

TRADITIONS

QUARTER 1 | 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

GREAT AMERICAN RECORDS

The NRA Foundation Sportsmen's Banquet and Wall of Guns raise thousands at NRA's fourth annual Great American Outdoor Show

DANIEL DEFENSE DEFENDS FREEDOM

The company behind the 2017 Friends of NRA Gun of the Year puts it all on the line to support America's shooting sports traditions

FRIENDS OF FREEDOM

We celebrate 25 years of Friends by highlighting the dynamic faces behind our mission



NRA ATLANTA¹⁷

**DON'T MISS THE NRA FOUNDATION'S
GREATEST EVENT YET**

2017 ANNUAL MEETINGS EVENTS PREVIEW INSIDE!

Features



6

COVER STORY

The National NRA Foundation Banquet

Get ready for The NRA Foundation's banquet and auction that will take place at the 2017 NRA Annual Meetings in Atlanta!

ON THE COVER



The National NRA Foundation Banquet in Atlanta, Ga., will take place on Thursday, April 27, to kick off the weekend of events in The Big Peach.

NATIONAL NEWS

4

SHOOTING STRAIGHT | Music Legend Charlie Daniels

16

SPOTLIGHT | Inspiring Progress for Disabled Shooters

13

The NRA Foundation Celebrates at Great American

34

INDUSTRY CORNER | Daniel Defense Defends Freedom

REGION FOCUS

22

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

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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.

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Planting the seeds

for *Friends of NRA* and fundraising success

Brenda & Larry Potterfield

*Friends of NRA Inaugural Event
Chairs, Midway USA Owners*

The 1992 NRA Annual Meetings in Salt Lake City served as the backdrop to the conception of what was to become the *Friends of NRA* program. I spoke with Wayne Sheets, now the executive director of The NRA Foundation, and he congratulated me on the NRA "Round-Up" donation program that we had started at MidwayUSA on January 1, 1992. I offered that we could do more—that when Brenda and I got home from the convention we would throw a fundraising party for the NRA, in the fashion of some conservation groups. Knowing the budgets and membership bases of these groups, I couldn't understand why the NRA didn't have a fundraising event program of its own.

Well, we were about to create one! Thousands of NRA fundraising events across the nation—that was the vision. The very next week Brenda and I called a few of our friends in Columbia, Mo. They all thought it was a grand idea, so we began to have regular meetings.

First we needed a name, a time and a place for the event. I believe it was Jim Joy who came up with the name "*Friends of NRA*." We considered ourselves a committee, after the Committees of Safety that were formed in America at the start of the Revolutionary War. Both "*Friends of NRA*" and "committee" continue as program standards to this day.

We chose October 10, 1992, and the Hearnes Multi-Purpose Building on the University of Missouri campus for the time and place of our first event. The large facility could easily hold the 1,000 people who attended. But a name, a time and a place are only the beginning when planning an event. I kept in touch with Wayne Sheets all summer, and during one of our phone calls Wayne said that there was lots of talk about the event at NRA Headquarters. But they wanted us to postpone it until the spring so they could provide more support.

I told him no, what, and could

we were going to pull this first event off, no matter we needed all the support that the NRA Field Staff provide. Dennis Eggers was the Regional Director of Field Staff in St. Louis at the time and was hugely instrumental in our success, as was Mike Benecke, who brought in many of the auction items.

The event finally arrived, and several senior NRA people came from Washington, D.C.—and found more than 1,000 of their "Friends" in attendance. It was truly a game changing moment!

Today's *Friends of NRA* events are much better planned and executed than the first one, and there is dedicated staff at NRA headquarters to provide support. But other than that, that first event would look a lot like the ones you might attend today.

From the beginning we understood that this couldn't be a Midway event; it had to be a community event, or it couldn't be sustained. Over the last 25 years, MidwayUSA certainly has been a major supporter and provided many volunteers, but it is the Columbia, Mo., community that deserves credit for the event and the program's lasting success.

One thing we didn't envision was the value that the NRA and The NRA Foundation would gain by mobilizing volunteers in more than 1,000 communities and getting NRA supporters together at annual events.

In retrospect, Brenda and I couldn't be happier with how that seed planted back in 1992 has grown.



SHOOTING STRAIGHT

Q. You've been described as many things over the years; describe Charlie Daniels in your own words.

A. It is extremely difficult for one to candidly and honestly describe themselves. It's hard to find a starting place and identify a stopping place, but I will try. I am, first and foremost, a Christian. That's the part of my character to which I strive—and fail quite often, admittedly—to have all the other parts my being conform. Secondly, I am a loyal American who believes in American exceptionalism, American sovereignty, and the literal interpretation of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the other amendments.

Q. You mentioned in an interview about growing up in a Christian-based home but getting off track for a few years. What got you off track and what did you do to get back on?

A. I recently finished writing my autobiography, and by far the most difficult chapter I wrote was the one dealing with my faith and my spiritual journey. I never stopped being a believer; I just basically stopped trying to live like one, aware all that time that I was going down the wrong path. I don't even remember when I started trying to put my feet back on the path of righteousness, which is an ongoing struggle. But suffice it to say that I am engaged in that battle daily, constantly trying to follow Jesus and to do the will of the Father who sent Him to die for my sins.

Q. What does being an American mean to you?

A. Being an American means freedom: freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of religion and the unencumbered right to practice it as one sees fit, freedom of thought and the constitutionally guaranteed equality of all persons.

Q. Take us back to the first day you were introduced to shooting; how old were you, where was it and who were you with?

A. I honestly don't remember when I first shot a gun. In my family it was just taken for granted that we would shoot and hunt. With the nuts and bolts of safety being taught and understood first, we started very early. The first gun of my very own was an Iver Johnson 20-gauge single barrel shotgun that I got when I was 12. The second was a 16-gauge single barrel when I was about 15, which I still have.

Q. Out of your arsenal of firearms, which is your favorite and why?

A. That's a hard question to answer, as I have several favorites! One of my favorite handguns is a Sig Sauer 9mm, and I have a couple Daniel Defense rifles that I enjoy shooting. But as to the guns I shoot the most, I have a small range in the woods behind my house, and I'll spend hours with a .22 pump action and the five Buck Mark .22 pistols and 20 magazines I have, sometimes shooting four or five hundred rounds a day.

Q. *Friends of NRA* is celebrating 25 years in 2017, and you have been a huge supporter of the program. How has giving back to *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation impacted your life?

A. It is my feeling that without the efforts of *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation, gun rights in America would have gone away completely or would have dwindled and been so heavily regulated that the words "Right to Keep and Bear Arms" would have become a mockery. I believe the fight will be ongoing. I'm in it for the duration and proud to be a supporter of The NRA Foundation and a lifetime member of the NRA.

Q. With 50-plus years in the music industry, who has influenced you the most in your career and what are you most proud of?

A. My influences are all over the place, depending on which phase of my musical growth I was going through. I started in bluegrass and have admired and emulated so many different and diverse styles of music in my formative years that to say that I was influenced by everybody from Bill Monroe to Charlie Parker wouldn't be much of a stretch. What I treasure above my other accomplishments is keeping 25 people steadily and gainfully employed for over 40 years.

Q&A with American music legend and patriot **Charlie Daniels**

Q. Looking ahead to the next generation of Americans, what advice would you give on living a full and balanced life?

A. Educate yourself, formally and practically. Don't follow the crowd when they are going in the wrong direction. Find out who you are and be that person, no matter what. You can never go wrong being honest and loyal. Remember true friends are rare and should be treasured.

Q. If there is one thing you would like fans to remember when they hear the name Charlie Daniels, what would that be?

A. That I hold them in the utmost esteem and gratitude because they have made my life a dream.

Q. When you aren't on the road performing, how do you like spending your time?

A. I spend so much of my time indoors due to my profession that I like doing outdoor things: horseback riding, hitting golf balls, fishing, four wheeling and target shooting to name a few.

Q. What is your favorite quote and why?

A. "You'll never know if you don't try." I think that's self-explanatory.

I am a loyal American who believes in American exceptionalism, American sovereignty, and the literal interpretation of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the other amendments.

Photo by Travis Tipps

THE 2017 NATIONAL NRA FOUNDATION BANQUET

By Megan McConnell

Special Projects Manager, National Rifle Association

This spring The Big Peach will host thousands of Second Amendment enthusiasts at the 146th NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits. On Thursday, April 27, at 5:00 p.m. in the Georgia World Congress Center, the National NRA Foundation Banquet will kick off the weekend of events in Atlanta, Ga. Join more than 1,500 freedom-loving men and women to celebrate the Second Amendment while raising money for the future of shooting sports!

Premier sponsors of the banquet include Century Arms, Henry Repeating Arms and Kimber. 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 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 Showcase Item is a custom Diamondback NRA Airboat with two DB15 rifles. Custom anti-skid SeaDek, step grass rake with storage box, seats, and wrap will make you the envy of all of your friends. Add the made in America DB15EB in 5.56 NATO and DB15E300B in .300 Blackout, and that's a combination impossible to pass up. The auction on GUNBROKER.com ends April 30. Be sure to check out this one-of-a-kind airboat and rifle package 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 before they sell out, and you can bet on an evening of excitement and Second Amendment support!

NRA Annual Meetings run April 27-30 in Atlanta, Ga. Join The NRA Foundation in The Big Peach! Buy your tickets for the National NRA Foundation Banquet at www.friendsofnra.org/nationalevents.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 AT 5:00PM
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER

THANK YOU

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Made in America, Or Not Made At All



CENTURY ARMS



FIREARMS



M1A™ SOCOM 16 CQB

200TH ANNIVERSARY REMINGTON MODEL 870

Donated by Baron Technology Inc.

Own a piece of firearms history with this custom edition of the shotgun considered the most popular of all time. Celebrating the 200th anniversary of America's oldest gunmaker, this Model 870 12 gauge features gold plated designs on both sides of the receiver, hand-engraved by artisan Rob Bunting of Baron's Custom Shop. Leafy vine scrollwork on the right side surrounds a portrait of Eliphalet Remington, accompanied by banners bearing the 200th Anniversary dates—1816 and 2016—and a marsh landscape with flushed ducks in flight. The left of the receiver features leafy-vine scrollwork, banners reading "Remington Arms" and "200th Anniversary," and two ducks with wings spread in a landing configuration. A hand-jeweled bolt adds a touch of contrast to the overall design. Made in the USA.

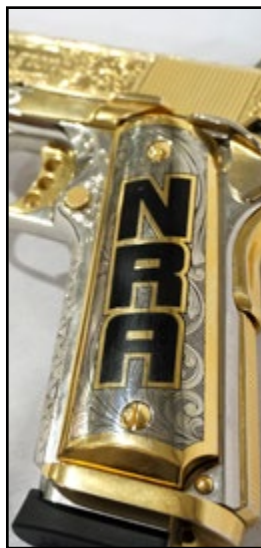
CUSTOM REMINGTON R1

Donated by Sportsman's Warehouse, Seattle Engraving Center, Half Cocked Gun Repair, and A&A Engraving Inc.

The Remington R1 is a sweet-shooting advancement of America's most reliable, accurate and enduring handgun. It features a crisp trigger, and dovetailed rear and front sights. This one-of-a-kind pistol features beautiful hand-done three-tone engraving on the slide and frame. With gold and nickel plating and diamonds mounted in the sights, it will leave all of your friends in awe. Includes a matching compensator, custom NRA grips and a Wilson Combat magwell.



Remington R1



M1A™ SOCOM 16 CQB RIFLE .308 WIN

Donated by Springfield Armory

For more than 230 years, the name Springfield Armory® has been associated with proven combat arms. This storied tradition continues with the all-new SOCOM 16 CQB. A modernized descendant of the distinguished M14 and M1A™ rifles, the SOCOM 16 CQB is designed for serious defensive use as its Close Quarters Battle name implies. Nearly ten inches shorter than the M1A™ standard model, the CQB offers quick and easy handling for defensive use indoors or out. The authoritative .308 chambering with a 10-round magazine won't leave you wanting more fight-stopping effectiveness.



200th Anniversary Remington Model 870



FN M249S™ PARA 5.56x45MM

Donated by FN

Own the newest addition to the FN Military Collector Series—the M249S PARA, a semi-auto version of the currently contracted FN® M249 PARA. The PARA was designed for airborne, armored infantry and close quarters combat (CQC) operations with a shorter barrel and collapsible buttstock. It retains all of the features of the FN® M249 SAW and can be field-converted back to the standard model configuration in just 30 seconds.

WEATHERBY MARK V® LAZERMARK® .270 WBY MAG

Donated by Weatherby Inc.

Legendary status is earned, not given. Since 1958, the Mark V® has been earning its stripes with proved performance as "the world's strongest bolt action." With an eye for details this iconic firearm has been obsessively redefined to combine legendary performance with modern technology for a unique and distinctive look. An industry-high nine locking lugs create the strongest action on the market. The factory-tuned, fully adjustable trigger assures precision and the Pachmayr Decelerator pad lowers felt recoil. The Lazermark features a hand-selected, raised comb Monte Carlo stock with laser-carved oak leaf pattern. The metalwork is blued with a high lustre finish. This rifle has performed on every species of game in every corner of the world. Nothing shoots flatter, hits harder or is more accurate.



Weatherby MARK V® LAZERMARK®

FIREARMS



DANIEL DEFENSE M4 CARBINE V7® 5.56 NATO RIFLE

Friends of NRA 2017 Gun of the Year

Where precision, accuracy and quality meet, you'll find the Daniel Defense Custom DDM4 V7. Built with the care and attention to detail that's synonymous with the Daniel Defense name, the 2017 Gun of the Year offers an unprecedented combination of performance and sleek aesthetic appeal in a unique Cerakote pattern named Rattlecan™. Laser engraving of the *Friends of NRA* logo and "2017 Gun of the Year" text along with custom NRA serialization makes this rifle even more unique. Chambered in the ever-popular 5.56mm, this is the semi-auto version that Special Operations Forces and law enforcement SWAT operators trust and use in the field. Features like the MFR XS 15.0 M-LOK rail and a Geissele SSA two-stage trigger give the user an unparalleled level of control and modularity.



Daniel Defense DDM4 V7 Gun of the Year

LCW15 DURADIZE™ DURACOAT® 5.56 NATO

Donated by Lauer Custom Weaponry

LCW15 manufactured by Lauer Custom Weaponry coated in their revolutionary new product, DuraDize™ Spray-On Anodizing Replicator, in a vibrant chartreuse green. Classic matte black DuraCoat® provides durability and rust protection. This rifle is custom made for the 2017 NRA Annual Meetings with the NRA Atlanta logo on the lower receiver.



LCW15

OHIO ORDINANCE WORKS M240 SLR

Donated by Ohio Ordinance Works Inc.

Delivering minute-of-angle accuracy, high capacity, and proven durability, this firearm is ideal for situations which require highly accurate, sustained, controlled fire. The M240-SLR fires from a closed bolt, but is dimensionally identical to the M240 and able to integrate into any M240 mounting system. Many of the internal parts of the firearm have been redesigned, introducing an entirely new breed of M240. The bolt and trigger groups are new and not interchangeable with the original M240. The new internal parts are all manufactured by Ohio Ordinance Works at their ISO-certified facility where they are able to ensure that quality meets their stringent standards. The M240-SLR requires only two tools to break it down. All other actions such as barrel changing, loading, feed cover functions, etc., remain the same as the original M240. In field tests using match ammunition, a randomly chosen firearm effortlessly produced minute-of-angle (1") groups at 100 yards! In both single and rapid fire (400 rpm) tests, absolutely no malfunctions were experienced with the gun, a true testament to its superb engineering.



Ohio Ordinance Works M240 SLR

HENRY 1000 MAN SHOOT GOLDEN BOY SILVER

This Henry Golden Boy Silver, made exclusively for the 1000 Man Shoot, comes custom with a 1000 Man Shoot commemorative logo and Allen case, making it one-of-a-kind, or one-in-a-thousand! The .22 Long Rifle Golden Boy Silver is configured with an octagon barrel, American walnut stock and fully adjustable Marbles semi-buckhorn sights. This beauty features a mirror-bright nicked receiver cover that you could shave in, matching barrel band and buttplate, and a gleam that'll get you noticed anywhere you shoot. This serial number 0001 rifle has had two world-record breaking shots fired from it by Henry President and Owner Anthony Imperato at the event in Phoenix, Ariz, in November 2016.



*Henry 1000 Man Shoot
Golden Boy Silver*



MOUNTAIN SNOW RIFLE 6.5 CREEDMORE

Donated by Montana Rifle Company

Utilizing advice from experts around the world, the new Mountain Snow Rifle starts with the X2-Carbon Fiber Kevlar reinforced stock dipped in the "Kryptek Pontus" camo pattern and includes dual QR flush cup swivel stud and detachable mag box system as well as a twist rate and barrel length specifically designed for the most popular bullet grains used today.

MERCHANDISE



NRA ORIGINALS BAR STOOLS SET

Donated by Jesse James

Jesse James is a lifetime NRA member and has partnered with the NRA to create products that embrace the American lifestyle and celebrate the support of the Second Amendment. This pair of bar stools will perfectly compliment any bar or workshop. Built for durability and comfort, the stools feature a rounded, padded 360 degree swivel seat made of high quality vinyl bearing a vibrant, crystal clear NRA seal. The frame is made of black powder-coated 18 gauge steel tube with black nylon floor glides.

WOODEN GADSDEN FLAG

Donated by Flags of Valor

First observed in 1775, the rattle snake image paired with the "Don't Tread on Me" message became an early symbol of our nation's hunger for freedom from Colonial rule. The Flags of Valor "Gadsden" flag is designed and handmade in honor of the revolutionary spirit of our founding fathers and the citizen soldiers who secured our nation's independence. This flag was hand-made by combat veterans and produced in Ashburn, Va. 16.5 inches H x 26 inches W.



TAYLOR GUITAR SIGNED BY CHARLIE DANIELS

Donated by Soundcheck Nashville

Bob Taylor is a guitar pioneer and his guitars are widely recognized as true originals. This guitar is signed by NRA and Second Amendment supporter Charlie Daniels.

SECRET COMPARTMENT TABLE

Donated by Secret Compartment Furniture

Show your NRA pride with this custom one-of-a-kind side table. This heirloom-quality table also serves as a convenient and inconspicuous storage place for a handgun. Hand-crafted by Amish craftsmen in Holmes County, Ohio, from solid brown maple wood with a solid cherry inset top engraved with the NRA logo and "Atlanta 2017." Signed by the designer and owner of Secret Compartment Furniture, Jill Hero, and sure to make a great addition to your home.



DIRTY HARRY/MAGNUM FORCE COLLAGE

Donated by Southwestern Indiana *Friends of NRA*

While the movie *Dirty Harry* featured many famous actors, the true star of the film was the Smith & Wesson Model 29 that served as Harry Callahan's justice-wielding machine. Featured in *Dirty Harry* in 1971 and *Magnum Force* in 1973, Callahan's Model 29 was there at his side as he protected victims of violent crime and fought fugitives with deadly force. As Callahan challenged, "Go ahead, make my day," and "You've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky? Well, do you punk?'" the Model 29 answered. No criminal in the movies could escape the ultimate doom of the Model 29 thanks to its consistent performance and pure firing power. This collage features movie posters autographed by Clint Eastwood, a bullet and brass casing fired from the *Dirty Harry* S&W Model 29, and an SFPD badge, I.D. card and badge case.

SIGNED CHARLIE DANIELS FLAG FIDDLE

Highly regarded for his skills as a multi-instrumentalist, lyricist and singer in country, bluegrass and Southern rock music, it's no secret that Charlie Daniels is also an enthusiastic outdoorsman and longtime friend of the NRA. This custom flag fiddle was signed by the man himself and includes a case, a Certificate of Authenticity, a photo, and the "Snapshot" CD featuring 10 of the Charlie Daniels Band's most popular songs.



HUNTS



7 DAY SABLE, IMPALA & BLESBUCK HUNT FOR 4 IN LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

Donated by Authentic African Adventures

Hunting Sable in the majestic Limpopo landscape of unique Mopane bushveld, huge Baobab trees and rocky outcrops is one of the finest hunting experiences South Africa has to offer, and Authentic African Adventures focuses on making your whole hunting trip a true African adventure. Owner Hanno van Rensburg has a special passion for people, nature and the African Bush and has given over 1,000 clients an unforgettable experience in Africa's most picturesque landscape filled with abundant wildlife. Enjoy the hunt of a lifetime guided by a professional hunter. Includes trophy fees for one Sable and one Impala, one Blesbuck or \$500 credit toward other animals for the other three hunters. Available 2017-2019.

2 DAY DUCK & GOOSE HUNT FOR 2 IN LOUISIANA

Donated by Shellshocked Guide Service

In the heart of duck hunting country you will find Shell Shocked Guide Service and Lodge on some of the finest property that money can buy. They offer fully guided waterfowl hunts in Central Louisiana including Catahoula Lake, the Louisiana Delta Plantation and crappie trips on Toldeo Bend. Enjoy the newly renovated lodge with meals prepared by their in-house chef. Available 2017-2018 Season.



1 DAY SPORTFISHING IN THE ATLANTIC FOR 2 WITH 2 DAY HOTEL STAY

Donated by True Grit Sportfishing LLC

True Grit Sportfishing is Fort Lauderdale's premier fishing charter. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or a seasoned angler; True Grit is dedicated to providing a safe, fun and exciting fishing experience you will never forget. They are powered by their brand new SeaVee 34z, a crew with more than 35 years of experience, and the highest quality of tackle and gear available on the market. Enjoy the trip of a lifetime with a two night stay for two at the Hilton and one full day of fishing in the Atlantic for a variety of gamefish. Available May 1, 2017-May 1, 2018.



7 DAY SOUTH AFRICAN HUNT FOR 4

Donated by Global Sporting Safaris Inc.

South Africa is a highly successful trophy hunting destination and there is no better place to experience a wider variety of animals than at NB Safaris in Limpopo. The number of game on private land is estimated at two and a half times more than the game on public land, contributing to their nearly 100% success rate. Experience the trophy hunter's dream! Each hunter will go home with their choice of one impala, blesbuck, warthog, or blue wildebeest. Available February-November, 2017-2019.

**NOTE REGARDING ALL HUNT PACKAGES:
AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED.**

GAMES & RAFFLES



WALL OF GUNS

A FUNDRAISER OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

**RAFFLE FEATURES
50 DIFFERENT FIREARMS
PLUS OUTDOOR GEAR!**

100 CHANCES AT \$20 EACH ARE SOLD AT A TIME
The lucky winner gets to choose one firearm from the "pick one" side or two firearms from the "pick two" side of the Wall!

DRAW OF THE CENTURY DRAWN AFTER EVERY 10 ROUNDS
Winner gets to choose one of the Century Arms Draw of the Century firearms!

All proceeds go directly to
The NRA Foundation for the
promotion of the shooting sports.



**CENTURY
ARMS**

Gaston



HENRY

FEATURED GAME

TABLE OF GUNS

**UP TO 10 ENTRIES AT ONE TABLE
WILL EACH WIN A SPECIAL
TAURUS FIREARM**

\$20
PER ENTRY

SPONSORED BY
TAURUS

All items, games and raffle packs are subject to change

Check
out the
**LIVE AUCTION
SHOWCASE ITEM**
on the back cover!

PLACE YOUR BID NOW
AUCTION CLOSING APRIL 30

GUN
BROKER.COM

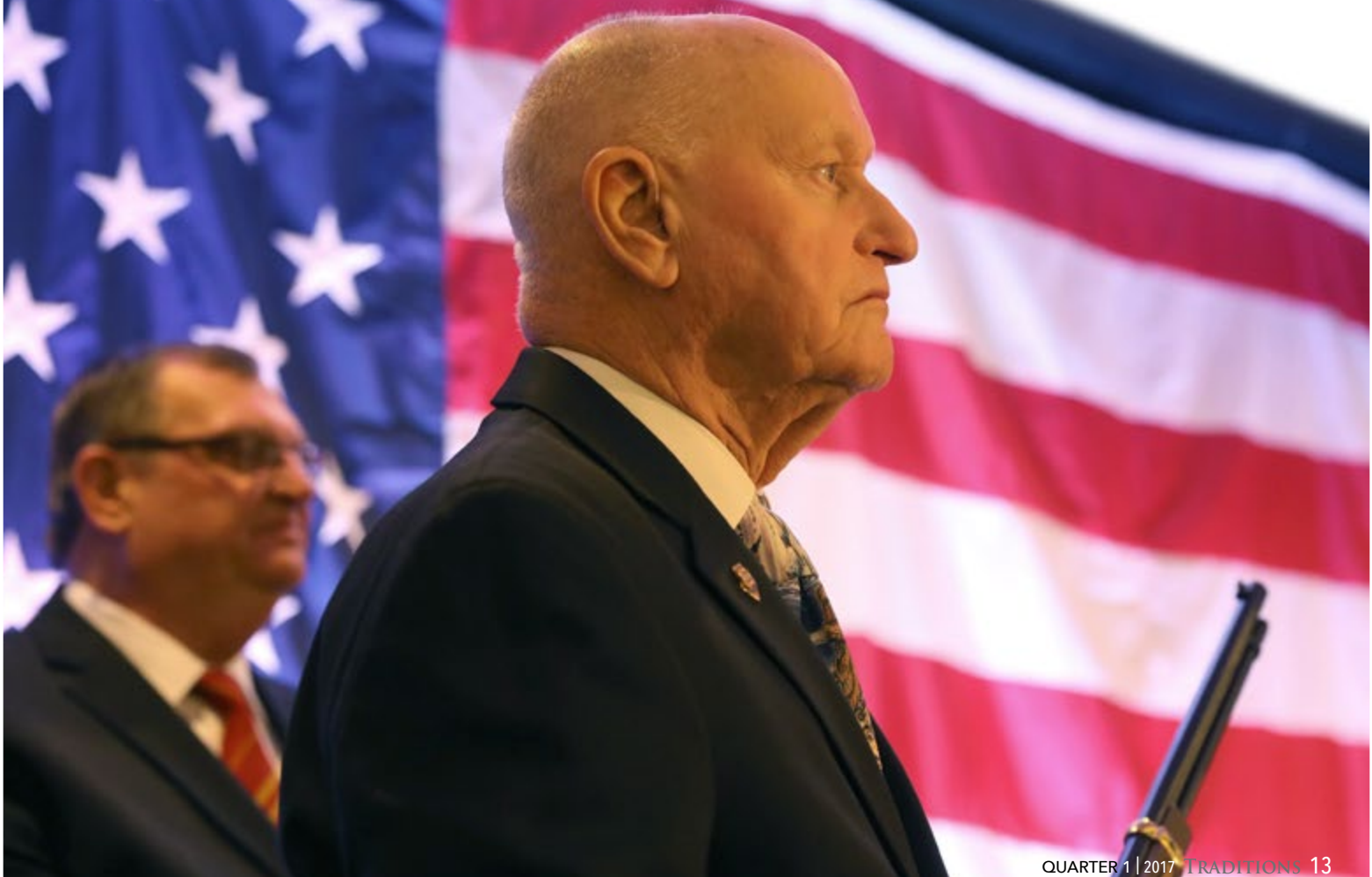
The Bidding Starts Now

THE NRA FOUNDATION

Celebrates at the 2017

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOOR SHOW

By Megan McConnell
*Special Projects Manager,
National Rifle Association*



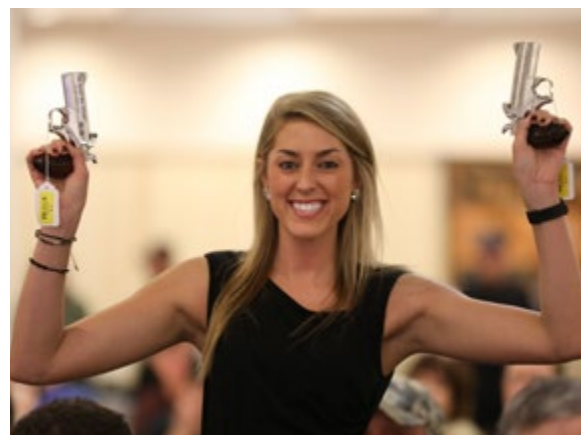
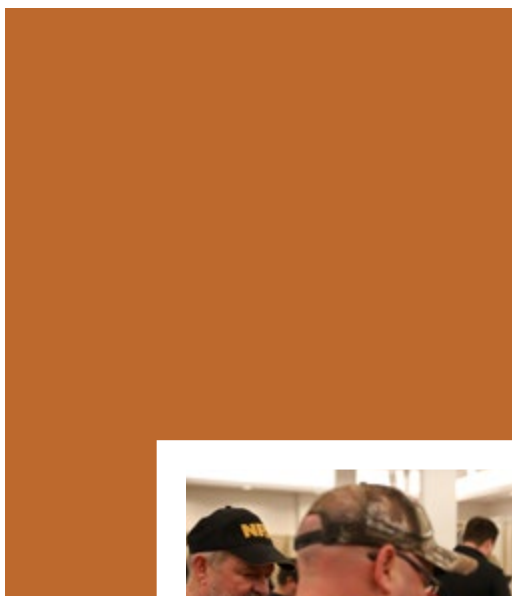
The 2017 Great American Outdoor Show was an exciting nine days for all who attended. More than 200,000 folks from 47 states descended on Harrisburg, Pa., from February 4-12 to celebrate all things outdoors. The Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex hosted 1,100 exhibitors in eight halls packed with firearms, boats, outdoor products, and archery—enough to fill multiple days of exploring the show floor. Right in the middle of all the action was The NRA Foundation Wall of Guns.



The Wall of Guns, sponsored by Henry Repeating Arms and Century Arms, has been an attendee favorite since NRA took over the show in 2014. For only \$10 participants have a 1 in 100 chance to win a brand new firearm or a \$400 cash prize. After every 100 tickets sold, a winner is drawn. With the Wall continually selling out rounds, more than 180 firearms were raffled away over the nine-day show. The selection of more than 40 firearms to choose from made the \$10 ticket an easy buy for most attendees. The most popular firearms on the wall were the DPMS Oracle, Century C39V2, Stag Arms AR-15, and Henry Golden Boy.

Attendees who wanted to increase their chances had the option to purchase a \$100 ticket package of 10 tickets and an exclusive Wall of Guns t-shirt. For attendees who wanted to make sure they went home with a firearm, they could choose a \$500 package of 15 tickets with which the buyer automatically received a Ruger 10/22 Takedown and a t-shirt. The most popular package was the \$100 package, and, with a 1 in 10 chance to win, many buyers won their choice of firearm or cash off of the wall!

The NRA Foundation Sportsmen's Banquet sponsored by Henry Repeating Arms and co-sponsored by Century Arms was an additional fundraising opportunity at the Great American Outdoor Show. The sold-out event raised more than \$70,000 for the future of shooting sports. NRA Senior Field Representative for western North Carolina Doug Merrill emceed the



evening of fellowship and firearms. The night was filled with many chances for attendees to win firearms, merchandise and gear through participating in bucket raffles, games, and silent and live auctions.

The Foundation was honored to have Boy Scout Troop 203 from Hershey, Penn., attend to present the colors before the crowd enjoyed a delicious meal. The scouts were a great example of what the event was raising money for: so groups just like them can receive grants to increase firearm safety, education, and training.

A highlight of the evening was Henry General Manager Andy Wickstrom's presentation of Henry Tribute Edition rifles to four honorees being recognized for their service as first responders and veterans. Those honorees were Fire Chief Nathan Tracey, Detective Edward Haney and Veterans of Foreign Wars Dwight Fuhrman and Thomas Brown.

One of the most popular games was the "Pick of the Litter," in which the winner could pick their choice of any item off of the live auction. It was no surprise when the winner picked one of the most admired items in the collection: the Daniel Defense Ambush .308.

Auctioneer Eric Zettlemoyer of Zettlemoyer Auctions in Fogsleville, Penn., hosted the live auction and brought an exciting energy to the evening's fundraising. The auction started with the knife used to kick off the entire week of activities at the Annual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The knife, donated

by Stag Arms, raised \$550. Another popular item was a Henry Golden Boy Silver fired in the world record-setting Henry 1,000 Man Shoot in November 2016, which sold for more than \$1,000. The Century Arms C308 Sporter was another crowd favorite and raised more than \$2,000.

Throughout the week, more than \$150,000 was raised at the Wall of Guns and the NRA Foundation Sportsmen's Banquet—more money for The NRA Foundation and the future of America's shooting sports and hunting traditions. Such a successful return to Harrisburg would not have been possible without the dedicated attendees, volunteers, staff and participants. We look forward to another amazing show in 2018! ■

*Join us at the 2018 Great American Outdoor Show!
Visit www.friendsofnra.org/NationalEvents and
www.greatamericanoutdoorshow.org to learn more about the event.*

PHOTOS Credit NRA Marketing/Media Relations. Page 13: Thomas Brown, current State Commander of the Pennsylvania VFW, receives his Henry Military Services Tribute Edition rifle. Opposite page, from top: Two show attendees are drawn to the Wall of Guns' firearm selection; Bright green shooting shirts donated by Gaston Glock Style LP helped ticket sellers stand out from the crowd; A group of young attendees browse the wall. This page, clockwise from top: A custom set of "Dueling Derringers" was a highlight of the live auction; Games provided many opportunities for banquet attendees to win firearms and merchandise; Dwight Fuhrman, Pennsylvania State Senior Vice Commander for the VFW, receives his Henry Military Services Tribute Edition rifle from Henry General Manager Andy Wickstrom.



Accessibility & Awareness



By Bill Bachenberg
*NRA Board of Directors, Golden Ring of Freedom Member,
Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays Owner*

With approximately 36 million disabled individuals living in the United States today, shooting is one opportunity that can help many overcome the difficulties they face in everyday life. For thousands, it is a step toward making their lives better by expanding the range of activities they can enjoy.

Photos by Michael Ives

That realization led us to host the National Disability Awareness Shoot (NDAS) at our Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays facility in Pennsylvania in 2013 and 2015, and we are gearing up to put on another great event this fall. The idea for the inaugural event came from the NRA Disabled Shooting Sports Committee, which is tasked with creating policies, programs and strategies to help those with disabilities. Proceeds from the events benefit The NRA Foundation's Disabled Shooting Services Endowment.

This endowment supports the development of innovative instructor curricula and training programs to bring shooting opportunities to the disabled and to assist shooting facilities, suppliers and manufacturers with achieving the best practices and design guidance to improve equipment, accessibility and mobility for disabled shooters in perpetuity.

My wife, Laura, and I have made course improvements at Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays to facilitate disabled shooters' experiences, and we want to do more. Our priority is to raise awareness and be able to create solutions for those with disabilities. We continue to learn what range owners can do to accommodate everyone, and we share that knowledge with the goal of educating and helping tens of thousands with disabilities.


As the inaugural event's planning process took shape, a traditional, one-day sporting clays shoot morphed into a one-of-a-kind, two-day event that far exceeded anyone's expectations—including ours! We want the shoots to be special; they need to attract supporters for future events and capture the attention of the disabled community.

Consequently, we make sure that the disabled community is actively involved, that each NDAS event raises awareness of challenges facing disabled shooters, and that we have an opportunity to listen to—and learn from—all the participants.

Both the 2013 and 2015 events were nothing less than outstanding.

Through the National Disability Awareness Shoots, we learned that we have a real opportunity to better involve the disabled community in the shooting sports. At the same time, we discovered that we have a lot of work ahead of us when it comes to understanding this segment of the shooting population and providing for its needs. Fortunately, NDAS events prove that the disabled community is open to more involvement in shooting, especially the kinds of programs that only the NRA has the experience and expertise to deliver.

The success of the 2013 and 2015 events has inspired us to host another National Disability Awareness shoot this fall, scheduled for October 1-2, 2017, at Lehigh Valley. Proceeds will again go to the NRA Foundation Disabled Shooting Services Endowment, earmarked for helping facilitate disabled shooting throughout the country.

Helping disabled Americans achieve better lives through shooting is one of the many reasons why I fight for our Second Amendment freedoms. I invite you to join us in Pennsylvania this October to help those who are less fortunate find empowerment through the shooting sports. 

For more information about the National Disability Awareness Shoot, go to ndas.nra.org. Visit www.nrafoundation.org to learn more about the Disabled Shooting Services Endowment and The NRA Foundation.



“Helping disabled Americans achieve better lives through shooting is one of the many reasons why I fight for our Second Amendment freedoms.”



October 1-2, 2017

ACCOMMODATIONS AND DINNER

Bear Creek Mountain Resort
Macungie, PA

MAIN EVENT

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays
Coplay, PA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

David Kulivan, Advancement Officer
(202) 597-0248 | DKulivan@nrahq.org

FRIENDS OF FREEDOM

Since its inception, *Friends of NRA* has hosted more than 17,000 events, reaching over 3 million people and raising more than \$740 million for The NRA Foundation, the largest charity dedicated to supporting the shooting sports.

Millions of people have been positively impacted by the 42,000 grants awarded by The NRA Foundation to local, state and national programs, made possible in part through the steady support of *Friends of NRA* fundraising.

Friends of Freedom is a nationwide, multi-media, mission-based campaign highlighting the dynamic faces behind our mission—those who push forward with tireless energy to protect our Second Amendment freedoms and those who are impacted by that fearless drive to foster the future of the shooting sports on local, state, and national levels. Here is look at just a fraction of those faces and the stories that connect them to us!



JOHN SMITHBAKER

*Friends of NRA Program Creator,
Fathers in the Field Founder/CEO*

“Looking back over 25 years of *Friends of NRA* hometown fundraising events, I stand with all of the dedicated volunteers and staff to give a hearty congratulations for all the great work and critical funds that have been raised. I am so humbled to have had a part in this terrific accomplishment.”

EMILY COTTON

NRA Certified Instructor, Guns and Ladies Volunteer, California Grant Program Participant

“I’ve been able to incorporate my personal experience as a survivor of a gunshot wound into volunteering as an NRA pistol instructor for the San Luis Obispo Sportsmen’s Association’s Guns and Ladies (GALs) program. The program comprises 55 volunteers, and we introduce more than 600 women to firearms each year. Our local *Friends of NRA* supports our program, which wouldn’t exist without The NRA Foundation grant. Thank you to *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation for the opportunity and ability to introduce the shooting sports to all these women and youths!”

FORD HAWKINS

*Youngest Tennessee Friends of NRA Committee Founder:
Founded Shiloh Friends of NRA in 2014 at Age 17*

"I became interested in starting a *Friends of NRA* committee in our community mainly because I was raised in a family which supports the NRA and its goals, as well as in an area in which hunting and shooting are primary recreational activities for people of all ages. I saw *Friends of NRA* as an opportunity not only for myself individually but also for the community to combine treasured values like the Second Amendment with activities we love, like the shooting sports—the best of both worlds, if you will! I have not been disappointed. I have made wonderful friendships through our committee, meeting people with whom I otherwise may never have crossed paths."



HEATH CLEVENGER

*NRA Law Enforcement Instructor Development School Participant,
Local Deputy Sheriff in South Carolina*

"I have survived two officer-involved shootings in my career. I would give the instructor classes—that I attended through the NRA Law Enforcement program—credit for helping me survive these encounters. My competitive shooting is a direct result of the Instructor Classes too."



GINNY THRASHER

Olympic Gold Medalist in Air Rifle, Grant Program Participant

"Shooting through my high school was a huge part of my early success. Without those opportunities that were provided by the NRA Foundation grant, my high school team may not have existed. Winning Gold for Team USA gave me a voice to help more people realize how amazing competitive shooting can be and how it helps create such great qualities in the athletes."

MELISSA MARTIN

NRA YHEC Illinois State Coordinator & Event Director

"I have been so blessed to be a part of the NRA Y.H.E.C. program. It has given such an amazing opportunity to so many youths who otherwise might not ever have the chance to learn about hunting and firearm safety. Offering an unforgettable, family-friendly, fun-filled, educational day in the great outdoors, Y.H.E.C. makes a huge difference in the lives of numerous families. I believe it not only builds and strengthens the foundation for future generations of hunters but it also helps save lives. Protecting our youth. Protecting our rights. Protecting our future."



JACKIE EMSLIE

*Upstate New York Friends of NRA State Fund Committee Chair,
Mid-Hudson Committee Member, NRA Certified Instructor*

"It is so incredibly gratifying to see the entire process from start to finish, from fundraising to overseeing the grant process, and then seeing those dollars in action at clubs and ranges all over New York. I am grateful for the selfless dedication of *Friends of NRA* volunteers who make a huge difference in their communities."

ERIC LANDRUM

Kentucky Frontier Friends of NRA Committee Chairman

"It is fulfilling to know that being a part of *Friends of NRA* I have played a role in helping to secure the future of shooting sports for many generations to come."



DIANE DANIELSON

NRA Women's Program Coordinator, Friends of NRA Volunteer, Women On Target® Program Co-Founder

"Nothing builds the NRA's future better than *Friends of NRA* raising money, funding programs, and growing shooting, hunting and outdoor education for everyone."



LAURIE KOZAK

Chief Deputy Sheriff with Mifflin County, Pa., Sheriff's Office, NRA Refuse To Be A Victim® Instructor since 2011

"Thanks to NRA Foundation funding, I am able to present the Refuse To Be A Victim program to our community free of charge. Giving my local community the tools they need to 'refuse to be a victim' empowers them and fulfills me."



ALEX COKER

Former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant, Sheriff's Deputy, Former SWAT Team Assistant Leader, Former CIA Special Protective Agent, Firearms Instructor

"The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program has allowed me to make a positive impact on young children. When the kids see me out in public, they remember me visiting their schools and sing the Eddie Eagle GunSafe song: "Stop, Don't Touch, Runaway, Tell A Grown Up." When I hear them sing the song from memory, that's when I know that I have possibly saved the life of a young child who might come across an unsecured loaded gun at a relative's house, in their mom's purse, or tossed on the ground. The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program is helping our county save lives."

JACQUILINE CALLENS

2013 Youth Education Summit Alumna, Grand Scholarship Winner

"The Youth Education Summit is the ultimate American experience. It is an opportunity for youth to learn about our rights through researching, debating, visiting our capitol, and meeting peers from across our nation. Y.E.S. may last only a week, but its influence has a much longer duration. As an alumna of Y.E.S. 2013, I still utilize the resources and skills that the summit provided. Before Y.E.S., I wanted to make a difference in preserving our freedom, but, as a typical 17-year-old, I wasn't sure how to begin. Y.E.S. changed that. The NRA Foundation realizes youths' potential, and because of this program young Americans become involved in public speaking, *Friends of NRA* events, youth education, and so much more. Y.E.S. is truly a unique program because it encourages youth to make an impact in America—not just for a week, but for a lifetime."



JANEEN MOFFA

*2015 Western Pennsylvania Volunteer of the Year,
Indiana County Friends of NRA Chair*

"I am fortunate to have a career where I have the opportunity to work with many of our *Friends of NRA* supporters. It is extremely rewarding to see what we can give back to our communities through our hard work and dedication each year. I'm proud of my continued success and impact that I've had on the future of the shooting sports."



RICHARD VONA

*Law Enforcement Training Director for Bucks County, Pa.,
National School Shield Grant Program Participant*

"The School Shield Program presented by the NRA has brought a level of training to local police departments that we could not have provided otherwise. This program has given local police departments the tools and knowledge to better protect the children in our schools. I am grateful for the support and expertise of the School Shield Team and The NRA Foundation in making the community safer."



SHELLEY COHEN

*Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation Associate,
Tennessee Grant Program Participant*

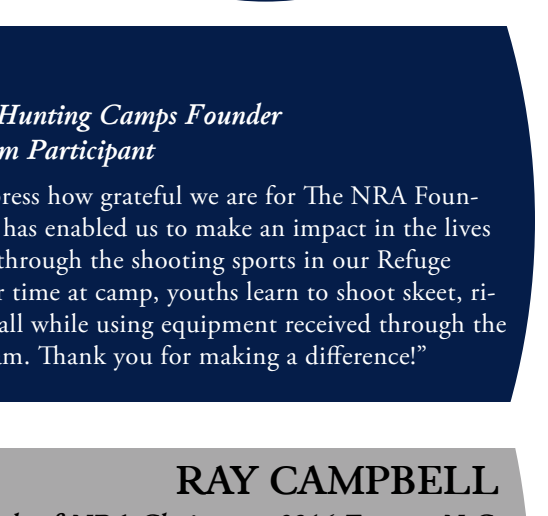
"The NRA Foundation grant funds make possible hunting events that promote the healing—both inside and out—of our Purple Heart veterans. We are humbled by their stories and life-long enduring physical and emotional challenges. Our lives and the lives of these veterans are forever changed because of the financial support of The NRA Foundation."



PJ WEEKS

*Rain Down Ministries/Refuge Hunting Camps Founder
and Mississippi Grant Program Participant*

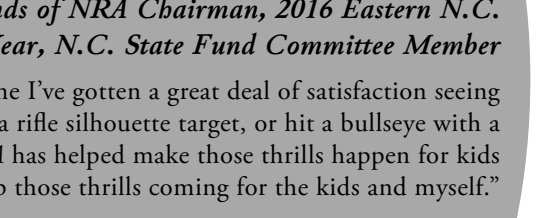
"Words cannot adequately express how grateful we are for The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA*. It has enabled us to make an impact in the lives of youth across the southeast through the shooting sports in our Refuge Hunting Camps. During their time at camp, youths learn to shoot skeet, rifles, archery, and much more, all while using equipment received through the NRA Foundation Grant Program. Thank you for making a difference!"



RAY CAMPBELL

*Wilmington Friends of NRA Chairman, 2016 Eastern N.C.
Volunteer of the Year, N.C. State Fund Committee Member*

"I have been affiliated with Buccaneer Gun Club for 40 years. During that time I've gotten a great deal of satisfaction seeing the thrill that kids get when they break their first shotgun target, knock over a rifle silhouette target, or hit a bullseye with a pistol or rifle. I am sure my 20-plus years of fundraising with *Friends of NRA* has helped make those thrills happen for kids from all over Eastern North Carolina. I want to keep those thrills coming for the kids and myself."





Creating

Community through Clays

By Todd Morris

*My. Airy Sharpshooters Assistant Coach,
IWLA Delegate*

More than a decade ago, one Maryland community saw an opportunity to help foster the future of the shooting sports, and its efforts have led not only to a successful youth clay target program but also to an even stronger community spirit. The Mount Airy, Md., Chapter of the Isaac Walton League of America (MTA-IWLA) began participating in the National Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) in 2002 with the intent to encourage local youth and family participation in a sporting clay program and grow the next generation of trap shooters.

The chapter knew from the beginning that it needed to create a safe and encouraging learning environment to pass on the tremendous experience and skill of the club members to local young athletes. Led by President Mahlon Simmons and Vice President Steve Martin, the chapter provides a program promoting, teaching and

mentoring safe shooting and sportsmanship with the coaching support of more than 10 percent of its 175 members.

By 2016 the program's roster had grown to 90 youth athletes from third grade through high school and college, spanning several local communities. Along with the chapter, Carroll County Gun Club and The NRA Foundation provide invaluable support to the program. To ensure the whole family understands and benefits from the program, parents participate as well—serving as scorekeepers, joining program activities, and receiving feedback on their athletes from coaches.

Ann Roberson of New Market, Md., sees what the program accomplishes as her son Daniel participates. "I am impressed at the respect and courtesy shown by the youth to the shotguns, to one another, and to the adults," she writes. "Also impressive is the number of volunteer coaches, which allows all of the youth to be mentored and



Photos Courtesy Mt. Airy IWLA

monitored through each evening. The instruction given is encouraging and clearly helpful at developing skills."

The annual program, which has boasted a 70 percent return rate over the past several years, runs for fifteen weeks. The first five weeks each year are devoted to intense, one-on-one instruction for new athletes—one week in a classroom setting, focusing on safety and gun instruction, then four weeks of slowly building shooting and safety skills on the range. Along with the rigorous attention to safety instruction, coaches also teach basic protocol in language, dress and attitude to instill a sense of professional sportsmanship. After the five weeks for beginning shooters, weekly practices of two 25-shell rounds per athlete occur every Tuesday, with a team of coaches on hand to assist and mentor.

Each weekly practice session begins with the recognition of high scorers the previous week, and the awarding of perfect 25 and 50 pins.

Throughout the season athletes are encouraged and sponsored to participate in regional competitions. A small portion of the program's youth athletes participate annually in the Maryland State Sportsman Association Amateur Trap Association State Shoot and the SCTP National Championships. The success of the program is further evidenced by its youth athletes' participation in the Heart of Maryland Trap League in the SCTP off season, fielding almost all of the league's junior shooters. The culminating event of the year is the Maryland SCTP Championship in June, graciously hosted by the MTA-IWLA and supported by the entire club membership. The youth athletes, who have come to be known as the "Mt. Airy Sharpshooters," are joined by teams from across the state to compete for team and individual titles from Advanced to Sub-Junior.

The "Mt. Airy Sharpshooters" are an impressive group of young athletes, spanning in age more than ten years. The 2016 group included 16 female athletes, along with 18 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts or Venture Scout Crew members who have also participated in scouting events on the grounds and in the club's "Helping Hometown Heroes Trap Tournaments" as a Troop, and given back to the MTA-IWLA with Eagle Scout projects. Another significant group of about a dozen of the program's young athletes also participate

in 4-H and the National FFA Organization.

The coaches are an impressive group of sporting clays experts, collectively possessing more than three centuries of experience and each individually spending scores of hours supporting the program. The admirable 1:5 coach to student ratio allows for one-on-one instruction and close supervision of every youth athlete participant. Passing on shooting skill and safety is a large part of what they do, but by no means is it the only thing. Coaches teach sportsmanship and citizenship, provide training in sport etiquette, and mentor in overcoming adversity, interacting with others and teamwork.

Providing a safe and fun venue for prospective young athletes to become excited about trapshooting and helping ensure the continuation of the sport was the goal of the MTA-IWLA when establishing the program. But the "Sharpshooters" have also become a staple in the Mt. Airy community, fully supported by the dedicated parents and the town. A giving and supportive club, dedicated and skilled coaches, supportive parents, and respectful, upstanding young men and women of their town and region are coming together as a team to make the "Sharpshooters" the fantastic program it is. ■

Support youth shooting sports program like this in your area! Apply for an NRA Foundation grant at www.nrafoundation.org. Learn more about the Sharpshooters and the IWLA by visiting www.mtairysharpshooters.com or www.mtairyiwla.org.





The Legend *in the* Swamp

By Neely Raper
*Georgia Field Representative,
National Rifle Association*

The face of shooting sports has changed drastically since I was a kid growing up in southeastern Georgia in the early '80s. At the time skeet and trap were kings and other disciplines were “niche” sports. But since that time when one or two disciplines ruled the shooting world, we have seen the sport evolve into the magnificent, diverse culture it is today. Now opportunities abound for men and women of all ages to get involved in the shooting sports. Just about any type of firearm imaginable, from shotguns to AR-15s, can be found in the hands of shooters at ranges, gun clubs, and fields all across the country as more and more people are exposed to those opportunities.

One demographic that has witnessed tremendous growth in the shooting sports is teenagers. More and more high schools across the country are recognizing shooting as a school-sponsored team sport, and teenagers are discovering that competing with a rifle or shotgun is a great equalizer—they don't have to be the tallest or fastest athlete in order to make the team and excel. More and more young people are finding that the thing they have been searching for to help them create their own identity is on the range.

Through my travels I have had the opportunity to meet many teens currently competing on their high school shooting team. They come from all walks of life and all economic backgrounds, but they aren't separated by the clothes they wear or the cars they drive—only by what their last scores were on the range. Another constant I have encountered is how fondly the teens speak about their coaches, with words like “mentor,” “motivator” and “friend.”

Georgia's Ware County, largely covered by the National Natural Landmark Okefenokee Swamp, is home to another legend who embodies that respect and admiration. As the head coach for the Ware County 4-H Rifle Team since 1993, Maurice England has led the team to state championships twice, to a national championship, and to 15 4-H state championships. Those accomplishments have earned Coach England an induction into the Sports Hall of Fame and recognition as a Coach of the Year in Ware County, Ga. But his success extends far beyond the range.

Twenty-one of Coach England's former students have earned scholarships to shoot on the collegiate level, and 30 have gone on to shoot at the national level—including a silver medalist at



the 2016 Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs, Co. Waycross *Friends of NRA* Committee Chair Rhonda Dixon emphasizes the immeasurable impact his coaching has had. “Coach England is held in high regard,” she states, “not just in Waycross but throughout the entire southeastern region for the positive impact he has had on the lives of those he has coached.”

I recently had the opportunity to tour the shooting facility Coach England and the Ware County Rifle Team call home. The state-of-the-art indoor range is complete with a scoring system that only three schools in the country are fortunate enough to have. Additionally, a live-feed camera system makes it possible for each match and practice to be viewed remotely via www.ware-countyrifle.com. Coach England noted that the website receives an average of roughly 15,000 views per week, with parents and grandparents of team members tuning in along with other high school and college teams.

As I toured the facility with the coach, I was amazed at the quality and diversity of the equipment available for the team's use. Coach England made it clear that it takes a lot of resources to field and maintain a team each year and that his team depends on the support of NRA Foundation grants. With pride in the impact that grant dollars have on the continued enhancement of the shooting sports, he has vowed his continued support of the program. As an active member of the Waycross *Friends of NRA* committee, he definitely puts his time and money where his mouth is.

Coach England is truly a credit to himself and the entire Ware County team. As much as he has accomplished he has never lowered the bar. He continues to push his students to be the best they can be, both on the range and in the community. He has long been a pillar in the community, his legacy will only grow stronger as he continues to lead the Ware County Rifle Team. ■

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



FRIENDS

CELEBRATING

FRIENDS

***Friends of NRA's* Founding Committee hosts its 25th annual event**

By Kristina Krawchuk

*Event Marketing & Communications Manager,
National Rifle Association*

This is where it all began. Twenty-five years ago a passionate circle of NRA supporters in Columbia, Mo., had a vision to start fundraising parties for the NRA. This was the birth of *Friends of NRA*—right down to the name coined by former committee Chairman Jim Joy. “It had to be simple,” Joy remembers, “And I just thought to myself as I looked around the room, ‘We are all friends, and we want to do something for the NRA... How about ‘Friends of NRA’? We all agreed that the name said it all.”

The electric energy and magnified passion for the shooting sports captured by that original circle of friends has only heightened over the years. So, it comes as no surprise that this founding committee’s 25th Anniversary event on March 11, 2017, started out with a slight problem: attendees arriving 90 minutes before the doors opened. Needless to say, the doors opened early and four large event rooms brimming with games, raffles and a silent auction quickly filled with players and bidders all eagerly hoping to take home a shiny new firearm or two or three.

In preparation for the event, local college students happily helped drum up raffle ticket sales. “We always have extra volunteer hands from the University of Missouri Shotgun Team and the University of Missouri JROTC,” says North Missouri Field Representative Travis Scott. “They are a huge help with this large event. Both groups are also NRA Foundation grant recipients, and they are the reason we do what we do.”

“I really attribute the success of *Friends of NRA* events to the participants and volunteers,” says Mid Missouri *Friends of NRA* Committee Chair Erin Ellingson. “Everyone is there for a great cause, so people are really willing to help out. From the donors who give us unique and fabulous items, to the banquet volunteers and field reps who work an amazing amount of hours all year to pull off the event, to the attendees who open their wallets for dinner, raffle tickets, games and auctions. If you take any of those ingredients out of the mix, these events just wouldn’t happen.”

Even the kids in attendance had a ball in their own interactive simulated shooting room. Scott says it’s a big hit every year. “They play Laser Shot®,” he explains. “We call it the ‘Future Friends Room’ because they are future *Friends of NRA* supporters.”

The pinnacle of the evening was a nostalgic presentation to the hosts and chairpersons of the inaugural *Friends of NRA* event, Larry and Brenda Potterfield. South Missouri Field Representative Gregg Pearre presented a banner from that 1992 event. “You know this has been under my desk for the past twenty-some years,” Pearre said, “And I knew exactly what to do with it when this 25th Anniversary event came up.”

Choking back tears, Brenda Potterfield took the mic. “You know I don’t usually like to talk on this thing,” she started. “But this is a really special night—25 years. Thanks for being around all these years, guys.”

NRA Director of Field Staff Phillip Gray and Director of Volunteer Fundraising





Sarah Engeset, along with Central Regional Director Chad Franklin and Missouri Field Reps Travis Scott and Gregg Pearre, presented the Potterfields with a special, hand-crafted American flag made from bourbon barrels by The Heritage Flag Company for their generous contributions to the Friends program and their unwavering support of the Second Amendment.

"The Potterfields hold a special place in our hearts," said Engeset. "They've been with us from the very beginning and continue to be incredible ambassadors for the *Friends of NRA* program. We hope they continue their journey with us for the next 25 years."

Larry Potterfield, founder and CEO of MidwayUSA, shared his thoughts next. "Helping develop and hold the first *Friends of NRA* event back in 1992 was just a natural step towards supporting a cause so many of us believe in," he said. "*Friends of NRA* has held close to 20,000 events, reached over 3.7 million attendees and raised more than \$740 million for The NRA Foundation—it's an honor and a privilege to have been part of that for the last 25 years."

"Brenda and Larry have done, and continue to do, incredible things for the shooting sports community," says Ellingson. "They have founded three great organizations—MidwayUSA, *Friends of NRA*, and the MidwayUSA Foundation—to develop the next generation of shooters so that we never lose our Second Amendment rights. Obviously, without them and the other founding members of our committee, there would be no *Friends of NRA*. Every dollar

we raise tells you a little bit about their impact on the shooting sports community."

And raise dollars they did. Highlights from the live auction included a *Friends of NRA* Anniversary No. 5-style revolver by local Missourian Grand Master Ron Powers. Bidding launched on GunBroker.com a month prior to the event and concluded that evening with a final bid of \$6,800. Also up for grabs was a Power Custom Grand Master Deluxe firearm with a 25th Anniversary serial number and customized by Ron Power and his son Randall. Sarah Potterfield won it with a \$4,500 bid. For his unflagging support over the past two and a half decades, Ron Power was presented with an inscribed granite plaque.

Then it was all eyes on Taylor Frevert, jumping around with arms flailing and hugging every friend he could find, as his winning ticket was called for the Tracker Pro 160 bass boat generously donated by Bass Pro Shops. He was one of 200 attendees who bought a \$100 ticket for a chance to win, and luck was on his side that night!

And just like that, it was over. The committee was all smiles, knowing they just pulled off another successful event. But then again, this ain't their first rodeo. "Oh my gosh!" exclaimed Ellingson. "The 25th Anniversary banquet was outstanding! There was such a great energy all night. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time, and we raised a committee record amount—\$150 thousand for The NRA Foundation. I know that the vision of preserving the shooting sports is as strong as ever and now maybe a little bit more secure." ■



Join the fun and fundraising! Find a *Friends of NRA* event near you at www.friendsofnra.org/Events. Learn more about *Friends of NRA* in Missouri at www.friendsofnra.org/MO. Apply for an NRA Foundation grant at www.nrafoundation.org.





Not Just for Boys Anymore

By Peggy Gray
Colorado Springs Friends of NRA
Committee Chair

I grew up with six brothers and never once thought of handling guns...

The boys did that.

Then, one night years later, that changed in an instant with the rattle of my front door. The screen door was open and someone was trying to open the main door. For some reason my son had left his air rifle propped against it. I picked up the air rifle, stood a few feet inside the door, primed the gun once, and said loudly, "It is cocked. It is aimed. Go away." The intruder paused, then went away.

I stood there trembling for some time, and then I came to a realization. Carrying a history of being beaten, being raped, and being left completely defenseless, I had finally come to the point of saying to myself, "No more. I

am not going to cower in the corner for hours at night, afraid to walk by a window, afraid to walk out to my car, afraid that someone is going to come through my front door. No more."

This was a turning point for me. During most of my adult life, I did not want a gun in my home. I saw no reason to have something so dangerous, so lethal in my home. But after that night I knew that I needed to learn to use a gun to protect myself and my family.

A concerned friend made even clearer the need to be able to defend myself. Don asked me, "How long would it have taken the police to get to your front or back porch? How long would you be able to fight off an intruder or attacker? What good would that air gun have done?"

Don helped me purchase a 9mm handgun and taught me how to safely load, shoot, clean and care for the tool he gave me. He made sure I knew it was a tool and realized that once I used that tool to defend myself I would never be the same person. Don helped me organize groups of other women and taught us all defensive moves and skills. When I took the first group of ladies out to Don's property to shoot, I had told them, "We need to know how to use these guns. We need to be able

to protect ourselves." Don however, started off differently. "Ladies, if you are going to use this gun, you need to be ready to kill," he said. Silence—awkward silence—followed the harsh proclamation. If we had not all carpooled out there, I probably would have been left standing there by myself.

From that point on, I prepped all groups by saying, "Ladies, you are going to hear Don and I say the same thing, but we will say it differently. I am going to tell you: If you are going to carry this

joined the local committee. I was the only woman on the committee at that time, and I had no idea what a Henry or a Weatherby was. I asked a lot of questions because at the time I really was not well versed on the Second Amendment, but it did not take me long to realize just how close we were to losing the ability to own firearms like the one that now offered me comfort and protection.

For the last three years I have chaired the Colorado Springs *Friends of NRA* committee, and for the last two I have traveled to many other events in the state to support those committees in their efforts to continue raising the funds needed to keep the shooting sports and our rights alive.

Now, while I pray that I never have to use a firearm to defend myself, my faith, or my family, I also pray that if I do need to use it, it does its job. ■

Bring empowering NRA programs like Women On Target® and Refuse To Be A Victim® to your town. Go to nrafoundation.org to apply for a grant. For more about Colorado Friends of NRA, visit friendsofnra.org/CO. To learn about volunteering, go to friendsofnra.org/Volunteer.



Photos Courtesy Peggy Gray

TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE

By Brad Kruger
*Western Region Director,
National Rifle Association*

America's Rifle Challenge is, in one word, brilliant. The reason lies in its simplicity. NRA America's Rifle Challenge presented by Daniel Defense® (ARC) accomplishes several missions simultaneously and extremely effectively. I have participated in two ARC courses; in both we had brand new shooters standing right next to former law enforcement officers and military veterans—and everyone had an outstanding experience!

But to truly understand the genius behind ARC, you have to look at its origins. In 2013, concern about potential bans on AR-15s and other semi-automatic rifles led to a huge surge in the sale of these types of firearms. Once new owners took their ARs out to the range to sight them in and maybe do some plinking, they quickly realized the potential that this rifle has and wanted to learn more. They wanted training. And they called the NRA.

The NRA had long been the world leader in fire-

arms and safety instruction, but at the time we did not have a standardized training course dedicated to the operation of the AR-15. Recognizing the demand from the millions of new AR owners, we took action to change that.

NRA Education and Training Lead Program Specialist Nathan Judd was tasked with developing a basic, standardized AR training program that not only focused on safety but also on the skills necessary to operate the rifle from different positions at varying distances—and it needed to be affordable.

Taking the challenge to heart, Nathan built America's Rifle Challenge from the ground up and created a program accessible, effective, and affordable for the average shooter. ARC can be hosted on just about any range and is eligible for NRA Foundation grant funding. Costs are often under 100 dollars, bringing the training to the shooters rather than requiring them to travel far and spend hundreds or thousands of dollars for training. Local gun clubs around the country, armed with the ARC Guidebook, are hosting AR Challenges almost every weekend. This all is part of the brilliant simplicity!

The course lasts about six hours and requires just 96 rounds of ammunition per shooter. After four hours in a classroom dry firing from different positions, the program includes two hours of live fire shooting. The untimed course promotes the development of good habits at each individual's own pace—the speed can come later. Shooters transition from the offhand, kneeling, and prone positions with their ARs while remaining stationary on the firing line, allowing them to concentrate on the mechanics of their rifles and learn how to cor-



rectly operate them in the most efficient manner. Positions can be modified or skipped based on an individual's needs to ensure safe and efficient transitions, creating a very "shooter friendly" format. The goal is simply to get shooters comfortable and accurate with their ARs.

ARC was unveiled in 2015 with the support of three heavy-hitting sponsors—Daniel Defense, Lucid Optics and Condor—and it was a resounding success. Because the course does not require more than 10 rounds loaded in a magazine at one time, even shooters in states with stricter capacity laws can experience ARC. In 2015 and 2016, more than 260 courses were hosted in communities from Maryland to California, as far north as Alaska and all the way down to Florida. And the phenomenon continues to spread—as of March, nearly two dozen events were already completed or scheduled in 2017.

One of those events was at the annual Idaho *Friends of NRA* State Fund Committee (SFC) meeting and workshop organized by NRA Senior Field Representative Steve Vreeland and his volunteers. Each year, volunteers from *Friends of NRA* committees in Idaho gather in a different town to review the NRA Foundation grant applications for their state and take part in a training workshop in preparation for the coming year's events.

Once the work is done, the group visits a local range that has received NRA Foundation grant support for a shooting activity. In the past, those activities have included everything from shotgun sports and cowboy action shoots to 3-Gun courses and full-auto experiences. But this time was different.

Inspired by his experience with ARC at the Western Region Field Staff meeting earlier in the year, Vreeland planned one for the Idaho volunteers who came from all across the state to attend the annual meeting and workshop. "Most of these folks are very experienced shooters, but it's amazing how many of them had never shot an AR before," Vreeland remarks. "For me, having only owned an AR-15 since about 2013, it was interesting to take the course with the Western Region and learn things about the AR platform. Then to turn around and teach other people those things? That was a really neat experience."

The new event, held at Lewis-Clark Wildlife Club in Lewiston, Idaho, was a hit. "The response was terrific," says Vreeland. "When we do events like trap, many of these people have done that many times. But this was completely different and incredibly exciting, because no one—whether a

new or experience shooter—had ever done anything like it before."

Rhonda Harvitt, treasurer of the Lake Country *Friends of NRA* committee and manager at Coeur D'Alene Skeet and Trap Club, is a prime example of what ARC is all about. An extremely experienced shotgun shooter, she helps train and facilitate multiple high school trap teams in her area and organizes Women On Target® events focused on shotgun sports. However, Rhonda had never fired a rifle.

"I started shooting shotgun about 10 years ago because I was afraid of handguns—I wasn't raised around guns," Rhonda says. "I've since started training with handguns to gain confidence, but I was very hesitant about shooting a rifle."

"I thought I would just shoot a couple rounds to satisfy everyone who was encouraging me and to see what it felt like," Harvitt remembers. "But I was very surprised by and pleased with the ease of shooting it. The low recoil and my ability to easily use the safety and magazine release gave me such confidence that I could maneuver the firearm safely. I ended up completing the whole course and really enjoying it! I was just totally in awe of how user-friendly it was and how confident and empowered it made me feel."

Ultimately, the activity was a fantastic way to present a new NRA Foundation grant-supported program to Idaho volunteers statewide while visiting a range that has been built with money they raised—the Lewis-Clark Wildlife Club has received more than \$55,000 in NRA Foundation grant funding over the past ten years. "We definitely want to do it again, maybe even next year," Vreeland shares. "It was a very fun experience, and a lot of those volunteers now look forward to holding ARC events in their areas."

As described by its creator, Nathan Judd, "ARC is not a basic AR training course—it is the fundamental AR training course." He calls to mind the immortal words of Bruce Lee: "Advanced techniques are the fundamentals mastered." It turns out that the challenge of mastering fundamentals and setting yourself on the path to advanced techniques can also be a seriously fun experience when it comes to NRA training and America's Rifles. ■

Visit nrafoundation.org to apply for a grant to fund a local ARC event, range or shooting sports program! Go to arc.nra.org to find an ARC course near you or download the ARC Guidebook for hosting your own. To learn more about Friends of NRA in Idaho, visit www.friendsofnra.org/ID.

FACES of

By Christina Paladeau

Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

“This is a holdup! Nobody move!”

The crowd of ladies and gentlemen froze. A few of the seemingly respectable people they had been socializing with during their banquet’s cocktail hour gathered at the front of the room and whipped out their rifles and revolvers.

“Now, I’m going to need each of you to reach in your wallet—no funny business, you hear?—and pull out at least twenty dollars. And I mean every one of ya!”

The room stayed dead quiet. “Now! Hurry up folks. Take out those bills and write your names on them. We know who’s here and we’ll know if you try to pull one over on us. My partner here is going to come around and collect them.” He gestured at a woman looking sternly at the crowd and holding her Henry Big Boy rifle with an unsettling confidence.

A few dresses and coats rustled as people cautiously began to follow the gang leader’s orders. Soon the rest of the crowd follow suit and the collection finished quickly. The gang moved in unison to the exit, then burst through the doors and took off running into the cold Nevada night. One organizer of the banquet boldly followed them out, and everyone held their breath as they heard shouting and scuffling from outside.

“I couldn’t get them, but they dropped the bag of money and this gun!” Mr. Beverly exclaimed as he stumbled back through the

doors, holding the Henry Big Boy. “I guess we should give it away!” He reached in the bag and drew out a bill. The room filled with applause as the evening’s first raffle winner came up to claim his new gun.

Nevada Senior Field Rep Steve Wilson, with the help of Eastern California Field Rep Cole Beverly, holds a special kind of *Friends of NRA* event. The Northern Nevada “Faces of Freedom” event is a two-day, themed experience filled with unique and exciting activities, entertainment and chances to win firearms and merchandise. Each November, an exceptional group of *Friends of NRA* supporters from all over the western states come, by invitation only, to close out the fund-raising year with a bang.

Now in its seventh year, Faces of Freedom began when Steve had the idea to create a high roller event for the *Friends of NRA* attendees who went above and beyond in his area. “When we first did it, and now, I tell them that they are the cream of the crop,” Steve says. “I tell them, ‘You are the movers and shakers. You come to multiple events throughout the year. Look around at each other... You are looking at the faces of freedom.’ They truly are our Faces of Freedom.”

The first event was a suit and tie affair at beautiful Lake Tahoe. The second was held at Atlantis Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nev. The third year was a Roaring ‘20s theme at an Antique Auto Museum with an overnight stay on a Paddle boat. For the past three years, it has been an Old West theme in Virginia City, Nev., an old western town, at the historic—and maybe haunted—Piper’s Opera House.

“Once we moved to Virginia City and did the Old West theme, everyone loved it and said they didn’t want it to

PIPER’S OPERA HOUSE

FREEDOM



change,” Steve explains. “At this point, people have even purchased elaborate costumes to wear to it. One woman who comes every year from California was so excited last year when she found a dance hall dress to wear, and she’s already excited to come again this year and has another costume idea.”

Dinner packages start at \$1,600 per couple for the Saturday night event. That includes hors d’oeuvres and dinner for two with live music—featuring an exclusive performance by Steve, a classically-trained opera singer—along with a gift bag full of NRA swag, an overnight stay at a local hotel, breakfast and a fun activity on Sunday. For the Old West theme, the Sunday activity has been a train ride at the historic V&T Railroad in Virginia City.

The package also includes a firearm, but which one depends on the luck of the draw. Each couple receives a playing card to be worn around the neck. Later in the evening, Steve shuffles a different set of playing cards and deals out one card for each firearm prize. Guests match their cards to the ones with the firearms to discover which one they get to add to their collection.

“People can trade playing cards for the gun they’ll win,” Steve says. “Just because of that, people have made long term friendships here, and they stay in touch outside the event. To see that interaction and friendship between people from different states because of this event is incredible. The group of people that come every year are always so excited for their annual reunion.”

Despite the relatively small crowd—the event usually hosts about 50 to 60 couples—the Faces of Freedom event has reached High Caliber Club Level by raising more than \$25 thousand at a single event. “Even when

there are only 30-40 wallets in the room, games with 50 chances sell out.

Along with a few raffle games and a small silent auction, the event features an exclusive live auction of many items not seen at any other *Friends of NRA* events. Steve searches high and low all year long to find historic NRA memorabilia. Past highlights have included: a set of five mint-condition 1946 NRA Range posters; a gold-plated set of NRA commemorative coins from the ‘80s; a mint-condition NRA lapel pin from the ‘20s; and original, uncirculated newspapers from the New York Times—one dated November 17, 1871 showing the original articles of incorporation for the NRA and another dated October 9, 1873 featuring the first Creedmoor shoot. Each item comes with an amazing NRA history lesson.

The whole event is a truly memorable and historic occasion of celebrating and supporting the future of the shooting sports and our Second Amendment freedoms. And you never know what will happen... There may be a shootout at dinner or a train robbery—all to encourage the fundraising, of course! ■

Please note space is very limited for this high roller event. For more information call Steve Wilson at 775-434-3740 or email swilson@nrhq.org. Find a Friends of NRA event near you at www.friendsofnra.org/Events. To donate to The NRA Foundation or apply for a grant, visit www.nrafoundation.org.

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DEFENDING FREEDOM

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

LIKE THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT THAT INSPIRED THE BIRTH OF OUR NATION, THE SPIRIT OF THE ENTREPRENEUR IS DEFINED BY A WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RISKS, FIGHT FOR WHAT ONE BELIEVES IN, AND VALUE FREEDOM ABOVE ALL ELSE.

For Marty Daniel, CEO and founder of Daniel Defense, those remarkable traits are simply a part of who he is and the company he has built. Located in Black Creek, Ga., Daniel Defense's large and comprehensive operation grew out of concepts and designs for accessories that Daniel developed in his garage to improve his own rifles. The company, started in 2001, now manufactures a complete line of firearms, rail systems, and accessories for civilian, law enforcement, and military customers out of two locations and a combined 137,000 square feet of manufacturing space.

Soon those operations will all be housed at the Black Creek location. In November 2016 Marty and his wife Cindy broke ground on a new quarter-million square foot facility, kicking off the construction project set to finish this summer and create an estimated 75 new jobs in Bryan County, Ga. Maintaining and growing American jobs and producing an American-made product has long been a focal point of Daniel Defense's expansion as a manufacturer, and it reflects the values of many *Friends of NRA* and NRA Foundation supporters.

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 fourth year of supporting the *Friends* program as its National Corporate Sponsor at the exclusive Guardian level.

After becoming involved with *Friends of NRA* by supplying rifles through the Vendor Direct program, Daniel Defense increased their support in 2014 as National Corporate Sponsor and the relationship has grown stronger each year. "Our support of, and affiliation with, *Friends of NRA* is one we're proud to continue," said Daniel. "The work they do in educating and training younger shooters, supporting shooting competitions, and promoting Second Amendment rights is invaluable and in alignment with our own values here at Daniel Defense."

In 2017 Daniel Defense will make an even greater impact with those values as the *Friends of NRA* Gun of the Year manufacturer. The Daniel Defense Custom DDM4 V7® offers an unprecedented combination of performance and sleek aesthetic appeal in the unique Rattlecan™ pattern which blends Daniel Defense's Tornado and Mil-Spec Plus finishes for a look exclusive to this Gun of the Year model (pictured left). Laser engraving of the *Friends of NRA* logo and "2017 Gun of the Year" text along with custom NRA serialization make this rifle even more unique. This is the first AR ever chosen for the honor, and Daniel proudly states that this is a benchmark selection citing the AR-15 as a mainstream

gun—one of a few visions he had for this firearm.

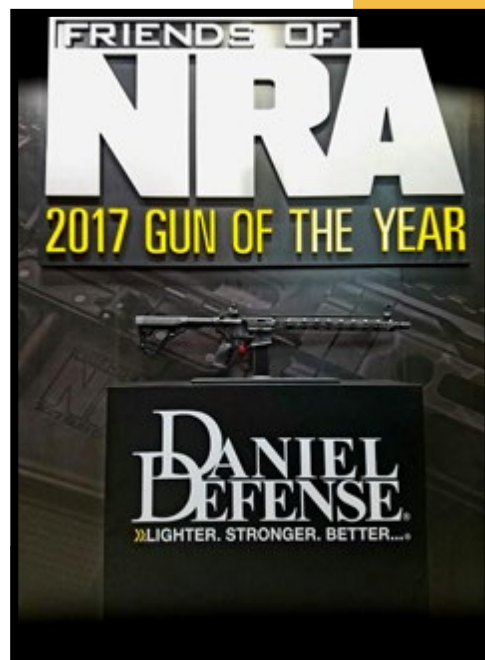
"Daniel Defense continues to be a vital partner of The NRA Foundation as a Guardian Level sponsor, a firearms supplier for the *Friends of NRA* Standard Package and Vendor Direct program, and a donor to national events," says NRA Director of Corporate Development John da Silva. "Plus it is aligned with NRA in many other areas."

The Daniels' commitment to Second Amendment freedoms extends far beyond the *Friends* program. Among other sponsorships and NRA support, Daniel Defense signed on for a two-year agreement as the presenting sponsor of the new NRA America's Rifle Challenge (ARC) program in 2016 and 2017, along with supplying rifles for the World Championship ARC Match rounds in 2015 and 2016. As of this January, the company is also proud to be a 100% NRA membership organization.

"Daniel Defense and *Friends of NRA* go hand in hand," says NRA Merchandise Manager Kathy Purtell. "With their strong passion for freedom and eagerness to preserve the future of the shooting sports, the Daniels provide us with immeasurable support. From their commitment as a Guardian Level corporate sponsor, to creating and promoting their M4 Carbine V7 as the 2017 Gun of the Year, people like Marty and Cindy Daniel are rare and very special. Whenever you need something, they're both there—willing to do whatever it takes for the NRA, The NRA Foundation and the mission to preserve freedom."

We want to thank Daniel Defense and its committed staff for all the support they provide The NRA Foundation as a sponsor and as an American company providing an American product for use at our local *Friends of NRA* events. That support is just part of the commitment that Daniel Defense and its founder have made to defending freedom and the firearms industry. ■

Interested in becoming a Friends of NRA National Corporate Sponsor? Contact the NRA Corporate Development Team at 703-267-1356 or visit www.friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx.



FRIENDS OF NRA AND DDM4V7 RATTLECAN™

Daniel Defense prominently displayed its support of the program at its booth at the 2017 Great American Outdoor Show in February.



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REP WRAP



Michael Herrera
WASHINGTON FRIENDS OF NRA
Field Rep since Jan. 2015

What did you do in your previous life?

Prior to becoming the NRA Field Representative for Washington State I worked in communications for Colorado Parks and Wildlife for four years. I also participated in amateur boxing from 2001 to 2012 and turned professional in 2012 until 2014.

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

I got involved with *Friends of NRA* because I am great friends with the Colorado NRA Field Rep Brad Dreier, and I was intrigued by the program as soon as he introduced me to it.

Favorite firearm and why...

My favorite firearm is my youth model .243 rifle. My father gave it to me for my twelfth birthday, and now it has been passed down to my son. This firearm is what I used when I started hunting and learning about gun safety. It is not only a firearm in my gun safe but now a tradition passed down to the second generation in my family.

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

The number one thing I cannot live without is my family. Everything I do and strive to be is for them. The second would be my faith, which has built a strong foundation to keep me going. Third would be a spirit of adventure and exploring the outdoors. As I tell my wife, "I was born a mountain man, and a mountain man I will die." Fourth is the Second Amendment! How else would I be able to own my second baby, my .243 rifle? Fifth is my career. Coming from a small town where I never even dreamed I could do something professionally with my passion for guns, this job means more than words could ever express.

Tell us something unique about you...

To date I am the youngest field representative to be hired by the NRA, having been hired at age 24. I pride myself on being able to break barriers and hope to make a difference.

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