

TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

GREAT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

The NRA Foundation events at NRA's second annual Great American Outdoor Show

NEW YEAR, NEW GEAR

Friends of NRA's highly-anticipated annual Merchandise Preview Meeting

DANIEL DEFENSE

Bringing modern sporting rifles and training to America's shooting sports scene



**CENTURY
ARMS** presents:

Orange County Choppers



**THE NATIONAL NRA FOUNDATION
BANQUET & AUCTION**

**2015
EVENT
PREVIEW
INSIDE!**

*Pictured: Live Auction Showcase Item,
Custom NRA Bike. See back cover for details.*

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The National NRA Foundation Banquet

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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.



CELEBRATING HUNTING HERITAGE AT THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOOR SHOW

By Doug Merrill

NRA Senior Field Representative for Western North Carolina

The 2015 Great American Outdoor Show provided an outstanding outlet for hunters and outdoorsmen to celebrate their lifestyle and American values. It is only fitting that the National Rifle Association now produces and organizes the show; of its 5 million members, nearly 1.1 million subscribe to the American Hunter magazine.

Close to 200,000 outdoorsmen and outdoor women visited the show facility over a nine day period. The savvy businessmen in the outdoor community recognize this opportunity for putting their product in front of that many potential customers. Archery gear, hunting supplies, firearms and adventures filled the halls of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. More than 1,100 outfitters, booking agents and safari operators marketed their services to a crowd of attendees from all over the country, and every imaginable hunt from around the globe was available to the traveling hunter.

Many of those outfitters donate regularly to The NRA Foundation to help promote the shooting sports and protect our hunting heritage. At the NRA Foundation Banquet at the Great American Outdoor Show, we offered several terrific hunts on live and silent auction. This included one hunt donated by Hannes du Plessis of Bergzicht Lodge in Namibia who has been a faithful donor for ten years since I met him in Atlanta in 2004. NB Safaris and Dubula Safaris in South Africa also donated hunts this year. The live auction also featured a hunt from Numzaan Safaris in South Africa, which has pledged to donate 50 safaris to the *Friends of NRA* program's fundraising efforts over the next two years. Those hunts will be offered to the attendees of select *Friends of NRA* banquets across the country, reaching yet another potential market.

The Thursday night banquet offered a number of domestic hunts as well, including a bird hunt for pheasant and chukar with Little Canyon Shooting in Idaho, Mule Deer or Whitetail with Trophies Plus Outfitters in Montana or Wyoming, and a deer hunt in central Virginia with Monquin Creek Outfitters. In the wake of this year's show, several outfitters already have pledged hunts for the 2016 banquet.

All these businesses recognize the opportunity presented by the enthusiastic attendees of the Great American Outdoor Show as well as the importance of their support to The NRA Foundation's efforts to grow its grant program and fund the shooting sports for millions of firearm owners and hunters alike.

As this relationship with the hunting community grows, more hunts like these will be available at The NRA Foundation's national events, making them a destination for hunters in the market for a truly outstanding adventure.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NRA FOUNDATION'S NATIONAL EVENTS AT WWW.FRIENDSOFNRA.ORG



THE NATIONAL NRA FOUNDATION BANQUET AND AUCTION

By Nicole McMahon and Megan McConnell
Volunteer Fundraising Event Services, National Rifle Association

The NRA Foundation is heading to the 2015 NRA Annual Meetings in the “Volunteer State,” and there’s no better place to celebrate American tradition and culture than in Nashville! The capital of Tennessee and the epicenter of country music, Nashville boasts a vibrant music scene that has earned it the nickname “Music City.”

The city embodies NRA Country’s mission statement: “NRA Country is a celebration of American values. Respect. Honor. Freedom. It’s a lifestyle and a bond between the best and brightest in country music and hard-working Americans. NRA Country is powered by pride, love of country, respect for the military, and our responsibility to protect our great American lifestyle.” Attendees of the National NRA Foundation Banquet can expect these same fundamentals at the event on Thursday, April 9, at 5:00 p.m. in the Music City Center’s Grand Ballroom.

Sponsors of the banquet include Cabela’s, Henry Repeating Arms, Kimber, Universal Coin & Bullion and Zeiss. Each sponsor will be attending and speaking about their company’s involvement in preserving American shooting traditions and investing in firearms education and training for youth, women, veterans and more. Their

support is critical to the mission of The NRA Foundation, allowing it to continue to “Teach Freedom” as the country’s leading charitable organization in support of the shooting sports.

Attendees of the banquet will also have the opportunity to play games sponsored by some of the largest firearms manufacturers in the country and have their chance to bid in the live and silent auctions, which feature one-of-a-kind firearms, merchandise and gear. This year’s Live Auction Showcase Item is the Orange County Choppers NRA Custom Bike sponsored by Century Arms. An OCC-styled Pro Street bike specially created by Senior Designer Jason Pohl is sure to capture the audience’s attention with its magnificent tribute to the NRA and the Second Amendment (check out the bike on the back cover of the magazine!).

The following pages feature more auction highlights (all items subject to change). Tickets to the highly anticipated National NRA Foundation Banquet are on sale now —get yours today!

NRA Annual Meetings run April 9-12 in Nashville. Join The NRA Foundation in Music City! Buy your tickets for the National NRA Foundation Banquet at www.nraam.org.

EVENT SPONSORS

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White Lion Safaris
Wild Bills Old West Trading
Wild Wings
Wyoming Game
and Fish
Carl Zeiss Sports
Optics

**CHECK OUT THE
LIVE AUCTION
SHOWCASE ITEM
ON THE BACK COVER!**



FIREARMS

GUN
BROKER.COM

GUNBROKER FEATURE ITEMS

The Bidding Starts Now

HANK WILLIAMS, JR. RIFLE

Donated by Big Horn Armory, Inc.

This Model 89 features the signature of Hank Williams, Jr., engraved by Weldon Lister. Coatings by WMD Guns. The lever action gun features a #1 Walnut stock, hunter black finish, 18-inch carbine barrel, letter of provenance signed by Hank Williams, Jr., and an authentication letter by Weldon Lister. It was signed on December 31, 2013, at a concert honoring the 60th anniversary of the passing of Hank Williams, Sr.



SAMUEL COLT 200TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION PROTOTYPE

Donated by Colt Manufacturing, LLC

Introduced in 1873, no Colt revolver has earned greater fame than the Single Action Army. Colt produced this gun as the prototype for their 200th Commemorative series celebrating founder Samuel Colt's 200th birthday. This .45 caliber Single Action Army revolver features a 7.5-inch barrel, all royal blue finish, and a black powder frame. This custom edition also features a 24k gold etched and plated Samuel Colt bust on the left side of the cylinder along with 24k gold plated side screws, hammer, trigger, and Samuel Colt's signature.



FREEDOM EDITION NEMO OMEN WATCHMAN

Donated by NEMO Arms, Inc.

The Watchman is a .300 WIN Mag upgrade from the NEMO Match OMEN, built for the discerning long range shooter and hunter. NEMO gave it a longer 24" barrel for more velocity, built-in 20 MOA picatinny rail on top of both the handguard and receiver. NEMO made this rifle extra rugged with a 7075 billet machined aluminum handguard and paired it up with the billet machined 7075 matched aluminum receiver set. This special Freedom Edition rifle features red, white and blue Cerakote and is proudly made in Montana.



Republic Forge 1911

REPUBLIC FORGE 1911

Donated by Republic Forge, LLC

Founded in January 2014, Republic Forge is dedicated to excellence, precision functionality with a passion to build world-class 1911s for the most serious gun collectors and shooting enthusiasts. All of Republic Forge's 1911s are made in Texas, by hand, with American made parts, one gun at a time. The model donated to the National NRA Foundation Banquet comes in a Cerakote OD green frame and slide, 25 LPI on front strap, serrations on top of slide, 5" barrel, and graphite black controls.

FOSTECH ORIGIN-12

Donated by FosTech Arms, LLC

The Origin-12 is a new tactical shotgun. The Origin-12 features a patented gas system that allows it to run a wide variety of 12 Gauge ammunition reliably. The quick change barrel system also allows you to go from your 18.25" barrel to a 9.5" barrel in just a matter of seconds. There are several other features on the shotgun as well such as a non-reciprocating forward charging handle, infinite gas adjustment, folding stock, and much more. All Origins are shipped in a tactical hard case and with Diamondhead sights.

MONTANA RIFLES XVR EXTREME VANTAGE RIFLE

Donated by Montana Rifle Company

The Extreme Vantage V2 Rifle is an all-weather rifle offered in 100% stainless steel barreled actions. The rifle is chambered in 375 H&H and features a Bell & Carlson synthetic stock. The barrel is 24" #5 contour with 1-12 twist, chrome-moly blued steel with replaceable marble rear and front sight.

CROSS MACHINE TOOL FREEDOM SERIES RIFLE

Donated by Cross Machine Tool Co, Inc.

If you enjoy collectible firearms this is truly a desirable rifle. The rifle features a beautiful walnut stock with a replica of the Declaration of Independence created in Duracoat. Each word of the Declaration of Independence is laser engraved on the right side of the lower receiver's magwell. The left side of the upper receiver proudly features the words "We The People" laser engraved. The rifle is chambered in .223/5.56, integrally machined trigger guard, DI gas system and more great features!

LCW15 5.56 NATO

Donated by Lauer Custom Weaponry

LCW15 manufactured by Lauer Custom Weaponry coated in their revolutionary new product, DuraBlue™ - The New Standard in Bluing (Patent Pending). DuraBlue™ is a spray-on coating that creates the illusion of traditional bluing but with the durability and rust protection of DuraCoat®. Never worry about rust or corrosion again! This custom rifle is complete with a walnut stock set, Zeiss Conquest scope, and NRA AM Nashville 2015 logo. Get a traditional look on a modern sporting rifle!

FIREARMS



Ottawa Ordnance OT-15

OTTAWA ORDNANCE OT-15

Donated by Ottawa Ordnance

This custom built Ottawa Ordnance OT-15 is not your average "black rifle." With incredible American figured Walnut stocks and sub MOA capability it may become your new favorite rifle. Ottawa Ordnance built this rifle with the discerning varmint hunter in mind, with match grade 2 stage trigger, stress relieved 20" 416 stainless H-Bar barrel, and Nikon optics. The firearm comes in a premium case with custom logos and custom fit to this rifle.

FRIENDS OF NRA GUN OF THE YEAR: KIMBER PRO CARRY II 1911

Kimber's lineup of Compact and Pro Carry pistols continues with the 1911-style Pro Carry II, and this Gun of the Year makes no compromises. Smaller and lighter than a full sized 1911, this handgun is ideal for concealed carry while still packing the full stopping power of the .45 ACP cartridge. The Crimson Trace grips and 24k gold plating and etching by Baron Technology, Inc., make this firearm truly unique. Scrollwork accompanies "Friends of NRA" and "Gun of the Year" banners on the right side and the Kimber logo on the left. Serial number NRA150001.

SKB SHOTGUN 200HR MULTI-GAUGE SPORTING SET

Donated by SKB Shotguns

This side by side is the pre-production sample of the new small frame 200HR Multi-Gauge Set by SKB Shotguns. The petite frame of this 28/410 set is 38% smaller than the traditional 12 ga. frame. The 200HR has a scalloped receiver; its slight profile is rounded and sleek. The receiver, forend iron and trigger guard are tastefully enhanced with hand engraved scroll accents; and beautifully finished with genuine bone charcoal color case hardening. With a gold accented NRA logo on the bottom of the floor plate, this stunning shotgun weighs in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces.



Kel-Tec RDB

KEL-TEC BUILD YOUR OWN RDB EXPERIENCE

Donated by Kel-Tec

This truly unique and priceless experience includes the opportunity to assemble your own Kel-Tec RDB, a short stroke gas-piston operated semi-automatic rifle, with Kel-Tec engineers at the company's plant in Florida. With a barrel length of 17.4" or 20" and caliber of 5.56 mm, this rifle will serve all of your tactical needs. The date of the experience will be decided by the buyer and Kel-Tec. Transportation is not included.

VISION ARMORY "THE HAMMER"

Donated by Vision Armory, LLC

You saw the Vision Armory custom red, white, and blue AR15 donation for the 2014 National NRA Foundation Banquet last year. Well, they are back and they are stepping it up a notch! Vision Armory is releasing their new rifle line starting with this custom AR10 .308 nicknamed "The Hammer." This rifle is Vision's next generation of the "Stand and Fight" AR platform and is being released with a custom serial number of "NRA-2015." "The Hammer" has been cloaked in secrecy in Vision Armory since 2014 and is a long awaited release by the company. Coupled with top of the line optics, rifle case, and some secrets you will have to attend the show to see.

FAUSTI CLASS ROUND 20 GAUGE

Donated by FAUSTI USA

With their valuable roundish lines, the new round body "Class Round" shotguns are the result of a long and continuous research and designing effort aimed at creating top quality sporting guns. Class Round stand out from the previous models in the fact that they have a truly round receiver, one that comes out directly from the Fausti shops' modern CNC machines with its characteristic round shape.

AMERICAN FARMER TRIBUTE EDITION

Donated by Henry Repeating Arms

Henry salutes the American Farmer with this tribute edition featuring detailed scenes of farming life etched into the receiver and splashed with gold, with additional images lovingly carved into the American Walnut stock. It's a .22 caliber work of art to carry, use and display with pride, carrying our message of heartfelt gratitude to a hundred generations, past and present, who feed our world. The rifle is chambered in .22S/L/R.



Weatherby Mark V

WEATHERBY MARK V 70TH ANNIVERSARY LIMITED EDITION

Donated by Weatherby, Inc.

To commemorate Weatherby's 70th Anniversary, Weatherby is offering an extremely limited edition Mark V® rifle. This unique collector's item is as special as it is rare. Only 70 rifles were produced, each with its own unique serial number. Chambered for .257 Weatherby, 24" #1 contour barrel and high gloss finish on both metal and wood. This rifle also comes with a commemorative knife, handcrafted by Ed Weatherby's son Dan. The knife displays a gold 70th anniversary logo numbered to match the rifle and comes with a custom leather case.

SILENCERCO SALVO 12 AND BENELLI M2 FIELD SHOTGUN

Donated by SilencerCo, LLC

The M2 Field shotgun is light, ruggedly built, and fast handling. It is the backbone of the Benelli semi-auto line that cycles everything from target loads to the heaviest 3-inch magnums. It comes with an ultra-reliable Inertia Driven® system, ComforTech® recoil reduction system, and Crio® barrel and choke tubes. This model is a 12ga. shotgun with a 21" barrel length. The Salvo™ 12 is the first commercially-viable shotgun suppressor and represents an incredible advance in engineering and technology. At its full length of 12 inches, sound is brought down to 136.8 dB at the muzzle – well below the 140 dB hearing-safe threshold set by OSHA. Pair this sound reduction with a noticeable decrease in felt recoil, and after just a few rounds through the Salvo 12™, you'll never go back to shooting unsuppressed again.

MERCHANDISE

RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL COLLAGE

Donated by Southwest Indiana *Friends of NRA*

This impressive collection of presidential mementos from the Reagan presidency is the perfect item for your office or study. Highlighting this item is a personal letter written by Reagan on White House letterhead, an actual campaign poster, official presidential photograph, original campaign pins and buttons, first day postal covers and an official Presidential Medallion from the United States Mint commemorating his inauguration. This beautiful collection is framed, includes documentation of authenticity and is only available through the Indiana *Friends of NRA* Program and at this banquet.



NRA THEME FERRIS WHEEL SEAT

Donated by Lahey Machine, LLC

This one-of-a-kind, custom made Ferris wheel seat is decorated with an NRA theme. An American history conversation piece, the seat is a vintage piece from the fifties or sixties from older restored Ferris wheels.

CHARLIE DANIELS AUTOGRAPHED ELECTRIC GUITAR

Donated by Soundcheck Nashville

The Taylor Solid Body Standard Electric Guitar has a sound all of its own and thought is put in to every detail of its production. Autographed by Charlie Daniels, this classic, quality guitar is truly one-of-a-kind.



ZEISS CONQUEST HD5 2-10X42

Donated by Carl Zeiss Sports Optics

Designed for today's demanding hunters, the Conquest HD5 features a superior 5x variable magnification range, new ballistic lockable turrets and redesigned RAPID-Z® ballistic reticles all built into the most compact SuperZoom™ 1-inch riflescope in the industry. This compact riflescope boasts an extremely wide field-of-view in 2-power making it extremely versatile in most close encounters from dense cover to mid-range hunting conditions in more open terrain. The Conquest HD5 2-10x42 is parallax free to 100 yards and this one comes with the available a Z-Plex (#20) reticle.

COMMEMORATIVE FLAG FLOWN OVER NRA HEADQUARTERS

Donated by West Texas *Friends of NRA*

This flag was flown over NRA Headquarters as a tribute to the men and women in this country that will not stand by and let our Second Amendment be erased. Included is a certificate of authenticity signed by NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre and NRA Executive Director of General Operations Kyle Weaver. Watch a video of the flag raising on the *Friends of NRA* Youtube channel.



WOOD COWBOY HAT AND PEDESTAL

Donated by Columbia Basin *Friends of NRA*

Hand carved from a single piece of wood, this lifelike cowboy hat is almost thin enough to see through. It is a stunning piece of art that will make a statement anywhere it is displayed.

BRAD DAVIS AUTOGRAPHED SOCCER BALL

Donated by Mike and Susie Nuyt

This Adidas soccer ball features the autograph of Brad Davis, #14 on the US Men's National Team at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil and left midfielder for the Houston Dynamic Major League Soccer team.

LADIES MINK COAT

Anonymous Donor

This beautiful full-length mink coat has been exquisitely crafted by SAGA of Finland. A New Mexico resident donated this item and wishes to be known only as a Supporter of the Second Amendment. Featuring preferred long fur pelts and an artful shawl collar of contrasting fur, the timeless design of this coat is certain to please any woman.

\$1,000 CERTIFICATE TOWARDS BOOTS AT LUCCHESE

Donated by Lucchese Boot Company, Inc.

Lucchese is an American luxury brand founded in 1883, and since then the manufacturing of Lucchese boots has not changed. From start to finish, the human hand touches each pair of boots over three hundred times, requiring at least 18 days to complete one pair. The Lucchese tradition of handmade artisan products has withstood the test of time while other boot manufacturers turned to machines for production. Lucchese's reputation in the industry is legendary, and now you can own a pair of their highly valued boots! When you purchase this certificate, you will join other famous figures who have worn their boots like John Wayne, Johnny Cash, Blake Shelton and more. Certificate redeemable at Lucchese, 503 12th Avenue South, Nashville.



12-PIECE STERLING SILVER JEWELRY HAND-CRAFTED BY NATIVE AMERICANS

Donated by Visionary Marketing, Inc.

This 12-piece jewelry set donated by Visionary Marketing, Inc., is handmade by a Southwest US Native American artisan. The beautiful jewelry set includes necklaces, cuff bracelets and earrings. All pieces are made with sterling silver and include various fine stones such as Black Onyx, Opal, Turquoise, Mother-of-Pearl, Rhodochrosite and more.

HUNTS

7 DAY/7 NIGHT TROPHY HUNT FOR 2 IN LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

Donated by NB Safaris

South Africa is a highly successful trophy hunting destination and there is no better way to experience a wider variety of animals than at NB Safaris! The number of game on private land is estimated as two and a half times more than the game on public land contributing to the nearly 100% success rate: a trophy hunter's dream! One hunter will go home with an impala and the other will go home with a blesbuck. Meals, accommodations and transport to/from airport included. 2015-2016.

7 DAY/8 NIGHT SAFARI FOR 2 IN LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

Donated by Graham Sales Safaris

Graham Sales Safaris totals more than 84,000 acres in the majestic Limpopo Province of South Africa. The region hosts 23 different species including Cape Buffalo, Leopard, Roan and Sable. The area's unique Mopane bushveld, huge Baobab trees and rocky outcrops create an exciting hunting experience. With the growing popularity of bow hunting, the outfitter has also set aside 27,000 acres strictly for bow hunting. 2015-2016.

1 DAY ALLIGATOR HUNT FOR 1 IN LAKE OKEECHOBEE, FL

Donated by Gettle Trophy Hunts

One hunter will enjoy a night under the stars on an airboat on Florida's Lake Okeechobee as they hunt for an alligator up to 8' long. All tags and transport to/from airport are included. August 15 - October 31, 2015.

5 DAY/6 NIGHT HUNT IN NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

Donated by Taxis River Outfitters

Even though New Brunswick is not famous for its large population of deer, if you are pursuing the once in a lifetime trophy then Taxis River Outfitters is the spot for you! Hunt 230-260 pound whitetails and 600 pound black bears on 100,000 newly baited acres. Hunt includes 1 whitetail buck and 1 black bear. Meals, accommodations and transport to/from airport will also be included.



5 DAY TROPHY HUNT FOR 1 IN ARGENTINA

Donated by NRA Outdoors and Argentina Big Hunting

Argentina Big Hunting is proud to offer the best free-range hunting programs both in La Pampa province (bush hunting) and Patagonia (mountain hunting). They have more than 200,000 acres of the best red stag hunting area in Argentina, with first class accommodations and outstanding trophy quality. This hunt includes 5 days and 5 nights for 1 hunter in La Pampa province Argentina. Meals, accommodations and transport to/from airport included. March -June, 2015-2016.



HUNTING TRIP FOR 2 OR 4 IN SOUTH AFRICA

Donated by Numzaan Safaris

Take an unforgettable trip to Limpopo, South Africa, for a hunting experience on the bushveld landscape. The location at the heart of Southern Africa's greatest concentration of game and an abundance of fine trophy animals make this hunt an extraordinary affair. Five-day trip includes accommodations, \$500 trophy fee per hunter, field preparations and a licensed professional guide. Airfare not included. 2015-2016.

8-DAY COMBO HUNT FOR 2 IN MISSOURI AND SOUTH AFRICA

Donated by Double Deuce Ranch and Wild Wildebeest Safaris

Double Deuce Ranch offers premier hunting on the Iowa Missouri border lying on 3000 acres of privately owned land. Double Deuce also leases 1500 acres of privately owned land in the surrounding area. The ranch is located in northern Missouri near Powersville in Putnam county. The Iowa state line goes through the northern part of the ranch. The hunt is for 1 Eastern turkey per hunter. Also included in the donation is fishing and morel mushroom hunting. Spring of 2015. Meals and accommodations included. Wild Wildebeest Safaris offers a utopia of adventure, natural beauty, and lush accommodations which combine to create a truly memorable vacation. Hunt blesbuck, impala, warthog, and black-backed jackal. Wild Wildebeest Safaris aims to provide you with superior trophies while giving attention to every detail to ensure that you have an African Adventure of a lifetime. March 1-October 1, 2015-2016.



10 DAY UNGUIDED FLOAT TRIP FOR 2 IN ALASKA

Donated by Alaska Rafting Adventures

Unguided float trip for hunting or fishing in Alaska to include a 14ft self bailing raft 8x8 bomb shelter tent two burner stove and cook kit. For the do it yourself hunt or fishing trip of your dreams in Alaska. 2015-2016.

NOTE REGARDING ALL HUNT PACKAGES: AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED.

WYOMING COMMISSIONERS TAG

At the National NRA Foundation Banquet
NRA Annual Meeting | Nashville, TN
April 9 | 5:00 PM | Music Center Center

The NRA Foundation has received

1 EXCLUSIVE COMMISSIONER'S TAG

to be auctioned off at the 2015 Annual Meeting
Foundation Banquet in Nashville, TN on Thursday, April 9.

The tag is good in any area of WY except elk area
75, 77 and 79 (elk Refuge), and can be used for:

ELK MULE DEER OR ANTELOPE

For more information regarding the tag please contact:
Dave Manzer at dmanzer@nrahq.org.

We will be taking bids on the Tag beginning today and will contact top
bidders on the day of the event to discuss the live auction process.

If you would like to bid on the Tag please contact:
Nicole McMahon at nmcmahon@nrahq.org.

LESS THAN
60 TAGS
AVAILABLE IN
THE USA

BECOME A FRIENDS OF NRA SPONSOR

The 2015 Friends of NRA Sponsor Series

Liberty

- Framed Second Amendment display
- Subscription to Traditions magazine (quarterly)
- Sponsor Hat



\$250

Heritage

CHOOSE ONE:

- Liberty Safe 9G Micro Imprint Handgun Vault with NRA logo and A/C adapter
- Damascus Bowie Knife with leather sheath and NRA logo

\$600

Freedom

- Kel-Tec SUB-2000 9mm rifle with NRA logo*

\$1250

Pioneer

CHOOSE ONE:

- Marlin Model 336 Limited Edition with Marlin horse and rider and NRA logo in 24k gold
- Remington 1911 R1™ Enhanced Threaded Barrel .45 ACP Pistol with NRA logo*

\$2500

Patriot

CHOOSE ONE:

- Colt Marine .45 ACP with NRA logo, "Semper Fi" text and USMC emblem*
- Kimber Custom II Warrior SOC 1911 .45 ACP with NRA logo*
- Colt Single Action Army® .45 Colt Revolver* (with NRA logo in 24k gold plating - only 50 available)
- Kimber Sapphire Ultra II 9mm Pistol*
- Winchester Model 73 Short High Grade .357/.38 (special engraving and "National Rifle Association" text in 24k gold - only 75 available)
- Remington UMC Commemorative 1911* (with reproduction leather holster, lanyard, magazine pouch and two-tone magazines)

\$5000

Legacy of Freedom

\$3500

Limited Edition
Colt Mustang®
Pocketlite .380

Limited Edition
Ruger Vaquero
Stainless .45 Colt

Limited Edition
Kimber Ultra
Carry II .45 ACP



(CHOOSE ONE)

Founding Sponsor

\$10,000

Fausti® Class Round 20 Gauge Shotgun



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THE NRA FOUNDATION *GREAT AMERICAN* EXPERIENCE



By Nicole McMahon
Event Marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association

A rush of outdoorsmen, Second Amendment supporters and American tradition produced a tremendous turnout at the 2015 Great American Outdoor Show held February 7-15 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. Nearly 200,000 attendees came from all across the Mid-Atlantic region and United States, and even internationally, and battled the chilling temperatures and snow-covered roads of Harrisburg, Pa., to visit the country's largest outdoor show.



More than 1,100 exhibitors had the opportunity to showcase their hunts, adventures, boating and fishing products, recreational vehicles and, of course, shooting sports gear. Interactive events featured family-friendly activities ranging from NRA's 3 Gun Experience to the Pyramid Air Air Gun Range, Archery shooting lanes and REEL Kids Casting. An array of seminars took place throughout the week and piqued specialized interests such as "Turkey Hunting," "Gun Values by the Gun Gurus," "Bass Fishing," "Sausage and Jerky Making," and dozens more. If that weren't enough, the show also hosted outdoor celebrity appearances by Matt and Jessie Duff, Ralph and Vicki Cianciarulo, Michael Waddell, and NRA celebrities Jim Supica, Phil Schreier and Cam Edwards.

The NRA Foundation presented the largest event of the show: the legendary Wall of Guns. The Wall of Guns, sponsored by Henry Repeating Arms, boasted 154,000 ticket sales and attracted thousands of participants during the nine-day event. For many, the ticket offers were just too good to pass up. Wall of Guns rounds each consist of 100 \$10 tickets. Once they are all sold, a winner is drawn and a new round with a 1 in 100 chance of winning begins.

Participants could increase their odds of winning by purchasing a \$100 ticket package, which included 10 tickets and an exclusive Wall of Guns camo t-shirt, or a \$500 ticket package of 20 tickets with which the buyer automatically received a Henry AR-7 US Survival Rifle .22LR. Participants could also buy out the entire round for \$1,000 and get their choice of any firearm on the Wall. The \$100 ticket package option was the favorite of many buyers, allowing them to walk away with a new t-shirt and providing great chances of winning a firearm.



PHOTOS Opposite: An Americana-themed item from the silent auction at The NRA Foundation Banquet. This page, from top: Great American Outdoor Show attendees visit the Wall of Guns; Raffle girls wearing custom Wall of Guns shooting shirts donated by Gaston J. Glock style LP sell tickets; A Wall of Guns participant places his ticket in the tumbler and awaits the winner selection.



New this year on the Wall of Guns was a feature panel and a Valentine's Day Raffle, both by Henry Repeating Arms. Front and center in the Wall display, the feature panel contained a Henry Frontier .22WMR Eagle, Henry Golden Boy .22S/L/LR with the NRA seal engraved on the receiver, and a Henry AR-7 US Survival Rifle .22LR. The Valentine's Day Raffle was held exclusively on Saturday, February 14, with only 200 tickets sold for \$20 each. The winner of the drawing received a Henry American Beauty Rifle .22S/L/LR and made their significant other (or themselves) very happy!

At the height of the Wall of Guns' popularity during the week, rounds would sell out in less than 20 minutes. The selection of over 40 different makes and models of firearms, two compound bows and a \$400 cash prize option never failed to generate interest. The most popular option on the Wall was the Stag Arms AR-15 Model 2. Picked over 50 times, the Stag Arms Model 2 features the Second Amendment lasered on the side of the mag well and is chambered in .223/5.56.

An extremely versatile type of firearm, the AR-15 is perfect for target shooting, competitive shooting and home defense. It was introduced by Colt in 1963, and Americans have bought over six million AR-15s in the last 30 years with over a quarter of a million bought over the last three years alone. So, it is no surprise that the most popular firearm on the Wall this year was an AR-15 style rifle.



PHOTOS This page, from top: A Wall of Guns winner with his ticket and t-shirt; Large crowds at the show make their way past the Wall of Guns in the main spine of the complex; A man looks at the most popular pick on the Wall, the Stag Arms AR-15; Attendees check out the rifles on display in the Henry feature panel. Opposite, from top: The live auction at the NRA Foundation Banquet catches the crowd's attention; Henry Repeating Arms President Anthony Imperato with servicemen to whom he presented commemorative rifles; Jesse James took the stage as his Unlimited Triple Black Nitride Cisco 1911 was auctioned off.



On Thursday, February 12, The NRA Foundation hosted its second annual banquet in the PA Preferred Ballroom of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. The NRA Foundation Banquet, sponsored by Henry Repeating Arms, attracted over 350 attendees and featured seven games, various raffles, an engaging silent auction and an exciting live auction.

One of the highlights of the evening was Henry Repeating Arms President Anthony Imperato's heartfelt recognition of servicemen. Imperato presented two NRA instructors, an EMS dispatcher, one firefighter, one law enforcement officer and six veterans with their own Henry tribute rifles. The six veterans served in six different American war operations: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. None of the servicemen knew about this commemoration at the banquet, making the presentation a surprise and a truly special experience for all in attendance.

Another surprise came when Jesse James, West Coast Choppers founder and new firearms manufacturer, presented his own Jesse James Firearms Unlimited Triple Black Nitride Cisco 1911. As the auction for his item was in full swing, Jesse James even offered to visit the buyer personally and shoot the firearm with him or her. A very enthusiastic bidder won the firearm and the Jesse James experience for \$4,000, the top auction item of the evening.

The evening contained many other memorable moments, and only those in attendance could feel the electricity and energy of the event. Ultimately, over \$100,000 was raised from the night's activities—more money for The NRA Foundation and America's shooting sports and hunting traditions! ■



Join us at the 2016 Great American Outdoor Show! Visit www.greatamericanoutdoorshow.org to learn more about the event.

NEW year, new GEAR

THE ANNUAL FRIENDS OF NRA MERCHANDISE PREVIEW MEETING

By Christina Paladeau
Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association



The start of a new year puts the pressure on *Friends of NRA* to develop another exciting collection of firearms and merchandise to fuel its fundraising efforts. Come December, the NRA Field Representatives who oversee the local events held across the country are eager to explore the new year's available merchandise and meet with the vendors who supply it. The highly-anticipated annual Merchandise Preview Meeting (MPM) provides them with that opportunity.

The process of building a better-than-ever assortment of everything from firearms and gear to home goods and jewelry begins with the *Friends of NRA* Merchandise Department. The team works year-round to communicate with vendors, develop new product ideas and carefully select the product options revealed at the MPM.

The Field Reps excitedly enter the large merchandise room as soon as the doors open. They methodically make their way table to table, stopping at each vendor's display to discover the many unique and desirable items available. The chance to speak directly with the vendors and experience each item in person provides the Field Reps with valuable preparation for guiding their committees in selecting and fundraising with this merchandise at their events throughout the coming year. And the MPM benefits not only the Field Reps but also the vendors in attendance who are able to get feedback and ideas from the Field Reps who spend all year fundraising with their products.

As this year's MPM began, *Friends of NRA* staff presented Blue Ridge Knives (BRK)—a vendor and the sponsor of the meeting—with a National Corporate Sponsor plaque in recognition of their contributions to the program. "BRK has been a great supporter of *Friends of NRA* for years," said NRA Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. "Last year they even provided warehouse space for the merchandise we were gathering for the national NRA Foundation event at the 2014 Great American Outdoor Show and NRA Annual Meeting." BRK President of Sales and Marketing Alex Martin responded, "Thank you to [Merchandise Manager] Kathy [Purtell] and the Field Reps for their support and using our products for the program."

This year the meeting offered an added attraction: it marked the first time that a firearms vendor has been invited to the MPM. Director of Sales for Daniel Defense Bill Robertson attended and displayed the company's DDM4v1, v5, v7 and v9 models as well as the new DDM4a1. "We've been excited about [the meeting]," Robinson commented. "We've been involved with the program for over a year and understand how you all do things, so this is a great opportunity to strengthen that relationship and help raise more money."

Robinson spoke to the group about the firearms he brought to the meeting—Daniel Defense's current best-selling models. "The benefit of being here is meeting the Field Reps and understanding their goals," he explained. "This has been really beneficial to me, and I hope it has been for them as well. Getting to come and explain to them what makes our guns stand out is a valuable opportunity."



VENDORS IN ATTENDANCE

Americap	E Group
Air Venturi, Ltd.	Gallatin River Trading Co.
American Technologies Network	Hunter Specialties
Big Sky Carvers/DEMDACO	Mill Pond Press
Blue Ridge Knives	Mi-T-M Corp.
Boyt Harness	Montana Silversmiths
Bushnell	nChannel
Collectible Sign & Clock	Outdoor Marketing Group
Concealed Carrie	Online Stores
Colonel Littleton Ltd., Inc.	Sitka Gear
Crimson Trace	SKB Corp.
Custom Art Concepts	Vintage Editions
Daniel Defense	Wendell August
Dorendorf's, Inc.	Wild Wings
	Carl Zeiss Sports Optics

Meeting attendees also welcomed the chance to get to know two new vendors and their products: American Technologies Network's night vision and thermal imaging optics; and Concealed Carrie's fashionable concealed carry handbags. "I'm excited to see the ATN thermal gear," said South Central Region Director Tom Ulik, expressing an enthusiasm that proved to be shared by many members of the Field Staff. "It will be great to have that option for the Reps. It's at a higher price point, but it will be great for certain target markets."

West Virginia Field Rep Jim Kilgore remarked on the vendors he was most happy to see returning. "I'm glad to have Crimson Trace back," he shared. "Some of my banquets auction two or three of those products. Wendell August is also always coming up with better and better items for us."

In addition to presenting the range of options available through the Vendor Direct merchandise program, the MPM is also most of the Field Reps' first chance to view the highly anticipated Standard Merchandise Package that each committee receives for 2015 events. "This is the best line up we've ever had; the package is balanced nicely, not skewed toward one discipline like just hunting or all tactical," enthused Western Region Director Brad Kruger. "We've focused on auction items and pieces that will be future family heirlooms. There is also a number of great pieces for the ladies, the Annie Oakley framed set in particular."

Members of the Merchandise Selection Committee each took time to share their thoughts on a featured item in the Standard Package. Southwest Region Director Jason Quick highlighted the Colt Bowie Knife. "This knife is a very attractive piece with a beautiful sheath," he explained. "It will undoubtedly generate interest and raise money."

Ulik discussed the Stars and Stripes Guitar Autographed by Ted Nugent since he participated in the project to have Ted Nugent, Second Amendment enthusiast and NRA Board of Directors member, sign all 1,200 guitars for the Standard Package. "There is a great focus on the stories behind things in the package this year," he noted. Ulik also called attention to the importance of choosing the right firearms for the program: "When we look at guns we look for things with great visual appeal, and this year's firearms have good eye appeal, there are no Plain Janes."

The new guns, gear and other merchandise filling the room left Field Reps and all others at the MPM excited to begin another year of fundraising. This year's collection of unique and quality items is sure to have volunteers and banquet attendees ready to enthusiastically support *Friends of NRA's* efforts to promote the shooting sports and American traditions.

Friends of NRA would like to sincerely thank all participating vendors for their support and dedication. They make possible the program's mission of providing a future for America's shooting sports. ■

Interested in being a Friends of NRA Industry Supporter? Go to www.friendsofnra.org/IndustrySupporters.aspx to learn more!



Spreading a *Message of Personal Safety*

By Christina Paladeau
*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*

Among many other unique types of NRA Foundation grant recipients, the NRA's national Refuse To Be A Victim® (RTBAV) program benefits from Foundation funding. Thanks to that support, residents of Blair County, Pa., will soon have the opportunity to learn the personal safety strategy of RTBAV.

About two years ago Blair County's Sheriff Mitch Cooper asked Chief Deputy Holly Garner if she would be interested in presenting the RTBAV program to their community. Garner was eager to complete the instructor training and start holding the seminars which cover topics including mental preparedness, personal safety, home security, criminal mindset, travel safety, cyber security, and personal protection devices. While waiting for the restructuring of the Online Instructor Training—a 12-hour course of watching videos, viewing PowerPoints and completing assignments—Garner heard about newly available grant funding.

The NRA's national RTBAV department had applied for a grant for instructor training and materials to be used specifically by a law enforcement officer in western Pennsylvania. Thanks to the Pennsylvania *Friends of NRA* State Fund Committee's recommendation of the grant, Chief Deputy Garner was able to apply for and receive the grant. "This is a great example of grant applications submitted by headquarters staff for national NRA programs," explains NRA Foundation Grant Administration and Services Manager Ruthann Sprague. "These grants go directly back into the State Fund Committee's own community."

Aside from covering the tuition for instructor training—a \$250 cost which many agencies just don't have the budget for—the funding granted by The NRA Foundation also goes to providing free student packets. Each packet is usually \$4.50 and contains an 82 page safety handbook, firearms supplement, program brochures and completion certificate. Since the grant funding covers this cost, agencies can put on the seminar for free, meaning that the important RTBAV safety message will be heard by more members of the community.

"We are so lucky to have received grants from the Foundation," expresses NRA Refuse To Be A Victim Coordinator Bethany Mullen. "Without them, many law enforcement agencies such as Blair County would not have been able to share the RTBAV crime prevention and personal safety message with their communities."

Garner anticipates that her seminars, which she plans to start in March, will be well received by the community. The fantastic turnout at the information session she held at a neighborhood watch meeting in October seems to support that expectation. "Citizens are definitely looking forward to this program being presented; all the response has been positive," Garner shares.

"I think this is a great program that truly empowers citizens by touching on a lot of situations that community members need to prepare themselves for," said Garner. "The NRA is wonderful for preparing individual instructors to go out and train the community to protect themselves and prevent crime." ■

Find a Refuse To Be A Victim seminar near you at refuse.nra.org. Support national programs like this and local shooting sports programs by attending a Friends of NRA event! Find one near you at www.friendsofnra.org/Events.



THERE HAVE BEEN
7,430
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM
SEMINARS WITH AN ATTENDANCE OF
110,859
SEMINARS ARE USUALLY
4 HOURS
AND THE COST CAN RANGE FROM
\$25-\$50
THE ONLINE REFUSE TO BE A
VICTIM COURSE WAS REVAMPED
IN NOVEMBER OF 2013. SINCE THEN 907
PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN THE ONLINE COURSE
**45 LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS**
HAVE TAKEN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT
ONLY SESSIONS, AVAILABLE FOR
FREE

**Refuse
To Be A Victim.**



Paralyzed Veterans of America *taking a* **YOUTHFUL APPROACH**

By Catherine Barsanti

Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

Every July over 100 individuals travel from across the country to spend a weekend in Green Bay, Wis., gathering for the Annual Paralyzed Veterans of America National Trapshoot Circuit held at the Brown County Sportsmen Club.

Between thirteen and sixteen chapters of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) host a circuit each year. The Wisconsin chapter consistently participates, and in 2004 it even expanded its program—it became the first chapter to incorporate youth shooters. “We have up to 25 youths involved every year,” says Paul Lehman, executive director of the Wisconsin

PVA. “Last year we had 18 youths between the ages of 11 and 17, spanning the two categories: sub junior (11-15), and junior (16-17).”

And the best part about this program? It’s completely free for the youth trap shooters. “With the help of The NRA [Foundation] and donations, we supply free housing, free entry into the competition, and food for the weekend for two people—the youth and an adult chaperone,” Lehman explains. “This also includes ammo and practice ammo, and, if they need to borrow guns, we have four guns available with equipment which they can borrow for the tournament.”

The tournament runs from Friday to Sunday and ends with a celebratory banquet. The weekend starts with practice time on Friday, Saturday features the youth orientation and safety briefing from two NRA certified instructors followed by participation in the tournament, and the program concludes on Sunday with the banquet and award ceremony.

Youth participants typically shoot 150 clay birds during the competition portion of the weekend, but they have the option of forgoing the youth awards and shooting at an adult level of 300 clay birds. Either way the weekend still is subsidized entirely by the PVA.

The Wisconsin chapter's youth program has seen steady growth through efforts made by both Lehman and volunteers. "I solicit disability companies and advertise through word of mouth," says Lehman. "We have PVA members all over the state of Wisconsin who try to find disabled youth or beginners and encourage their participation. We preferably take youth new to the sport and disabled youth."

After participating for the first year, this shoot tends to become a tradition for the youth shooters, demonstrating the success and popularity of the program. "We had a beginner start about two years ago, and every year he just waits until the schedule comes out and plans to be there the whole time. He just loves it," shares Lehman. "Some of the youth grow with the program and participate as adult shooters after they turn 18."

The youth program has flourished since its inception over ten years ago, and it continues to expand thanks in part to grants from The NRA Foundation. "The program has been evolving all along, and when it comes to equipment, NRA [Foundation] help, and NRA instructors, I can't ask for anything better," says Lehman. "The Wisconsin *Friends of NRA* is so generous to our organization." ■

Do you know of an organization that could benefit from an NRA Foundation grant? Apply at nrafoundation.org. To learn more about Friends of NRA in Wisconsin go to www.friendsofnra.org/WI.



Photos Courtesy Wisconsin PVA





LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS are RIGHT ON TARGET

By Christina Paladeau
*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*

“To promote public safety, law and order, and the national defense.”

This is one of the objectives of the NRA, making grants to law enforcement agencies a natural aspect of The NRA Foundation’s efforts to support firearms education and training around the country.

Metal training target received by the Newberry County Sheriff's Office

The Newberry County Sheriff's Office in South Carolina has embraced the opportunity presented by the grant program and developed an exemplary relationship with The NRA Foundation, *Friends of NRA* and NRA programs. Last year that relationship continued with a \$2,300 grant.

"We've been lucky to be a fairly regular recipient of grants," says Sheriff Lee Foster. "This most recent grant was for metal targets for training on the range and practicing more realistic shooting situations."

The sheriff's office received the targets in January, and members of the local *Friends of NRA* committee visited Sheriff Foster to recognize the occasion. Jerry and Faye Stoudemire have been involved with Mid-Carolina *Friends of NRA*—South Carolina's oldest committee—since it started 23 years ago. "I'm just thrilled to be able to support the sheriff's office," says Faye, who enjoys seeing firsthand the positive effects of South Carolina *Friends of NRA* fundraising. "We work hard for the money, and I like to see where it's going."

Come spring, the new targets will be used to enhance officer training in a way that wouldn't be possible without NRA Foundation support. "Especially for a small, rural agency, it's important to have an additional funding source because of the limited funding available from local government which has to be divided up among other resources," Foster explains. "Grants allow us things that the government wouldn't normally provide. It's a big boost and a great help to us, and it enhances the training and safety of our officers."

"With cutbacks in local and state budgets, police departments and sheriff's offices are unable to fund needed training and equipment," emphasizes NRA Foundation Manager of Grant Administration and Services Ruthann Sprague. "The NRA Foundation is proud to come along beside them and assist where possible. These projects benefit the general public and our nation as a whole."

"It helps the entire county and beyond when our officers are better trained," expresses Jerry Stoudemire. "They previously have received metal targets, like this year, and those have been used to train not only our local law enforcement but also those of surrounding areas."

In addition to metal targets, past grants have provided the Newberry County Sheriff's Office with training targets, protective eye wear, hearing protection and other equipment. They also have an Eddie Eagle costume provided through a grant, which allows the sheriff's office to teach Newberry County's young people the important message of gun safety. Eddie Eagle makes appearances at every parade throughout Newberry County as well as festivals, school events and *Friends of NRA* banquets.

The commitment to utilizing NRA Foundation grants and implementing NRA programs shown by the Newberry County Sheriff's Office has made it a great example of the positive impact that the NRA and law enforcement can make when united in mission and purpose. **I**

Apply for a grant to fund your local shooting sports programs and projects at www.nrafoundation.org! To learn more about *Friends of NRA* in South Carolina, go to www.friendsofnra.org/SC.



Photo Courtesy Faye Stoudemire

Aiming for Excellence, **BUILDING CHARACTER**

By David Helmer

Event Support Coordinator, National Rifle Association



SELF-DISCIPLINE. STRONG LEADERSHIP. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

The Granbury Marine Corps JROTC (MCJROTC) rifle team in Granbury, Texas, stresses these values and offers a rewarding challenge to 9th-12th graders who seek to develop citizenship skills and strong character. Participants discover the benefits of hard work and dedication as they push each other to focus on both individual and team goals.

Over the past two years, The NRA Foundation has awarded the Granbury team over \$12,000 in grants towards the purchase of high-end air rifles, shooting jackets and other equipment and accessories necessary to successful training and competition. “This [program] would not be possible without support from local organizations such as *Friends of NRA*,” commented Senior Marine Instructor Lt. Col. Scott Casey. “A majority of the shooting equipment the cadets used was obtained through the NRA [Foundation] grant.”

On October 25 and 26, 2014, the team competed in the William J. Bordelon 9th Annual Air Rifle Tournament and Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) State Championship Tournament at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio. Senior Hunter Dowell led the team with a total score of 576 out of 600 and placed ninth in his field of 60 shooters. The team finished with a solid overall score of 2269, their highest to date, and earned third place at the event—the largest high school-sponsored air rifle event in south Texas. “I was very happy with all of the cadets’ scores, especially our freshmen shooters Kayla Hitsheew and G’Angela Pickett,” said Casey. “They performed well in their very first national level match.”

The Granbury team later excelled at the Texas State All Service 3 Position Air Rifle Championship on December 6, 2014. Junior Cody Bogle led the precision team with a total score of 570 out of 600 and placed sixth to qualify for finals. After an exciting finals match in which Bogle performed well under pressure, he placed second overall. Jacob Fleshman, Grant Kinser, and Kollin Ladesic shot on the sporter team which earned first place in the division and took home the Texas Governor's Cup. "This was a good win and nice scores to finish the fall semester," remarked Casey. "We had a lot of success, both individually and as a team, with several personal best scores. I look forward to the team keeping the momentum going as we prepare for the Junior Olympics and Service Championships."

One month later Cody Bogle, Hunter Dowell, Freeman Hawker,



Photos Courtesy Granbury MCJROTC



Chris Hitsheiw, Kayla Hitsheiw, Tyler Morrisette, G'Angela Pickett and Brittney Pinckard represented the team at the Junior Olympic Air Rifle Trials. Dowell posted an impressive 554 out of 600 and placed second in the state. "The contest is the first step in the development of any junior shooter and his or her Olympic path," emphasized Casey. "I'm very proud how our cadets did at this competition."

Granbury now boasts two precision teams ranked third and tenth out of all MJROTCs in the nation. With the team's core values of honor, courage and commitment, its members will undoubtedly not only continue to triumph in competition, but also grow into valuable, influential citizens. The positive impact of this program is a testament to the importance of NRA Foundation grants to others like it, programs which help foster advancement in character and value of citizenship in America's youth. ■

Fund local shooting sports programs by applying for an NRA Foundation grant at www.nrafoundation.org! Learn more about Friends of NRA in Texas at www.friendsofnra.org/TX.



Photos Courtesy Gail Van Patten

Placing National Matches Within Reach

By Gail Van Patten

Vice President of the Meridian Optimist Junior Rifle Program

As one of the largest junior rifle clubs in the nation, the Meridian Optimist Junior Rifle Club (MOJRC) in south-western Idaho still experiences great challenges in getting shooters to national matches. With very few high level competitions in its part of the country, travel is these shooters' only option to compete at that level. As with most western states, the expenses inherent in attending national matches—whether sponsored by the NRA, USAS or CMP—can be daunting, to say the least.

Despite these challenges, the MOJRC has managed to get junior shooters to the NRA National Championships, the CMP National Championships, and the USA Shooting National Championships for the past four years. In addition, its junior shooters have attended the USAS Junior Olympics, USAS Winter Airgun Championships, and the USAMU Junior Training Camp. And this is all thanks to the generosity of *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation.

The MOJRC began applying for NRA Foundation grants in 2010, and it has been fortunate enough to receive grant money for the past five years. In the beginning the Junior Rifle Club, which serves 60 junior shooters aged 10 to 18 per year, was awarded money to purchase new scopes for the range. The small range of only eight lanes runs two relays of junior shooters every week-night during the shooting season of October through April.

Sponsored by the Meridian Optimist Club since its inception, the junior rifle club relies solely on the Meridian Optimist Club and a minimal registration fee from shooters to run its local program. But for juniors to reach that next level beyond local training and competition by attending national matches and training camps, the club is thankful to receive funding not only from its local Optimist Club, but also from The NRA Foundation.

Since receiving grant money, the average number of shooters attending National Championship matches has increased from one or two to eight. Having funds available to families undoubtedly increases the number of shooters who are able to participate in those competitions. And the more shooters who attend, the more our local program improves. Younger shooters follow the progress of the traveling shooters, hear stories about their successes and the challenges, and see that competing at a national level can be a part of their futures as well.

The MOJRC shooters also enjoy participating in the *Friends of NRA* program. During the annual NRA Sectional match, shooters spend their time between matches putting together ticket packets for all of Idaho's *Friends of NRA* banquets. "They do

this to say 'thank you' for grants received in the past," shares Idaho NRA Senior Field Representative Steve Vreeland. "They made over 3,500 raffle packs last year, and 2,800 the year before. They plan to do it again this year, which will probably be close to 4,000 packages! This saves committees hours of time throughout the year."

Both the rifle club kids and their parents have the most fun when attending the Treasure Valley *Friends of NRA* banquet in Nampa, Idaho. Junior shooters enjoy helping hand out raffle

prizes throughout the evening, and participating in the local fundraising events gives the juniors a first-hand appreciation of all the time, effort, dedication and passion which *Friends of NRA* sponsors and volunteers put into these events which generate the funding for NRA Foundation grants.

Throughout its 30 year history, the club only ever had one junior proceed to collegiate shooting. But now, thanks largely to the generosity of *Friends of NRA* and the Meridian Optimist Club and all the dedicated volunteers of both programs, the MOJRC has three juniors planning to shoot in college. "I really appreciate all the time the *Friends of NRA* committee members put into these fundraising events," says Mitchell Van Patten, MOJRC junior shooter. "The money they raise makes a big difference to junior shooting programs like ours, and helps us to share gun safety and fun shooting matches with other kids all across the country." ■

Gail Van Patten serves as Vice President of the Meridian Optimist Junior Rifle Program in which her children Mitchell and Mackenzie participate. Her husband Brent Van Patten coaches at the club. The Van Pattens volunteer with Friends of NRA and coordinate between the junior shooters and local Friends committees. Gail also serves as a volunteer range officer for USA Shooting, often working at the Junior Olympics and Winter Air Gun Championship matches.

Go to www.nrafoundation.org to apply for a grant for your program! Learn more about Idaho Friends of NRA at www.friendsofnra.org/ID.



PHOTOS Clockwise from left: Team Idaho 2012 at the National Junior Air Gun Championship; Casey Lutz takes aim; Team Idaho takes on the ropes course at Callaway Gardens on their day off of shooting at USAS Nationals.





DISCIPLINE. DEDICATION. DOMINATION.

The California Grizzlies Junior Rifle Team

By Peter Lawless
Financial Coordinator, National Rifle Association

**FAST
FACTS**

California is known for its strict gun laws, so it may surprise some to learn that one of the most decorated junior shooting teams in America hails from that state. Composed of dedicated junior shooters and adult coaches from all over the The Golden State, the California Grizzlies have become a mainstay of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) annual National Trophy Matches held at Camp Perry, Ohio.

The team recruits juniors aged 12 to 20 from shooting clubs such as 4-H, and these members compete against the very best rifle marksmen in the nation at distances of 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards with National Match AR-style rifles. An astounding number of the Grizzlies team members have earned their Distinguished Rifleman Badge or placed in the CMP's President's Hundred, achievements that can take even the most committed shooters years to accomplish.

However, membership on the team requires more than trigger time. All shooters are held to high standards of conduct and required by the team to participate in fundraising for the Grizzlies as well as volunteering at a *Friends of NRA* banquet every year. Last year Nicole McMahon, event marketing and communications manager for NRA Field Operations, attended the Tuolumne County banquet while visiting NRA Field Representatives Steve Wilson and Cole Beverly. At that event she had the opportunity to meet Grizzlies team members who were volunteering and to witness their commitment to every aspect of the team's operation.

Older, more experienced shooters mentor newcomers to improve their teamwork and marksmanship skills. "The most significant key to the Grizzlies' success is the [corps] of adults who work with the juniors, volunteering their time and knowledge to their training," explains Grizzlies Coach Chad Kurgan. "Everyone works together as a family, adults with juniors." This dedication fosters character-yielding success both on and off the range. After aging out of the Grizzlies, many

of its shooters go on to earn degrees in college or serve in the military, with a few having been recruited into the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit based in Ft. Benning, Ga.

Every year the Grizzlies earn new accolades at the National Matches. It has become common to see Grizzlies winning in Junior, Civilian and Overall categories for some of the most coveted titles in competitive High Power Rifle shooting. In 2009 the Grizzlies won the National Trophy Infantry Team match—better known as the Rattle Battle—in one of the biggest upsets in recent shooting sports history. No civilian team had won the Rattle Battle outright since 1930. In the years since that victory, the Grizzlies have consistently been one of the most difficult opponents to beat, challenging even the most experienced professional shooters.

Keeping the Grizzlies on the firing line for training and competition requires a lot of funding. High Power Rifle shooting is particularly expensive, with the cost of the basic equipment alone often deterring interested shooters. The NRA Foundation helps alleviate some of this cost so that more junior shooters can get involved and compete. "The NRA [Foundation] grants received by the Grizzlies have helped to increase the number of juniors able to compete by affording the components and equipment needed to get new juniors started in [competitive shooting]," says Kurgan.

The California Grizzlies provide a prime example of how team shooting sports teach more than marksmanship to their participants. They instill qualities like leadership, discipline, attention to detail and responsibility. Consequently, *Friends of NRA* fundraising and NRA Foundation grants are more than just funds for shooting gear; they are investments in the character of the junior shooters who receive them. ■

Apply for a grant at www.nrafoundation.org! To learn more about the California Friends of NRA events that raise money for programs like this one, go to www.friendsofnra.org/CA.

MATCH IS FIRED AT DISTANCES OF
200
300
500
600
 YARDS

AMMO
 IS LIMITED TO
384
 ROUNDS PER TEAM

HIGHER
 POINTS ARE
 AWARDED FOR
 TARGET HITS
 ACCORDING TO
DISTANCE

SIX
 SHOOTERS FIRE AT
EIGHT
 SILHOUETTE TARGETS FOR
50
 SECONDS AT EACH STAGE

1922
 FIRST RATTLE BATTLE
2009
 GRIZZLIES ARE FIRST
 CIVILIAN TEAM TO
 WIN SINCE 1930

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Bringing Modern
Sporting Rifles to
America's shooting
sports scene

By Christina Paladeau
*Event Marketing and Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*

AR **NRA** AMERICA'S RIFLE
CHALLENGE
Presented By
DANIEL DEFENSE

Since 2013 Daniel Defense and *Friends of NRA* have been building a valuable relationship in service to America's shooting sports traditions and enthusiasts. This year those efforts continue thanks to Daniel Defense signing on for a second year of supporting the Friends program as its National Corporate Sponsor at the exclusive Guardian level.

"We are proud to continue our support of *Friends of NRA* in 2015," says Daniel Defense Director of US Sales Bill Robinson. "This partnership continues to grow and is a great opportunity for Daniel Defense to give back to the NRA and help support their efforts. I encourage everyone to get out and attend one of their local events. You won't be disappointed."

In 2015 Daniel Defense also adds a new aspect to its dedicated support of the NRA as a whole. The engineer and manufacturer of an expansive line of sporting rifles, precision rail systems and accessories is the presenting sponsor of the new NRA America's Rifle Challenge (ARC) and Match programs.

The ARC is a recreational, training event designed to develop modern shooting skills with general purpose rifles, such as the AR-15. ARC events are designed for shooters of all skill levels and can be conducted on almost any center-fire range in the country. Attendees will learn safe firearm handling skills with their personal firearms and gear while having fun in an athletic shooting environment.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to further expand our support of the NRA in 2015 through our sponsorship of the America's Rifle Challenge," shares Daniel Defense Director of Marketing Jordan Hunter. "The ARC is an awesome opportunity to introduce more shooting sports enthusiasts to [one of] America's new favorite shooting sports platforms, the AR-15."

"With millions of modern sporting rifles being purchased over the last few years, it's important that gun owners learn

how to shoot them safely and get out and enjoy their new purchase" explains NRA Director of Media Relations Jeremy Greene. "The NRA America's Rifle Challenge and Match programs give gun clubs around the country opportunities to promote educational, fun and competitive events for modern sporting rifle owners in their area. Daniel Defense's support of the AR Challenge and Match will help the NRA deliver these programs to more clubs and gun owners across the country."

The ARC will use a new training target, designed specifically for the program, which features multiple scoring zones to challenge shooters of all skill levels and provide different impact areas allowing the shooter to experience two different sight pictures. The program provides a recommended course of fire which integrates these targets and has participants shooting at distances of seven to 100 yards from the standing, kneeling/sitting and prone positions.

"The ARC has been uniquely designed to be inviting to all levels of proficiency, which makes it far less intimidating to those that are new to the sport," Hunter points out. "The ARC and initiatives like it promote firearm education and safety while debunking the misnomers and ignorance surrounding America's most popular sporting rifle."

"Daniel Defense's continued support of the *Friends of NRA* program and The NRA Foundation is a testament to their unwavering advocacy for the future of shooting sports in this country," says Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. The company's sponsorship of the exciting new NRA AR Challenge and Match program reinforces this sentiment and will help reach a growing segment of Second Amendment and shooting sports enthusiasts around the nation with first-class education and training opportunities. ■

Interested in becoming a Friends of NRA National Corporate Sponsor? Visit friendsofnra.org/corporate-sponsors.aspx or contact Director of Industry Partnerships John da Silva at jdasilva@nrahq.org or 703-267-1356.

“**THE NRA AMERICA'S RIFLE CHALLENGE IS AN AWESOME OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE MORE SHOOTING SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS TO THE ACTION RIFLE PLATFORM.**”

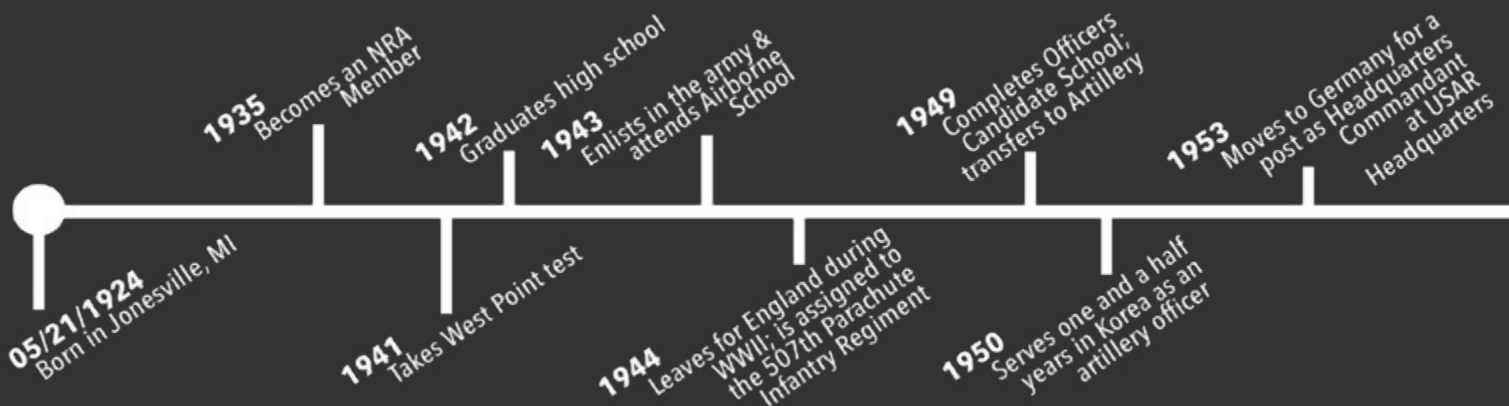
A Lifetime of Service and Second Amendment Support



By Mark Engle
Son of Robert J. Engle

Retired Army Major Robert J. Engle is a dedicated supporter of the Michigan *Friends of NRA*. Thousands of dollars raised by the program are a result of his donations. “He attends two of our banquets every year and buys a large table package for himself and his family,” shares NRA Senior Field Representative Al Herman. “He also donates a firearm to each banquet that he attends and buys the High Caliber Club gun every year at one or both events. Additionally, his sister Beverly crochets a throw blanket that goes for at least \$500 every year.” Mr. Engle truly deserves recognition not only for his contributions to *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation, but also for his years of military service defending all rights of Americans.

PHOTO Courtesy Mark Engle. A young Robert J. Engle in uniform.



Robert Joseph Engle was born May 21, 1924, in Jonesville, Mich., to Frank Engle and his wife Margaret. Robert became a member of the National Rifle Association in 1935 when his uncle Harry signed him up. Uncle Harry was a veteran, an NRA member and a competitive shooter who competed at Camp Perry. He paid for young Robert's first few years of NRA membership and gifted his nephew a .22 rifle which he used for hunting small game and target shooting.

This introduction to firearms and the shooting sports led to Robert's interest in reloading and bullet casting. Uncle Harry, a bank guard for the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago, commissioned Robert to cast .38-caliber bullets for him and his fellow guards to use in target practice. Robert took the job seriously and even developed his own bullet lube formula to use on the cast bullets. In addition to this work with the cast bullets, young Robert also ran trap lines and guided pheasant hunters on his parent's farm in Jonesville.

Robert's familiarity with and interest in firearms and the shooting sports stemmed not only from Uncle Harry's involvement in competitive shooting, but also from his father Frank, a World War I veteran who had accumulated quite a collection of military and civilian firearms. Young Robert grew up with a variety of weapons available to shoot as well as clean and maintain, leading to his life-long passion for collecting and shooting various military, civilian and custom firearms.

After graduating near the top of his class at Jonesville High School in 1942, Robert turned his attention to military service. His interest in an Army career had begun in October of 1941 when he took a competitive test for a vacancy at West Point. Having scored well on that test, Robert took the physical and educational entrance exams at Fort Sheridan for admittance into West Point shortly after graduation. However, while waiting for the results of his application into the academy, Robert decided to enlist in the Army in April of 1943.

Robert completed basic training at Camp Walters, Texas, and headed to Fort Benning, Ga., for Airborne School—widely known as Jump School—as a paratrooper. After receiving his Airborne wings, Robert left for England in 1944 as World War II continued. Robert joined the pathfinders, a group of volunteers selected within Airborne units to navigate and guide the main airborne body to the drop zones. During preparation for the Normandy invasion,

he was assigned to the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment. As part of the 507th Robert went on to participate in D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge and Operation Market Garden during World War II.

After the war, Robert was assigned to the induction station in Detroit where he worked in conjunction with other recruiters to encourage young men to volunteer for Jump School. In 1949 Robert applied for Officers Candidate School at Fort Riley, Kan., from which he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant and transferred from Infantry to Artillery. Following his artillery training at Fort Bliss, Texas, Robert was reassigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., from where he volunteered to go to Korea in 1950. During the Korean War, he served one and a half years in Korea as an artillery officer before returning stateside and being reassigned as a recruiting officer.

In 1953 Robert, now a Captain, headed to Germany for a post as Headquarters Commandant at USAR Headquarters. Two years later he was assigned to a missile battalion in California, and in 1958 Robert returned to Germany as a missile battery commander after completing missile training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Upon his return stateside in 1962, Robert was assigned to Fort Chaffee, Ark., from which he did two tours in Vietnam over the next four years. He then returned to Fort Sill, Okla., where he retired as a Major with 23 years service.

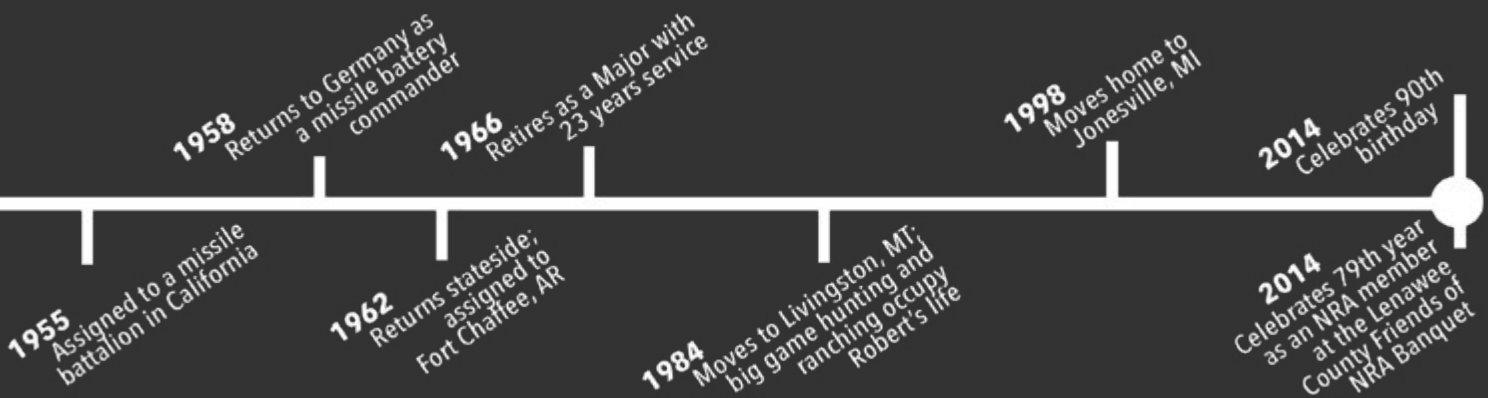
After military retirement, Robert became involved in the finance and logging industries until retiring in 1984. He then moved to Livingston, Mont., and over the next 14 years big game hunting and ranching occupied Robert's life.

In 1998 Robert returned home to Jonesville, Mich., where he continues to reside today. An avid supporter of Second Amendment rights and the NRA, Robert is a Benefactor member of the NRA and a Founder and Trailblazer member of the Whittington Center. His family, which includes brothers, sisters, children, grand children and great grand children, are all active members of the NRA.

Last September Robert celebrated his 90th birthday and his 79th year as a continuous member of the NRA at the Lenawee County *Friends of NRA* Banquet in Adrian, Mich.

Thank you for your service, Dad! ■

Support your local Friends of NRA and help raise money for The NRA Foundation's grant program. Go to www.friendsofnra.org/Events to find a banquet near you!



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