



# Hard Corps Report

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March 18, 2005

## Neal Knox Honored by Texas Lawmakers

*“He handled the adversity in his life the way he lived, with unwavering courage and discipline; a man of integrity, strength, and generosity, he was an inspiration to others, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him...”*

These words are now permanently etched in the record of the Texas State Senate. The resolution, adopted by a rising vote, included praise for his work to preserve our Second Amendment freedoms, *“The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Neal Knox, a former vice president of the National Rifle Association... Chairman of the Firearms Coalition... dedicated to writing, speaking, and lobbying for the development and support of grassroots gun rights organizations...”* Resolution SR 365 introduced by Senator Craig Estes, was adopted on Monday, March 14, 2005. Read the full text: [www.NealKnox.com](http://www.NealKnox.com).



## Bush Nominates Bolton to UN

President Bush has nominated John Bolton to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. The unusually plain-spoken diplomat stood firm at the 2001 UN conference on small arms trafficking, referring specifically to the Second Amendment, and recognizing the legitimacy of arming an oppressed “non-state group” against a genocidal government. Bolton’s appointment met with predictable reaction from UN supporters who believe government should have a monopoly on deadly force, and liberals in Washington are virtually apoplectic at his nomination. The UN appointment is particularly important since there will be further action on “small arms” in the world body over the coming decade.

[www.FirearmsCoalition.org](http://www.FirearmsCoalition.org)

## Gun Bans: Risky Business

The trend of businesses banning legal firearms from their premises likely have less to do with fear of guns than with fear of lawyers, particularly in the case of large corporations. Commercial property owners have bought into a flawed notion, promulgated by anti-gunners, that banning legal guns will protect them from crippling lawsuits, in the event a violent crime occurs on their property. The bans have led to the alienation of customers and the firing of numerous employees for such “crimes” as simply having a target rifle in a locked vehicle in a company lot. Gun bans, rather than shielding companies, could actually increase a company’s liability in several ways, primarily by disarming victims and creating a safe-working environment for criminals. Posting signs advertising that fact is akin to what lawyers call an “attractive hazard.” Banning guns from the premises not only denies employees the right to self-defense in the workplace, but effectively disarms them during their commute as well. These policies restrict rights and risk lives, despite the fact that there is no evidence to suggest that gun bans can or will ever reduce violence.

So far, lawsuits based on infringement of employees rights, and legislation aimed at supporting gunowners have directly pitted gun rights against private property rights - an uphill battle which will inevitably create bad precedents. It’s a lose - lose proposition, where, win or lose, the ultimate outcome *must* be the restriction of individual rights. Therefore, it is critical that we change the parameters of the debate - from arguing the superiority of one right over another, to returning the focus to individual responsibility. It is wrong to punish gun owners, or property owners, for the actions of criminals.

For this reason, the Firearms Coalition is calling on grass roots activists, legislators, and legal scholars to help us place responsibility back where it belongs by supporting our three-point strategy for future legislation:

- 1) *Protecting property owners from liability for the criminal acts of others;*
- 2) *Requiring security measures that guarantee any “no-firearms” policy applies to criminals as well as law-abiding gun owners;*
- 3) *Clearly defining the liability of property owners for disarmament of victims of violent crime.*

Together, we can move this debate from a losing proposition to a win for property owners, for gun owners, and for victims of violent crime. Don’t expect to see this strategy come down from above. We’re depending on you, the grass roots activists, the true gun lobby, to take up the call and move the debate forward. Read more at:

[www.FirearmsCoalition.org](http://www.FirearmsCoalition.org)

## NRA Seeks State Liaison *Firearms Experience “Helpful, Not Required”*

Recent news reports of former NRA attorney, Bob Ricker, defending the failed Maryland ballistic imaging database is no surprise, since he is a self-proclaimed “whistle-blower,” and has fueled firearms industry lawsuits in much the same way as industry insiders have testified against tobacco companies. As we reported in our last issue, the Maryland State Police requested that the program be shut down after several years and millions of dollars spent had resulted in no cases solved or significantly moved forward. But, Ricker’s highly publicized stance serves to point out the pitfalls of NRA’s policy of seeking to employ Washington insiders, rather than individuals concerned with Second Amendment issues. The following job announcement from [www.NRAHQ.org](http://www.NRAHQ.org) illustrates the issue. Bear in mind, this is a top-level job - the successful candidate will be overseeing all lobbying activities in a multi-state region - which might include your state:

**State Liaison - Date Posted: 1/8/2005**

**Description:** In this position you will directly manage all legislative and political activities for an assigned region of states, including coordination of the affairs of the Association with related state organizations and issue groups. You will be responsible for establishing and maintaining contacts with elected officials to advance the Association’s legislative agenda. This position requires thorough knowledge and understanding of legislative and political processes and superior communication skills. Extensive travel required. **Experience with firearms, hunting and criminal justice reform issues helpful, but not required.**

*NRA Membership Meeting in Houston, April 15-17: At this year’s NRA meeting, Jeff Knox, a veteran and VFW leader, plans to propose that NRA create a standing committee dedicated to Veterans and the Military. He sees this as a way to express gratitude to our troops, expand membership and promote a broader understanding of 2nd Amendment issues among this group of patriots. Please support his resolution in Houston!*

# Bush Still Blocking Armed Pilots

The program to permit airline pilots to (again) travel armed is ensnared in a mass of red tape and foot dragging, according to the Airline Pilots Security Alliance. Pilots routinely carried guns in the cockpit, without incident, until they were disarmed in the late 1980's. Neal Knox was fighting for the re-arming of pilots back in 1988, and had his warnings been heeded, there might have been no 9-11 tragedy. Introduced in the wake of the terrorist attacks, the "Federal Flight Deck Officer" program was approved over strenuous objections by Secretary of Transportation, Norm Mineta and other top Bush administration officials. According to APSA president David Mackett, "We have an armed pilots program that's arming very few pilots." APSA estimates that fewer than five percent of the nations' 95,000 airline pilots have gone through the required training program. It takes an estimated **nine to twelve months** for a pilot to complete the requirements, which includes a **one-week firearms course** in virtually inaccessible Artesia, New Mexico along with psychological tests. Bush administration officials cite "**unique stresses**" of carrying arms in the cockpit. "All of the testing, including the psych portion, is designed to ensure we have the most capable candidates for this extremely demanding job," said an administration spokesman. "Unlike other law enforcement jobs, it's not just about making a life-or-death decision...It's about making that decision and then turning around and flying the plane again." The American public and lawmakers have spoken: Better an armed, if shaken, pilot than another 9-11. The pilots' struggle is significant for gun rights activists. Pilots are "civilians," though most airline pilots are prior military officers, and many of them are still reserve officers, continuing to fly fighter jets, fully armed, for reserve units.

## Manufactured Blame

Caterpillar Corporation is being sued in the death of a 23 year-old American "peace activist."

The Seattle parents of Rachel Corrie are suing Caterpillar for their part in the 2003 death of their daughter, which occurred in Israel. Corrie was accidentally run over by Israeli Defense Forces using a Caterpillar bulldozer to demolish houses in the town of Rafah, Gaza, Israel, making way for the controversial "security fence" between Palestinian and Israeli settlements.

The lawsuit, blaming the manufacturer of a legal, non-defective product, sounds all too familiar to gun owners and the firearms industry.

The lawsuit alleges that neither Corrie nor her parents bear any responsibility for her death. She had merely traveled halfway around the world to stand in front of an armored bulldozer. Clearly, Caterpillar had a responsibility to refuse to allow the nation of Israel to possess their product, since it was intended for use in a manner contrary to the political beliefs of this American college student.

This type of lawsuit explains why groups like the National Association of Manufacturers have voiced their support for the "Lawful Commerce in Arms" bill currently making it's way through the U.S. Senate.

## Motor-Boater?

Several states are working on "motor-voter" style registration reform that would allow eligible persons to register to vote when purchasing a fishing, hunting, or trapping license. This is a convenient way to get more sportsmen registered to vote.

Check the rules in your state and make sure that your license outlets have voter registration available.

## Expanded Carry Ok'd by AZ Senate

The AZ senate has voted to allow concealed weapons permit holders to carry discreetly in restaurants or bars where alcohol is served, as long as they do not drink. Despite wild pictures painted by opposition forces, State Senators reaffirmed their constituents' right to self-defense, citing that there are already guns in bars, but that only law-breakers are carrying them. The House is expected to pass the bill, but it faces an uncertain fate at the desk of Governor Janet Napolitano.

Two other pro-gun measures aimed at improving the concealed carry laws are expected to pass both the AZ house and senate in the next few weeks.

## .50 Media Barrage

As we reported in our last issue, the .50 BMG is among the latest targets of anti-gunners. Although it is not a gun associated with use by criminals or terrorists, the big gun has been kept in the news with a constant barrage from the Brady Center and Violence Policy Center. The .50 has come under fire recently on "60 Minutes" and "CNN." The demonization of .50 caliber guns is just a replay of the "Saturday Night Special" and "Cop Killer Bullet" media blitzes of the past, and has already resulted in at least two states attempting to ban the big guns.

Neal Knox compared this type of media drumbeat to an artillery barrage softening up a hill before an assault.

Expect the ground troops to be out in force shortly - legislators armed with bills aimed at "solving" the "problem" which exists only in fiction.

## Brits Add Insult to Injury

The idea of an individual's right to self-defense is all but history in Britain. Despite an out of control, exploding crime rate, using even non-lethal measures for self-protection can land those who refuse to be victims in prison.

Nicholas Ashworth, a disabled man who used pepper spray to fight off a knife-wielding robber is now facing criminal charges. After the wheelchair-bound Ashworth sprayed his attacker in the face with CS spray, officers arrested him. Ashworth had been attacked and robbed at knife-point twice in the previous three weeks. He said, "I knew it was wrong and against the law, but I was acting in self defense. It is a sad state of affairs that disabled people like me have to carry such things like CS sprays for protection."

The maximum penalty for simply possessing the non-lethal pepper spray in the UK is 10 years in prison.

## DEA Agent Gets Gun Safety Lesson

A DEA undercover officer who gave a gun safety lecture to a youth group in Orlando ended up giving a more graphic lesson than he intended. The unidentified agent flashed his "unloaded" Glock .40, stating that he was the only person in the room "professional" enough to handle the weapon. He then shot himself in the foot, literally. There were no reports of injuries to his mouth. This should help dispel the myth that police officers have an otherwise unattainable mastery over firearms. View this remarkable gun safety lesson at: [www.FirearmsCoalition.org](http://www.FirearmsCoalition.org)

Dear Jay, Enclosed is my support for your efforts to defend the Second Amendment.

\$500 ( )      \$250 ( )      \$100 ( )      \$50 ( )      \$25 ( )      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill my:    Master Card ( )    Visa ( )    Discover ( )      Card No. \_\_\_\_\_      Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. ( ) (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_      Card Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_      Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_      State \_\_\_\_\_      Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Jay Knox, The Firearms Coalition, P.O. Box 3313, Manassas, VA 20108