

TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

FIREARMS FOR FREEDOM

One man made sure his legacy would live on by donating his firearm collection to The NRA Foundation

CAMO AND PEARLS

Learn about a ladies only event happening in Nome, AK in early 2019

ANSWERING AMERICA

Major Edward James Land, Jr. joins The NRA Foundation for an interview about his custom Saber - M700



2019 Standard Merchandise Package

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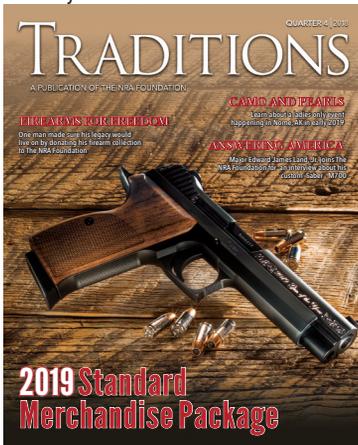
COVER STORY

One Vision: The Future of Freedom

Friends of NRA's 2019 Standard Package firearms and merchandise will inspire another year of fundraising for the shooting sports.

ON THE COVER

Photo by Peter Fountain



The 2019 *Friends of NRA* Gun of the Year is a precision made pistol with updated American controls, sleek walnut target grips, and a smooth clean target trigger.

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Volunteer Fundraising

The Backbone of *Friends of NRA*

Diane Sohn

*Event Marketing &
Communications Manager,
National Rifle Association*



Volunteer fundraising was a concept I was not familiar with when I joined the NRA team in August as the Event Marketing and Communications Manager. Coming from a nonprofit background with a focus in educating community association leaders, I had worked closely with volunteers. In fact, many of our committees were run by volunteers. However, I couldn't imagine how one could use volunteers to lead fundraising efforts; I had to see for myself how volunteer fundraising worked.

I quickly became familiar with this group of like-minded volunteers and how they come together to support and protect the Second Amendment. These hard-working volunteers work hard to plan events filled with fun, fellowship, and a chance to win a firearm or two. I experienced this fellowship firsthand when I attended my first *Friends of NRA* banquet in Annapolis, Maryland, just a few weeks after joining the NRA team.

When I arrived at the banquet, I immediately saw how the volunteers work together with their local *Friends of NRA* Field Representative to set up dinner, games, and auction items. I watched the volunteers and committee members in their respective assigned roles, all true believers in the Second Amendment; passionate about the *Friends of NRA* program through The NRA Foundation, and working hard to ensure the event ran smoothly.

As I walked into the banquet site, I stopped to take it all in. I had seen the 2018 Standard Merchandise Package in print during the first days in my new position. I had studied each item closely, read each description completely; but seeing the items in person was spectacular. The quality of the items was remarkable, and many of the products were made in the USA. From home décor to firearm accessories to one-of-a-kind collectibles, there was something for everyone.

As the banquet continued into the night, I suddenly understood the power of volunteer fundraising. Through its *Friends of NRA* program, the NRA Foundation has created a place for freedom-loving Americans to join together to support our Second Amendment rights by funding shooting sports programs. I was reminded of one of my favorite quotes, "no one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude," - author unknown.

Although this was my first *Friends of NRA* banquet, it will not be my last. My future at the NRA will be filled with "firsts," and I look forward to each and every one of them. In the next few months, I will have the opportunity to meet many NRA volunteers and supporters at Great American Outdoor Show as I work my first Wall of Guns. I also will experience my first Annual Meeting in April 2019 followed by my first attendance of The National NRA Foundation Banquet. I hope you will be there as I look forward to meeting more of our volunteers and supporters who are truly the backbone of The NRA Foundation. We thank you - the supporters, committee members, and volunteers - for helping us continue the tradition and Teach Freedom.

ANSWERING AMERICA



Known as the father of the modern U.S. Marine Corps sniping program, former NRA Secretary, and retired USMC Major Edward J. "Jim" Land Jr. has spent his life in service to the Constitution, freedom and the American way of life. Major Land has partnered with the *Friends of NRA* program to create a one-of-a-kind firearm, which will help secure our Second Amendment rights through fundraising.

Q & A with Major Edward J. "Jim" Land Jr.

★ Share your first recollection of using a firearm. How old were you and who taught you how to shoot?

I was four years old the first time I shot a firearm, with the help of my mother & father. One of my first memorable shooting experiences was at the age of six, my Dad took me on my first squirrel hunt. We camped out, built a fire and had some hot dogs, making a lasting impression on a young boy.

★ Why do you think it is important to protect our Second Amendment rights?

Protecting our Second Amendment rights is one of the most critical aspects of maintaining our country and survival. It is one of the most important rights that protects all others. History has shown that when a country loses their individual right to own a firearm they also lose many of the freedoms that we still enjoy in the United States. I fear if we lose our Second Amendment rights, we would see our country deteriorate worse than it already has.

★ What is your best secret to success?

Hard work. Coming from the mid-west and from a farm, being brought up that way, you were judged by how hard of a worker you were. If you weren't a hard worker, you didn't make it. Working hard to accomplish your goals was instilled in me at a young age. I would attribute my upbringing and willingness to work hard, which has led me to the success I have achieved.

★ What made you want to partner with Friends of NRA and create the custom Saber M700?

At first I was hesitant, but I knew it would prove to be a benefit to the *Friends of NRA* program. I believe strongly in the mission of which I have been involved for some time. I knew it would help raise funds which are needed to support many great shooting sports programs.

★ At what age did you know you wanted to do something remarkable?

I don't believe I ever thought that way. But, I remember what my mother used to say, "If you want to hear God laugh, just tell him your plans." So, I never told him my plans.

★ What makes this firearm unique? Why did you pick certain specifications of the firearm?

When approached about this project, I was adamant that if I was going to put my name on it, I wanted it to be right. I embraced this project when I learned that my trusted friend and gunsmith Gary Gregory, Marine Master Sergeant retired, was consulting and inspecting each rifle to ensure they met the quality and desired performance. Gregory was instrumental in developing the Marine M40-A1 Sniper Rifle, and I fully trusted his experience. Each of these rifles have been individually customized and finely tuned. I personally shot each rifle to ensure they performed at a 100 yard minimum 5-shot MOA group. I was impressed at the overall consistency of each rifle. Each of these 50 rifles have undergone individual accurizing with features not available from an 'off the shelf' production rifle. I am proud of this project and for these rifles to bear my name. They also shoot great!

★ Describe the most rewarding experience in your career.

One of my most rewarding experiences was my two years as a drill instructor at the marine base in San Diego, CA. Back in the 1950's, many newly enlisted men were there because that was their last opportunity to become useful citizens. You would get a platoon of approximately 70 men, some couldn't even read or write. To see the transformation and changes in these men was most rewarding.

Throughout both my military career and with the NRA, getting people on the range and introducing new shooters to the sport have been most satisfying. As an NRA instructor, it is something that I still find rewarding today.

Contact your local Field Representative to learn more about the Sentry Level Sponsorship for your chance to own the Major E. J. Land Signature Edition Tactical Rifle. For the full interview, visit the NRA Blog.

The Future of Freedom

Friends of NRA's 2019 Merchandise Preview

By Tyler Proksa

Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

Each year, *Friends of NRA* assembles a new and unique Standard Merchandise Package designed to support and inspire the blockbuster program's fundraising efforts. The vendor preview meeting was sponsored by Blue Ridge Knives, and did not disappoint. It included the first look at the collection of 30 items which encompassed a variety of exclusive and custom patriotic pieces, moments, and traditions in American and shooting sports history.

Hand selected by our six member selection team, these unique items are chosen based on quality, craftsmanship, functionality, fundraising potential, and compatibility with the ideals of the *Friends of NRA* program. The 2019 Standard Merchandise Package is sure to have something of interest for everyone who attends a *Friends of NRA* banquet.

Most all of the 2019 firearms and merchandise items are made in the USA. Procured over many months, and sometimes years, by our experienced selection team to bring you the very best of the best. These items won't disappoint. Many of the items represent a combined effort of numerous contributors that have been brought together by the *Friends of NRA* team: metal workers, woodworkers, manufacturers, artists, gunsmiths, and veterans have all played a unique part in the 2019 lineup.

Charlie Daniels Signed Lyrics

"Another special piece in our Standard Package is the frame of Charlie Daniels' 'Simple Man' lyrics, signed by Charlie himself. Charlie has been a great supporter of the *Friends of NRA* program, and is always asking what he can do next. He is a true American Patriot. We are very grateful to work with him," stated Merchandise Manager, Kathy Purtell.

Gun of the Year

This year's Gun of the Year is the Sig Sauer P210 American Standard 9MM Pistol. It is precision made with updated American controls, sleek walnut target grips, and a smooth, clean target trigger. With *Friends of NRA* engraved on the slide, this firearm is an amazing and unique piece that you can only find at your local *Friends of NRA* event, making the Sig Sauer P210 our 2019 Gun of the Year.

"Sig Sauer has gone over the top for our 2019 Gun of the Year. This American-made P210 delivers unmatched shooting performance, and will give our patriotic attendees the opportunity to own a piece of heritage," noted Chad Franklin, Central Regional Director.

Concealed Wooden Flag

"This coming year, we had two of our Veteran-owned vendors, Flags of Valor and Tactical Walls, combine forces to create the Concealed Wooden Flag cabinet. Both vendors have been great supporters of the *Friends of NRA* program, so creating this concealed flag cabinet is very special to us," explained Purtell.

The vertical concealment flag is designed as a patriotic piece of wall art meant to honor our military, our country's history, and



* Not available in all 50 states



recognize the freedom and liberty of the United States. Inside the low-profile flag, there is a usable interior cavity to securely store and hide valuables behind a hidden magnetic locking system. This unit has a slim design profile that is lightweight, easy to install, and looks great in any room.

Promatic Clay Target Trap

The Clay Target Trap is lightweight, yet robust and easily portable with a trolley base and foot pedal release. It has a 65m/71yd throwing distance, 50 clay capacity with a 1.5 second reloading time. This target trap also offers a 10-30 degree elevation.

"We are excited to have Promatic as a vendor for our 2019 Standard Package. The Promatic Pigeon is a fantastic machine for beginners in the clay target sports, for family fun, or for the competitor needing to practice on a presentation. Promatic shares a passion and commitment with the *Friends of NRA*, and we are proud to have them," stated Bryan Hoover, Eastern Regional Director.



Bullet Link Bracelet

Created for 2019 *Friends of NRA* events by Country Strong in Washington, the Bullet Link Bracelet is easily one of our most creative and conversational pieces. Sparkle with the right to bear arms in red, white, and blue on your wrist. This adjustable nickel-plated brass link bracelet is made with real .40 caliber spent rounds with red, white, and blue Swarovski crystals adorning the center with a dangling USA flag charm. Southwest Regional Director, Jason Quick noted, "These red, white, and blue Swarovski crystals shine as strong as our flag. I can't wait to see this Country Strong bracelet at all of our *Friends of NRA* events. The ladies are going to love it."

Silver Stag Guide Knife Combo Set

"Our partners at Silver Stag have once again provided a functional, but distinctly unique set of knives for the *Friends of NRA* program. Hunters everywhere will be proud to show this set of knives off around the fire at their hunting camp," shared Al Hammond, Southern Regional Director. "With the addition of the Silver Stag Guide Knife Combo Set, you will be sure to get in touch with your sharp side."

CMMG The Guard

Enter the CMMG MkGs PSB GUARD. This AR Platform firearm is chambered in the ubiquitous 9MM Luger round and was specifically designed to use the ultra-reliable, Glock 9MM Handgun magazines. However, the feature that sets the GUARD apart from the competition is the unique Radial Delayed Blowback operating system. "This allows the Guard to be a smoother shooting firearm, and makes it easier to keep follow-up shots on target," noted Brad Kruger, Western Regional Director. "Couple all of this with a KAK Shockwave brace and an integrated rail for optics, and you have one very reliable and tough firearm in a very small package."

Brothers Forever Sculpture

Beginning with the air-strike in Pearl Harbor and ending with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this commemorative sculpture honors the courage and sacrifice of those unsung heroes who secured our American freedoms 75 years ago. This sculpture is hand-cast with a faux bronze finish, and finished with a brass plaque on the base citing, "Brothers Forever-Never Forgotten." Tom Ulik, South Central Regional Director said, "We wanted a piece that would pay tribute to multiple generations of American soldiers and honor their service and sacrifices. We think this sculpture does just that - thank you veterans and veteran families!"

The 2019 Standard Merchandise Package is a display of patriotism and what we fight for. The preservation of the future of freedom is our number one goal, and we need your help to do it. Attend your next local *Friends of NRA* event and be part of preserving the next generation of shooting sports. ■

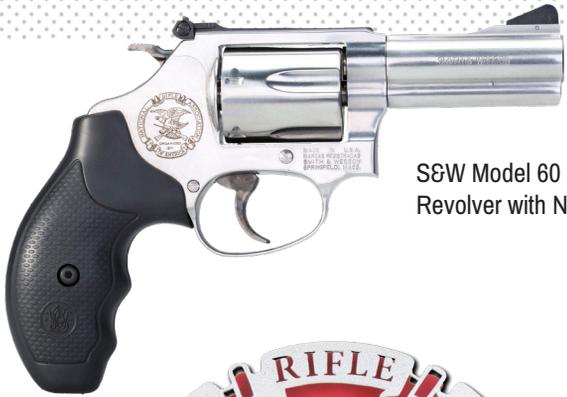
Learn more about the Gun of the Year and all of the items in the 2019 Standard Merchandise Package online at friendsofnra.org/Merchandise

Two-thirds of this year's items are made in the USA. Look for the carrot(^) next to the item name that denotes American-made products!

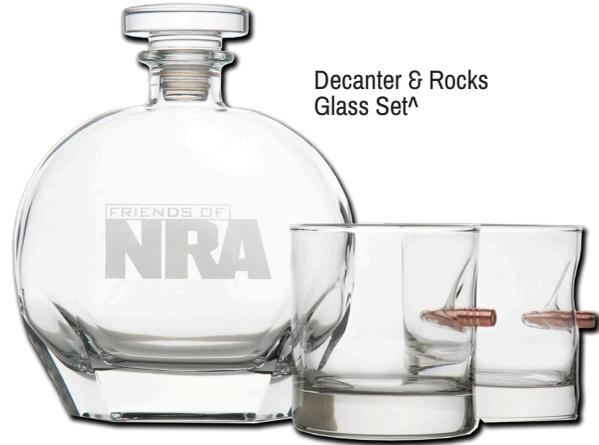


**Thank you to our 2019 Vendor Preview Meeting Sponsor
Blue Ridge Knives**

FRIENDS OF NRA 2019



S&W Model 60 .357 Mag Revolver with NRA Seal[^]



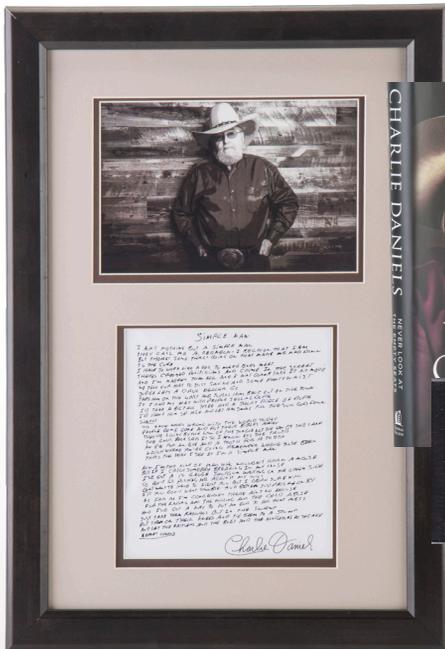
Decanter & Rocks Glass Set[^]



Metal NRA Seal[^]



Sauer 100 Classic XT 6.5 Creedmoor Rifle with NRA Seal



Signed Charlie Daniels Framed Lyrics, Book, and CD Set[^]

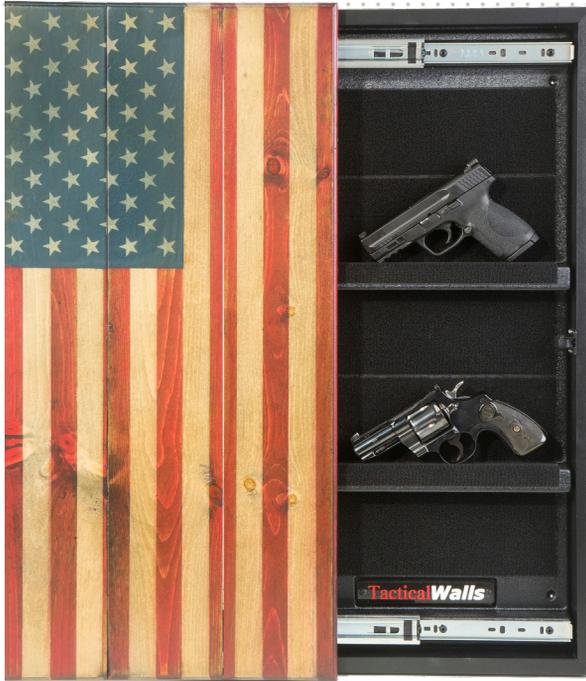


Silver Stag Guide Knife Combo Set[^]



CMMG The GUARD 9mm AR Pistol with Logo[^]

MERCHANDISE PACKAGE



Concealed Wooden Flag[^]



Kimber Micro 9 9mm Pistol with Logo^{*^}

^{*} Not available in all 50 states [^] Made in the USA



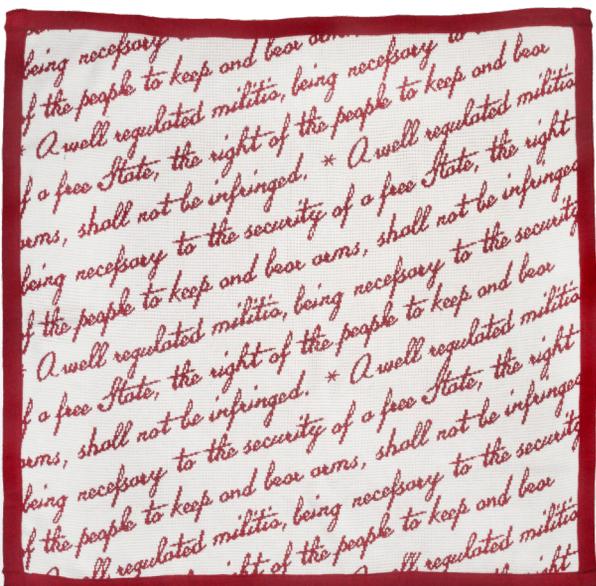
Brothers Forever Sculpture



Mossberg 500 Pump-Action 12 Ga. Shotgun Combo[^]



Blanket with 2A Script[^]



Puma Fixed Blade Knife with Logo

FRIENDS OF NRA 2019

** Not available in all 50 states ^ Made in the USA*

Copper Windspinner[^]



Clay Target Trap



Vintage Cast Iron Revolver Set



Bullet Link Bracelet[^]



Henry Single Shot Brass .45-70 Rifle with NRA Seal[^]



Berger Ammunition



Faith, Family, Freedom Sign[^]



MERCHANDISE PACKAGE

Covert Rifle Backpack



U.S. Constitution
Leather Handbag



Barrel Wood Basket^



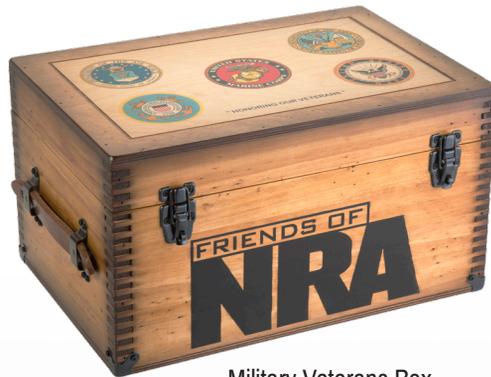
Red Ryder Teach Freedom BB Gun



U.S. Cavalry Presentation
Short Sword



Military Veterans Box
with Logo^



Barrel Head with NRA Seal^



Boyt Navy Bag Set with Logo





Meet The Fabulous Five

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

Established in 1938, the Western Wayne County Conservation Association (WWCCA) has a long history of supporting the *Friends of NRA* Program while advancing the shooting skills of men, women and juniors in Michigan. Moved from Nankin Township to Plymouth, Mich. in the mid-1950's, this special club offers NRA education classes, hunter safety classes, conservation efforts, competitions and family-friendly social events. The 90 acre plot is equipped for archery, trap, skeet, five stand, rifle, pistol and black powder shooting.

What makes WWCCA really stand out these days is their Women's Sport Shooting that was started in 2012 by friends and WWCCA members, Doreen Fava and Dianne Salata. "When I started shooting 18 years ago," Salata explained, "I did not have a family member to help me, so I relied on the club members, and that was great. But, it was still a struggle to find information and advance my skills." Not wanting other women to face the same challenges in learning about shooting sports, guns, ammunition, safety, techniques and women's shooting clothing, Women's Sport Shooting was born.

Women's Sport Shooting started with shotgun and pistol training, and received a tremendous response from the women of the club and non-members seeking guidance for shooting. Salata recalled many of the women sharing how they always wanted to learn to shoot, but never knew where to start. "We provide that opportunity for women, and they appreciate the chance to have

specialized training in a relaxed, safe atmosphere," she said.

"Our program specializes in teaching women who have never held a firearm before to start from the very beginning with private, one-on-one training before they attend one of our monthly handgun or shotgun classes. Many women help me manage the program, and we've grown rapidly. Last year it was my great honor to have four women join me in the NRA Pistol and Shotgun Instructors Training certification," said Salata.

WWCCA is also involved in the *Friends of NRA* program. "We sponsor the WWCCA *Friends of NRA* banquet every year," said Salata. "Kim Harris, Kim Harper and Amanda Arcy also serve on the planning committee for this event which is always scheduled for the first Friday in May. We donate items for the raffles in addition to volunteering our time during the banquet."

Al Herman, Senior Field Representative for Michigan, noted, "With the help from these ladies, the WWCCA *Friends of NRA* banquet raised \$32,500 net this year. They are a great team and get many more donations every year than any other team in the state."

Read on for a personal look into the lives of five WWCCA women who completed NRA Pistol and Shotgun Instructor Training certifications, then go to your local range to get involved, and find out about NRA certification classes in your area.

Photo Caption page 12: sitting left to right- Frank Sinagra, William J Arcy. Standing left to right- Kimberly Harris, Amanda Arcy, Dianne Salata, Karen Harris and Kim Harper

Dianne D. Salata- NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, Chairman of Women's Sport Shooting, *Friends of NRA* Volunteer, WWCCA Member

Dianne has been in the construction industry for 26 years as a senior project manager and architectural CAD designer. She is married and has four adult children. Dianne has been involved in the *Friends of NRA* program for the past five years.

As a member of the Western Wayne County Conservation Association for 18 years, Dianne has participated in many shooting and social activities at the club. She served as the Chairman of the Women's Sport Shooting program at WWCCA for six years where she developed and organized handgun and shotgun training events.

"Being the Chairman is a great responsibility which I take very seriously. As our program grew every year, more women joined and added their skills, ideas, and volunteered their time. I strongly believe that mentoring other women in the shooting sports is the key to the growth of our program," stated Salata.

The Women's Sport Shooting program at WWCCA has applied for and received grants in the form of merchandise from The NRA

Foundation for the past three years. "We typically receive about 30 flats of 12 gauge and 20 gauge shotgun shells, .22 and 9mm cartridges for pistol training, pistol targets, safety glasses, ear protection, NRA branded visors and various other training equipment. We prefer to receive equipment instead of money from The NRA Foundation," explained Salata.

Dianne contributes the success of the Women's Sport Shooting club to the men who have been amazing in sharing their knowledge, time, and skills. Frank Sinagra and William J. Arcy have volunteered a great deal of time and have participated as NRA Certified Instructors on the range and in the classroom.

Because the program has been such a success and they have great exposure in the club and community, Dianne knew she had to take on the responsibility of becoming an NRA Certified Pistol Instructor. "As Chairman, I could not put all the responsibility on our NRA instructors. Having women NRA Certified Pistol Instructors would also legitimize our program," explains Salata.

“I was thrilled that the four women introduced in this article wanted the same goals as I did. Now we can provide even more opportunities for women to experience NRA training with the help from NRA Foundation's grants.”

-Dianne D. Salata



Kim Harper- NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, *Friends of NRA* Committee Member, Handgun Co-chair for Women's Sport Shooting, Western Wayne County Conservation Association Member

Kim is a software consultant, longtime shooter, and mom to one grown son. Harper joined WWCCA two years ago to have a place to shoot. It was at Outdoor Rama, a local showcase of all things outdoors when she first heard about WWCCA and their Women's Sport Shooting group. When Kim joined, she met a lot of really fun women who liked to shoot. "I have been able to shoot regularly and am motivated to shoot more competitively. There are some very good shooters in our group that allow me to test myself when shooting with this group," remarks Harper.

Kim loves to introduce her friends to the shooting sports. By becoming an NRA Certified Instructor, she knows she can teach them the best and safest techniques. "Our Women's Sport Shooting group is growing. Being able to give back by being an instructor is a privilege. I am working to expand my NRA certification to become a rifle instructor," states Harper. Her goal is to ensure anyone who wants to learn how to shoot a handgun can learn in a safe and fun environment. "It is important in this day and age that those who want to own a gun learn how to handle it safely and correctly," suggests Harper.

"I have a lot of my female friends now wanting to learn to shoot. This year we are also working with our sister club to help them get their women's shooting sports discipline off the ground. I believe that women need to be part of the solution in protecting our Second Amendment rights," adds Harper. Kim also sits as part of the planning committee for WWCCA *Friends of NRA*, and has been involved with the Friends program for the past five years.

Kimberly Harris- NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, Chairman of Galz-N-Gunz Shooting Clinic, *Friends of NRA* Committee Member, Women's Sport Shooting Member, Western Wayne County Conservation Association Member

Kimberly has worked in the same dental office for the last 30 years as the office manager. After raising her son, she had some extra time to fill and discovered the sport of shooting.

Harris has been a member of WWCCA for three years and has been sport shooting there for eight years. Recently, she took over as chairman of the Galz-n-Gunz ladies-only shooting clinic. Her goal is to introduce women and young ladies to the shooting sports in a non-threatening, safe, and fun environment. The program has submitted a grant application to The NRA Foundation, and in 2019, Galz-n-Gunz will change its name to Women on Target to coincide with the NRA's program.

"My goal as an NRA certified pistol instructor is to introduce women to sport shooting and personal protection. Over the years, many women share that they are afraid to shoot a gun but really would like to learn. This certification also gives me the ability to train one-on-one with the ladies," explains Harris.

"I see a change in our area; more women realize that they need to protect themselves and are buying firearms. The problem is they are not sure what do with them, they take a CPL class but don't carry. My certification will allow me to train women how to safely handle and fire a pistol in a non-threatening, friendly environment," remarks Harris.



Karen Harris- NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, Shotgun / Trap League Co-Chair for Women's Sport Shooting, Women's Sport Shooting Member, Western Wayne County Conservation Association Member

Karen is married and with two grown sons, and is the shotgun co-chair for the Women's Sport Shooting group at the WWCCA. "My husband wanted our boys to have an understanding and respect for firearms and signed them up for a CPL class. Not wanting to be left out, I joined in," explains Harris. She started shooting six years ago, and that was the first time she ever held a pistol. A year later she would shoot a shotgun and rifle for the first time. Karen has expanded her passion for firearms by joining the planning committee of WWCCA *Friends of NRA*, and has been involved with the Friends program for the past five years.

"I believe the NRA Certified Pistol Instructor program provides the crucial information and training required to be a qualified instructor. When instructing a new shooter on the line, I want to be confident that I am teaching the skills and knowledge needed to be a safe, confident, and responsible gun handler," states Harris.

"I have met women who wish to learn how to handle a pistol, and they were comfortable asking me to teach them, one-on-one. I was reluctant and would suggest they attend a women's only class. The instructor certification program has helped me be more confident in my teaching abilities, one-on-one, about handling and shooting a pistol safely and responsibly," adds Harris.

Karen also spends her time as an instructor for the Girls on Target program which was started this year. The program taught Girl Scout cadets from Troop 40353 out of Canton / Plymouth Michigan, ages 12 thru 14 years old. The girls were able to shoot both pistol and rifle for their badge requirements and used equipment donated through The NRA Foundation grant program.



Amanda K. Arcy- NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, Friends of NRA Committee Volunteer, Former Team Captain of Scholastic Pistol Program at WWCCA

Amanda is 23 years old and earned a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from Madonna University. She will earn her Master of Science in Accountancy in December from Walsh College.

Arcy is a member of the WWCCA and she enjoys competitive shooting, as well as bowling and tennis. This past year Amanda has volunteered as a coach and an NRA Instructor at the Women’s Sport Shooting events at her club. “I plan to get other NRA Certifications, and I am currently working on my NRA Shotgun Instructor Certification. I think that my age attracts other young women to get involved in this sport, along with them wanting to be able to defend themselves. Since I have been at the club, I have seen the growth of more ladies being active and becoming members,” states Arcy.

Amanda enjoys shooting pistols, and since serving as captain of her pistol team, she has wanted to teach others the safe handling and shooting of pistols. “The thought of becoming an NRA Certified Pistol Instructor always interested me, and this just happened to be the right time to do it with a group of other ladies! Also, I have met many new people who have never touched a pistol before, and they have asked me to teach them how to shoot the correct and safe way,” explains Arcy.

With this certification, she hopes to give those who are not familiar with firearms the confidence to pick up a pistol and know how to handle it safely. “I see more and more women that want to feel that they can defend and protect themselves. There are also women who want to learn how to handle and shoot a firearm because there may be a firearm in their home and they want to feel comfortable around it,” said Arcy.

Along with Diane, Kim, Karen and Kimberly, Amanda volunteers her time as an instructor for the Girls on Target program. WWCCA is thrilled to introduce the next generation of young women into the shooting sports knowing they will receive the proper skills, knowledge, and attitude for gun safety and marksmanship.



FIREARMS SECURE OUR RIGHTS. YOUR GUNS HELP SUSTAIN THEM.



By Callie Davis

Director of Advancement Communications, National Rifle Association

As we grow older and make plans for our loved ones and special treasures, all firearm owners must eventually answer one question: What will happen to my guns when I'm gone? For many NRA supporters and friends, the answer is NRA Firearms For Freedom, a unique program supporting the liberties that built this country through gifts of firearms.

Through the NRA Firearms For Freedom program, NRA Life member McLane "Mac" Tilton IV left an incredible legacy to help preserve the shooting sports. An all-American guy, Mac's interest in firearms was deeply rooted in his family's military history. His great grandfather and namesake was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marine Corps and served from 1861-

1897. As a Fleet Marine Officer, Asiatic Squadron, Captain Tilton led amphibious forces in an attack on Salée River forts on Kangwha Island. Upon return, he wrote a report to Navy Secretary George M. Robeson, and devoted several pages to deficient ammunition and rifle malfunctions. These letters were published by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1966, and one of his swords

Mac Tilton driving his Formula 3 car at the 1960 Watkins Glen Grand Prix





Mac Tilton (far right), 1969 BRE Datsun 2000 team

U. S. National Rifle Team member, competitive shooter, and Top Shot competitor Kelly Bachand wrote of Mac, “It is rare now to find people so ready to invest their time and money in others... having such a quality piece of equipment, no doubt one of the most accurate Palma rifles in the nation, does for a shooter’s confidence what nothing else really can.”

At 70 years old, Mac sold MT Guns and spent the next 7 years planning his legacy. He wanted to be certain that his name and reputation be honorably carried forward in the tradition of his great grandfather. With the help of the NRA Firearms For Freedom staff, Mac donated 165 firearms which were auctioned for more than \$120,000 to benefit The NRA Foundation.

Thank you, Mac, for your Legacy.

Mac’s collection was something truly special. Most firearm donations received are much smaller in scale, but important nonetheless. If you want to turn your firearms into a contribution to The NRA Foundation, consider doing it through NRA Firearms For Freedom. Partnered with BudsGunShop.com, this program supports the liberties that built our great country. NRA’s stewardship includes professional pick-up, packing, handling, and transports – all at no cost to the donor.

Want to know how to take the next step? If you’re beginning to think about creating a plan to transition your firearms, or even if you’re already well into the process, contact NRA Firearms For Freedom Coordinator, Clifford T. Burgess. He will listen carefully to your plans and goals, and will connect you with the appropriate staff members that have expertise in helping donors implement their plans and achieve their goals. ■

Visit <http://www.nrafff.com> today to start your donation process and keep your legacy alive!



Mac Tilton and Sam Tilton (wife) at the 2015 Performance Racing Industry show

currently has a home in an exhibit at the Marine Corps Museum.

Mac Tilton IV got his first firearms license at age 13. By 16, he was the licensed proprietor of Custom Gun Shop, run out of the garage at his home in Connecticut. Mac built his adult career in motor racing, but devoted all of his retired time to firearms. He offered gunsmithing services, built target rifles for competition through his business MT Guns, and was the sole importer of Barnard Precision Rifle Actions for 17 years.

Mac was a giver. He donated rifles to youth groups, sometimes up to 500 guns annually. He said,

“The future of the firearms industry depends on the future generations having a positive introduction to the shooting sports.”



Mac Tilton at the BRE 50th Anniversary Reunion at the Peterson Museum



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SNAP



The busy showroom floor at the 2018 National NRA Foundation Banquet in Dallas.



The 2018 Gun of the Year Set was the highest netting item for 2018 supporting the Friends of NRA.



With the help from an NRA Foundation grant, Washington State's Hunting and Fishing Day was a solid success.



Students opportunity tative Alex



Eddie Eagle celebrated his 30th birthday at the Great American Outdoor Show.



Lester Mallette of Cenla, Louisiana Friends of NRA poses for a picture with young 2nd Ammendment supporters.



Many events honored veterans, presenting them with special auction items.



The ladies of Field Ops posed for a quick picture at the 2018 Winter Banquet.



Grants from The NRA Foundation supplied thousands of protective gear to clubs and organizations all across the country.



from session 1 of Y.E.S. had the to ask questions to Represent-Mooney of West Virginia.



Field Representatives from all over the country united with the Pledge at the 2018 Vendor Preview Meeting.



Young sportsmen and women are the future of freedom with support from The NRA Foundation.



Members of the Valley Forge Military Academy trap team in Pennsylvania pose for a picture with their grant banner.



Great American Outdoor Show Wall of Gun's winner points to his new prize.



2018 Y.E.S. participant and scholarship winner, Chloe St. George works the Wall of Guns at her local Friends of NRA event.



Senior Field Representative Craig Haggard from Indiana was awarded the Highest Net Income award for 2018.

FRIENDS OF NRA

A LOOK BACK AT FRIENDS OF NRA ACTIVITIES IN 2018

Submit your Friends of NRA and NRA Foundation photos to friends@nrahq.org! Help us celebrate our success with more memories and milestones.

SHOT

PA Conserving Wildlife & Shooting Sports

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



13 year old Ella Mae White with archery equipment donated by The NRA Foundation



15 year old Ripley Kindervater holding a mallard to be banded

Created by the Crawford County Sportsmen's Council, Inc. the first year for the Crawford County Youth Conservation Camp was in 1984. The seven-day residential camp for Crawford County youth between the ages of 13 and 18 holds between 40-50 campers a year. As the cost of the overnight camp was subsidized by the Council and through fundraisers, it came as no surprise there was a hiatus when there was a change in leadership and a lack of counselors and camp staff.

However, after 12 years the Crawford County Youth Conservation Camp started back up, and held its first camp in 2018 thanks to a grant from The NRA Foundation. "Although the camp size was small – the kids were fantastic and well-mannered. What a pleasure to be able to interact with them," stated Bob Schoenfeldt, President of Crawford County Sportsmen's Council, Inc.

"The mission of the Crawford County Youth Conservation Camp is to connect youth to the natural world and engage them in outdoor recreation (including shooting sports), conservation, and lifelong environmental stewardship. We hope they will discover the endless activities the outdoors can offer and the benefits of protecting and conserving open spaces, parks, and wilderness areas as well as enjoying the shooting sports and what the outdoor world has to offer for recreation," explained Bob.

The camp was held August 13-17, 2018 at the Saegertown Sportsman's Club. The five-day camp was jam-packed with all different types of outdoor and wildlife conservation activities, such as building Wood Duck nesting boxes (donated by Delta Waterfowl Pymatuning Chapter), a compass course, travel to Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, and discussions centered around conservation, the PA Wildlife Heritage, and environmental issues to name a few.

There was a full day dedicated to archery shooting, .22 caliber rifle shooting, and clay pigeon shooting with 20 gauge shotguns. Bob mentioned he was initially worried about where they would get the equipment to hold the camp. "Our Field Representative, Tom Baldrige, recommended that I look at The NRA Foundation grant program, especially since Council is a 501(c)(3) as recognized by the IRS. So I applied for five 20 gauge shotguns, ammo (shotgun and .22 rifle), hearing and eye protection, archery equipment (bows, arrows, arm guards, finger gloves, and targets), gun cases and cleaning equipment as well as clay targets. Wow – we were awarded \$3,900 in merchandise and cash. The merchandise started arriving at my home and my wife was really impressed. We used our home and garage as storage unit for all the stuff," Bob said.



Campers take a quick break to take a group photo

Bob believes in the 3R philosophy of Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation of hunters, and this philosophy is one of the main reasons he is so heavily involved with the camp. “This generation is our future leaders and environmentalists. Today very few, if any people, understand The North American Wildlife Conservation Model. The model has two basic principles – that our fish and wildlife belong to all Americans, and that they need to be managed in a way that their populations will be sustained forever. It is time for our community and our decision makers to get serious about the 3R philosophy. So the question becomes more about how we pass this on to our youth when our youth have so many other attention-grabbing opportunities other than the outdoors,” explained Bob.

This is where the Crawford County Youth Conservation Camp comes in. Bob is busy planning the 2019 camp and has already applied for another NRA Foundation grant. He is hoping to develop a Facebook page within the next year to help promote the camp, but will continue to do so by word of mouth with a goal for even more youth to attend. With the feedback received following this year’s camp, Bob is sure their goal is achievable.

“We developed a ‘camp evaluation’ form that the campers took home with them, and along with their parents, completed and returned to us. I received several emails from the parents stating they would be willing to help with the camp next year. One parent even offered to demonstrate muzzle loading to the campers. A great comment that brought tears of laughter to me was, ‘I know Adam enjoyed the camp and learned a lot, even the compass course, although we’re sure he was lost for a while!’”

Bob is the secretary and a committee person for Tool City *Friends of NRA* in Crawford County. He is a Patriot Life Member of the NRA, a life member (and current Director) at the Black Ash Sportsman’s Club, and President of the Crawford County Sportsmen’s Council, Inc. Always busy and ready to serve the community Bob, “hopes that my involvement would serve as an example to other individuals, especially our youth.” ■

Submit your program for a grant today by applying at www.nrafoundation.org.

== *Friends of NRA* ==

The Busch Family Estate



By Tyler Proksa
Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

Tim Besancenez is one of the newest *Friends of NRA* Field Representatives, but he's not new to the line of work. A veteran fundraiser, Tim knows what it takes to run a successful event. He got right to work on his vision for a unique and exclusive *Friends of NRA* event: one held at the Busch Family Estate at Grants Farms. Now known as the St. Louis *Friends of NRA* banquet, the inaugural event was a big hit. The Busch Family Estate at Grants Farm proved to be the perfect setting for a *Friends of NRA* event, rich with beautiful land, wildlife, and history.

This upscale event welcomed 225 attendees to the estate where ticket prices averaged around \$150 per person, and was the highest net raising first-year banquet for 2018, raising \$43,289.55! In attendance were members of the Busch family who showed their support of the *Friends of NRA* program. Tours of the mansion were also available, all of which made this event a special one to attend. Due to the exclusivity of the banquet and location, not just anyone could walk through the doors. The beautiful view of the mansion, amazing landscape, and nearby assortment of animals set the scene for a top-notch event. The massive buffet served the most impressive spread the guests could wish for, and nobody went away hungry.

“This invitation-only event goes outside of our standard *Friends of NRA* events with not only an exclusive venue, but unique auction items, hunts, and trips. It is exciting to attend because people get to experience the Anheuser Busch Estate, and not many people can say they’ve done that,” said Tim Besancenez, Southern Missouri Field Representative.

Also making an appearance was one of the iconic Budweiser Clydesdales, which attendees were able to pet and take pictures with. If the venue wasn’t already beautiful enough, the estate also serves as an animal reserve with a plethora of wild animals. With animals seeming to be a large part of the event, it wasn’t too surprising when a beautiful silver lab puppy was part of the live auction. Bred for hunting, the little pup was the star of the show. For well over two thousand dollars, the pup was welcomed into a loving home.

Along with the silver lab, the live and silent auctions also included some rare and exciting hunts. A Big Game hunt in New Mexico, a Florida Alligator hunt, a Colorado Elk hunt, and an Alabama Hog Control hunt for two were among some of the most popular. Also auctioned off were some items such as Diamond Box Seat tickets for a St. Louis Cardinals game, a

vacation package in either the Caribbean or Mexico, and a hog roast for up to 50 people. Needless to say, this banquet had something for everyone!

To help make this event happen, Tim was surrounded by 24 volunteers from start to finish. As with all *Friends of NRA* events across the country, volunteers are the backbone of the program. Tim’s deep connections with the Busch family made it possible to secure this amazing venue. For the Busch family, who has a history of supporting the Second Amendment and conservation efforts, this was a natural fit. “I spoke with the Busch family a few weeks after the event, and they couldn’t wait to start planning the 2019 event. They are very excited, and our plans are already in motion,” explained Tim.

If you are lucky enough to attend the St. Louis *Friends of NRA* event at the Busch Family Estate, you will be sure to remember it for a long time. With great attendance, a beautiful property, and Tim with his amazing team of volunteers, this event is sure to continue to grow bigger and better each year. ■

Help support the preservation on the Second Amendment by attending a Friends of NRA event near you!





More Than *Marksmanship*

By **Ashley Re**
*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
 National Rifle Association*

John Gavin sits as the club's shooting sports leader. "I am the parent of four children involved with the 4-H program; a state certified shooting sports coach and a proud U.S. citizen who strongly believes in protecting the Second Amendment. I served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division and was wounded in combat in Iraq in October 2003. After leaving the military in 2005 (honorably discharged, Purple Heart veteran), I knew I wanted to continue to serve my community and country as a civilian. In 2014 my wife and I learned that our local 4-H club, the Sandy Mush 4-H Club, was always looking for youth participants and parent volunteers, and we quickly saw and experienced the value that this group brings to our youth. Our club participates in a wide-ranging set of activities, and the kids learn by doing. I very much enjoy teaching the 4-H youth, and my own kids who are shooters on the team, about firearm safety, good sportsmanship as well as rifle and pistol marksmanship," explained John.

The goal of the 4-H program is total youth development by exposing kids to many different activities in a positive environment. A very important part of the Sandy Mush 4-H Club is the shooting sports program. John claims the club has some of the nation's best shooters, but more importantly, the youth have a deep understanding of firearms safety and good sportsmanship. John noted the team meets once a week at their club range in the evenings, and as they approach a shooting sports tournament, they meet twice a week. "Our shooters will shoot thousands of .22 rimfire rounds throughout the season. Trigger time and repetition help make our shooters some of the best in the nation."

"We want to raise good kids who can take care of themselves and begin their adult lives with confidence. We want our children to understand the importance of supporting the Second Amendment. We want our youth to understand the value of helping others by experiencing it firsthand. Of course, it wouldn't bother us, as parents, if our kids received a shooting sports scholarship to a college or university!"



Reagan Gillespie preparing to shoot in the junior class open-sight .22 rimfire rifle competition

The State Shooting Sports Team posing at the 2018 NC State Shooting Sports Tournament

The Sandy Mush 4-H Club of Buncombe Co., NC was founded in 1978 and originally led by Sandra Reeves, wife of former County Extension Director Kenneth Reeves. The club has served the area well and now hosts 46 members ranging in age from 9-18, with an even split of girls and boys.





The Shooting Sports Team posing at the 2018 NC 4-H Western Regional Shooting Sports Tournament

“In North Carolina, 4-H clubs have an opportunity to compete in a regional tournament, the NC state tournament, and then finally the national 4-H tournament. This is not a sport where everybody gets a trophy,” noted John. “The youth competitors must shoot expertly and score well to advance in the tournament. The Sandy Mush 4-H club is fortunate to send many shooters to the NC state tournament each year, and then send a smaller contingent to the national tournament with the state team to compete in rimfire rifle and pistol, as well as archery.” In 2017, the North Carolina 4-H rifle and pistol team that competed in the national tournament won first place. Two of the team members were from the Sandy Mush 4-H club.

In three years, Sandy Mush 4-H has received over \$6,500 in grant merchandise with just over \$1,700 of that this year alone from The NRA Foundation. “I learned about The NRA Foundation grant program in 2015 and immediately thought this would be a good fit. The assistance of ammunition and shooting supplies allow kids in the Sandy Mush 4-H club to participate that otherwise would not be able to. We shoot a lot, and the grant ammunition allows us to take our shooters to the next skill level by practicing weekly, sometimes even twice a week. Many parents of students in our club and I support the *Friends of NRA*. We want our kids involved with an NRA program to help secure the future of freedom,” stated John.

There are more than 74 local families involved with the Sandy Mush 4-H club and over 100 youth participate in the many events offered. The club is primarily an agricultural, livestock and shooting sports club, but the youth also attend 4-H dances and make presentations. They also host and participate in community events, like the Western North Carolina *Friends of NRA* banquet held each February in Asheville where Sandy Mush 4-H club members volunteer their time to help set-up.

Thankfully, John Gavin doesn't have to manage all of this alone. Club leader Jackie Gillespie is on hand to help. “The Sandy Mush 4-H club leader is key in pulling these events together. Jackie Gillespie inspires the kids and parent volunteers to not just attend a Memorial Day ceremony and Veterans Day ceremony but to sponsor, plan, and implement our own ceremony for the benefit of our community. We parents take care of the larger details such as reserving space at our community center, and the 4-H'ers take it from there. We have a program that involves songs sung by the kids, and we also invite a local veteran to speak. The entire community of Leicester, NC is invited to attend, and the events are always packed and standing room only. Veterans in attendance are recognized individually during the Veterans Day ceremony, and local fallen service members are recognized in the Memorial Day Ceremony with surviving family members often in attendance. As a combat wounded veteran, I am thankful

and impressed with our youth that take the time to participate in these events. I am very glad my kids are learning traditional values of our nation just like I did,” explained John.

John also noted that the 4-H club is a great program for youth and parents alike. Teaching kids responsibility, discipline, and pride in accomplishment is a very good thing, according to John. And the parents agree. “100 percent of the parents let me know throughout the season that our shooting sports program helps inspire their kids to greater discipline and instills a real sense of accomplishment. Together, the parent volunteers and I coach the youth club members in shooting fundamentals, so they all improve. The confidence they gain here carries over to academics, sports and social engagement, which we think is very important.”

Local clubs like the Sandy Mush 4-H club are always looking for parent volunteers. Follow John's good example and become a leader for the youth in your community today. ■

Help youth shooting sports programs like 4-H programs succeed in your area! Apply for an NRA Foundation grant at www.nrafoundation.org.

The Senior Rifle Team competing at the 2018 NC State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament





I LOVE AMERICA

By Ashley Re
*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*

Saying "I Love America" is dear to the heart of reserve deputy Sarah Cortez, a four-year volunteer for the Houston-Metro Friends of NRA committee. Immediately after, Sarah eagerly adds, "I Love Being a Cop."

Recently chosen for the Dick Tracy Hall of Fame due to her work as an author and public speaker about law enforcement, Sarah smiles and readily acknowledges that this is one of her favorite honors bestowed. All those literary awards—regional, national, and international—for her thirteen books have been welcome, but Dick Tracy's Hall of Fame is in a special league all its own.

Sarah grew up as a sixth-generation Texan from families originally from Spain who then inter-married with the peoples of early Texas: French, Comanche, Apache, and Mexican. Her father was an outdoorsman all his life in South Texas. "He always observed the strictest rules for safety. If another hunter made unsafe choices, my father packed up and went home that very moment, or he sent the other hunter packing. He made sure to track down and find, then kill, an animal that had been wounded—even if it meant that he got no more hunting done

that day on an expensive lease that he'd saved money all year long to buy."

After being introduced to police officers while a board member for a large civic association in Houston, Sarah found law enforcement calling to her. She made a radical career change from employee benefits consulting to the police academy, taking an initial 75% pay cut. She still says, "Becoming a cop is the best thing I've ever done. It's my chance to stand up for what I believe."

It is the intersection of civic duties and the role of the protector that has called to both sides of Sarah's family and produced generations of military and law enforcement. "Every uncle I had served in WWII, Korea, and/or Vietnam. We are a family that loves America. Even my mother worked for the U.S. State Department on the Mexico/U.S. border during WWII. I still possess her ID bracelet and recall her showing it to me



What I love about *Friends of NRA* volunteers is the same thing I love about my fellow police officers—they are patriotic, law-abiding, and still believe in America. Just like me.

as a kid. She explained that if the U.S. was attacked and she was killed, then someone could identify her charred body due to the bracelet. This was just a fact to her—she wasn't scared. I think her steady sense of love for America and its freedoms, as well as her strong faith in God, made her courageous."

Through the guidance of Liz Foley, NRA Senior Field Representative for Texas East, Sarah has found an inspiring mix of friends who volunteer and attend *Friends of NRA* events. "I've relished meeting people across our great state of Texas. Some of the most passionate volunteers are people who grew up under Communism in Europe or Asia. These people understand what it's like to be unable to defend yourself or your beliefs. They also understand the importance of factual and accurate education about guns and respect for the shooting arts."

Sarah's work in policing over more than two decades has brought urgency to communicating some of the scenarios she's seen, and written about, facing both civilians and police officers. "You have to train and train and train to make good decisions in critical moments. When things go south, they go quickly. You must have excellent training to make split-second decisions that are legal and ethical. I adore the fact that *Friends of NRA* fundraising helps to fund programs

for populations that violent criminals love to target: the elderly, women, the disabled, and, oh yes, police officers too."

Sarah's 2019 calendar is already full of Houston-Metro *Friends of NRA* volunteer meetings as she joins her husband, the committee chair and retired police chief, in planning their next fundraiser. "What I love about *Friends of NRA* volunteers is the same thing I love about my fellow police officers—they are patriotic, law-abiding, and still believe in America. Just like me."

In addition to volunteering for *Friends of NRA*, Sarah is an award-winning author and public speaker, and is often called the "cop-poet of America." Her recent book, *TIRE D, HUNGRY, STANDING ON ONE SPOT FOR TWELVE HOURS: ESSENTIAL COP ESSAYS*, launched Sarah's national campaign *SAVING POLICE LIVES*. She also writes for *PoliceOne.com* and *LEOaffairs.com*. ■

*Help continue the support for local police departments by attending a *Friends of NRA* event today. Become a volunteer and join the fight to secure the Second Amendment by visiting <https://www.friendsofnra.org/VolunteerSignup.aspx>!*



CAMO & Pearls

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

“Why should the guys get to have all the fun,” asked Kerri Bahr, Program Coordinator of Camo and Pearls.

Nestled in the southern Seward Peninsula coast on Norton Sound of the Bering Sea, Nome, Alaska, is home to just under 4,000 residents. For a town of such size, one wouldn't imagine the local *Friends of NRA* chapter, Nome *Friends of NRA*, would raise upwards of \$90,000 net proceeds for The NRA Foundation. This is made possible in part by their annual *Friends of NRA* banquet, but also by a special event they hold each year for the ladies of Nome called Camo and Pearls.

“Camo and Pearls, which started in 2016, is a mini *Friends of NRA* fundraising event that we have for ladies only. We like to keep the venue small, so there are only 50 tickets sold for the event which helps keep it a manageable size, and a more intimate atmosphere than our main banquet. This event is a night out for the ladies, meaning there are no women helping during the event. The guys are the ones running around serving dinner and running raffles for us. It has turned into something the women in this community look forward to every year,” explained Kerri.

The thought behind creating Camo and Pearls came after joking about a women's only event for a few years. Kerri has helped with the Nome *Friends of NRA* Banquet for close to 10 years and realized much of the gear and guns at the banquet is male-oriented. She decided Camo and Pearls was not only a great opportunity to tailor auction items towards women, but was also a good excuse to get out of the house, dress up and have fun with girlfriends, especially during those dark winter months.

“I think we wanted to prove to ourselves the women here are just as into this as the guys,” Kerri stated. “Hunting and shooting sports is such a heavily male-dominated world, and sometimes it's hard to find gear that fits a woman. It might be harder to find a pistol that fits your hand or a stock that fits your frame. Everything in the room is something we specifically picked for the ladies. We've eliminated the doubt in seeing something you like but wondering if it may or may not work for you. The biggest challenge for the ladies night, however, might be trying to fill the live auction with a diverse spread that would suit everyone's taste. We want to make sure there's something for everyone,” noted Kerri.

The live auction at Camo and Pearls usually consists of under 15 items and ranges from Prois gear, jewelry, bags, spa packages, or handmade home décor. Kerri noted that they always try to have a really pretty pistol in the live auction for the women to bid on.

Camo and Pearls is always held the last Saturday in January with ticket sales starting before Christmas. “I always hear the same thing after the event, ‘that was so much fun’ and ‘can't wait for next year.’ Some have suggested we make it bigger because tickets sell out, but because of the space that we're in it would be too crowded. It's comfortable for right now, and I'd hate to ruin a good thing,” stated Kerri.

Kerri explained, “What I really love about the *Friends of NRA* is seeing the improvements around this community. We now have a huge outdoor shooting range here that is 100% funded by The NRA Foundation and is also utilized by local law enforcement and our Women on Target events. The high school JROTC department and biathlon team were both able to buy new rifles and equipment through grants from The NRA Foundation. It's great when you get something tangible for your efforts and see the people around you benefit from these banquets.” ■

Attend a Friends of NRA event near you! Find the full list of events at [friendsofnra.org/Events](https://www.friendsofnra.org/Events). Learn more about The NRA Foundation at [nrafoundation.org](https://www.nrafoundation.org).

Eating Up the Miles

In Nevada

By Abigail Klein
Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association



Darren Norcross (left) poses for a picture with Reno Friends of NRA committee member Paul Mausling

Nevada is the seventh largest state in the union, by area, with 110,567 square miles; with *Friends of NRA* events all across the state that means a lot of long drives for a dedicated volunteer.

Meet Darren Norcross, the 2017 Nevada *Friends of NRA* Volunteer of the Year and field representative Steve Wilson's go-to person in Northern Nevada. Darren started his volunteer journey four years ago when he attended a volunteer interest meeting in his area. Since then, Darren has been traveling all over Nevada to support The NRA Foundation through *Friends of NRA*. He is currently serving as the chairman for the Reno *Friends of NRA* event, and also serves as chairman for two special events, Northern Nevada Gals & Guns, and Reno Game Night.

The Gals & Guns event was developed to give female shooters an event of their own, so all the gear offered at the event is designed for the female shooter. The Reno Game Night event was introduced this year, as a way to raise more funds for The NRA Foundation. Some of the games that Darren and his committee incorporated were ring toss, cornhole, and a Nerf Gun shoot. Darren said, "We wanted the event to have a car-

Photo courtesy Steve Wilson



nival-like atmosphere to it, and to try new games that folks would enjoy. This year's event was fun, but we'll make tweaks for next year to make it even better.”

In addition to his committee events, Darren also assists with other events across the state. When he heard that a neighboring committee was having trouble with attendance, Darren jumped into action and started calling people to increase their ticket sales. When a small committee was having trouble finding committee members to support the event, Darren once again jumped into action and found some new people to join the team, and that committee is now a High Caliber Club Level committee with continuous growth. There was one occasion when Darren drove over 60 miles to spend an entire day putting out signs around a town for an upcoming event. Another time he drove 330 miles from Reno to Ely to help a committee run games at their event that bolstered their success.

Darren goes the extra mile in Nevada in many different ways. One day, Darren asked why we were charging sales tax on our auction items when other fundraising events in Nevada don't. Again, he gave his time to reach out to the state and supply the Foundation with the needed information and forms to apply for

tax exemptions for all *Friends of NRA* events across Nevada, resulting in more money for grants. He even added to his mileage to meet with people like Charlie Daniels and Ted Nugent to have special live auction items signed. Right now, Darren is working with the department of wildlife to procure game tags for Nevada *Friends of NRA* to auction off at select 2019 events.

When Field Representative Steve Wilson was asked what he thought about Darren, he said, “Darren calls me almost every day to see how he can help me. His heart is truly with the *Friends of NRA* program. When I need something to be done, I know I can go to Darren, and the task will be completed with enthusiasm and accuracy.”

Over the last four years, Darren has given hundreds of hours to support *Friends of NRA*, and he says he drives “about 1,000 miles a year.” However, we are willing to bet there are many more miles to add to that count as he travels across Nevada volunteering for the future of freedom and the shooting sports. ■

Become a volunteer today for your local Friends of NRA committee. Visit <https://www.friendsofnra.org/VolunteerSignup.aspx> to sign up!

A Legacy OF CRAFTSMEN

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



Tyler Berger puts the finishing touches on each product before they go out the door



Curt and C.J. with their grandfather, Melvin in the Columbus Barrel Co. workshop



The broken down barrels are sorted according to size and then hand selected by CJ for each individual project

Although Columbus Barrel Company first came on the woodworking scene in 2013, you can trace their roots back to the early 1900's. Fourth generation woodworking brothers, Curt and C.J. Shaver, Co-founders of Columbus Barrel Company, attribute their line of work all the way back to their great-grandfather.

"Our great-grandfather started HJ Upperman & Sons woodshop, and my grandfather, Melvin Shaver, worked for him when he returned from World War II. Together they specialized in crafting bank teller stations and wood phone boxes for banks. When Melvin retired from HJ Upperman and Sons, he went to work for the Columbus, OH City School District as an on-site carpenter where he refined his woodworking skills," explained Curt Shaver. "Our father, Dave Shaver, started at HJ Upperman and Sons when he was 13 years old sweeping and pushing a broom until he worked his way through college. C.J. and I, along with our three other siblings, grew up in the family business unloading trucks and pushing that same broom our father did for our grandfather years before. We still have that broom in our warehouse, and we use it every day remembering the sacrifice they made for us so we could get to where we are today."

Curt and C.J. pride themselves in doing things the right way. For them, that means always operating with integrity, honesty,

humility, and consistency. "We were raised watching our father operate with these same values. He made every customer truly feel like family, and it is our goal to do the same," stated Curt. Every piece made at Columbus Barrel Company is designed and handmade from their Lewis Center, OH headquarters, and all products are customized for each customer's specific needs.

This year, Columbus Barrel Company was welcomed into the 2019 Standard Merchandise Package showcasing their customized barrel head with NRA seal. This item will be available exclusively at all 2019 *Friends of NRA* banquets and is limited to 1,130 units. This piece is timeless, rustic, made in the USA, and full of NRA pride. Also in the Standard Merchandise Package is a barrel wood basket created by Columbus Barrel Company.

When an NRA Field Representative came across Curt and C.J.'s barrel wood and buffalo hide flasks, he called Kathy Purtell, Merchandise Manager for the *Friends of NRA*. "From the day I met Curt and C.J., I would hear from one of the Shaver brothers almost every week," noted Kathy. "They wanted to be part of our program and were very excited to join us as a direct vendor for 2018 banquets. We are excited to work with them now in our 2019 Standard Merchandise Package; they are very talented in what they do and have a great story behind their American-made products and family-owned business."

The Shaver brothers are just that, excited. Excited to be part of something which helps secure the Second Amendment. “We hope to be involved with the *Friends of NRA* program forever,” noted Curt. “We hold the NRA and *Friends of NRA* program in the highest regard. We represent the same core values and are blessed to partner in their efforts. We have known for quite some time what the organization stands for and what their goals are, but it wasn't until we met the people and volunteers of the *Friends of NRA* that we truly connected to the mission. Simply put, those who work and volunteer for the NRA are just good, wholesome people and we love being able to work together each and every day.”

It comes as no surprise Columbus Barrel Company has a long-term goal of supporting The NRA Foundation. They plan to

continue to do their part to support the core values, and mission that the *Friends of NRA* program represents. “We feel a responsibility to provide high quality, hand-crafted, unique, and 100% American-made products to the *Friends of NRA* so they can use it to benefit the growth of the organization in the best possible way. We hope to partner with the NRA for many more years to come, and help grow their mission through our continued pursuit to provide new and exciting products.”

Get your hands on a one-of-a-kind, exclusive Columbus Barrel Company NRA seal barrel head at your next local *Friends of NRA* banquet! 🍷

Find an event near you to grab other cool NRA merchandise! Visit www.friendsofnra.org/Events and search your state!

Brothers Curt and C.J. show off their exclusive *Friends of NRA* Standard Package barrel head



NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A

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Financial contributions made to the **NRA Foundation** and the **NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund** provide **necessary resources** for programs that rise to the challenges threatening our constitutional rights, and **preserve the freedoms** our country was built upon.

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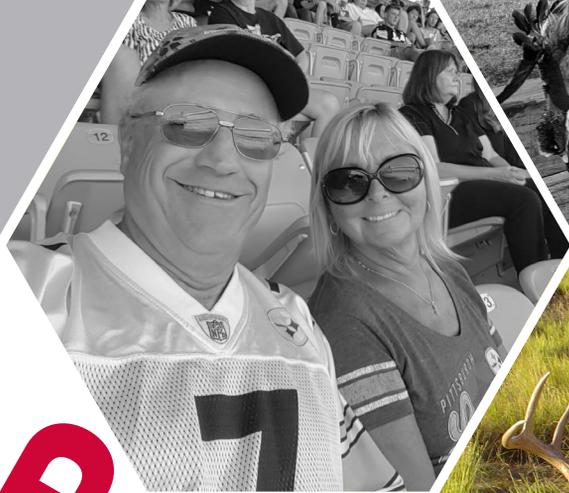
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Find us in the National/International Unaffiliated Section of the CFC booklet. The CFC is the only campaign authorized to solicit and collect contributions from federal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.



REP
WRAP

Tom Baldrige
WEST PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS OF NRA
Senior Field Rep since 2006

Any final thoughts on your time as a Field Rep?

I would like to thank everyone on my journey for the love, friendship, fun, trials, and tribulation we shared together during my time as a Field Rep. I always tried to do my best at all that I did working for our team and the future of the shooting sports. Freedom truly isn't FREE, it is what you work hard for and never stop working hard for. My time doing that was a pleasure!

Share something special to you...

In 26 years I have lived the dream! I love people and I was blessed to work and play with the best people on this earth. One of the pics is of my wife and me at a Steelers game, my team! I am a diehard Steelers fan! I love the outdoors and I love sharing it with anyone who will join me. Life is all about the people you share it with and I have had a ball sharing it with great friends!

What is something you love?

You will see pics of my family, and the older I get the more time I want to spend with them! I love working (if you want to call it that) for the NRA, and I'm sure I will miss it, but it is time to pass the torch to the next generation. There is so much I could tell you about who, where, when, what, and why, but there isn't enough room even in a book!

Favorite firearm and why...

I don't have a favorite gun, but, I sure do have a bunch of favorite friends that I hunt with. My passion is archery hunting, but I love all types of shooting as long as we are hunting something!

**RETIREE
EDITION**



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

STATE

Alaska-

Holiday Raffle Friends of NRA
Fairbanks, AK Jan. 1, 2019

Petersburg Friends of NRA
Petersburg, AK Feb. 2, 2019

Arkansas-

Natural State Friends of NRA
Clarksville, AR Jan. 19, 2019

Drew County Friends of NRA
Monticello, AR Feb. 4, 2019

Northeast Arkansas Friends of NRA
Jonesboro, AR Feb. 28, 2019

Arizona-

Tempe Friends of NRA
Tempe, AZ Feb. 2, 2019

Mohave County Friends of NRA
Kingman, AZ Feb. 9, 2019

Zane Grey Friends of NRA
Payson, AZ Feb. 23, 2019

California-

Imperial Valley Friends of NRA
Holtville, CA Feb. 15, 2019

Desert Communities Friends of NRA
Palm Desert, CA Feb. 23, 2019

King City Friends of NRA
King City, CA Feb. 23, 2019

Colorado-

North Colorado Friends of NRA
Greeley, CO Feb. 2, 2019

Fremont County Friends of NRA
Canon City, CO Feb. 8, 2019

Morgan County Friends of NRA
Wiggins, CO Feb. 9, 2019

Grand Valley Friends of NRA
Grand Junction, CO Feb. 16, 2019

Colorado Springs Friends of NRA
Colorado Springs, CO Feb. 22, 2019

Ark Valley Friends of NRA
Rocky Ford, CO Feb. 23, 2019

Florida-

Clay County Friends of NRA
Fleming Island, FL Feb. 21, 2019

Georgia-

NW Georgia Friends of NRA
Rock Spring, GA Feb. 23, 2019

Idaho-

Upper Snake River Friends of NRA
Idaho Falls, ID Feb. 22, 2019

Illinois-

Southern Illinois Friends of NRA
Effingham, IL Jan. 26, 2019

Logan County Friends of NRA
Lincoln, IL Feb. 2, 2019

Two Rivers Friends of NRA
Mt. Sterling, IL Feb. 7, 2019

RiverBend Friends of NRA
Carrollton, IL Feb. 23, 2019

Salt Kettle Friends of NRA
Georgetown, IL Feb. 28, 2019

Indiana-

Western Indiana Friends of NRA
Covington, IN Jan. 26, 2019

Blue River Friends of NRA
Shelbyville, IN Feb. 7, 2019

East Fork Friends of NRA
Loogootee, IN Feb. 16, 2019

Patoka Valley Friends of NRA
Huntingburg, IN Feb. 23, 2019

Iowa-

Muscatine Friends of NRA
Wilton, IA Feb. 1, 2019

Founders Friends of NRA
Central City, IA Feb. 2, 2019

Cedar Valley Friends of NRA
Janesville, IA Feb. 9, 2019

North Iowa Friends of NRA
Osage, IA Feb. 23, 2019

Louisiana-

ArkLATex Friends of NRA
Shreveport, LA Feb. 22, 2019

Minnesota-

412 Lakes Friends of NRA
Frazee, MN Jan. 26, 2019

Missouri-

Dry Fork Area Friends of NRA
Rolla, MO Feb. 1, 2019

Bootheel Area Friends of NRA
Sikeston, MO Feb. 8, 2019

Kings Prairie Friends of NRA
Monett, MO Feb. 9, 2019

Greater Northland Friends of NRA
Smithville, MO Feb. 15, 2019

Bolivar Area Friends of NRA
Bolivar, MO Feb. 21, 2019

State Fair Area Friends of NRA
Sedalia, MO Feb. 23, 2019

Tri County Area Friends of NRA
Owensville, MO Feb. 28, 2019

Nebraska-

Elkhorn Valley Friends of NRA
Norfolk, NE Jan. 20, 2019

Western Nebraska Friends of NRA
Scottsbluffs, NE Jan. 26, 2019

New Mexico-

Cavern City Friends of NRA
Carlsbad, NM Feb. 9, 2019

New York-

Chautauqua County Friends of NRA
Frewsburg, NY Feb. 23, 2019

North Carolina-

Foothills Friends of NRA
Mt. Airy, NC Jan. 26, 2019

Western NC Friends of NRA
Asheville, NC Feb. 1, 2019

Western Piedmont Friends of NRA
Shelby, NC Feb. 7, 2019

Alleghany Co. Friends of NRA
Glade Valley, NC Feb. 16, 2019

Catawba Valley Friends of NRA
Hickory, NC Feb. 19, 2019

Rockingham Co. Friends of NRA
Mayodan, NC Feb. 22, 2019

Greater Triangle Friends of NRA
Raleigh, NC Feb. 23, 2019

Nash County Friends of NRA
Rocky Mount, NC Feb. 28, 2019

Thermal Belt Friends of NRA
Rutherfordton, NC Feb. 28, 2019

North Dakota-

Burleigh County Friends of NRA
Bismarck, ND Feb. 23, 2019

Ohio-

Portsmouth Patriots Friends of NRA
Portsmouth, OH Feb. 9, 2019

Pickaway County Friends of NRA
Circleville, OH Feb. 16, 2019

Mid Ohio Valley Friends of NRA
Waterford, OH Feb. 23, 2019

Pennsylvania-

Great American Outdoor Show
Harrisburg, PA Feb. 7, 2019

Lancaster Friends of NRA
 Manheim, PA Feb. 23, 2019

South Dakota-

Brookings Friends of NRA
 Brookings, SD Feb. 12, 2019

Tennessee-

West Tennessee Friends of NRA
 Brownsville, TN Feb. 15, 2019

Texas-

Katy Area Friends of NRA
 Katy, TX Feb. 21, 2019

Utah-

Uintah Basin Friends of NRA
 Vernal, UT Feb. 23, 2019

Virginia-

Three Rivers Friends of NRA
 Emporia, VA Feb. 15, 2019

Fredericksburg Friends of NRA
 Fredericksburg, VA Feb. 22, 2019

Danville Pittsylvania Friends of NRA
 Danville, VA Feb. 28, 2019

Washington-

Walla Walla Friends of NRA
 Walla Walla, WA Feb. 9, 2019

Yakima Friends of NRA
 Yakima, WA Feb. 23, 2019

Wisconsin-

Southeastern Wisconsin Friends of NRA
 Menomonee, WI Feb. 14, 2019

Dodge County Friends of NRA
 Beaver Dam, WI Feb. 16, 2019

River Valley Friends of NRA
 Hudson, WI Feb. 22, 2019

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

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APPLICATIONS DUE JANUARY 25