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THE DEFENDER

DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF.

: Spring 2017 :

VIOLENCE AND UTOPIA — REALISM AND IDEALISM IN THE AGE OF GUN CONTROL

By Rob Morse

Evil is hard to accept. I attended a self-defense training class last week where an expert described how callous and downright evil violent criminals can be. I don't think I'm a coward, but recognizing evil takes an emotional toll. I'm not alone in feeling that way. Gun "prohibition" laws give us psychological relief from facing evil. Projecting evil intent on an inanimate object protects us from having to recognize violence as part of the human condition. By contrast, recognizing evil strips away our innocence and imposes obligations on us. This psychological dynamic explains a lot about the political dynamics behind gun control. Gun control continues to appeal to a certain type of person despite its record of failure.

We don't know what a violent person looks like. Violence would be so much easier to tolerate if every violent criminal came with a cartoon thought-bubble floating above them that said, *"Watch out for this crazy person."* In fact, criminals defy simple explanation. Some criminals are poor and some are rich. They can be crazy or sane. Some criminals are addicts; others are as sober as the proverbial judge. Some violent criminals grew up deprived and abused, while others grew up pampered and indulged.



VCDL Public Meeting Dates

Thursday, Jun 22—Annandale

Thursday, Jul 20—Annandale

Thursday, Aug 17—Annandale

Thursday, Sep 21—Annandale

Wednesday, Oct 25—Annandale

Additional meetings held throughout the state are announced in VA-ALERT and posted on the calendar at www.vcdl.org/calendar

Annandale meetings are held at the Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
Fellowship 7:30; Meeting 8:00 PM

Violence will not go away despite our efforts to label or rationalize criminals and violent behavior. According to data from the US Bureau of Justice Statistics, between one-out-of-two and one-out-of-three of us will be victims of violent crime in our lifetime. Your chances vary widely with the local crime rate. Though not an everyday occurrence, the sad fact is that criminal violence is with us. It is uncomfortable to feel at risk. It can even be depressing.

This is where each of us faces a choice. On one hand, we can view the world as imperfect and slightly dangerous. A realist then takes responsibility for his or her own safety. On the other hand, we can cling to a utopian view of the world. Then, an idealist says that it is society's duty to protect him from violence.

It is easier for the idealist to talk about utopian prohibitions against violence than to face the real day-to-day effort of personal protection. Idealists say it is up to the police to keep us safe. Realists reply that we are our own first line of defense, and the police are only there to take reports and make arrests.

For the idealist, the benefits of being disarmed are real. Placing the burden of protection on society allows the idealist to keep human evil at a psychological distance. For example, *'Violence is their problem, not mine.'* When someone they know is attacked, the idealist responds by proposing more gun-control laws. Weapons prohibition is psychic Valium to control the toxic emotional impact of real violence.

The idealist also condemns the realist. The level of psychological projection by idealists is several levels deep. On the surface, the idealist turns physical objects into a religious fetish. It is the inanimate objects, the knife or the gun, that are seen as dangerous rather than seeing danger in flesh-and-blood human beings. At a deeper level, the placebo of firearms prohibition lets the idealist replace concern with complacency.

At a still deeper level, idealists not only blame the gun, but blame gun owners. The honest person who wants to use a firearm for personal protection disrupts the fantasy that guns are the problem. Idealists cannot allow themselves to admit that honest citizens often prevent a crime or protect the innocent from violence. Therefore, the idealist, especially those in the media, feel compelled to shield the public from this disturbing evidence. That may seem to be a bold claim, but you can see the evidence for yourself.

Look at the typical news cycle after another innocent person is horribly attacked by a

Continued on pg. 6

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Is Congress going to drop the ball on restoring our gun rights while they have a historic chance to do so?

That is a legitimate concern for gun owners, absolutely.

The good news is that President Trump has stated publicly many times that he supports some very important issues for gun owners: national reciprocity and the Hearing Protection Act.

There has been some forward motion on gun rights already: the President has signed into law protections for Social Security recipients, shielding them from losing their right to keep and bear arms merely because someone else handles their financial affairs. And the Supreme Court once again is tilted toward supporting the Second Amendment.

National Reciprocity would simply require states to honor each other's concealed carry permits, just as they currently support the right of retired or off-duty police from other states to carry under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. Permit holders would have to follow the state firearms laws in whatever state they are visiting. One thing the current bills do not do, and that we don't want them to ever do, is to set some kind of federal "standards" for getting a CHP.

The Hearing Protection Act would make silencers/suppressors an item that one could purchase in any store after a NICS background check has been run on the purchaser - same as buying a firearm. Currently, the process can take eight or more months for the paperwork to be processed, after the purchaser pays \$200 for a tax stamp, gets fingerprinted, gets photographed, and lets the local chief law enforcement officer (CLEO) know about the purchase. The CLEO does not have to sign off on anything, just be notified. However, purchasing a suppressor is a pain when it shouldn't be. Complaints about the noise created by neighbors target shooting would drop way off if everyone would use a suppressor when doing so.

The trouble is that we may not have much time. In two short years there will be another election. Right now the

Republican Party controls both the Senate, the House, and the White House. That balance could change in the next election, possibly putting gun owners in a much weaker position politically.

Gun bills in Congress have the bad habit of dying for lack of attention. They just sort of fade away, never to be heard from again.

How do those bills get the attention they deserve? By voters contacting their representatives and urging that the gun bills move forward. Numbers count and politicians can definitely count!

Call your Congressman and your Senators. Tell them you want both the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act (HR 38 and S 446) and the Hearing Protection Act (HR 367 and S 59) passed out of Congress as soon as possible.

Phone numbers and Internet contact information for members of Congress can be found at:
<https://www.congress.gov/members>



GREAT NEWS!

Effective immediately: Georgia formally recognizes Virginia CHPs! See the Georgia Attorney General's website at <https://law.georgia.gov/firearm-license-reciprocity-0>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

A group of VCDL members participated in the advance firearms training at Troysgate in Lenoir, North Carolina recently. It received several rave reviews from attendees.

Having tried these civilian courses, Troysgate now plans on offering more of them to VCDL members and others (one a month). A minimum class size of 6 people will be required.

More information can be found at <http://troysgate.com/civilian/index.html>

EDITOR'S NOTE

VCDL is a non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to defending the human rights of all Virginians. The membership considers the right to keep and bear arms an essential human right. Members are encouraged to participate actively in developing The Defender. Articles on Second Amendment and the Right to Keep and Bear Arms subjects may be published as space permits.

Articles should be brief and to the point. Materials will not be returned. All claims, facts, and quotes must be verifiable. Photos must be accompanied with names of the subjects, dates, location of events, and photographer's name. Articles must be factual, newsworthy, and of interest to the membership. VCDL will not endorse politicians or political candidates for office. Opinions expressed in The Defender are not necessarily those of the Virginia Citizens Defense League.

Submissions are subject to editing for length, style, grammar, and conformity with the goals of VCDL. Authors of articles and letters should be identified, and city/town of residence is preferred. Contact the editor for additional details.

VCDL wants to include clippings from around the state. You can help by monitoring your local newspaper for articles, editorials, and letters to the editor dealing with the right to keep and bear arms. Clip the news pieces along with a masthead from the paper and send them in, or send a link. If you write a letter to the editor, please send us a copy. Check the guidelines of the publication you write to, however; some require you not to publish elsewhere, or not to publish elsewhere until after it runs in their paper.

Send submissions at any time via e-mail to TheDefender@vcdl.org or via snail-mail to: The Editor, c/o VCDL, The Defender, P.O. Box 513, Newington, VA 22122

We are investigating the possibility of electronic access to The Defender. Should that be viable, we will notify our members via The Defender and via the VA-ALERT.

UPCOMING GUN SHOWS AND EVENTS

To volunteer to help man the VCDL table at a gun show, contact the appropriate coordinator listed. For non-gun show events, contact the listed coordinator. **Verify all schedules; this list is correct as of press time.**

CHANTILLY—Dulles Expo Center

Jun 9-11 Jul 28-30 Sep 29-Oct 1 Nov 17-19

DALE CITY — VFW Post 1503

Jul 22-23 Oct 7-8 Dec 2-3

DOSWELL—Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park

Oct 21-22 Dec 9-10

FISHERSVILLE—Augusta Expo

Sep 9-10 Dec 9-10

FREDERICKSBURG — Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

Jul 1-2 Sep 16-17 Oct 28-29 Dec 16-17

HAMPTON—Hampton Roads Convention Center

Jul 15-16 Sep 23-24 Nov 25-26

HARRISONBRUG—Rockingham County Fairgrounds

June 17-18 Oct 7-8 Nov 25-26

MANASSAS — PWC Fairgrounds

Sep 9-10 Nov 4-5 Dec 2-3

NORFOLK—Norfolk Scope

Sep 9-10 Nov 4-5

RICHMOND—6807 Midlothian Road (Kmart at Midlothian)

Jun 3-4 ***New Location***

ROANOKE—Roanoke Civic Center

Aug 19-20 Oct 21-22

SALEM—Salem Civic Center

Jul 22-23 Oct 28-29 Dec 16-17

**STANARDSVILLE, VA—Greene County Fairgrounds

Jun 23-24

VIRGINIA BEACH — Convention Center

Oct 14-15

**WINCHESTER — Body Renew Fitness and Family Sports Center

Nov 4-5

*** - Information Only No VCDL table is planned.*

GUN SHOW COORDINATORS

Chantilly—**Danny Paulson**—gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Dale City—**Richard Kroh**—gunshows.dalecity@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg and Doswell—**Michael Kolodzinski**—
gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Manassas—**Rebekah Koffler**—gunshows.manassas@vcdl.org

Norfolk SCOPE—**John Ward**—gunshows.norfolk@vcdl.org

Richmond—**Mike Wilburt**—gunshows.centralva@vcdl.org

Southwest Virginia—**Al Steed, Jr.**—gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Peninsula—**Ron Lilly**—
gunshows.hamptonroads@vcdl.org

Tidewater/Virginia Beach—**Gary Moeller**—
gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinator—**Dr Milan Sturgis**—
gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

VCDL appreciates the volunteers who make it possible to have a presence at gun shows and other locales. Since mid-February and through early May, the following people have stepped forward.

Doswell Feb 25-26

Tess Ailshire, Susan Brush, Robert Charlton, Dave Eckart, Rusty Hoerst, Rich Kroh, Rowley Molina, Stanley Walker

Fredericksburg March 11-12

Sue Blevins, Troy Blevins, Mike Clark, Dennis Hannick, Susan Hannick, Rex Hines, Bruce Jackson, Rowley Molina, Terrell Prude, Stanley Walker, Dr Rosie Zhi

Roanoke March 18-19

Don Beheler, Connie French, Ed French, Ken Modica, Ed Noell, Bruce Powers, Sherrill Smith, Al Steed, Jr.

Richmond March 25-26

David Crosby, Mac David, Dave Eckhart, John Grosney, Denny Hayes, Barbara Heipp, Bill Heipp, Bill Oldaker, Evan Smith, Marvin Stalnaker, Ricky Stephens and his son, Ricky (8 years old and a VCDL member), JoAnne Stugart, Bob Welch

Hampton March 18-19

Mark Spruill (acting gun show coordinator) Lee Affholter, Paul B, Ron Lilly, Doug Peterson, Linda Peterson, Frank Stanisz

Dale City April 1-2

Ian Branson, Jack Carwile, Dr Jerry Coffey, Michael Greelish, Randy Hoert, Clairia Beth Jackson, Ray Kasey, Tom O'Hara, Jon Ortega, Tom Pietras, Jim Roberson

Chantilly April 21-23

Vaughn Allex, Keith Bailey, Gene Brodetski, Tim Burke, Jim Ellett, Robert Eufemia, Andrew Hirsch, Steve Hunt, Rebekah Koffler, Francois Krodel, Michael Oakes, Max Padon, Alek Paulson, Danny Paulson, Roz Paulson, Randy Royston, Craig Shelton, Mar Shinn, Keith Webster, Bill Wood, Ralph Wright

Salem April 29-30

Don Beheler, Bob Bruch, Kae Bruch, Connie French, Ed French, Sam Hollingsworth, Ken Modica, Bruce Powers, Sherrill Smith, Al Steed Jr

Manassas April 28-29

Keith Bailey, Theo Bugtong, Dave Denison, Tom Fuller, Mike Hawkins, Sean Kennedy, Rebekah Koffler, Joseph Mancini, Jon Saxon, CJ Ward, Keith Webster, Jonathan York

Prepper Fest May 6

Bob Bruch, Kae Bruch, Craig Lawrence, Ken Modica, Sherrill Smith, Al Steed, Jr.

Doswell May 5-6

Tess Ailshire, Susan Brush, Bob Charlton, John Dittamo, Santiago Echeverria, Mike Kolodzinski, Rowley Molina, Stanley Walker

THANK YOU!

Federal and Virginia Carry Laws - And What About Those Loopholes?

By Board of Directors Member Pat Webb

Let me start this section by clearly stating that I am NOT a lawyer, nor do I play one on TV. That being said, I am a gun store owner and I get a lot of questions about firearm laws—among other things. This is the second in a series of articles based on what people ask (or assume) about gun handling, ownership, and carry. The other parts of this series cover: etiquette (in the last issue), purchasing (Summer 2017), and activism (Fall 2017).

With any firearms related subject, the very fundamental core is safety. Without proper safety practices you will put not only yourself at risk, but those around you as well. With that in mind, remember the cardinal rules of safe firearm handling:

- Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
- Always keep your gun unloaded until you are ready to use it (if holstered and being carried for self-defense, then the gun can and should be loaded)

If you follow these three very basic fundamental rules you will never have a negligent discharge and the people around you will be much more comfortable.

Is This Legal? Laws change. Sometimes frequently. And the statutes are often organized and written in a way that can be confusing for us laymen to understand. Sometimes even the lawyers and judges will interpret them differently. Fortunately for Virginia residents, we have a group like Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) to help us keep track of changes and stay on the right side of the law.

Here comes the shameless plug! If you are a gun owner in Virginia and are not a member of VCDL you should be. The organization works hard every day to block legislation that would restrict your ability to defend yourself. Members actively lobby to pass legislation that makes your life as a gun owner easier. But perhaps most important, VCDL publishes alerts on an as-needed basis to keep you up to date on changing gun laws.

Every July, VCDL distributes a color-coded "Carry Card" listing an abbreviated version of the carry laws in Virginia. These handy cards can be easily kept in your wallet or purse and not only list where you can or cannot carry but frequently give the applicable code section as well. There is also an online link at www.vcdl.org/CarryInfo for a more detailed list.

I will not delve into specifics as much in this article because laws change and you will be better armed with knowledge if you know where to look for current law. However, there are some fundamental issues we can discuss here.

Can I Carry This? In Virginia the current law says that if you are legal to own a handgun you may carry it openly without any special permission. This means that at the age of 18 you may put a handgun in your holster and carry it, loaded,

legally anywhere it is not prohibited by law. Where you can legally carry can and does change so it is important to know before you go. See the previous paragraph for links to find the current laws.

At 18 years old you may legally purchase a handgun in a private transaction, however you must be 21 to purchase one from an FFL (Federal Firearms Licensee, commonly called a gun dealer). This is a simplified version and is NOT legal advice. Again, check the law yourself and know before you go.

If you want to carry concealed, you will need to apply for a permit at the Clerk of the Court in the county where you reside. The fee cannot exceed \$50.00 and the law states that if you meet the requirements and submit an application the Clerk must issue you a permit within 45 days or give you a temporary permit. If you are denied, there is an appeals process, however you cannot be denied except under specific circumstances. In other words, Virginia is a "Shall Issue" state. The court is not allowed to arbitrarily deny your application... they can't decide that they don't like people with blonde hair and therefore won't issue them permits.

For a complete outline of the process and a downloadable application visit the Virginia State Police website at http://www.vsp.state.va.us/Firearms_ResidentConcealed.shtm.

It is also important to note that no permit is required to conceal your firearm on your own property or at your own place of business. You may also store your loaded gun in a secure compartment of your vehicle without a permit.

In addition, Virginia's permit is for a concealed handgun, not a concealed weapon. There are specific restrictions on what you can and cannot conceal, and these can change, so make sure you review the law. You can subscribe to the VA-ALERT to keep informed about pending legislation.

VCDL is working to change the law to allow other types of weapons, so stay tuned, stay involved, and plan to attend Lobby Day.

How Do I Register My Gun? This may be the most frequently asked question. In Virginia we do not have a gun registration for most firearms. The one exception is machine guns. Yes, Virginia, you can own a machine gun, you just have to pay a \$200.00 tax in order to exercise your right to purchase it. But that is for a different article. We are more concerned with your everyday standard firearm purchase, and for that there is no registration in our state.

This means that if you sell your gun or give it to your wife (a practice I highly recommend by the way!) you do not have to do any special paperwork. The one caveat is that you cannot transfer a firearm to someone whom you know is not legally allowed to purchase or possess it.

What Is The Gun Show Loophole? The short answer, it is a lie perpetrated on the American public to scare them into supporting universal background checks (UBC). There are no magic borders at a gun show which nullify any law. The exact same requirements apply to the legal transfer of firearms

whether they are purchased at a gun show or at a gun dealer, or you are selling that 16-gauge shotgun, which has been collecting dust in your safe since your son left for college 10 years ago, to your next door neighbor.

So what is the law? Currently, if you purchase a gun from a licensed dealer—commonly referred to as an FFL, which is short for Federal Firearms Licensee—you will need to fill out a couple of forms and go through a background check. If you purchase from a private citizen in a face-to-face transaction and you are both residents of the same state, there is no need for the background check. The law was written this way to prevent a gun registry. When Congress passed the Brady Bill they deliberately excluded private sales to ensure that there was no permanent database of gun owners, thereby preventing the means for future gun confiscation.

So What's Wrong with Universal Background Checks? We want to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, right? So why should I be opposed to requiring all transfers to be subject to a background check?

The most obvious answer is to prevent registration. History has shown that governments can and will confiscate guns. And the main reason to do this is to prevent revolt when the government abuses its power.

But there are more subtle reasons to oppose UBCs. Here are just a few examples of simple, reasonable actions that would become illegal under such a system.

- Loaning a hunting rifle to a visiting friend would require a background check
- That same friend returning the rifle would require *you* to pass a background check to get your own rifle back
- People between the ages of 18 and 21 would not be able to own or carry a handgun (they can now legally purchase one in a private sale or receive one as a gift)
- You would not be able to teach your kids to shoot safely
- Youth hunting will be virtually eliminated since they cannot legally own a gun
- You would not be able to teach your friend or spouse to shoot without them going through a background check
- You would be subject to a background check every time you rent a gun at a range
- Returning a gun to a manufacturer for warranty repairs would require another background check and a transfer fee
- You would not be able to leave your guns with a trusted friend while you go on vacation
- Each of these transactions would come with a fee to an FFL for processing your paperwork

The only way to enforce a UBC system is to require registration of all guns, something a recent study confirmed.

Of course, criminals can still obtain guns through theft or black market sources. The courts have even ruled that it violates a criminal's civil rights to require that they register their guns (no, I'm not kidding!), so this law would not affect them. In addition, background checks do not prevent crime, they only prevent SOME transfers of guns to those who have already been convicted of a crime. So if a criminal has not been caught and convicted, the law is useless. In other words, the only people who are affected are you and me, the law

abiding gun owner.

But there is a more sinister effect of such laws...the law of unintended consequences. A nationwide UBC will make us less safe by preventing effective education on safe gun handling.

Chicago has had Universal Background Checks for years and you can see how well it has stemmed violent crime there. Chicago had over 4,300 shootings in 2016 alone.

The Charleston Loophole. This is an expansion of the mythical Gun Show Loophole. The reference is to the 2016 murder of nine worshipers in a church in Charleston, SC. The murderer, who shall remain nameless so as not to contribute to his infamy, had legally purchased his gun through a dealer. The background check approval was delayed and the gun was legally transferred when a disposition was not given within three business days. The law was deliberately structured this way to prevent gun sales from being denied in a discriminatory way by just not giving an approval, even though the purchaser was not a prohibited person.

In this case, there were errors made by both local police and the FBI which prevented the purchaser's prior arrest record from being found in a timely manner by the agent conducting the background check. But this does not justify removing a key provision of our current safeguards that prevent abuse of the system.

Consider this: if we allow universal background checks and also prevent transfers of firearms until the FBI concludes whatever exhaustive investigations they deem warranted, it could effectively prevent any firearms transfers from taking place, or make the process so lengthy that it would seriously inhibit sales, prevent training, prevent rentals at ranges, and change the face of gun ownership forever.

So What Is The Answer? In short, it is up to us to know the law. Knowledge is power, especially with a topic so subject to bias and misinformation. Learn where to find the information you need. Gain confidence by speaking with your friends about it. Educate those around you who don't know anything besides what they see on the television.

You can set a good example by practicing proper etiquette, as we discussed in article one. Take people to the range and teach them to shoot, or take classes with them. Again, knowledge is power. Just like the youngster who is afraid of the dark until his parents get a flashlight and help him explore the shadows, people are intimidated by firearms until they learn how to master the beast. Encourage your friends to sign up for the VA-ALERT. They will learn a lot about what is true and what is hype. And they will stay on top of ever-changing laws.

Our next installment will cover actually buying a gun and what is involved.

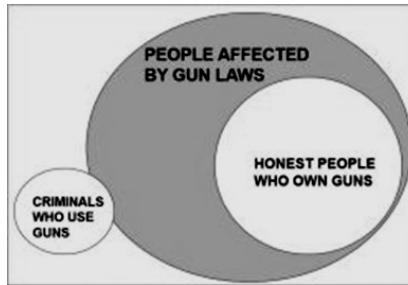
violent criminal. Anti-gun activists and politicians run to the news media to say there is no personal responsibility to protect ourselves. I'm paraphrasing here:

You don't need to change how you live because we only need a little more gun-control and then everything will be fine.'

In real life, gun prohibition has no effect on criminals. For example, Maryland imposed strict gun control a few years ago. They banned the sale of the most popular semi-automatic rifles and limited how many guns can be bought in a month. Legislation also limited the number of cartridges allowed in a firearm. Criminals don't follow gun laws so the results of the Maryland gun prohibitions were entirely predictable. The crime rate is now at record levels in Baltimore,

Maryland. Similar stories are repeated again and again in gun-control cities like Chicago and Los Angeles.

Unfortunately, the idealist doesn't stop with gun control. He extends his antipathy beyond guns and knives to include any armed civilian. Licensed concealed carry holders are the most law abiding segment of society. They are charged with fewer firearms violations than other segments of society, including the police. Licensed gun owners are the boy scouts of society. Idealists say that since they don't want to carry a firearm, we all should be disarmed.



The idealists say their laws stop crime, but gun laws miss their target the vast majority of the time. These anti-gun laws really target the law-abiding gun owner.

We have already passed some 23 thousand firearms regulations. They failed to stop or materially reduce violent crime. We've seen prohibition fail time after time in country after country so this is the rule rather than the rare exception.

"But if criminals obeyed the laws then these gun laws would work. We just need to pass one more law!"

The antipathy towards gun owners is not based upon stopping violence, but upon reducing the discomfort felt by idealists. For the idealist, letting society take the burden removes both the duty and the emotional cost of facing an imperfect world. For the idealist, protecting the fantasy narrative of gun-control is more important than respecting the facts.

In the meantime, the realist faces the daily grind of training and preparation for self-defense.

Which will you choose?

Initially published by Rob Morse in the blog "Slow Facts" (<https://slowfacts.wordpress.com>) on March 27, 2017. Used by permission.

Self-Defense

Excerpted by VCDL Member Joe Guilfoyle

The media and law enforcement continually advise us that, when confronted with the threat of lethal violence, we should not resist, but simply give the attacker what he wants.

How can persons who value themselves calmly accept the indignity of a criminal assault? Crime is a total disavowal of the social contract, a commandeering of the victim's person and liberty; crime always violates the victim's dignity. Your wallet, your purse, or your car may not be worth your life, but your dignity is; and if it is not worth fighting for, it can hardly be said to exist.

It is impossible to address the problem of crime without asking about the moral responsibility of the intended victim. Crime is rampant because the law-abiding condone it, excuse it, permit it, submit to it. We permit it because we do not fight back, immediately, then and there, where it happens.

The existence of police does not relieve us of the responsibility to protect ourselves. The police are not personal bodyguards. They have no legal obligation to protect anyone. You cannot sue them for failing to prevent you from being the victim of a crime.

Those who value their lives and take seriously their responsibilities to family and community will possess and cultivate the means of fighting back, and will retaliate when threatened with death or grievous injury to themselves or a loved one. They will never be content to rely solely on others for their safety. Let's not mince words: They will be armed, will be trained in the use of their weapon, and will defend themselves when faced with lethal violence.

Excerpted from "A Nation of Cowards" published in the Fall '93 issue of The Public Interest, a quarterly journal of opinion published by National Affairs, Inc. Single copies of The Public Interest are available for \$6. Annual subscriptions are \$21 from The Public Interest, 1112 16th St., N.W., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20036

The full article discusses the inalienable right of self defense, the hypocrisy of 'gun control,' and the moral basis of the Bill of Rights. You can read the full article on line at <http://www.rkba.org/comment/cowards.html>

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This battle for 'common-sense' gun control laws pits emotion and passion against logic and reason. All too often in such a contest, logic loses. So, expect more meaningless, if not harmful, 'gun control' legislation. Good news - if you're a crook.

Larry Elder

VCDL Membership Application

1 VCDL membership: \$ **25.00**
 Donation to VCDL: \$ _____
 Donation to PAC: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

(Note: Membership processing can take 4-6 weeks)

Method of payment

Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)
 Check (Make checks payable to **VCDL**)
 Charge: American Express
 MasterCard Visa

Credit Card Number:

Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on the card

Signature of Card Holder

Signature of Card Holder

Mail to:

VCDL Membership Processing Center

P.O. Box 254

Garrisonville, VA 22463-0254

Contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Significant Firsts

My name is Patricia Webb, and my nickname is Pat. Last summer, I was elected to the VCDL Board of Directors. It has been pointed out that I am the first female to be elected to the Board. In some ways, I consider that to be an honor and a distinction. In other ways, not so much. Let me explain....

To state that an achievement is somehow noteworthy simply because of gender, race, or some other arbitrary designation could be an implication that one gender or race is somehow superior to another. Yes, there are physical differences. Men would have a hard time bearing children, for instance, and there are things that men can do that women are not physically equipped for as well.

However, in the firearms world, there isn't much that gives one gender (or race) an advantage over another. In fact, guns have been called "The Great Equalizer" for a very good reason. In light of that, it has always amazed me that shooting sports were often considered "a man's world" and many women didn't like going to the range because of the perception that they would be the only females.

In reality, women are one of the fastest growing demographic of firearms owners. And this is a good thing. The so-called gender gap is being narrowed substantially in our industry. Manufacturers are making guns with grips designed to fit smaller hands. Holsters are being designed for the unique requirements of women's anatomy and attire. Instructors are tailoring courses to cater to this expanding clientele. But perhaps most importantly, voting blocks are shifting and anti-rights legislation (AKA gun control) is getting tougher to pass because the public is becoming more educated on the facts.

Yes, I am the first woman to sit on the VCDL Board of Directors. I am deeply honored to have been given the opportunity. But I would find it insulting if the only reason people voted for me was the fact that I was not a man. To select someone for a position simply because of their race or gender is an insult and implies that they would not have been selected based solely on their abilities. In this case nothing could be further from the truth. I have spent many years and a great deal of effort working to protect the right to keep and bear arms and to educate others on safe gun handling and the joys of the shooting sports. Sitting on the Board gives me the opportunity to continue this important work. Seeing more diversity among the members of VCDL gives me great joy because I know that our message is reaching a greater number of people from all walks of life. After all, the great success of VCDL is because of our members and their willingness to step up in defense of our right to defend ourselves. Thank you all for your support and know that I will do my best to represent you well.

**VIRGINIA CITIZENS
DEFENSE LEAGUE, INC.
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in
Virginia**



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Please feel free to contact any of the Officers or Directors should you have any questions or would like to volunteer your services in VCDL.

VCDL MEMBERS AT WORK

Member Robert Mortensen brought some bad ordinances in Harrisonburg to VCDL's attention. 16-6-36 and 16-6-41 prohibit shooting airguns within the City. Neither offers the required exemption for a person shooting on his own property as long as he takes reasonable precautions to ensure the projectiles stay on his property. City Attorney, Chris Brown was unaware of the issue, but agreed the ordinances need to be corrected. He will be contacting City Council and didn't expect there to be any issues.

Member Mark Jordan sent an email about York County ordinance 17-56, which prohibits the carry or possession of firearms of any description or air rifles without a permit from the "appropriate government official." County Attorney, James Barnett agreed that the ordinance was not in compliance with state law and said it would be fixed.

VCDL talked to the Town of Woodstock's Town Attorney, Jay Neal Jr. He agreed that the Town's ordinance 46-116 would need to be corrected to allow for the lawful discharge of an air gun on private property. He said the issue would be put before the Town Council to be corrected.

**DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT
TO DEFEND YOURSELF**

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