IRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

NATIONAL FIREARMS SEMINAR

Over 280 attended the 2018 National Firearms Seminar at the NRA Annual Meetings

RING OF FREEDOM

Anne Brockinton Lee: A Bright Light for Freedom

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

2017 Volunteers of the Year are Announced



NRA DALLAS 18 THAN EVER NRA ANNUAL MEETING

Features



COVER STORY

Bigger & Better Than Ever in Dallas

The NRA Foundation's events at the 2018 NRA Annual Meetings in Dallas generate excitement and funding for the shooting sports!

ON THE COVER



The Big Shot Ranch Patriot 20mm rifle was the Showcase Item up for auction on GunBroker.com for the 2018 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Dallas.

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The Latest Stories from Friends of NRA and NRA Foundation Grant Recipients

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MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1990, The NRA Foundation, Inc. ("NRA Foundation") is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that raises tax-deductible contributions in support of a wide range of firearms-related public interest activities of the National Rifle Association of America and other organizations that defend and foster the Second Amendment rights of all law-abiding Americans. These activities are designed to promote firearms and hunting safety, to enhance marksmanship skills of those participating in the shooting sports, and to educate the general public about firearms in their historic, technological, and artistic context. Funds granted by The NRA Foundation benefit a variety of constituencies throughout the United States, including children, youth, women, individuals with physical disabilities, gun collectors, law enforcement officers, hunters, and competitive shooters.

Protecting Freedom's Future

Grassroots efforts and educational programs preserve our traditions

What an exciting time to be part of our NRA Family! It was exhilarating to see so many staunch and steadfast supporters in Dallas for the 147th NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits. We had 87,154 attendees and 800+ exhibitors at the Annual Meetings in Dallas, making it our second largest ever. The National NRA Foundation Banquet had upwards of 1,500 attendees and the most profitable live auction that event has ever seen.

I served as a member of The NRA Foundation's Board of Trustees for 6 years and have never witnessed more enthusiasm, patriotism and deep-seated commitment to the Second Amendment than I do today. It is supporters like you that make our jobs as Board members so fulfilling and that inspire us to march forward in our mission to Teach Freedom.

We are at the mid-way point in the year for Friends of NRA events, and continue to thrive in attendance and fundraising. 2017 was the second highest fundraising year in the 26 year history of the program, and this year we are up \$1 million (5%) from the same time last year. Since day one, it has been a 100% grassroots effort fueled by a united front to secure the Second Amendment and

raise money for the shooting sports.

Help us keep up the momentum to make the back half of the year just as successful. If you are a veteran Friends event attendee or volunteer, become an ambassador in your community. Invite friends, neighbors and colleagues to join you at one of nearly 1,200 events across the country. Remind your

peers that Friends of NRA events are all about fun, fellowship and fundraising to support Freedom.

If you've never attended an event, and don't know where to start, contact your local Field Representative. Our Field Reps are among the brightest, kindest and most sincere people on earth. There is nothing more exciting than to introduce individuals and families into the fold. Visit

www.friendsofnra.org and click "Select a State" to find your local representative today.

As a reminder, 100% of net event proceeds support local, state and national shooting sports programs. You can be confident that you are helping safeguard programs across the nation that prepare today's young generation to be tomorrow's guardians of the Second Amendment.

Teaching Freedom is our greatest privilege and it all starts with your generous commitment of support. Thank you for joining us in our mission.

Carolyn Meadows

Interim NRA President



SHOOTING STRAIGHT

As a leader in an organization that fights for our freedom and preserving the Constitution every day, what piece of advice would you give to a young person who wants to do the same?

Be true to yourself and your beliefs. Know that in your heart, you might be challenged or even described as in the minority, but stay focused and continue to do this important work. The future depends on it.

What was your first hunting experience like? Who were you with?

Yes, that would be a dove hunt with my dad and brothers. I sat under a tree with a single-shot 410 shotgun and waited for birds to swing my way. I don't remember getting a lot of birds that day, but what I do remember is how excited I was before the hunt. And I remember the preparation, the discussion with my dad about where we were going to set up, how my older brothers all gave me guidance on what to do and not do. As anyone who has been there knows, there's nothing quite like that first experience. I'll remember it always.

What was the catalyst to become a lobbyist?

Believe it or not, I wasn't one of those kids that was drawn to politics early on in high school or college. I loved reading and studying the law, but politics not so much. Then, after graduating from Rhodes College, I took a job as a legislative aide for Congressman John Tanner in Washington, and things changed. My plan when I took the job

was to work for a year or so and then enter graduate school, but soon after I started, a number of organizations began attacking law-abiding gun owners – like me – by advocating for gun control as an answer to violent crime. I took that very personally, and when the opportunity to work for the NRA came up, I jumped at the chance. It's interesting to note that although more than 20 years has gone by, the core argument made by NRA's opponents hasn't changed one iota. Their answer, in fact, their only answer, is to destroy the rights of peaceable Americans and I'm proud to help the NRA fight them at every turn.

What inspires you to wake up every day an do your job?

That's easy - the law-abiding gun owners of this country. And in that group, I include myself, my family, my friends, and all the NRA members who work tirelessly to protect the Second Amendment for future generations. As I said earlier, I became interested in advocating on behalf of the gun community because I took the attacks on our rights personally. The old adage that if you love your job you'll never work a day in your life is absolutely true, and in my case, not only do I love protecting the Second Amendment, I'm personally dedicated to this mission. I get to travel across this great country of ours, and at every stop, I meet gun owners from all walks of life who remind me how important our work at the NRA is to the future of this country. I am both humbled and honored to work on their behalf.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

The biggest challenge we face is reminding the American people that policy and laws should be based on reason and facts instead of the emotional appeals of gun control advocates in the wake of unspeakable crimes. Too often in today's politics, emotion drives decision-making, and this has become especially true as social media has come to dominate the public square. My primary goal, as the chief lobbyist of the NRA, is to find a way to bring common sense and logic back in to the debate by activating our members to carry that message to lawmakers.

How do you deal with liberal media, which can sometimes be quite vicious?

One of the reasons the NRA has ■ been called the most potent political force in United States history is that our members work harder and are more dedicated than any constituency in America. We take the liberal media as an unfortunate but accepted fact of life, and our members know that we can't rely on them to ever tell the truth or get it right. This has always been the case, but the good news is that the well-established anti-gun bias of the media has never been more irrelevant. The NRA talks directly to our members through our publications, our web presence, and through social media. And, I might add, the greatest voice we've ever had is our members themselves, speaking directly to each other, their family, and members of the community. When you want to learn about a gun bill

Q&A with NRA-ILA's Executive Director **Chris Cox**

Questions written by Y.E.S. 2018, session 1 participants. For the full interview with Chris Cox, please visit the NRA Blog

or upcoming election, just head to a local shooting range or gun shop, or sit in a duck blind with an NRA member. You'll get the straight skinny every time.

What do you see in the youth today that inspires you for the future?

One can't help but be inspired ■ by young folks who have made a commitment and dedicated themselves to learning about our Constitution and fighting for its values. As I mentioned, I wasn't there at an early age, so I am truly impressed when I see such dedication in others. At our annual meeting this year, I had the good fortune of meeting many, many young people who were there not only because they believe in the Second Amendment, but also because they want to fight for our nation's future and see the Right to Keep and Bear Arms as the firewall against the continued erosion of our Constitutional order. I hold great hope and know that in some ways, my mentorship of tomorrow's leaders is among my greatest responsibilities and I take it very seriously.



My balance has always come from the same place – my family. There is no greater reward for me than being a father, husband, son, and brother. These are also the folks who keep me centered and rejuvenated when things get hectic or tough.









he evening of May 3, 2018 was a lively and exciting time for Second Amendment supporters. Approximately 1,500 patriots gathered at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, TX for a night of fun, food, firearms and fellowship at the National NRA Foundation Banquet sponsored by Century Arms, Henry Repeating Arms and Kimber. Since 1998, The National NRA Foundation Banquet, held in conjunction with the NRA Annual Meetings, has raised valuable dollars for the future of the shooting sports. The same enthusiasm experienced across the nation at 1,200 local events is magnified at the NRA's biggest fundraising event of the year. There were games sponsored by firearm companies, raffles featuring over 50 firearms, the largest silent auction to date featuring 450 items, and a Texas-sized live auction - something for everyone!



PRE FUNCTION AND GAMES GALORE

I want to start off and thank all of our great event games sponsors for helping make the 2018 NRA Foundation Banquet event a SMASHING SUCCESS! Flambeau, Century Arms, Colt, Lauer Custom Weaponry, Riton Optics, Kimber, Smith & Wesson, Taurus, Walther, Weatherby, and Winchester. Each of these great companies donated their products to help us produce a fun and exciting environment in both the pre-function area and on the floor for the banquet.

For me, giving away all of these great guns and products was super fun. It is great to see the winners be so excited. One winner at the Taurus Game couldn't believe it when she found out she won two guns! In fact, the next day she came to the Wall of Guns and thanked me personally for such a fantastic night.

My highlight of the evening was when we had the drawing for the Table of Guns winners. As I went to the winning table, they were all jumping up and down with excitement. One of the ladies asked me, "So how does this work? How are we going to split one gun between the 10 of us?" As I explained to her that not only did she win a gun, but so did the other nine people at her table, you should have seen the excitement in her eyes. It was priceless!

After the event was over, I was able to take a few of the game banners to our donors' booths and personally thank them for their great donations. These events get better with each year that passes. I can't wait for 2019!

By Jason Quick

Southwest Regional Director, National Rifle Association



BUCKET RAFFLE

This year's bucket raffles were a huge hit in Dallas. The raffle pack incentives ranged from \$100 to \$3,500! The raffles featured very limited edition products for our participants to choose from. Some of those items included a Bear & Son knife, SOG knife, Alps backpack, Lucid scope, a limited edition signed Ted Nugent AR style electric guitar, and a limited edition signed Charlie Daniels red, white and blue fiddle. And that's not all! We also offered many firearm choices such as Henry, Kimber, Century Arms, and Ruger Firearms on the raffle pack incentives. With so many high quality firearms to choose from, the bucket raffle was very popular with nearly 60 winners!

Thank you to all of those who participated and to our donors for their generous support. We can't wait to see what we can bring to Indianapolis in 2019!

By Chad Franklin

Central Regional Director, National Rifle Association



Annual Meeting Photo Credit to Peter Fountain



DALLAS SILENT AUCTION

They say everything is bigger in Texas, and that certainly was the case with the silent auction conducted at the 2018 National NRA Foundation Banquet held in Dallas. With a record number of 450 items up for bid, the silent auction was definitely the place to be for anyone looking to support the NRA Foundation and take home some unique and valuable items! With the constant flow of attendees buzzing around the tables and inspecting the merchandise, artwork, and firearms, the bidding really heated up. A record number of people took advantage of the "Buy it Now" option to secure their item, also making them eligible to win the Savage MSR-15 Valkyrie .224 Rifle. In addition, the "Gold Line" incentive encouraged bidding, and everyone who placed a bid on a gold line was eligible to win the Remington 1911 R1 10mm Hunter Pistol. The silent auctions at the National NRA Foundation Banquet have grown bigger each year, and have become a critical component of the evening. The attendees really appreciate the tremendous selection of items to bid on, and we are also blessed with dedicated volunteers who travel across the nation to be on the Silent Auction team. Thank you to everyone for making the silent auction a huge success!

By Tom Ulik South Central Regional Director, National Rifle Association



THE WALL OF GUNS

This year's Wall of Guns at the 147th NRA Annual Meetings in Dallas was another big hit, raising more than \$170,000 to support our shooting sports heritage through education and safety training. We certainly could not have done this without the support of our main sponsors: Century Arms, Henry Repeating Arms, Gaston and Kel-Tec. These companies provided financial support, firearms and merchandise to display and give away at the Wall of Guns. In total, nearly 40 companies donated firearms or merchandise to show their support for The NRA Foundation. Special thanks to Lauer Custom Weaponry for being the official Wall of Guns shirt sponsor this year as well. If you're planning on attending next year's NRA Annual Meetings in Indianapolis, make sure you stop by the Wall of Guns to see the latest in gear and guns on display, and purchase a chance on winning one of the fine items available.

By Al HammondSouthern Regional Director, National Rifle Association









DALLAS LIVE AUCTION

Every single year we have the same major problem in putting together the National NRA Foundation Banquet's life auction: We only have room for 35 items! Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the firearms industry, sporting goods manufacturers, and guides and outfitters, we always seem to have too much stuff! One of the hardest parts of putting together this event is trying to figure out which items will raise the most money for The NRA Foundation's mission. And this year was no different. Donors have figured out that one of the best ways to get their product in front of thousands of trigger pullers is to donate to the National NRA Foundation Banquet. This year's items, without question, were of the highest quality and most unique and enticing that we've ever seen in our live auction.

For those of you who may have missed it, here's a rundown of our top sellers. Charlie Daniels donated a signed cowboy hat and fiddle that he used on stage. RCBS donated a complete reloading room package that featured their top-of-the-line equipment, including dies. Ohio Ordnance stepped up with their 1918AS SLR BAR rifle, and FN America got in front of the crowd with their new FN PARAM249 Belt Fed 5.56 SAW. SKB Shotguns gave us a prototype of their classic 685 O/U shotgun, and we even got to auction off a Polaris Ranger 570 ATV generously donated by Hoffpauir Polaris. All of this, plus trophy hunts all over the world.

But, the highlight of this year's National NRA Foundation Banquet live auction came from Mike Drury and Big Shot Ranch. Mike approached us at SHOT Show and casually mentioned that he wanted to donate a rifle to the Banquet. But not just any rifle. This guy donated a Patriot 20MM Rifle with Suppressor and Scope. Coming in at over 8' long and 145 lbs., this gun is like no other. If that's not enough, he threw in an exclusive excursion to the Big Shot Ranch in Utah to show the Super Seven - a pile of different machine guns and rifles that only the military have. Oh, and let's not forget the steak dinner that rounded out this incredible auction package.

The Patriot 20MM Rifle was the Showcase item in our live auction, and the bidding was crazy! The bidding boiled down to just two "Big Dawgs" in the crowd and topped out at an astounding \$45,000. A man who knows opportunity when he sees it, Big Mike pulled a rabbit out of his hat and said he would DOUBLE his donation to offer another Patriot 20MM Rifle, Big Shot Ranch, and steak dinner package if the second bidder would match the first with another \$45,000. And they did! The NRA Foundation made \$90,000 to support the shooting sports in under four minutes, and the crowd went wild!

But, none of this could have happened if not for the extreme generosity of our donors. If I had to describe the 2018 National NRA Foundation Banquet in one word it would be "SUPERGLORIOUS!!"

By Brad Kruger

Western Regional Director, National Rifle Association

The NRA Foundation will be back into action next year in Indianapolis, IN. The 2019 National NRA Foundation Banquet will be speeding in to town on Thursday April 25, and the Wall of Guns will return April 26 – 28. Buy your banquet tickets early because people will be racing to see what 2019 has in store! ■

Join us at the 2019 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Indianapolis, April 26-28! Visit www.friendsofnra.org/NationalEvents to learn more about the event. If you are interested in being a sponsor or donating to the 2019 National NRA Foundation Banquet or Wall of Guns, please email nrafevents@nrahq.org.





By Ashley Keefer

Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

very year more than 15,000 volunteers from across the country help to organize and execute nearly 1,200 events for *Friends of NRA*, and every year a handful of those volunteers are then recognized at The National NRA Foundation Banquet where the Volunteers of the Year are named. Without the support, time, energy and passion of all the volunteers, the future of the shooting sports would not look as bright as it does today.

Not only do these extraordinary volunteers help support *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation, they are also heavily involved in their communities. This group of volunteers dedicates additional time outside *Friends of NRA* to ensure that the culture of the shooting sports get passed down to future generations. They work with groups with shared values such as FFA, 4-H, Boy Scouts, local youth shooting teams and more.

These select volunteers made a remarkable impact on *Friends of NRA* in 2017 at both the local and regional levels. Combined, they have over 60 years of volunteer experience, and raised a quarter of a million dollars for The NRA Foundation. Regional Volunteers of the Year were recommended by their respective NRA Field Representatives and evaluated on a number of criteria including banquet tickets sold, years of service, leadership, and overall impact on the program. These six volunteers were brought to the 2018 Annual Meetings & Exhibits, where they were honored for all of their diligence and dedication at The National NRA Foundation Banquet. Thank you to the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Sponsor RIPCORD for making this trip possible for our amazing volunteers.

The 2017 Outstanding Committee of the Year was awarded to Chairman Joe Fackler and all the volunteers of The Falls of the

Ohio Committee of Indiana. Since its inception in 1999 The Falls of the Ohio *Friends of NRA* committee has raised over 1.6 million dollars for The NRA Foundation. Their 2017 banquet had 1,000 attendees. Collectively between their banquet and a special event they raised more than \$225,000 and garnered the Most Outstanding Committee title by being the top grossing *Friends of NRA* event for 2017.

Congratulations to Scott Brown of Southern Ohio, John Bonner of Indiana, David Bean of Oklahoma, Mike Weeks of Northern Florida, Katherine Jones of Oregon, and Jim Twombly of Arizona for being named the Eastern, Central, Southern, South Central, Western, and Southwest Region Volunteers of the Year. Each of these individuals has found intriguing ways to build their events, inspire community involvement and become the faces of *Friends of NRA*.

"This was an outstanding fundraising year making it the second highest in the program's history", remarks Sarah Engeset, Director of Volunteer Fundraising. "That effort is a direct result of a united team packed with volunteers who believe in investing in our future and securing our American traditions."

Again, thank you to all of the *Friends of NRA* volunteers. The dedication shown year after year is frankly amazing, and again, The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA* would not be where they currently are without your support.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit https://www.friendsofnra.org/VolunteerSignup.aspx or contact your local Field Representative.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

CENTRAL REGION

Illinois (North): Matthew & Allison Feuerborn

Illinois (South): Veron Auld

Indiana: John Boner - Region VOY

Iowa: Jim McClellan Kentucky: Richard Winn Michigan: Sandy Mucci

Missouri (North): Steve Coulson **Missouri (South):** Dean Vandergriff

Wisconsin: Kellie Walsh

EASTERN REGION

Nebraska: Matthew Haumont

Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire: Charles Rumsey III &

Mary Carol Rumsey

New York (Upper): Todd Jewett **Ohio (Northern):** Clint Butler

Ohio (Southern): Scott Brown - Region VOY

Pennsylvania (East), Delaware: Michael & Theresa Craley

Pennsylvania (West): Steve & Laraine Grcich

Virginia (East), Maryland (East), DC: Bennie & Mary Thomas

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Arkansas: Lee Wikins Colorado: Peggy Gray Kansas: Lisa Jacques New Mexico: Tony Mace

Oklahoma: David Bean – Region VOY
Texas (South): Bill Jamrok & Dave Morgan

Texas (West): Robert & Jeanne Ralls

SOUTHERN REGION

Alabama: Mike Davis

Florida (North): Mike Weeks - Region VOY

Florida (South): Vicki Shoun

Georgia: Cindy Daniel **Louisiana:** Lester Mallette **Mississippi:** David Chancellor

North Carolina (East): Heidi Kittrell North Carolina (West): Allen Lail

South Carolina: Jimmie Gantt & Alma Garick

Tennessee: Brian Allen

SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona: Jim Twombly - Region VOY

California (Central): Scott Newbrough

California (East): Chuck Holland

California (Middle): David Wasson

California (North): Rodney Wilkes

California (South): Donna & Tom Baldwin

Utah: Josh Castor

WESTERN REGION

Alaska (North): Troy Stoneking

Idaho: Harry Sanders

Minnesota: Todd Biershenk

Montana: Alan McRae

North Dakota: Morgan Stroh

Oregon, Hawaii: Katherine Jones – Region VOY

South Dakota: Jeff Jensen **Washington:** Jim Williams

SPONSORED BY



WOMEN'S WILDERNESS ESCAPE By Karen Mehall Phillips Reprinted from the NRA Blog





The NRA welcomed 14 women nationwide to its 4th annual NRA Women's Wilderness Escape (WWE) at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Seven Springs, Pa., June 1-3, to experience "the ultimate outdoor adventure." The two-day event welcomes women of all skill levels ages 18 and older to learn about shooting, hunting and life in the great outdoors under the supervision of NRA Certified Instructors and outdoor specialists. Participants were guided each step of the way, starting with the basics of safe and proper firearms handling, while learning tips for preparing their own adventures.

Interesting to note, these NRA women were split exactly down the middle with half of them having some shooting experience and the rest having none at all. They came from as far as California and represented all walks of life—including a teacher, an attorney and a medical field professional. The weekend began with two hours of classroom instruction from an NRA-certified shotgun coach followed by a few hours of shooting on the facility's five-stand. The rest of the day was spent shooting on the sporting clays course while continuing to receive personal instruction. The ladies were troopers because it was a wet rainy day, but their spirits were high and everyone was having fun. That evening an instructor provided medical-care training and instruction on how to address a variety of trauma situations. Day No. 2 included opportunities for more instruction and five-stand shooting alongside NRA instructors. While that afternoon was set aside for free time to visit the onsite spa or take a hike, several participants chose to stay behind and shoot more.

Among the instructors on hand was NRA's Peter Church-bourne, Director of NRA Hunter Services, who says he enjoys

being involved with the WWE because it's gratifying to witness participants' excitement over learning to shoot for the first time. "Watching a new shooter build confidence and empowerment by going from never having shot a gun to hitting flying clay targets is an awesome transformation to witness," he said.

Churchbourne hopes to expand WWE program offerings while keeping participants' cost to a minimum. As a longtime NRA employee and NRA Endowment Life member, I am proud to see how the WWE is a priority for my organization. It is yet another example of the NRA's commitment to fostering the growth of hunting and the shooting sports. From Churchbourne's perspective, the WWE specifically is a great way to introduce women to the shooting sports and then maybe to the next step: going hunting.

"Ladies asked me repeatedly about where they can get a shotgun, how much one costs, where they can go shooting near their homes and questions about hunting in general," said Churchbourne. "There is no doubt that these events increase the interest and provide a pathway to becoming more involved in hunting and the shooting sports."

Despite almost nonstop rain over the two days, participants said they had a great time. Many said they hope to see the NRA offer more WWE weekend adventures. After all, who wouldn't enjoy a fun event where no previous firearm experience is required and where lodging and meals are all included?

Plan now to attend the next Women's Wilderness Escape. Find out more about the Women's Wilderness Escape, please visit https://www.nra.org/.



Anne Brockinton Lee: A Bright Light for Freedom

By Frank Miniter Reprinted from the Ring of Freedom Magazine

ome people are like bright and steady lights who, if we watch them from near or far, seem to show the way. The grace and vision emanated by such individuals shines so brightly that, even after the person has departed from us, it isn't diminished, nor does it flicker—rather, it continues to light the way for those who follow. Such is what Robert "Bob" Lee was, and is, to our freedom. Anne Brockinton Lee—who Bob Lee would no doubt have said was the light of his life— is still showing the way, with a warm and inviting incandescence that draws people together.

Anne is one of those people who, as the saying goes, lights up a room. Bringing people together for the National Rifle Association comes naturally to her. And so it's no surprise that, in the same way that white light is a combination of all colors in the spectrum, her story contains beautifully distinct elements that unite to form a singular source of inspiration.

Everyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Anne finds that her voice hums along on the tune of a Charleston accent, with the sort of upbeat cadence someone can only achieve if they are absolutely and wholeheartedly in love with life.



When asked how it all began, Anne said she first learned to rifle shoot with a .22 at Rockbrook Camp for Girls in Brevard, N.C., where she earned all of her marksman badges. But her fondest memory was her first encounter with a shotgun.

"It was a Sunday afternoon in spring and I must have been all of 13. We were at a friend's plantation north of Charleston, and as is apt to happen with that crowd who has one foot in the city and the other in the country, a little shooting competition began. It was to be shotguns and clay pigeons. I was the only girl there, and I was asked if I wanted to give it a try. Of course, I was eager to try. First single clays; then doubles. I never missed a one. My father was laughing like hell because all his friends' sons were missing the clays left and right. It was a proud day for both of us. I knew right then I was hooked."

ture she was raised in, so it seemed natural that she would know about them and how to use them, even though she is all lady.

Moreover, the fact that she's a lady from the South—one who understands such things and therefore knows the beating heart of American freedom from this practical point of view—grounds her even today. This experience, and her "One-Shot Annie" gumption, has since allowed her to use her other gift, that of bringing diverse people together to greatly benefit our Second Amendment freedoms.

Until asked, it didn't even seem to occur to her that hunting and shooting were once thought of as primarily manly pursuits. She said, "Women have always been the glue that brings a community together. It is more important now than ever that women become involved."



Years later, Anne would meet her late husband, Bob. He would take her hunting on his cattle ranch in Montana. "Bob was such a patient and calm guide," she said. "He'd take me hunting and would talk me through the shots, how to set them up and even how to breathe. He taught me to stay calm and to make the shot count—the ethics of hunting demand that of us.

"He was delighted to find out I could shoot, of course. And on that first hunt, with him as my guide, I took my first deer. We would later hunt together in many parts of the world. His calm and patient manner taught me a great deal about hunting, and also about tackling anything in life. Bob nicknamed me 'One-Shot Annie.'"

For Anne, shooting and hunting simply came with her upbringing, and once she was married, they became a part of the life she built with her husband. Firearms were an integral part of the cul-

"Back in the years when Bob and I would go to the Safari Club International show in Reno, and then to the NRA shows, wherever they were being held, we'd always host a big party. We'd bring in society to promote the cause. Most, of course, who attend these functions would be hunters and shooters, but many weren't. They'd come with their spouses or for the party. I never preach to them, but just show them. By meeting others who are NRA members and gun owners, they see the human side of our freedom. Often they soon begin to ask how they can try shooting. When they do, they find it's a fun and empowering experience," said Anne.

When the person who is interested in trying the shooting sports happens to be a woman, Anne makes a point to tell her about the NRA Women's Leadership Forum (WLF). The NRA WLF mission statement is "To unite women of influence to defend our Second Amendment freedoms and help guarantee the future



of the NRA through philanthropic leadership." Members come from different backgrounds and from all over the country, but the common thread that binds this important group together is a dedication to protecting the Second Amendment freedoms that empower women to live the lives they dream of.

"My childhood friend, Harriet, is a great example," said Anne. "She came along with me to NRA meetings last year. Before long, she was telling me how impressed she was and that she wanted to be involved. Her late father had hunted all over the world, and she too believes in our freedoms."

Anne also tells them about the NRA Hunters' Leadership Forum, which advocates for all the good hunting does, and has long done, for conservation and protecting our wildlife and wild places.

She's also stepped up to bring people together in many other ways. Her warm and inviting can-do personality serves as a beacon illuminating the importance of preserving individual freedom.

Over time, more and more women are becoming involved in hunting and shooting. "The WLF has gone gangbusters. It's been so successful, and we brought in so much money it also led to the NRA Hunter's Leadership Forum." In 1999, Bob was presented with the C.J. McElroy Award from Safari International for his contributions to hunting and conservation. As you cannot have a Hunter's Leadership Forum without Bob Lee, Anne and Bob

became members together. "That's how we got so many couples involved, instead of just the guys."

"Women now have a strong voice at the NRA," said Anne. "If it wasn't for Susan LaPierre ... my God. She really took this thing and ran with it. That is so important. I don't think it would have existed without her."

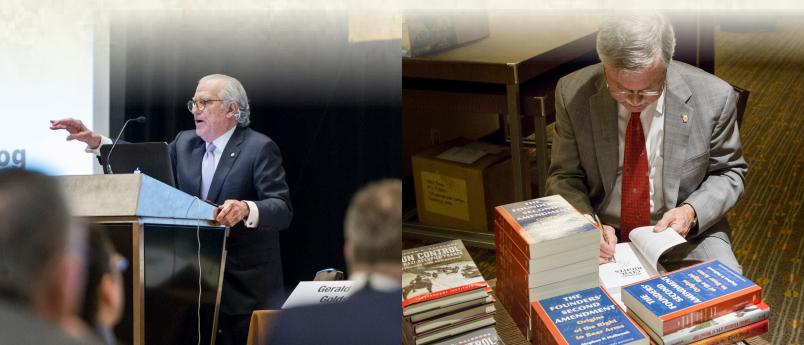
Anne said that in 2016 she bid on and won a special VIP Olympic Experience package at the WLF auction that offered a tour of the Olympic facilities in Colorado Springs and shooting instruction there and at Fort Carson. She and her guests were coached by six-time medalist Lloyd Woodhouse and Olympic hopeful Cheyenne Waldrop. According to Anne, Waldrop is a perfect example of a bright and strong young woman involved in the shooting sports who is becoming a role model.

Though she'd never admit it, Anne herself is such a role model. She takes her passion with her wherever she goes, as she believes in living as a positive representative of all we should do to give back to this great country. And she has kept the work she started with her husband going forward by continuing to bring people together for our gun rights and for conservation. We are all lucky that Anne's Charleston-bred charm is out there warmly, boldly and wholeheartedly giving back.



Sarah Gervase Seminar Seminar

By Sarah Gervase
Assistant General Counsel, National Rifle Association



Thank you to The NRA Foundation and Dallas, TX for another great year for the Annual National Firearms Law Seminar. This year we welcomed over 280 attorneys, judges, law students, and firearms licensees to our Seminar during the 2018 Annual Meeting. Attorneys in attendance earned a full day of CLE credit while listening to some of the leading experts in Second Amendment law.

The National Firearms Law Seminar is a special event held every year as part of the NRA Annual Meeting and Exhibits. This Foundation program is organized by the NRA's Office of the General Counsel, and is the largest gathering of Second Amendment attorneys in the country. The Seminar provides a unique opportunity for those interested in Second Amendment law to network and learn from others.

Carol Frampton, long-time NRA Board Member and General Counsel to the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), was the day's moderator in Dallas and set the tone for our day's program. Jacqueline Husar of the NRA's Office of the General Counsel handled all the logistics and made sure everything ran smoothly.

Professor Michael O'Shea kicked the day off with his thoughts on what has been happening with federal constitutional cases, and the next type of Second Amendment cases the U.S. Supreme Court might consider. The Supreme Court has not taken any Second Amendment cases since District of Columbia v. Heller, and McDonald v. City of Chicago, but Professor O'Shea believes the Court will decide a carry case in the coming years. Gerald H. Goldstein, one of the preeminent criminal defense attorneys in the nation, then gave an engaging and crowd-favorite talk on Fourth Amendment issues for Second Amendment attorneys and Justice Neil Gorsuch's potential to be a leading Second Amendment jurist on the Supreme Court.

John Frazer, NRA General Counsel and Secretary, began the day's second panel with a discussion of non-firearms protected by the Second Amendment, including knives, tasers, and defensive sprays. It is a wide assumption that only firearms are protected under the Second Amendment, though that is not the case by any means. NRA Board Member and Texas attorney, Charles Cotton, gave attendees a rundown on everything there is to know about Texas guns laws. This discussion seemed especially fitting since the Seminar took place in Dallas.

Our lunch presentation was truly special. Noted Second Amendment historian and author, Clayton Cramer, presented his original research into the history of American gun culture. Clayton's research is critical to counter new studies attempting to show that firearms were less important to previous generations in our country's history.

After lunch, I had the opportunity to give an overview of hot topics in firearms laws across the country. I spoke about new three-dimensional printing technology that could eventually allow non-traditional manufacturers to create their own firearms, and what that could mean for the firearms industry. I also touched on the FixNICS law passed in March, which encourages federal agencies and states to report their prohibited persons records to FBI NICS for more complete background checks. This new law was put into place after much discussion of background checks in the news.

I also discussed recent age discrimination lawsuits and how they



are challenging some stores' policies that limit rifle and shotgun sales to those 21 and older, on the stance that raising the minimum age for rifle and shotgun sales would in turn make it harder for youth to defend themselves and participate in the shooting sports. Other topics I touched on were firearms at airports and the federal prohibition on firearms ownership to those who use marijuana, even though marijuana use may be legal under state law.

Patrick McLain, a retired Marine Corps judge, discussed how attorneys can help some individuals regain their right to own firearms after they have been prohibited. Renowned Second Amendment attorney Stephen Halbrook and James P. Vann from The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BAT-FE) then teamed up to present on working with federal firearms licensees and compliance with federal rulings and regulations.

To cap off the day, Judge David Newell of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals gave an interesting and humorous discussion on the legal ethics issues involved with judges and attorneys using social media.

Attendees and speakers had a chance to share some drinks and hors d'oeuvres at our Meet & Greet Reception after the day's program. It was a good opportunity to meet each other personally and for attendees to ask any questions we couldn't fit in during the program.

The NRA Foundation is proud to present the Seminar every year. No other course provides the level of firearms legal education that is so necessary to ensure that attorneys from across the country have the knowledge and skill to help protect our Second Amendment liberties.

We look forward to another great Seminar next year on April 26th in Indianapolis and hope you can join us!

Plan now to attend the next Seminar during the 2019 Annual Meetings and Exhibits. For information on the 2019 National Firearms Seminar, including speakers and topics, please visit http://lawseminar.nrafoundation.org.





Nall of Guns marked with a green generously donated by companies who wre of shooting sports





Gaston J Glock Style LP Provided Wall of Guns shirts to volunteers



Banquet attendees loved checking out all of the optics we had to offer like this scope generously donated by Leupold scope



Henry Repeating Arms President Anthony Imperato honors Ryan Ashcraft, Stephen Willeford and Johnnie Langedorff with Henry rifles







shley began shooting at age 12. She learned to shoot in a local youth mentor

clays league started by her father, John Butcher, and supported by The NRA Foundation and the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs.

Ashley notes, "It was here that I broke my first target and quickly fell in love with sporting clays. I was able to benefit from this program, and as I grew, the program taught me the importance of volunteering and giving back." Ashley's dad always encouraged her and the other kids in the youth program to volunteer for *Friends of NRA* banquets so they could help raise grant money to support clubs across the state. Today Ashley, who is now 24, has become an instructor for the same youth mentor clays league. The Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs has played a huge role in keeping this program alive by applying for 6 grants from The NRA Foundation, totaling about \$18,000.

Ashley has gone on to win New York State Lady's Sporting Clays competitions, FITASC competitions, and 5-Stand championships. You may also recognize Ashley from the cover of *Clays Shooting USA* magazine from earlier this year. She earned her spot on the cover by shooting a perfect FITASC score at the South Central Championships in Mississippi. Also this year, Ashley made the NSCA's Lady ALL American 2nd Team, and came in 9th place at the US FITASC. These amazing accomplishments landed Ashley attendance to the Team USA Qualifying Events in 2018, where she dreams of making Team USA in Sporting Clays and/or FITASC.

Ashley's greatest passions and dreams, ignited 12 years ago, have continued to flourish and grow along with her opportunities. "Like all sports, my involvement in shooting sports has taught me many valuable skills such as respect, responsibility, discipline, and hard work." All this was made possible in-part by The NRA Foundation grants gifted to Ashley's youth training and educational programs, which fostered her love for the shooting sports.

Friends of NRA and The NRA Foundation provide Ashley with the unique opportunity to give back to her community by embarking her skills on others. The North Forest Rod and Gun Club (NFRGC) was granted \$3,000 for the "Ladies Shoot and Hoot," which Ashley has participated in for years, and now volunteers for the event. The program provides free ammo for women so they can learn to shoot trap and skeet. As a Pro staff member at Syren USA, Ashley has brought all of the Guerini and Fabarm's shotguns made specifically for women to the event. Ashley loves educating the women about shotgun shooting and the firearms made for them. This inspiring program has also advanced Ashley's dream of bringing an all-girls team to the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) nationals one day. Over the years, NFRGC has been given about \$43,000 in 13 grants from The NRA Foundation.

With the help of her family and fellow sportsmen and women, Ashley also gives back to her community through an annual clay shooting benefit she founded in 2012, called Clays for Heroes. The benefit takes place at Rochester Brooks, and aims to combine shooting sports and positive public outreach in order to raise funds and show support for American heroes. "Over the past 5 years, Clays



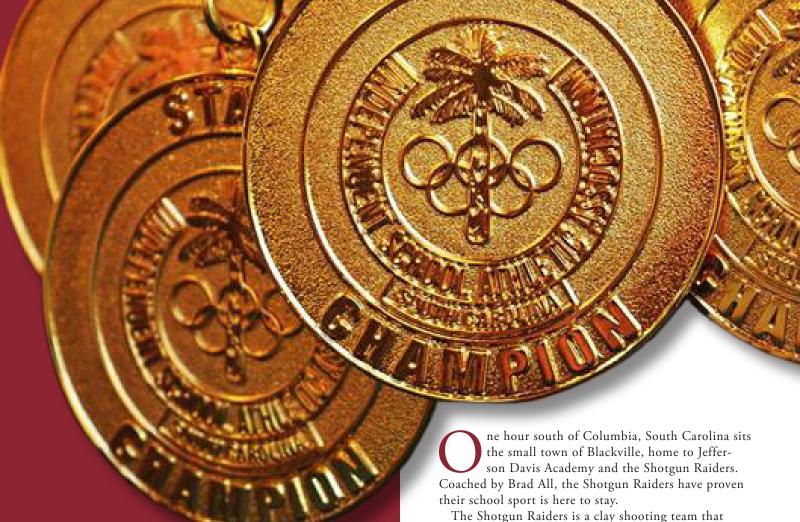
for Heroes has raised over \$44,000 to give back to veterans. All of the proceeds from the event benefit Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA)," Ashley explained. HAVA is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is "To raise awareness and assist disabled veterans with the healing process through active participation in the outdoor sports."

The programs supported by The NRA Foundation have helped provide this incredibly talented and selfless young woman with the chance to compel her passion and achieve her greatest dreams. As Ashley states, "This is my hobby, my passion, and where I have met some of my best friends and mentors."

Know of a firearms education and training program that could benefit from NRA Foundation support? Visit nrafoundation.org to apply for a grant. Learn more about Friends of NRA and fundraising for these grants at friendsofnra.org.



Photos courtesy of Syren and Ashley Butcher



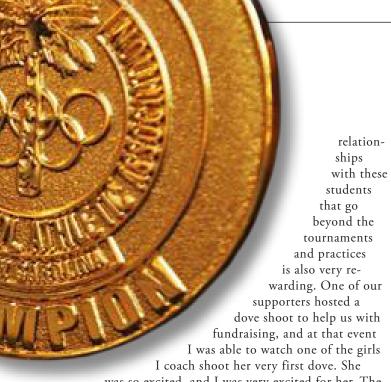
SHOTGUN RAIDERS IMPACT

By Ashley Keefer Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

The Shotgun Raiders is a clay shooting team that teaches young students, on average 14 to 15 years old, the basics of shooting. All explained, "There are lots of kids that join the team who have never shot before, and aren't even sure how to load a gun correctly." All started coaching the Shotgun Raiders in 2015 with a team of nine: seven boys and two girls. Over the years the team has grown, attending about 10 tournaments per season. Since the team's first season, the Shotgun Raiders have won a variety of division competitions, including two South Carolina Independent School Association (SCI-SA) Ladies' Division State Championships and a SCISA Girls Trap State Championship. Many of the senior members of the team have also won scholarships which will help them pursue their dreams of higher education.

All credits a man named O.B. George as the reason he coaches the Shotgun Raiders. "O.B. George served as a mentor to me when I first began participating in sporting clays. Whenever I would ask how I could repay him for all he did for me as a rookie shooter, he would just encourage me to pass it forward to someone else. When the opportunity to do so at Jefferson Davis Academy presented itself, it felt like the best way to honor his memory," All explained.

All noted that he loves watching his students grow in their respect and love for sporting clays. "It is something that students from all kinds of backgrounds and skill sets can learn and gain confidence in. Building



was so excited, and I was very excited for her. The ability to watch these students earn scholarships, and knowing that their participation on the Shotgun Raiders' team is going to impact them far beyond their school years is really the greatest reward for me," said All.

All hightlighted one of his students in particular, Madison Sharpe. Madison joined the Shotgun Raiders as someone who had never shot a gun, but under All's coaching went on to win first place in her first competition. She has since made the 2018 All American Team in the National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) and is a member of the Mid-Carolina Gun Club, home of the South Carolina Youth Shooting Foundation (SCYSF) State Championship.

Madison's story is just one of many around the United States. "I believe that all schools should have programs like the Shotgun Raiders, as long as there is a trained instructor to lead and guide the students. It provides an opportunity for students that might not otherwise have someone to show

them the enjoyment that sporting clays and other shooting sports can bring," explained All. Additionally, they are able to share the love of the sport with others such as parents and friends." All mentioned how his students now have friends from all over South Carolina who they have met by attending tournaments and competitions.

"Jefferson Davis Academy's Shotgun Raiders would not have been able to increase the number of tournaments they attended each season, nor would they have been able to continue as a sporting option at the school without the support of grants through the NRA Foundation. These grants have provided shells, guns, and skeet machines which has enabled students to join the team who otherwise might not have been able to supply these items themselves," explains All.

"Not only does Jefferson Davis Academy benefit from the Foundation's support, but the Foundation also provides grants to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and SCYSF, which benefits an average of 600 shooters per tournament," said All. "Madison Sharpe and the Shotgun Raiders are the perfect example of how these grants are helping the sport grow and influence young people across not just the state, but the country."

All is excited to continue coaching the Shotgun Raiders for seasons to come, and thanks The NRA Foundation and his community for their continued support of the shooting sports. "Everyone is incredibly proud of our team, which is what is most important to me. It is very rewarding to see students go from barely being able to load a gun, to being part of a state championship team. As a coach, I appreciate the positive feedback from students and parents about how I've helped advance their skills, however, it is the students who put forth what it takes to grow and win."

Support youth shooting sports programs like this in your area! Apply for an NRA Foundation grant at www.nrafoundation.org.







By Jamison Sapp 2017 Youth Education Summit Participant





widespread assumption is that shooting sports require only a couple of basic things: a gun and bullets. However, head coach David Winslow of the Titans Archery Club in Lee's Summit, MO would beg to differ. In a passionate speech he made at the Missouri *Friends of NRA* banquet, Winslow spoke of how archery is just as much of a shooting sport as any.

This year, the Titans Archery Club was awarded a \$27,000 grant from the NRA Foundation. The grant went towards the NASP, or National Archery in the Schools Program, at Lee's Summit West High School and Summit Lakes Middle School. When speaking of how the grant impacted the schools, Winslow noted, "The NRA Foundation grant allowed us to purchase targets, 32 compound bows, bow racks, a set of 3D animals, training aids, repair equipment, and a trailer to help transport everything between schools."

For Winslow, however, this is far more than just sport. At the Missouri *Friends of NRA* banquet where the coaches accepted their grant check, Winslow brought tears to the eyes of those in attendance as he spoke of the impact the grant would have. "I really wanted the people there to know how much we appreciate what they had given us," he said. One very touching note was on just how much the grant changed the program. "Before, we



had to hand make targets," Winslow said. "I remember when the kids had to go Christmas caroling to be able to purchase their first bows."

The Club estimated that about 320 students would be directly impacted by the grant, and Winslow explained just what that meant for some of the shooters. "Over time, we have been able to watch quiet or shy kids commit to the program. Those are the kids that, most of the time, become the best archers. They really get into it and put a lot of mental focus towards it." The coach went on to recall what that looks like, noting, "After a year or two, they come back confident and you know that this is their place. That is honestly the most rewarding for all of us."

Winslow also noted how volunteers on the *Friends of NRA* Missouri State Fund Committee – the people who decide who receives grants – are not presented archery programs often compared to programs that focus solely on guns. However, Winslow made a compelling argument on just why archery should be considered at the same level. The head coach stated, "The National Archery in the Schools Program is really a win-win situation for all." He added, "It's a lot of these kids' first exposure to these activities. It really offers the opportunity to pull them into shooting, hunting and fishing."

Due to the grant offered from The NRA Foundation, Winslow and the Titans have big goals for the future. Further than just becoming a better team overall, the group has aspirations to expand beyond Lee's Summit West High School and Summit Lakes Middle School. "We're going to try and expand this into more schools in the districts," Winslow said. "We want to help start those cross-town rivalries, which are always fun and help add school spirit." The Titan's goals for the future, aided by The NRA Foundation, undoubtedly will create something special in the town of Lee's Summit, MO, through archery, shooting, hunting and beyond.

Talk to your school about applying for a grant at www.nrafoundation.org. Learn more about Friends of NRA in Missouri at www. friendsofnra.org/MO.



"Semper Fi!" This Latin phrase, which means "always faithful," is recognized as the motto of the United States Marine Corps. A message of loyalty and service, it has invigorated countless lives during hours of maximum danger while in service. Today it continues to inspire patriots like Greg and Paul Rockhold, both of whom served in the Marine Corps, to serve their community and help thousands of youth.

Paul Rockhold of New Mexico, an NRA Life Member, has taught gun safety to over 100,000 students through the Eddie Eagle Program. Taking trips all across the state, Paul's passion for the Second Amendment has led him to volunteer thousands of hours to teach kids the simple, but important concepts: "Stop! Don't touch. Run away. Tell a grown up."

"Everything is safety, safety, safety," Greg, who also teaches the program explained. "The NRA's Eddie Eagle Program is easy, common-sense, and life changing." Greg stressed that he has seen hundreds of kids walk away from the Eddie Eagle training remembering valuable lessons about gun safety, and he's always excited to see older siblings bringing their younger siblings to the program. "I've seen older brothers who went through the training take their younger siblings because of how valuable the lessons are."

"STOP! DON'T TOUCH, RUNAWAY, TELL A GROWN UP."

Greg Rockhold, Paul's son, says his father's passion for service and gun safety began very early. Greg said his father would take him to the local gun range after church on a sunny Sunday afternoon ever since he was a boy. "Gun safety was paramount within our family," Greg said.

One of the points both Paul and Greg stress is that you cannot have marksmanship without safety. Thus, Paul works to ensure upcoming generations not only exercise their liberties, but also know how to use guns safely and responsibly.

The NRA has been essential during the entire process. For example, Greg, who served as a Principal at Laguna-Acoma Middle/Senior High School near Albuquerque, had a Marine Corps Junior ROTC program that "needed much assistance." Because of two back-to-back grants provided by The NRA Foundation, they turned a fifty-year-old double portable into a beautiful shooting range. The grants allowed them to purchase new air rifles, backstops, ammo, and other supplies, and Greg says, "The backing from *Friends of NRA* jump started a nonexistent shooting program. This program is still going strong 18 years after initial funding."

Additionally, Greg is thankful to the Friends of NRA's broad support in New Mexico for JROTC, 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, and other programs. "Without their support," he said, "most programs would not survive or be forced to choose what programs to offer their youth."



In an age where convenience often trumps volunteerism and service, Paul and Greg's experience in the Marines taught them to serve others and their country. These lessons led Paul to drive thousands of miles across the state to teach kids the Eddie Eagle Program, motivated him to humbly spend his own time and money helping others, and inspired Paul's son to also serve a cause greater than any one person.

This attribute of selflessness, Greg said, is deeply lacking in America's youth, but he hopes the stories of people like his father instill patriotism, duty, and service to the next generation.

Greg is right. In the stories of people like the Rockholds, in the stories of generous NRA supporters, in the stories of selfless individuals, America's youth has many great attributes to emulate: always faithful, always loyal. Semper Fi!

Bring Eddie Eagle to your school! Visit https://eddieeagle.nra.org/ for more information. Learn more about Friends of NRA in New Mexico at www. friendsofnra.org/NM.



CELEBRATING OUR HUNTING & FISHING CULTURE

By Brent Hinchcliff
2017 Youth Education Summit Participant

Beginning in 2015, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has hosted an annual celebratory event on National Hunting and Fishing Day. The event focuses on introducing youth into hunting, fishing, and shooting sports. WDFW's first event was sponsored by the Master Hunter Advisory Group, and was held in Southwestern Washington where 30 youth participants gathered. In 2016, the number of participants nearly tripled, attracting 87 attendees.

Seeing the opportunity of rapid expansion, WDFW made plans to increase the size of the event even further in 2017. The third annual event was held at held at Pigott Boy Scout Camp near Seattle in North Central Washington. There were around 750 youth who registered, and with so much interest in the celebration, WDFW asked the Washington Hunter Education Instructor Association to sponsor .22 long rifles and 20 gauge shooting ranges at the event. There was also an archery range organized by the Chief Council Seattle Shooting Sports Committee. The WDFW also offered knot tying, butterfly box building, and the release of 850 trout into the Camp Pigott Lake for youth to catch. The uncaught trout will also allow campers to fish in the lake for many years to come.

The event attracted quite a few sponsors, including the Stillaguamish Tribe, Safari Club International, Puget Sound Knappers, North American Falconers, Washington Trappers Association, Washington Waterfowl Association, Stonerose, Back

In 1971, the United States' 37th President, Richard Nixon, signed proclamation 4128 that was unanimously approved by congress, declaring a day of celebration for hunting and fishing to be held on the fourth Saturday of every September. National Hunting and Fishing Day was created to help raise awareness about the importance of outdoor sporting cultures.

Country Horsemen, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Trout Unlimited.

Steve Dazey, the Volunteer Coordinator for the annual event stated, "The ultimate goal was to have a family oriented event that could introduce youth to target shooting, hunting, and fishing. It was also an opportunity to recognize that hunters and anglers are, and will continue to be among the most active supporters of wildlife management and conservation." The event also provided opportunities for youth to take hunter education classes. This was highly popular because only about 10% of the participating youth had received prior hunting education.

The NRA Foundation's generous grant of \$4,000 to the Washington Hunter Education Instructor Association made the shooting sports at the event possible. It allowed for the purchase of the ammunition necessary to run the range, the eye and ear protection necessary for proper shooting safety, and bandannas for all participants.

The NRA Foundation has already donated \$5,000 in grant money to the 2018 National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration. The fourth annual event will be held on September 22, 2018 at the Sun Valley Shooting Park in Moxee, WA. The WDFW hopes that by holding the National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration in different areas around the state each year, members of those communities will be empowered to start celebratory events of their own in years to come. Preregistration is encouraged for participants under 18 years of age, and opened July 1, 2018.

It is through efforts like the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the NRA Foundation that youth learn about shooting sports, and in turn can continue the legacy our forefathers established. The National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration organizers are hopeful the events will preserve hunting and fishing culture throughout the nation, and ensure that future generations will have the opportunities to experience the freedoms and liberties that are available today.

Visit www.nrafoundation.org to apply for a grant to fund programs near you! To learn more about Friends of NRA in Washington, visit www.friendsofnra.org/WA.











By Julie Soto Program Coordinator, Guns & Ladies

SUn.

It's 8:00am on the fourth Saturday of the month at the Hogue Action Pistol Range on Highway 1 along the California Central Coast. About 15 women will spend the next two hours setting up First Shots, along with the six bays that will be used for the day's clinic. In a little over two hours, 60 new and beginner shooters, all women, will start arriving. Mothers and daughters, groups of friends, co-workers, all ranging in age from 18 to 70+. Some of them have shot a few times in their lives, most have never picked up a gun. A lot of them look nervous and unsure about their decision to show up, but by the time they leave, you won't be able to wipe the smiles from their faces.

They are coming to participate in a *Friends of* NRA funded program called Guns and Ladies, also known as GALs, and thanks to grants from the NRA Foundation, the program is offered at no cost to participants providing ammunition and firearms. One of the original goals for the program was to never charge participants to attend. We did not want anyone to be unable to attend because of an inability to pay, and thanks to The NRA Foundation, we've been able to fulfill that goal every month since 2012!

At the start of the morning, the women will go through an initial educational orientation. The orientation includes the four rules of safe gun handling, cold-range rules, and a recently added discussion on the differences among types of ammunition, magazines, and types of firearms.

"Geez, I didn't know getting signed up was going to be like trying to get Garth Brooks tickets!"

This includes an in-depth description of what a semi-automatic firearm is, and what it can and cannot do. Additionally, we explain to them what exactly an 'AR' is, and probably more importantly, what it isn't. The ladies are shocked, and quite frankly, amazed by what they are learning. The follow-up questions and discussions throughout the day have let us know just how necessary getting this information out really is.

After orientation, the women start learning to 'shoot like girls,' and that's when the real fun begins. They discover what their dominant eye is, and for some of them, the joys of being cross-dominant. Then comes site alignment, grip (using plastic practice handguns), and stance. At this



point, a large part of what we are doing is not just 'showing' them what to do, but explaining 'why' as women, we need to do things certain ways. This is the beginning of building respect and trust, and the tension in their faces visibly decreases. They begin to understand the logic of 'women teaching women'.

Split up into smaller groups with three instructors and two safety officers each, it's on to First Shots. Anxieties tend to increase again at the start of the hands-on training, but that doesn't last long. First, the women are shown how to load the magazines for the .22 pistols they will be shooting. At the shooting table, they are given one-on-one instruction on how to operate the handgun, where they load, chamber, and shoot. First shots are generally done with three magazines – with one, three and five rounds, giving them practice at loading and unloading the magazine. By the end of First Shots, there's a huge shift in the attitude and tension levels, and for the most part, the women are excited about going to the different bays and trying out different firearms.

For the rest of the day, participants are free to go to as many or as few bays as they choose. Surprisingly, one of the most popular bays is the 'trigger control drill'. This drill might not sound very

fun, but the ladies love it. Each shooter practices a trigger pull drill using a .22 pistol and shoots two or three magazines. When they're on-target and can see the improvement in their groupings, they split a playing card. Talk about a confidence booster – huge smiles, hugs and applause are common on this bay.

Next up is the shotgun bay with both a metal target and clays. There's a lot of hooting and hollering at this one when the clays are hit. The support that the women get from each other is out of this world, and a huge part of why each clinic is so successful.

The rest of the bays are generally a lot quieter, but no less exciting for the shooters. There's a 9mm Move-n-Shoot – a condensed version of a typical United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) stage where the ladies are shooting through windows and moving around walls to the next target. There is also a revolver bay where participants are taught the difference between single and double action. Occasionally the Texas Star will be out, and it's surprising how accurate first-time shooters can be with a moving target.

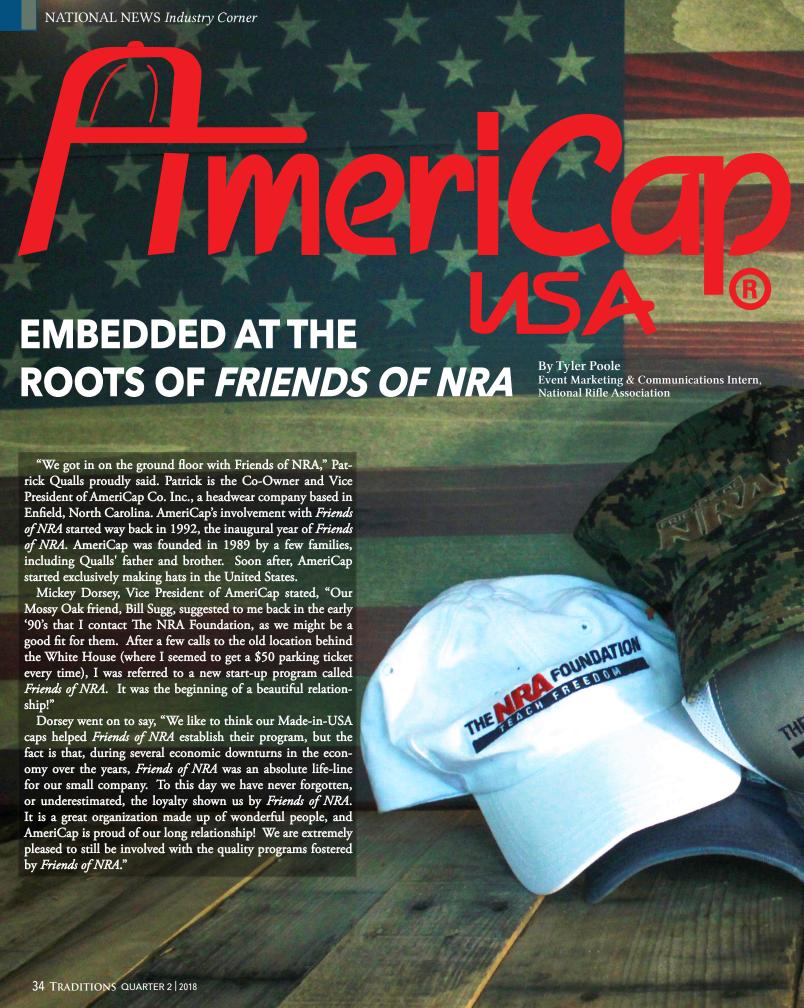
Lastly, there are two rifle bays – Precision and Modern. Precision is a great starting place for really nervous shooters. Sitting at the shooting table with a .22 bolt action rifle is relaxing, not to mention you can blast lollipops at about fifty feet. The modern rifle bay is always packed. So many women have heard about AR's from the news, their husbands, etc., so their curiosity definitely gets the better of them - they want to shoot one! The modern rifle instructors are amazing, and in no time they have women on target at distances up to 250 feet.

As the afternoon wraps up, the ladies are laughing, smiling, exchanging stories and comparing targets. Volunteers start tearing down, feeling as excited and successful as the participants.

The program is in its seventh year now, and the interest hasn't dropped at all. If anything, it's getting even more popular. Online registration opens at 7:00am on the first day of the month, and typically there are at least 60 sign-ups and 25 waiting list spots filled in less than 30 minutes. Last month, capacity was hit in seven and a half minutes!

A comment on Facebook summed up the demand for this program quite well, "Geez, I didn't know getting signed up was going to be like trying to get Garth Brooks tickets!" ■

Visit www.nrafoundation.org to apply for a grant to fund programs near you! Do you have a story idea you think would be a great fit for Traditions? Send us your story ideas along with high resolution pictures to fnra@nrahq.org for the opportunity to be featured in the next issue of Traditions!



When the recession of 2008 hit, AmeriCap found themselves in a tough spot. Before the recession, they focused heavily on making and selling blank hats to other retailers to decorate and embroider. However, during the recession, most of those retailers decided against paying the price for American-made hats and instead took their business overseas. The team at AmeriCap realized they needed to change something, and that's exactly what they did. "We refocused and retooled to make a better hat," said Qualls. "We focused on producing a quality hat that was made in America and that anyone would be proud to wear."

Qualls said the twenty-nine-year-old company, "really likes to focus on pro-American businesses and industries." The AmeriCap employees enjoy being able to work with companies in the firearms industry, according to Qualls. "Guns are a big part of the culture down here in rural North Carolina. Everyone is big into firearms."

AmeriCap and Qualls have been working with The NRA Foundation for over twenty-five years and have made tens of thousands of hats with The NRA Foundation logo on them, but that's not the only thing Qualls has done for The NRA Foundation. Several years ago, Qualls chartered the Roanoke Valley *Friends of NRA* committee. Qualls was the chairman of the committee for five years, and he still buys a table in AmeriCap's name for every Roanoke Valley event.

More recently, Qualls was able to start two youth shooting teams in his town. As a member of the Roanoke Rapids Graded School Board, Qualls was able to create middle school and high school shooting teams for the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District thanks to grants from *Friends of NRA*. "There are four youth shooting teams in my area, all of which are partially funded by *Friends of NRA*," said Qualls. "When I was growing up, we had skeet shooting but it wasn't as popular as it is now. *Friends of NRA* has grown the sport and made it a lot easier to get more kids involved since the parents don't have to pay as much thanks to the grants provided," claimed Qualls.

Friends of NRA is eternally grateful for the support received from AmeriCap and Patrick Qualls over the years. Their devotion to The NRA Foundation's mission to Teach Freedom through firearms education and training can be appreciated by their entire community thanks to the establishment of four youth shooting teams. AmeriCap not only makes hats that any American would be proud to wear, but they make Americans proud by ensuring the traditions of shooting sports is passed on to the next generation. T

Interested in becoming a Friends of NRA donor or sponsor? Contact the NRA Corporate Developemnt Team at 703-267-1356 or visit friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO APPLY!

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ILN 12/05/18 MI 12/05/18
ILS 10/25/18 NE 10/17/18
IN 12/12/18 WI 10/02/18
KY 11/30/18

EASTERN REGION

CT 11/09/18 NYU 09/05/18 DE 10/18/18 **OH** 11/07/18 11/09/18 MA PAE 10/11/18 MD 11/08/18 PAW 10/11/18 ME 11/01/18 11/09/18 11/08/18 NH 11/01/18 11/09/18 NJ 11/01/18 NYL 11/09/18 WV 11/20/18

SOUTHWEST REGION

AZ 10/05/18 CAS 10/24/18 CAC 10/24/18 CAM 10/24/18 CAE 10/24/18 NV 11/01/18 CAN 10/24/18 UT 11/01/18

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

AR 11/16/18 OK 01/09/19 CO 10/31/18 TXN 11/15/18 KS 11/02/18 TXS 11/15/18 NM 11/14/18 TXW 11/15/18 TXE 11/15/18

SOUTHERN REGION

02/05/19 AL 02/05/19 MS FL 09/05/18 **NCE** 11/01/18 02/05/19 **NCW** 10/02/18 GA 11/16/18 11/29/18 12/18/18 12/28/18 LA TN



NOTE: Deadlines listed by State Fund Committee (state abreviation with regional designation where applicable) GRANT APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE ACCESSED AT

NRAFOUNDATION.ORG/GRANTS

*Dates subject to change

THE RA FOUNDATION

TEACH FREEDOM



I have many favorites, and many would expect me to pict one of my Remington 700 bolt action rifles because I am known to be a huge fan. However, my most sentimental firearm would be a Remington 1100 Magnum 12 gauge shotgun that was my first firearm purchase. I worked all summer on a tobacco farm and saved my money, and when I was 15 years old, my dad had went with me to a local Western Auto Store to buy the shotgun that I had been saving for.

Name 5 things you can't live without...

My family, friends and faith are at the top. I have to be in the woods every morning possible of spring turkey season, some would say I am obsessed. When the leaves begin to change in the fall I have a strong need to be in the woods again for whitetail deer season.

How did you get involved with *Friends of NRA*?

I've been a life long sportsman,
Second Amendment advocate, and NRA
member since I was a teenager. I've been
involved with the *Friends of NRA* program since
it's inception. I volunteered and helped start up a
Friends event the first year the program started, and have
been involved ever since.

What did you do in your previous life?

I worked in the retail furniture business for nearly 26 years, starting part time while in high school, ended up buying the store at the ripe age of 24. At one point we had three separate stores serving southside Virginia.

FRIENDS OF NRA EVENTS



Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. You'll have the opportunity to participate in games, drawings, live and silent auctions and more. Your attendance contributes to grants that promote firearm education, safety and marksmanship. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or send an email to friends@nrahq.org.

STATE

<u> Alaska-</u>

North Pole Friends of NRA

North Pole, AK Aug. 18, 2018

Cordova Friends of NRA

Aug. 31, 2018 Cordova, AK

<u>Alabama-</u>

Wiregrass Friends of NRA

Dothan, AL Aug. 9, 2018

Huntsville Friends of NRA

Aug. 16, 2018 Huntsville, AL

Washington County Friends of NRA

Aug. 18, 2018 Chatom, AL

Pike County Friends of NRA

Aug. 28, 2018 Troy, AL

<u> Arkansas-</u>

Ouachita County Friends of NRA

Aug. 11, 2018 Camden, AR

Washington County Friends of NRA

Fayetteville, AR Aug. 18, 2018

Hot Springs Friends of NRA

Hot Springs, AR Aug. 23, 2018

Mississippi County Friends of NRA

Blytheville, AR Aug. 28, 2018

<u>Arizona-</u>

Chino Valley Friends of NRA

Chino Valley, AZ Aug. 4, 2018

Pima County Friends of NRA

Aug. 11, 2018 Tucson, AZ

Huachuca Friends of NRA

Sierra Vista, AZ Aug. 25, 2018

California-

Fresno Friends of NRA

Aug. 1, 2018 Fresno, CA

Butte/Glenn Friends of NRA

Chico, CA Aug. 3, 2018

Oakdale Friends of NRA

Oakdale, CA

Tehachapi Friends of NRA

Tehachapi, CA Aug. 4, 2018

Livermore/Pleasanton Friends of NRA

Livermore, CA Aug. 4, 2018

LA Co.-Antelope Valley Friends of NRA Lancaster, CA Aug. 6, 2018

Arroyo Grande Friends of NRA

Aug. 11, 2018 Nipomo, CA

Amador Friends of NRA

Sutter Creek, CA Aug. 11, 2018

Shasta County Friends of NRA

Redding, CA Aug. 11, 2018

Delano Friends of NRA

Delano, CA Aug. 17, 2018

County Line Friends of NRA

Aug. 18, 2018 Acampo, CA

OC Friends of NRA Anaheim, CA Aug. 18, 2018

Barstow Friends of NRA

Barstow, CA

Aug. 24, 2018

Truckee Friends of NRA

Aug. 25, 2018 Venton, CA

Chowchilla Friends of NRA

Chowchilla, CA Aug. 25, 2018

Florida-

Florida Panhandle Friends of NRA

Pensacola, FL Aug. 3, 2018

Heartland Friends of NRA

Sebring, FL Aug. 4, 2018

Taylor County Friends of NRA

Aug. 10, 2018 Perry, FL

Suwannee Valley Friends of NRA

Live Oak, FL Aug. 16, 2018 Treasure Coast Friends of NRA

Stuart, FL Aug. 17, 2018

St. Augustine Friends of NRA

St. Augustine, FL Aug. 18, 2018

West Pasco Friends of NRA

Aug. 18, 2018 Port Richey, FL

NW Florida Friends of NRA

Chipley, FL Aug. 21, 2018

Okeechobee Friends of NRA

Aug. 24, 2018 Okeechobee, FL

Greater Fort Myers Friends of NRA

Fort Myers, FL Aug. 25, 2018

Georgia-

Blue Ridge Patriots Friends of NRA

Blue Ridge, GA Aug. 2, 2018

Clarks Hill Friends of NRA

Aug. 3, 2018 Lincolnton, GA

Grady County Friends of NRA

Cairo, GA Aug. 4, 2018

South Metro Friends of NRA

Jonesboro, GA Aug. 9, 2018

Skeetbusters Friends of NRA

Donalsonville, GA Aug. 18, 2018

East Metro Friends of NRA

Aug. 23, 2018 Covington, GA

Blue Granite Friends of NRA

Aug. 30, 2018 Carlton, GA

Hawaii-

Maui Friends of NRA

Wailuku, HI Aug. 25, 2018

lowa-

S.E. Iowa Friends of NRA

Mt. Pleasant, IA Aug. 4, 2018

Idaho-

Idaho Heartland Friends of NRA

McCall-Tamarack, ID Aug. 11, 2018

Elmore County Friends of NRA

Mountain Home, ID Aug. 25, 2018

Illinois-

Northbrook Friends of NRA

Hainesville, IL Aug. 8, 2018

South Central Illinois Friends of NRA Mt. Vernon, IL Aug. 11, 2018 Heart of Illinois Friends of NRA

Aug. 16, 2018

Aug. 18, 2018

Peoria, IL <u>Indiana-</u>

Mattoon, IL

Southwestern Indiana Friends of NRA Aug. 3, 2018

Evansville, IN

Lincoln Trail Friends of NRA

Western Indiana Friends of NRA

Covington, IN Aug. 11, 2018

South Indy Friends of NRA

Indianapolis, IN Aug. 18, 2018

East Central Indiana Friends of NRA

Alexandria, IN Aug. 23, 2018

South Central Indiana Friends of NRA

Columbus, IN Aug. 24, 2018

South East Indiana Friends of NRA

Aurora, IN Aug. 25, 2018

Kansas-

Capital City Friends of NRA Topeka, KS Aug. 4, 2018

Kentucky-

Logan & Todd Counties Friends of NRA

Russellville, KY Aug. 4, 2018

5 Counties Friends of NRA

Shelbyville, KY Aug. 18, 2018

Louisiana-

South LA Friends of NRA

Houma, LA Aug. 2, 2018

DeSoto Friends of NRA

Grand Cane, LA Aug. 4, 2018

Florida Parishes Friends of NRA

Hammond, LA Aug. 11, 2018

West Central LA Friends of NRA Leesville, LA Aug. 17, 2018

Pelican State Friends of NRA

Aug. 18, 2018 Baton Rouge, LA

Red River Friends of NRA

Coushatta, LA Aug. 23, 2018

Kisatchie Friends of NRA

Minden, LA Aug. 25, 2018

Sabine Friends of NRA

Many, LA Aug. 30, 2018 Minnesota-

Le Sueur State Shoot Friends of NRA

Le Sueur, MN Aug. 11, 2018

Little Crow Friends of NRA

Hutchinson, MN Aug. 15, 2018

Missouri-

Northeast MO Friends of NRA

Kirksville, MO Aug. 4, 2018

Mineral Area Friends of NRA

Farmington, MO Aug. 11, 2018

SEMO Friends of NRA

Aug. 18, 2018 Poplar Bluff, MO

Four States Area Friends of NRA

Joplin, MO Aug. 23, 2018

Missouri Valley Friends of NRA

Marshall, MO Aug. 25, 2018

Mississippi-

MS Delta Friends of NRA

Cleveland, MS Aug. 14, 2018

North Carolina-

High Country Friends of NRA

Blowing Rock, NC Aug. 2, 2018

Southeastern NC Friends of NRA

Lumberton, NC Aug. 3, 2018

Gaston Co. Friends of NRA

Dallas, NC Aug. 4, 2018

Currituck Friends of NRA

Barco, NC Aug. 11, 2018

Nash County Friends of NRA

Rocky Mount, NC Aug. 16, 2018

Central Carolina Friends of NRA

Asheboro, NC Aug. 16, 2018

Smoky Mountain Friends of NRA

Cherokee, NC Aug. 18, 2018

Union Co. Friends of NRA

Monroe, NC Aug. 25, 2018

Coastal Carolina Friends of NRA

Jacksonville, NC Aug. 25, 2018

Nebraska-

High Plains Friends of NRA

O'Neill, NE Aug. 18, 2018

New Mexico-

Luna County Friends of NRA

Deming, NM Aug. 4, 2018 Sierra Blanca Friends of NRA

Ruidoso, NM Aug. 11, 2018

Cibola County Friends of NRA

Grants, NM Aug. 18, 2018

Cavern City Friends of NRA

Carlsbad, NM Aug. 25, 2018

Nevada-

Moapa Valley Friends of NRA

Logandale, NV Aug. 25, 2018

New York-

Lake Ontario Friends of NRA

Fairport, NY Aug. 9, 2018

Columbia Greene Friends of NRA

Leeds, NY Aug. 11, 2018

Mohawk Valley Friends of NRA

Whitesboro, NY Aug. 24, 2018

Founding Freedom Friends of NRA

Van Wert, OH Aug. 11, 2018

Oklahoma-

Newcastle Friends of NRA

Newcastle, OK Aug. 2, 2018

Heartland Friends of NRA

Aug. 9, 2018 Oklahoma City, OK

Cherokee Strip Friends of NRA

Aug. 11, 2018 Enid, OK

Elk Creek Friends of NRA

Elk City, OK Aug. 18, 2018

Green Country Friends of NRA

Tulsa, OK Aug. 23, 2018

Central Oklahoma Friends of NRA

Shawnee, OK Aug. 25, 2018

<u>Oregon-</u>

Central Coast Friends of NRA

Newport, OR Aug. 4, 2018

Paulina Friends of NRA

La Pine, OR Aug. 11, 2018

Columbia County Friends of NRA

Clatskanie, OR Aug. 18, 2018

Pennsylvania-

Somerset County Friends of NRA

Somerset, PA Aug. 12, 2018 Conemaugh Valley Friends of NRA

Aug. 17, 2018 Johnstown, PA

Allegheny Highlands Friends of NRA

Ridgway, PA Aug. 25, 2018

South Carolina-

Pickens Oconee Friends of NRA

Easley, SC Aug. 10, 2018

Barnwells Friends of NRA

Blackville, SC Aug. 11, 2018

Woodruff Friends of NRA

Woodruff, SC Aug. 18, 2018

Lexington Friends of NRA

Lexington, SC Aug. 23, 2018

Walterboro Friends of NRA

Walterboro, SC Aug. 25, 2018

Tennessee-

Northwest Tennessee Friends of NRA

Union City, TN Aug. 4, 2018

Freedom Friends of NRA

Clarksville, TN Aug. 11, 2018

East Tennessee Friends of NRA

Aug. 18, 2018 Knoxville, TN

Meriwether Lewis Friends of NRA

Hohenwald, TN Aug. 25, 2018

Texas-

Heart of Texas Friends of NRA

Brownwood, TX Aug. 3, 2018

Houston Metro Friends of NRA

Aug. 3, 2018 Houston, TX

Hill Country Friends of NRA Fredericksburg, TX Aug. 4, 2018

Grayson County Friends of NRA Sherman, TX Aug. 9, 2018

Callahan County Friends of NRA

Baird, TX Aug. 11, 2018

Tarrant County Friends of NRA

Fort Worth, TX Aug. 11, 2018

Washington/Waller Co. Friends of NRA

Hempstead, TX Aug. 11, 2018

Williamson County Friends of NRA

Georgetown, TX Aug. 17, 2018

El Paso Friends of NRA

El Paso, TX Aug. 17, 2018 Tri-County Friends of NRA

Athens, TX Aug. 21, 2018

Southeast Texas Friends of NRA

Beaumont, TX Aug. 23, 2018

Lexington of Texas Friends of NRA

Aug. 23, 2018

Denton County Friends of NRA Aug. 23, 2018 Denton, TX

McKinney Friends of NRA

Gonzales, TX

McKinney, TX Aug. 25, 2018

Brazoria County Friends of NRA

Angleton, TX Aug. 25, 2018

Well Oiled Guns Friends of NRA

Aug. 30, 2018 Atascocita, TX

<u>Utah-</u>

Tooele County Friends of NRA

Grantsville, UT Aug. 3, 2018

Canyonlands Friends of NRA

Aug. 11, 2018 Moab, UT

Virginia-

Greater Richmond Friends of NRA

Richmond, VA Aug. 9, 2018

Southern Regional Friends of NRA

Aug. 24, 2018

Roanoke Valley Friends of NRA Aug. 25, 2018 Salem, VA

Farmville Friends of NRA

Aug. 25, 2018 Farmville, VA

Washington-

South Boston, VA

Pierce County Friends of NRA Gig Harbor, WA Aug. 4, 2018

NE Washington Friends of NRA

Colville, WA Aug. 18, 2018

SeaTac Friends of NRA Tukwila, WA Aug. 25, 2018

Wisconsin-

Belmont, WI

Stateline Friends of NRA

Janesville, WI Aug. 10, 2018

North Central WI Friends of NRA

Weston, WI Aug. 16, 2018

SW Wisconsin Friends of NRA

Aug. 22, 2018

***Event Dates/Locations Subject to Change. For a full list of events, visit www.friendsofnra.org.



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WE KNOW YOU LIKE FRIENDS OF NRA... SO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

