

GRNC ALERT 5-3-09:

Are Sheriffs Using Your Money to Trample Your rights?

Bill to repeal handgun purchase permits needs hearing NOW!

As noted in earlier alerts, information indicates the NC Sheriffs' Assoc. (NCSA) has been lobbying against your rights. Specifically, NCSA got SB 782 removed from the hearing calendar minutes before the Senate Commerce Committee was scheduled to debate it, placing the bill in serious jeopardy. What is not clear is how aware individual sheriffs are of what NCSA lobbyist Eddie Caldwell is doing to kill the bill. There are even indications the NCSA has not take a formal legislative position.

SB 782: "Repeal Pistol/Crossbow Transfer Permit"

Recall that SB 782 would repeal our pistol purchase permit system – a system not only shamed by its Jim Crow origins, but archaic by having been replaced with computerized background checks and reporting of involuntary mental health commitments.

Sheriffs have broad latitude in issuing purchase permits and have abused the law, including:

- Denying permits on arbitrary standards of "good moral character;"
- Restricting permits issued to as few as 2 per year;
- Demanding other burdensome requirements, such as notarized character affidavits, restricted appointments or even, in one case, the signature of the mayor!

ACT NOW OR THE BILL DIES

The "crossover deadline" by which a bill must pass at least one chamber to avoid dying is MAY 14.

- CONTACT YOUR SHERIFF by going to <http://grnc.org/sheriffs.htm>
- DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

Dear Sheriff:

Accounts indicate the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association lobbyist Eddie Caldwell has engineered removal of SB 782 from the calendar of the NC Senate Commerce Committee, seriously jeopardizing the bill. As you recall, SB 782 would repeal North Carolina's archaic pistol purchase permit system – a system long since replaced by computerized background checks via NICS and mandatory reporting of mental health data.

Meanwhile, a number of sheriffs have been applying burdensome restrictions to issuing purchase permits, including restrictions to as few as two per year.

As an elected official, please advise me immediately whether Caldwell and the NCSA represent your views and, if not, what you plan to do about it.

Respectfully,

FIND OUT HOW SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION HAS SUBVERTED YOUR RIGHTS

See GRNC president Paul Valone's expose on the NC Sheriffs' Association on examiner.com by checking the link below:

Are sheriffs using taxpayer money to trample taxpayer gun rights?

Gun owners may have heard about financial mismanagement within the NC Sheriffs Assoc, but few know a Governor's Crime Commission "blank check" grant may be funding attacks on gun rights, most recently when NCSA lobbyist Eddie Caldwell reportedly shelved legislation to repeal NC's Jim Crow-era gun purchase law...

<http://bit.ly/NCSheriffs>

GRNC OPEN LETTER TO NC SHERIFFS

To: North Carolina Sheriffs
From: F. Paul Valone, President, Grass Roots North Carolina
Re: SB 782, "Repeal Pistol/Crossbow Transfer Permit"
Cc: Mr. Eddie Caldwell, Executive Vice President, North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Dear Sheriff:

Starting with House Bill 1275, misnamed "Enforce Gun Laws at Gun Shows," way back in 1999, we started having problems with increasing indifference to the wishes of voters by the previously responsive organization which represents the elected sheriffs of North Carolina.

HB 1275, you may recall, cost Dave Huffman a seat in Congress as the GRNC Political Victory Fund sent thousands of postcards into the district, and spent a handsome sum on radio spots in the district, all of which highlighted the fact that he was chairman of the NCSA legislative committee when the NCSA endorsed the gun show bill. He lost the race by 87 votes.

Since then, we have had numerous problems, particularly in the last session, when NCSA endorsed (and then apparently didn't endorse), HB 1287: "Report Stolen Gun." As you recall, sponsor Representative Ronnie Sutton alleged in a committee hearing that you endorsed the bill. And although Mr. Caldwell said NCSA never endorsed HB 1287, the Raleigh News & Observer reported:

"Caldwell's group also favors a bill that passed the state House last week that would create a statewide database of pistol purchase permit denials ..."

For a detailed accounting of gun control bills supported by the NCSA – as well as other malfeasance on the part of the organization, please see my regular gun rights column at examiner.com by going to:

<http://bit.ly/NCSheriffs>

Most recently, Republicans and Democrats alike have supported a bill to repeal the archaic pistol purchase permit system, SB 782, which gets a committee hearing until – low and behold – "rumor" has it that Mr. Caldwell had it pulled from the calendar; this, despite the fact that other reports indicate sheriffs themselves did not make a final decision on the bill.

I can give you all of the reasons to repeal the purchase permit system, of course:

- It has long since been replaced by the National Instant Check System;
- It is a remnant of the Jim Crow era;
- The “good moral character” clause has been repeatedly abused;
- Draconian restrictions are being place on purchase permits, including restriction of as few as two per year.

But these problems are all known, so please allow me to cut to the chase. Based on what we have seen thus far, this is what GRNC has in mind:

- “No money for NCSA.” This message will go out on each and every one of our e-mail alerts to thousands of conservative gun owners across the state for the foreseeable future. A year? Two? Ten? North Carolina gun owners – who are historically supporters of law enforcement organizations – are tired of seeing their own money used to subvert their interests.
- Candidate ratings for sheriffs: We have toyed with this for years, not especially anxious to add another 200 or so to the 350-odd candidates we evaluate each election year in our “Remember in November” project (see attached). Of course, it would be tailored to sheriff races: We have already conducted a survey of purchase permit restrictions. Other questions: Do sheriffs charge for mental health checks for concealed handgun permits? Do they send renewal notices for CHPs? Do they require repeating the course for permit renewals? We could go on and on.

While Mr. Caldwell has been subverting your interests in the General Assembly by alienating legislators and voters alike, GRNC became a political force capable of impacting the vote of 120,000+ North Carolina gun owners. And we have had enough.

Please feel free to contact me at (704) 907-9206 if you wish to discuss the issue further.

Respectfully,
 F. Paul Valone
 President, Grass Roots North Carolina

 Support these PRO RKBA merchants who, as GRNC sponsors, are supporting your Second Amendment rights: Hyatt Coin & Gun Shop, 3332 Wilkinson Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28208, 704-663-5656, www.hyattguns.com; Gunner's Alley, LLC, 203 N. Harrison Ave., Ste. 130, Cary, NC 27513, www.gunnersalley.com, 919-388-1991, Contact: Ed Guerriero, ed@gunnersalley.com, C & E Gun Shows, 4225 Fortress Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060; Phone 540-953-0016 or 888-715-0606; <http://www.egunshows.com>; Duncan Gun & Pawn, 414 Second St., North Wilkesboro, NC 28659, 336-667-6303, www.duncangun.com; Shooter's Express, 2 Caldwell Dr., Belmont, NC 28012, 800-358-GUNS, www.shootersexpress.com; The Aisle Pawn Shop, 216 N. Main St., Mooresville, NC 28115, 704-663-5656