? I am a former member of the NRA.

**If not, why not?** Over time I have not renewed my membership. I am a member of the Army Reserve (28 years) and a conceal carry permittee. I do believe in the right to lawfully bear arms.

**Are you a member of the Federalist Society?** I am not a member of the Federalist Society. However, I do subscribe to a philosophy that government power is derived from our Constitution and the interpretation of said powers/ law is the duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 06 **Matthew <u>Gray</u> Styers** (Dem) <u>https://styersforjudge.com/</u>

#### Are you a member of the NRA? No

**If not, why not?** I am a life-long hunter, whose family hunted for both food and recreation. I have taken gun safety classes. I enjoy shooting sporting clays on a regular basis, and plan hunting trips with my friends, including to South Dakota this past fall and one to South Carolina next month (February). I own firearms and feel I have considerable personal knowledge and experience with shooting sports, about the safe use and storage or firearms, and about the principles of marksmanship and self-defense.

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? No

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 06 **Robert <u>Chris</u>topher Dillon** (Rep) Judgechrisdillon@gmail.com

#### Are you a member of the NRA? No

**If not, why not?** The reason that I am not is because I think that, as an elected judge, I should avoid joining voluntary, advocacy organizations. If I were a member of such organizations, I may be required to recuse myself from cases involving the issues advocated by the organization. With that said, my background includes working at a community bank where I had the opportunity to help a client start and grow a business which sells firearms/supplies and operates a gun range in Raleigh. I have taken my sons to the range over the years. My older son owns a rifle, which we keep in our home.

**Are you a member of the Federalist Society?** *I am not currently a member of the Federalist Society, again because of my personal preference not to join voluntary, advocacy organizations. However, I have been a guest speaker at Federalist Society functions and regularly attend the Federalist Society meeting in Raleigh.* 

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 07 **Reuben Young** (Dem) <u>https://www.keepjudgeyoung.com/</u> *No Response* 

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 07 <u>Jeff</u>ery Carpenter (Rep) <u>https://www.electjeffcarpenter.com/</u>

Are you a member of the NRA? Yes, I am a longtime member of the NRA.

**If so, why?** I am a member of the NRA because I believe that the 2nd Amendment is imperative to the preservation of all other rights prescribe in the Bill of Rights, and the NRA is the only group that I am aware of that zealously protects the 2nd Amendment.

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? Yes

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 13 <u>Christopher Brook</u> (Dem) <u>https://www.keepjudgechrisbrook.com/</u>

Are you a member of the NRA? No

**If not, why not?** As cases pertaining to the right to bear arms are pending in our court system and may come before me in my service as a judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals, it would be improper for me to respond to this question.

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? No

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 13 **Jefferson Griffin** (Rep) https://www.jeffersongriffin.com/

Are you a member of the NRA? Yes, a Life Member

**If so, why?** As a District Court judge, soldier, and an avid hunter and outdoorsman, Judge Griffin has sworn to uphold and protect our Constitution, including the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms.

#### Are you a member of the Federalist Society? Yes

Note: Mrs. Katye Griffin responded on Judge Griffin's behalf as he was deployed to the Middle East with the NC Army National Guard brigade. (4/2/2020)

# They're gunning for your guns.

The gun control movement is using lies, deceit, misinformation and lots of money to push its radical anti-Second Amendment agenda. They denigrate hunting and shooting enthusiasts, demonize law-abiding gun owners, and if they had their way, they would disarm all of us – except, of course, their own bodyguards.

The loss of a pro-Second Amendment majority in Congress has proven to make life difficult for all gun enthusiasts. We are vilified by the press, Hollywood and elected officials. And, the anti-gun leadership in the US House and in many state legislatures have already launched legislation for expanded background checks, gun bans and more.

We need to be ready for the 2020 election. Please help identify, educate, and mobilize gun-owning voters:

- Identify friends, family, neighbors & colleagues who are pro-Second Amendment and/or gun owners
- Help educate them about the push for personal disarmament
- Help educate them about pro-Second Amendment endorsed candidates
- Make sure they are registered to vote and get them to the polls
- Volunteer to help elect pro-Second Amendment endorsed candidates.

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## **BENCH MEMOS**

LAW & THE COURTS

# The Second Amendment Day of Reckoning Is About to Dawn

By LAWRENCE G. KEANE

May 2, 2020 6:18 PM



#### (Jonathan Ernst/Reuters)

The ballyhoo over the U.S. Supreme Court's tiptoe around a Second Amendment decision this week might be a gun control celebration a little too soon.

The Supreme Court ruled this week in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. City of New York* that changes made after the Court granted certiorari (agreed to hear the appeal) to the City of New York's onerous ordinance and regulations rendered the case "moot." That's the ordinance that burdened the ability of the city's gun owners to travel with lawfully owned, unloaded, and locked firearms to destinations outside the city.

While the result may be disappointing to Second Amendment advocates, the silver lining is that a Second Amendment day of reckoning may be dawning.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote a well-reasoned dissent, which Justices Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas (mostly) joined, for why the case is not moot. He wrote, "By incorrectly dismissing this case as NCRPA Vol. 49 - No. 2, 2020 - Page 8 moot, the Court permits our docket to be manipulated in a way that should not be countenanced."

Justice Alito observed that one would have expected the City of New York to continue to forcefully defend its law, as it had in lower courts. "But once we granted certiorari, both the City and the State of New York sprang into action to prevent us from deciding this case," he continued. "Although the City had previously insisted that its ordinance served important public safety purposes, our grant of review apparently led to an epiphany of sorts, and the City quickly changed its ordinance. And for good measure the State enacted a law making the old New York City ordinance illegal."

Justice Alito noted that the Court has "been particularly wary of attempts by parties to manufacture mootness in order to evade review." Regrettably, that is exactly what the City of New York successfully did in this case.

Had the Court reached the merits of the plaintiffs' Second Amendment claims, the dissenting justices, at least, would have held the City's ordinance violated the Second Amendment, calling it "not a close question."

The true importance of the case, however, is not the fact that the City of New York dodged a proverbial bullet, but rather what Justice Alito and Justice Kavanaugh had to say about how the lower courts have applied the Court's holding in *Heller* and *McDonald*.

### Heller and McDonald

The Court has shied away from taking challenges to states' attempts to limit the right to keep and bear arms. Proponents of individual rights hoped the City of New York case would break the logjam, as the Supreme Court hasn't decided a case on these issues since 2008 with the *Heller* decision and 2010 with the *McDonald* decision.

"Since then, the lower courts have decided numerous cases involving Second Amendment challenges to a variety of federal, state, and local laws. Most have failed," Justice Alito wrote. "We have been asked to review many of these decisions, but until this case, we denied all such requests."

In discussing how the plaintiffs' Second Amendment claims were handled, Justice Alito wrote, "Although the courts below claimed to apply heightened scrutiny, there was nothing heightened about what they did." He concluded his dissenting opinion by noting, "We are told that the mode of review in this case is representative of the way *Heller* has been treated in the lower courts. If that is true, there is cause for concern."

This frustration among the justices that the Court is treating the Second Amendment as a secondclass right isn't new. Justices Thomas and Gorsuch vented their frustration with the Supreme Court's refusal to grant review in the *Peruta v. California* case in 2017. In his dissent, Justice Thomas wrote the case "reflects a distressing trend: their treatment of the Second Amendment as a disfavored right." He added, "For those of us who work in marbled halls, guarded constantly by a vigilant and dedicated police force, the guarantees of the Second Amendment might seem antiquated and superfluous. But the Framers made a clear choice: They reserved to all Americans the right to bear arms for selfdefense."

A year later, in dissenting from a denial to grant certiorari in *Silvester v Becerra* he said, "The right to keep and bear arms is apparently this Court's constitutional orphan. And the lower courts seem to have gotten the message . . . this Court declared [in *McDonald*] that the Second Amendment is not a 'second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantees."

### **Time Has Come**

Justice Kavanaugh, while departing from Justice Alito on the procedural issue of mootness claim in his concurring opinion, agreed with Justice Alito's general analysis of the misapplication of *Heller* and *McDonald* by the lower courts. "The Court should address that issue soon, perhaps in one of the several Second Amendment cases with petitions for certiorari now pending before the Court," Justice Kavanaugh wrote. These words may prove to be prophetic.

The same day the Supreme Court sidestepped the City of New York case, it scheduled for conference ten pending Second Amendment cases to decide whether to grant certiorari and hear those appeals. These cases arguably involve more important and substantial Second Amendment issues than the City of New York case. Several of these cases challenge restrictions on where an individual can carry a firearm outside their home. Three cases challenge more industry-specific issues. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the firearm industry trade association, filed amicus briefs in support of the two plaintiffs. Those cases include:

*Mance v. Barr* — a case which a Washington, D.C.-based couple is challenging the federal interstate handgun transfer ban on Second Amendment grounds after they were prohibited from purchasing two firearms from a Texas federal firearms licensee without going through D.C.'s only licensed firearm retailer. NSSF's brief argues the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, including handguns, does not stop at your state's border. The federal ban on interstate handgun sales is not narrowly tailored to the professed government compelling interest. The ban unreasonably infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of individuals who are otherwise qualified to purchase handguns and violates their Fifth Amendment right to equal protection under the law.

*Worman v. Healey* — a Second Amendment challenge to Massachusetts' ban on commonly owned modern sporting rifles. NSSF's amicus brief argues that lower courts disagree on what standard of review applies and the standards articulated by five circuit courts of appeal are unconstitutional. The First, Second, Fourth, Ninth, and D.C. Circuits have all ruled that "intermediate scrutiny" should apply to laws of this sort. The Seventh Circuit chose to apply the standard of which gun control laws were in place when the Bill of Rights was ratified. NSSF argues that the "intermediate scrutiny" standard has no grounding in the Second Amendment and gives judges unlimited discretion to approve and disapprove firearms regulations. NSSF further argues that lower courts are relegating the Second Amendment to a second tier right, despite its clear and unambiguous proscription of government overreach.

### Threats and Tantrums

The City of New York decision offers more than just a glimpse into the Court's appetite to finally taking more Second Amendment cases. It also foreshadows the lengths to which those who are crowing over the dismissal might react when the Supreme Court takes up one or more of these pending reviews.

A prominent brief supporting the City filed by Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D., R.I.), Mazie Hirono (D., Hawaii), Richard Blumenthal (D., Conn.), Richard Durbin (D., Ill.), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D., N.Y.) threatened the Court with political consequences. "The Supreme Court is not well. And the people know it," the senators' brief reads. "Perhaps the Court can heal itself before the public demands it be 'restructured in order to reduce the influence of politics.' Particularly on the urgent issue of gun control, a nation desperately needs it to heal."

Justice Alito made it clear the Supreme Court's integrity, and that of the senators who confirm justices, was on the line.

"United States Senators, four of whom are members of the bar of this Court, filed a brief insisting that the case be dismissed," Justice Alito wrote. "If the Court did not do so, they intimated, the public would realize that the Court is 'motivated mainly by politics, rather than by adherence to the law,' and the Court would face the possibility of legislative reprisal."

The attacks on the court then presage what can be expected. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) anticipated as much when he reassured the Supreme Court that judicial integrity would be respected under his watch in a letter which garnered the signatures of 52 senators.

The same senators who threatened the Supreme Court smeared Justice Kavanaugh with unfounded, unsubstantiated, and unproven claims of violent criminal misconduct. One can imagine what will happen if the Court were to grant certiorari in these more far-reaching Second Amendment cases. In addition to being unprofessional, bordering on sanctionable for the senators admitted to the Supreme Court, it probably was not the wisest move. It clearly didn't sit well with Justice Alito.

The ballyhoos heard now could well become gnashing of teeth and wails of frustration. Hopefully, a day of reckoning is coming for the Second Amendmen

# SUPPORT NRA-ILA

Some of America's most pro-gun people ironically inhabit of 1977, the Cold War and the 9/11 terrorist attacks. some of its most anti-gun locales. Like plants that can survive the harshest desert climates, they are among the hardiest of their kind. And for those in the know, they are as much a part of the Second Amendment landscape as cacti are to the desert.

In New York City, epicenter both to America's COVID-19 outbreak and to anti-Second Amendment fervor, one of the city's gritty gun culture icons has already succumbed to the economic pressures of the Big Apples interminable lockdown and another is fighting for its life. Your help can ensure the latter survives.

First, the bad news. John Jovino Gun Shop on Grand Street in Little Italy and Chinatown had served New Yorkers since 1911 and billed itself as "the oldest gun shop in the USA."

Ironically, 1911 was the same year Tammany Hall grifters - including Sen. Timothy Sullivan - enacted a New York State law that made possession and carrying of concealable firearms subject to a license issued at the discretion of local officials. In New York City, the infamous "Sullivan Act" was openly promoted as a way to keep firearms out of the hands of such "undesirables" as working class Italian immigrants, or the same people the New York Times described at the time as "[l]ow-browed foreigners."

Born in those inauspicious times, John Jovino Gun Shop nevertheless managed to survive World War I, the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, the Great Depression, World War II, the Hong Kong flu pandemic of 1968-69, the blackout to the local press upon the store's closing last week. "I'm

Passers-by were lured to the store by the unlikely sight in Manhattan of a giant wooden revolver hanging outside the shop.

But thanks to the modern manifestation of the Sullivan Act, there could be no impulse purchase of any such handgun at John Jovino. That act in New York City is still treated as a privilege reserved for the well-heeled or wellconnected. At best, it involves hundreds of dollars in fees and takes the better part of a year, if it proves possible to the average city resident at all.

In the 1920s, John Jovino Gun Shop passed from its namesake founder to the Imperato family, who at the time lived in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. Beginning in the 1990s, the business even included a gun factory in Brooklyn, which made reproductions of Civil War-era Henry Rifles and cap and ball Colt revolvers. That part of the operation later moved to Bayonne, New Jersey, and lives on as Henry Repeating Arms, now makers of fine lever-action rifles.

More recently, the Manhattan retail outlet was able to survive on the business of the local law enforcement community and some especially determined civilians. Fittingly for a New York City staple, it also appeared in hard-nosed film and television productions, including Serpico and Law and Order.

Charlie Hu, the store's manager since 1995 and known in the neighborhood as Gun King Charlie, spoke emotionally very emotional right now, as you can see, I am having a rough day. Everything is super sad," he said. "My whole life went into this," he continued.

Throughout the day, according to the article, longtime friends at the New York City Police Department called to thank Mr. Hu for responsibly serving the local community and to wish him well. Finally came a call from the boss himself, Anthony Imperato. "You are completing the mission," he told his faithful employee of 25 years.

Meanwhile, further uptown on West 23rd Street, a steely survivor of the New York City Second Amendment community continues to fight for its life.

If making and selling guns seems unlikely in New York City, maintaining a public range in the heart of Manhattan seems downright preposterous. But Westside Rifle & Pistol Range has done just that for over half a century since its founding in 1964. Now it is Manhattan's last surviving public range, offering equipment, facilities, and training to help local gun owners responsibly and effectively exercise their Second Amendment rights. It also helps New Yorkers negotiate the complicated process of applying for a handgun license in the city.

Unobtrusively located in the basement of a large office building, the facility has been run since 1989 by Darren Leung, a former New York State peace officer, who said a lifelong interest in firearms was shaped by uncles on both sides of the law. An NBC News profile noted in 2017 that local gun owners are as likely to come by Westside to shoot the breeze as the targets in the range's multiple shooting bays. The business is known for its friendly and welcoming atmosphere, its big city locale notwithstanding

A staunch supporter of the right to keep and bear arms,

Leung and his business are undoubtedly a lynchpin in keeping a meaningful Second Amendment alive in America's most populous city. Perhaps prophetically, Leung told NBC three years ago: "If I ever close, I might be killing off a whole couple of generations of shooters ahead of us. ... So it's always in the back of my mind that it's important to maintain the range, and to maintain it correctly."

That is exactly why members of the gun owning community have established a GoFundMe account to help keep West Side Rifle & Pistol afloat during the city's ongoing COVID-19 lockdown. New York City rents are brutal under the best of circumstances. When there's no opportunity for regular income, they can doom even the most resilient of businesses and business owners.

Gun owners to date have been generous, and the range remains determined to fight on for as long as possible. Said the organizer of the effort, "It's both overwhelming and humbling to realize how many folks care and love us."

For the time being, Westside continues to stand as a symbol of America's Second Amendment culture even in the core of the Big Apple. A symbol that even the city's many notorious anti-gun snobs, chief among them former mayor Michael Bloomberg, have yet been able to extinguish.

What the song said of New York is as true for the Second Amendment as it for aspiring talents: if it can make it there, it can make it anywhere. With luck, grit, and the help of gun owners, New York City's pro-gun stalwarts will hopefully add the COVID-19 pandemic to the long list of challenges they have successfully overcome.

# Jr. Rifle Team Report

The Jr rifle shooting team report is that there is nothing to report. Due to the Covid 19 virus organized shooting events such as practices and matches are on hold for the foreseeable future. The National Guard Training Center at Butner is closed to Civilians at least through the end of August. Because of the Governors policy of no gatherings with more than 10 people team practices are all but impossible. Both nationals the CMP at Camp Perry and the NRA National Matches at Camp Atterberry Indiana have been canceled.

Hopefully by July our beloved governor will let groups of more than 10 assemble and we can get back to having team practices and local matches. With a little luck matches will resume at Butner in September. Until then we will just have to standby and wait for better times.

The Jr Rifle Team raffle is still on so buy a chance to win one of two nice rifles. Hopefully the Covid 19 virus will be a bad memory soon and we will be able to get back to normal, what ever normal will be. So until then stay safe and buy a raffle ticket. Your support is both needed and appreciated.

# Gun Clubs & Associations of North Carolina

#### ALAMANCE COUNTY

Central Carolina Gun Club 5167 NC-62 Burlington, NC 27217 https://centralcarolinagunclub. wildapricot.org

Durham Pistol and Rifle Club Post Office Box 965 Durham, NC 27702 (336) 567-0981 www.dprc.org

ASHE COUNTY Ashe County Wildlife Club PO Box 1229 West Jefferson, NC 28694 www.acwlc.org (336) 246-9705

#### **BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

Buccaneer Gun Club, Inc. P.O Box 11339 Wilmington, NC 20404 www.buccaneergunclub.org

#### **BUNCOMBE COUNTY**

Asheville Rifle & Pistol Club 100 Sandy Spring Drive Arden, NC 28704 (828) 684-1013 (range) ashevillefirleandpistolclub.org

#### CHATHAM COUNTY Hickory Mountain Rifle and Pistol

Club 422 N. Holly Avenue Siler City, NC 27344 (919) 742-3017

#### **CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

Crosse Creek Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc. c/o 1798 Potomac Road Fayetteville, NC 28304 (910) 977-6200 Email:membership@CrosseCreekRifleandPistolClub.com www.CrosseCreekRifleandPistol-Club.com

#### DARE COUNTY

Outer Banks Gun Club PO Box 118 Mann's Harbor, NC 27953 obxgc.org (252) 255-5055

#### DAVIDSON COUNTY

Piedmont Handgunners Association P.O. Box 913 Thomasville, NC 27361 (336) 869-1865 www.phashoots.net

#### **DURHAM COUNTY**

Durham County Wildlife Club 3616 Hopson Road Morrisville, NC 27560 (919) 544-1306 www.dcwc.info

#### JONES COUNTY

Twin City Rifle Club, Inc. PO box 158 Pleasant Hill, NC 27866-0158

#### LEE COUNTY

San-Lee Gun Club, Inc. PO Box 2544 Riddle Road Sanford, NC 27330

Deep River Sporting Clays 284 Cletus Rd, Sanford, NC 27330 Bill Kempffer 919-774-7080

#### MOORE COUNTY

Moore County Wildlife & Conservation Club, Inc. 1820 Camp Easter Road Carthage, NC 28337 vvww.mcwcc.org

PERSON COUNTY Hyco Shooting Club (336) 364-9700 www.hycoshootingclub.com

Piedmont Community College Gunsmithing School 1715 College Dr. Roxboro, NC 27573 www.piedmontcc.edu

#### PITT COUNTY

Down East Garand Shooters Greenville, NC Clint Randles (252) 931-5575 (day) (252) 774-9338 (evenings) downeastgs@embarqmail.com

Pitt County Wildlife Club P.O. Box 101 Greenville, NC 27835 (252) 321-4378 www.pittcountywildlifeclub.org

#### POLK COUNTY

Polk County Gun Club 1243 Little Mountain Road Columbus, NC www.polkcountygunclub.org

#### RANDOLPH COUNTY

Riverside Gun Club PO Box 2817 Asheboro, NC 27204 (336) 889-2772 http://riversidegunclub.org

Triad Action Shooters Klub Mailing address PO Box 404 Trinity , NC 27370

#### ROWAN COUNTY

Rowan County Wildlife Association P.O. Box 612 650 Majolica Road Salisbury, NC 28145 (704) 202-3487 www.rcwanc.com

#### **RUTHERFORD COUNTY**

Piedmont Gun Club P.O. Box 1354 Rutherfordton, NC 28160 (828) 287-4736 www/piedmontgunclub.org

#### UNION COUNTY

Charlotte Rifle & Pistol Club (CPRC) 12833 E. Independence Boulevard Stallings, NC 28105 www.cr-pc.org

#### WAKE COUNTY

Sir Walter Gun Club Contact Martin Little Raleigh, NC 27613 Home: (919) 846-6740 Work: (919) 323-5060 Email: uspsa@sirwaltergunclub.com Range is in Creedmoor, NC www.sirwaltergunclub.com

Shooting Sports, Inc. PO Box 58753 Raleigh, NC 27658

#### WATAUGA COUNTY

Watauga Gun Club P.O. Box 2316 Boone, NC 28607 (828) 264-6539

#### WILKES COUNTY

Blue Ridge Rifle & Pistol Association PO Box 269 Millers Creek, NC 28651 Wade Parsons (336) 973-3744

#### YADKIN COUNTY

Carolina West Shooting Club P.O. Box 398 Nebo, NC 28761 (828) 659-9741 a6navy@hughes.net www.carolinawestshooting.org

"Besides the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation, the existence of subordinate governments, to which the people are attached, and by which the militia officers are appointed, forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition, more insurmountable than any which a simple government of any form can admit of."

- James Madison, Federalist No. 46, January 29, 1788

# **NCRPA Directory**

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Conventional Pistol Clark Hardesty

Law Enforcement Liasion Brian Silva

Hunter Safety Rick Swaim

Range Development Dave Meador 919-735-2316 lizmeador@earthlink.ne

Gun Show Coordinator David Fitzmorris PO Box 10173 Goldsboro NC 27532 919-736-2853 dfitznra@aol.com

### NRA Contacts

NRA Field Rep Eastern NC Tra Story 252-622-0842

NRA Field Rep Western NC Doug Merrill PO Box 441 Fairview NC 28730 828-628-0410

NRA-ILA State Director D.J. Spiker dspiker@nrahq.org

NRA Board Member Edie Fleeman 5000 Mandel Rd Durham NC27712 919-389-9710 Edie.nra@gmail.com NRA Board Member H J Walt Walter PO Box 39 Flat Rock NC 28731 828-693-9904 Hwalter2@earthlink.net

NRA Training Counselor Instructor Liasion Eric Shuford 207 Travilah Oaks Ln Cary NC 2758 919-363-0658 eshuford@earthlink.net

The 2Amendment

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

# Ed's Gun Shop

**Buy Sell Trade** 

910-692-7936 www.edsgunshop.com

Discount Gun Sales Ed Nicely 5560 US HWY 1, Vass NC 28394

**NCRPA Corporate Sponsor** 

# NRA GUN SAFETY RULES

I'm sure everyone already knows and obeys the rules, but a bit of a refresher never hurts.

The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling are:

### ALWAYS

Keep The Gun Pointed In A Safe Direction This is the primary rule of gun safety. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.

### ALWAYS

Keep Your Finger Off The Trigger Until Ready To Shoot When holding a gun, rest your finger alongside the frame and outside the trigger guard. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

### ALWAYS

Keep The Gun Unloaded Until Ready To Use If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.

Join the NRA and support Freedom in the United States



- 1. For Your Freedom
- 2. For Your Family
- 3. For Your Community
- 4. For your Country
- 5. For Your Future

The NRA offers education and training opportunities for all ages; from Eddie Eagle GunSafe program that has taught 26 million children firearms safety, to advanced personal protection courses for home defense.

NRA provides vital support that will keep your loved ones safe. Join today online at the following link.

### https://membership.nrahq.org/forms/signup.asp?campaignid=XC005400

Regular Member fee 1yr=\$30, 3yr=\$85, 5yr=\$100 (These prices are only available through the link above)

Junior Member fee (under 18) 1yr=\$10

Magazine Choices are American Rifleman, American Hunter, Americas First Freedom, Shooting Illustrated.

North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association P.O. Box 4116, Pinehurst, NC 28374

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### North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association

# Membership Application

P.O. Box 4116, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Please print clearly and provide complete information so your membership can be processed correctly.

Mr/Mrs/Ms Last Name or Club N	//////	/		
Street				Zip
Birthday///	Phone (	)	NRA#	
Email Address				
Check Desired Membership		CLUB MEMBERSHIP ( - FOR GUN CLUBS -)		
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHI	2	🖵 1 Year Adult Clu	•	40.00
Annual -1 year	\$ 30.00	🗆 3 Year Adult Clu	•	00.00
Annual - 5 Year	\$ 125.00	🗆 1 Year Junior C	lub Membership \$	20.00
Junior -1 year	\$ 15.00	3 Year Junior C	•	50.00
Junior Life (under 12 yrs. old)	\$ 175.00		•	
Life Membership	\$ 300.00			
Term Life Membership	\$ 325.00	Payment Enclosed \$		
5 quarterly payments @ \$65.00 ea ❑ Senior Life—60 Year Plus	\$ 175.00	Club Affiliation Membersh		Renewal
Endowment Member	\$ 500.00			
Patron Member	\$ 750.00	State Rep District	_ State Senate District	
	\$1000.00	U.S. Representative Distric	t County	
CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP		mail to: David Prest, Membership Secretary		
Annual Corporate Sponsor		P.O. Box 4 Pinehurst	116 , NC 28374	