

TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

2019 National NRA Foundation BBQ & Auction



ANSWERING AMERICA

Shakey Dave Shares His Experiences As a Competitive Shooter Living with Parkinson's

ANNUAL MEETING

2019 National NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Review

INDUSTRY CORNER

SILVER STAG Handcrafted Field Gear and The Friends of NRA

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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.

What Y.E.S. Did For Me

Alex Henry shares his Y.E.S. experience and how he won the Grand Scholarship

Alex Henry

2017 Youth Education Summit Participant & Grand Scholarship Winner

The National Rifle Association’s Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) was such an influential week for me. It taught me more about discipline, respect, and pride than I could have imagined. In early September I received the call that I was awarded the highest grand scholarship from Y.E.S. To be considered for the grand scholarship, students have to demonstrate how they are sharing and educating their communities on the Second Amendment, and what they are doing to raise awareness for the Youth Education Summit and the future of the shooting sports. I spoke at 12 *Friends of NRA* banquets in Arkansas, as well as shared the Eddie Eagle program to local elementary students along with writing for the NRA Blog.

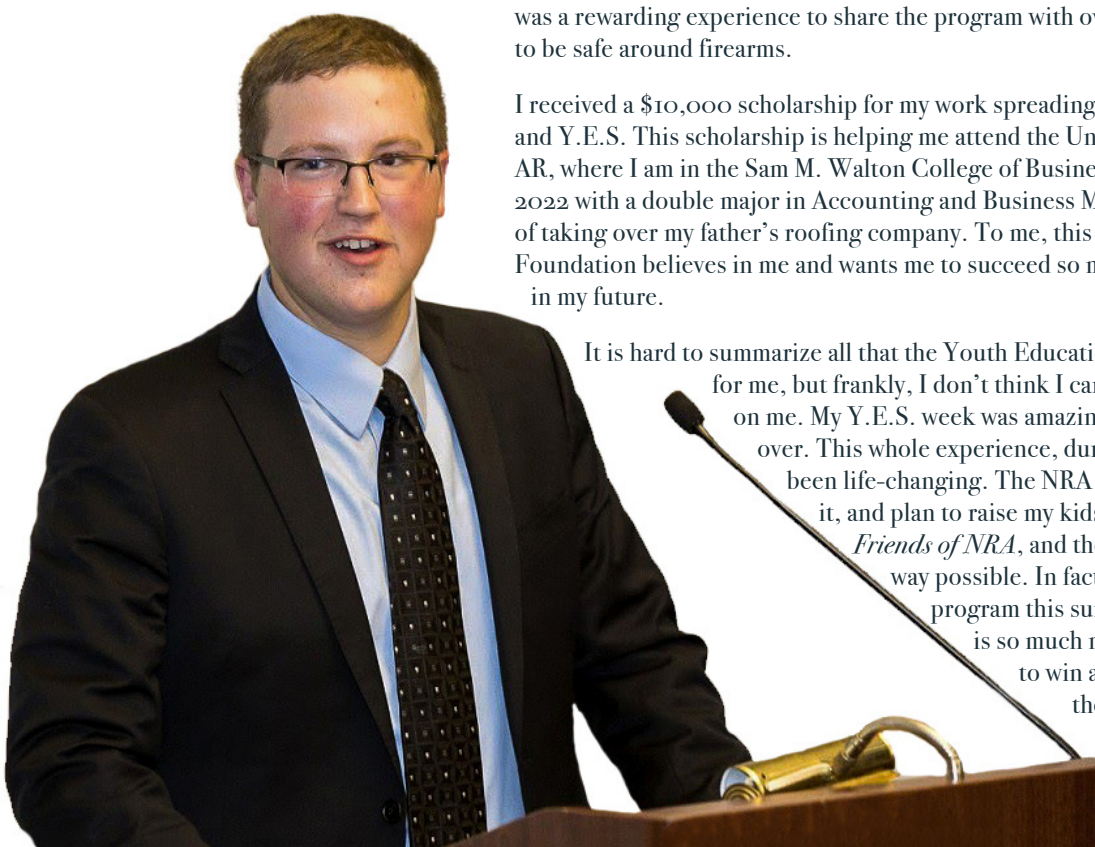
After leaving Y.E.S., I knew I wanted to compete for the Grand Scholarship, but more importantly, I wanted other students to hear about the opportunities that I had through the Y.E.S. program and what it meant to me. I was already deeply rooted in Arkansas’ *Friends of NRA* program so all I had to do was pick up the phone and call our state field representative, Erica Dunn. Mrs. Dunn was thrilled to hear that I wanted to share my story at her banquets and was happy to help.

This sparked a chain effect where many of the Arkansas *Friends of NRA* committees were calling and asking if I was available to attend their event, some all the way across the state. Of the 24 Arkansas events, I was lucky enough to attend half of them. Mrs. Dunn would call me up to the front of the room after everyone received their dinner, and I would share my story. Through the *Friends of NRA* program alone, I reached approximately 2,350 people.

Six months after leaving Y.E.S., I remembered hearing about the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program. I immediately thought about my local elementary school and how great it would be to join Eddie’s “Wing Team” and share his story with the young students. I worked alongside two of my good friends, Bryce Mittasch and Kade Graham, to put this project in action. I created a presentation to show the administration of Prairie Grove Elementary, and thankfully they agreed to let me proceed. I then contacted Mrs. Dunn again to locate an Eddie Eagle suit to use during the events. I hosted the presentation while a friend wore the Eddie Eagle suit. It was a rewarding experience to share the program with over 750 students, teaching them how to be safe around firearms.

I received a \$10,000 scholarship for my work spreading the word of The NRA Foundation and Y.E.S. This scholarship is helping me attend the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR, where I am in the Sam M. Walton College of Business. I intend to graduate in May of 2022 with a double major in Accounting and Business Management so I can fulfill my plan of taking over my father’s roofing company. To me, this scholarship means that The NRA Foundation believes in me and wants me to succeed so much that they were willing to invest in my future.

It is hard to summarize all that the Youth Education Summit and the NRA have done for me, but frankly, I don’t think I can ever explain what impact Y.E.S. had on me. My Y.E.S. week was amazing, and I would do it a thousand times over. This whole experience, during and after Y.E.S., has definitely been life-changing. The NRA is part of who I am. I was raised in it, and plan to raise my kids in it. I will always help the NRA, *Friends of NRA*, and the Youth Education Summit in any way possible. In fact, I will be returning to the Y.E.S. program this summer to serve as a chaperone. Y.E.S. is so much more than just about the opportunity to win a scholarship, it is all about leading the legacy, protecting the future, and defending our Second Amendment.



ANSWERING AMERICA

Shakey Dave



Q&A with DAVID SMITH

★ HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD PARKINSON'S? WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE WITH PARKINSON'S BEFORE YOU STARTED GUN THERAPY?

I was diagnosed with Parkinson's a little over eight years ago when I was just 38. The average age for Parkinson's is in the 60s and I was in my 30s. The disease went through my whole body within the first year. I started losing my balance, I became slow, I couldn't eat or drink without help; all the symptoms of Parkinson's that gradually happen over time started happening to me rapidly.

Before I was diagnosed, I was shooting two to three times per week. I grew up shooting, and it was something that I really enjoyed doing. Gun therapy wasn't something that I started trying, it just evolved from the shooting I was already doing. Shooting seemed to be the last thing I could still do well with all the shaking I had.

★ CAN YOU DESCRIBE GUN THERAPY AND WHAT IT HAS DONE FOR YOU, AND DO YOU THINK IT COULD HELP OTHERS?

Gun therapy is just a term I coined after I noticed the more time I spent shooting, the better my fine motor skills became. The concentration I had working on my trigger control, footwork, balance, and movement efficiency is how I realized that firearm training could really help my mind focus that concentration into other parts of my everyday life. Gun therapy works the part of my brain that Parkinson's takes away.

Yes, I believe gun therapy can definitely help others with ailments. I get 100s of questions about that, and although everyone may not call it "gun therapy", I believe that shooting sports in general can be highly effective. Gun therapy helps tremendously with neuroplasticity. It is all based on a repetitive action, like shooting at a target, that helps rebuild the brain.

★ HOW MANY DAYS A WEEK DO YOU SHOOT AS PART OF YOUR GUN THERAPY?

I shoot seven days a week, eight to ten hours per day. It is like my full time job, I basically don't have time for anything else. Shooting is the only thing that has worked for me in trying to control my shakes. During the day I shoot outside with real firearms, and in the evenings I shoot with laser trainers at a target inside.

★ WHAT DOES YOUR DOCTOR THINK ABOUT GUN THERAPY?

My doctors are all for it. They often suggest activities that focus on your motor skills, such as boxing, although I didn't take much interest in boxing. I love shooting, and it works great for me. Any activity that combats my disease and helps me concentrate on my movements my doctors are all for.

I was recently contacted by a board of doctors from The American Parkinson's Disease Association (APDA) Minnesota Chapter who asked to meet with me about speaking and participating at a Parkinson's shooting fundraiser they are planning. They also are interested in doing a study with the laser training I do on how it helps with neuroplasticity.

★ IF YOU HADN'T DISCOVERED GUN THERAPY, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD BE TODAY?

I remember clear as day my doctor telling me during my first year with having Parkinson's, "I don't understand how your symptoms are progressing so fast. At this rate, you will be in a wheelchair or bedridden looking into nursing homes within the next year or two." I was at rock bottom. I remember throwing up my hands and saying "If I'm going out, I'm going out on the shooting range doing what I love."

At the time, I was taking close to 25 pills a day. Each pill only lasts about 15 minutes, so I was needing to take a lot to get through the day. Actually, the doctors wanted me to take even more. I hated taking all those pills because the side effects they created had a whole list of other problems that were sometimes worse than the actual Parkinson's. With gun therapy, I am down to just one pill a day if I really need it. They are just for emergencies now.

★ WE HEAR YOU ARE HEADED TO SWEDEN THIS AUGUST, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU ARE DOING THERE?

I have been selected by the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) to join Team USA at the World Rifle Match in Sweden this August. I could not be more excited and honored to be chosen. It really signifies to me that I am good enough to be a sponsored shooter and compete on an international level, even with my shakes.

★ WHAT IS YOUR FIRST MEMORY OF USING A FIREARM? HOW OLD WERE YOU?

I remember shooting my BB Gun when I was about two or three years old with the help of my parents. They would hold it up for me, and I would pull the trigger. The firearm in the picture to the left is my first competition BB Gun from when I was six years old.

★ WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF FIREARM TO SHOOT?

I compete with AR-15s and AR-10s, so I would have to say those are my favorite although I love all types of firearms.

★ DO YOU GO BY SHAKY DAVE OR SHAKEY DAVE? CAN YOU TELL US HOW YOU GOT THAT NAME?

People started calling me Shaky Dave and the nickname just stuck. I decided to add on the "e" in "shakey" because I feel like I am "extra" shakey!

★ WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WOULD TELL OTHERS SUFFERING FROM PARKINSON'S DISEASE?

I would tell anyone that no matter what they are going through, Parkinson's or another disability, or even just a hard time, that shooting does change lives. Working hard and enjoying it like I do, that is what gun therapy is all about. If I can shoot on a competitive level and hit a four inch target from 100 yards, then anyone else can do it too.

FUNDRAISING

IN THE FASTEST CITY

By Brad Kruger

Western Regional Director, National Rifle Association



If you ask any good *Friends of NRA* volunteer when they start planning for their next *Friends of NRA* event, they will tell you “the day after our last event!” The NRA Foundation event team is no different. Last year, after our successful banquet in Dallas, the NRA Field Operations Team started immediately on a banquet autopsy of what went right, what went wrong, and how can we take next year to an even higher level. The general consensus was that over the years banquets at the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits have gotten a little too fancy, so this year the team decided to appeal not only to all the NRA attendees who flew in for the Annual Meeting, but also the local Indiana NRA attendees. To do that, this year’s first ever NRA Foundation BBQ & Auction took life at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, and to say that it was well received is a huge understatement.

The NRA Foundation Auction is held on the Thursday evening prior to the opening of the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, and over the years has become the kick-off of what is basically the Super Bowl for the NRA. What makes The NRA Foundation event so amazing is that all of the items in the live auction, silent auction, and raffles are donated! Many firearm manufacturers have used our event to introduce their new firearms to attendees with great results, and this year was no different.

SIG SAUER was the star of the Pre-Event Reception by donating all the firearms and ammunition, and this got the attendees amped up before they opened the doors to the BBQ and Auction. They also donated two SIG Virtus Patrol rifles and two SIG Virtus pistols along with a SIG Academy Training for our Live Auction. They graciously donate all the firearms for the SIG SAUER Game, and one lucky winner took home three of their top end SIG Pistols!

Social hour was filled with a lot of hustle and bustle as attendees looped around the room to get in on the bucket raffle, silent auction and raffle games. The first raffle game to sell out was the Cordova Cooler game, and one lucky winner took home a 125qt Cordova Cooler with cart and several smaller Cordova Coolers. The next game to sell out was the Century Arms Game which had two winners, and each took home one of Century's Catamount Fury Tactical Semi-Auto shotguns and a Canik TP-9SF 9MM pistol. The Smith & Wesson Winner Take All game was selling tickets hand over fist as attendees bought chances to win 10 different S&W firearms. This game is always a highlight of the NRA Foundation event.

When the dust had settled from the bucket raffle and all the raffle games, it was time for a few presentations. Anthony Imperato of Henry Repeating Arms has made a tradition of honoring American patriots and heroes at the NRA Foundation Banquet over the years, and he did not disappoint this year. When Anthony started to call on stage WWII Veterans, Iraqi War Vets, and other American patriots to present them with a custom Henry Rifle for their service and sacrifice, there was not a dry eye in the building. Henry Repeating Arms also donated an Original Henry Deluxe Engraved Rifle in .44-40 for the live auction which was simultaneously featured on Gunbroker.com. Bids on this rifle were not only coming from all around the room but from all around the country as Gunbroker.com forwarded phone-in and electronic bids.





Before the live auction started, one of the most anticipated raffles of the night, the Kimber Table of Guns Raffle, was drawn. Kimber generously donated 10 of their new 2A 1911s for this raffle, and the lucky table that won was absolutely ecstatic! Everyone at their table received one of Kimber's top-of-the-line pistols, and they were all in disbelief.

To kick off this year's live auction, we had one of the NRA's newest elected NRA Board Members and Benghazi Hero, Mark "OZ" Geist and his dog, a Belgian Malinois named Rone, come on stage and sign our first live auction item, a "Join or Die" patriotic wooden flag made by veteran-owned and operated Flags of Valor. This alone made the price of this item skyrocket and the bidding was fierce!

The live auction was filled primarily with firearms and hunts, and this crowd did not disappoint; the bidding was fast and furious. When it came to live auction item 19, the crowd got quiet as Adam Weatherby, president and CEO of Weatherby, took the stage to speak about the Wyoming Gold Edition Commemorative Weatherby Mark V rifle serial # 71 (for NRA 1871) that he donated. Weatherby recently moved their operation, lock, stock, and barrel to Wyoming, and this was one of the first "Wyoming Weatherbys" to be produced and it was a beautiful representation of functional art.

Each and every year our friends at Ohio Ordnance also donate one of their firearms for our live auction. This year was no different, with the donation of their semi-automatic version of John Moses Browning's BAR. The Ohio Ordnance 1918A3-SLR WWII version rifle was definitely the "most handled gun in the room." Everyone that passed by this workhorse of a rifle had to pick it up, and most had to have their picture taken with it. Many of our attendees have seen pictures of this rifle or watched it in action in movies, but they never had the chance to hold one in their hands and they just could not resist.

The NRA Foundation BBQ & Auction at the Indy NRA Annual Meeting was a huge success, raising even more money than last year's event for The NRA Foundation and its mission to promote the shooting sports. None of this would have been possible without all of our extremely generous donors and our even more generous attendees. Special thank you to our sponsors Henry Repeating Arms, Kimber, Century Arms, and SIG SAUER. The event team is looking forward to next year in Nashville as they already have some new ideas on how to make it even more fun! ■

WALLOFGUNS

By Jason Quick

Southwest Regional Director, National Rifle Association

The Wall of Guns was a hit at the NRA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana with a selection of over 60 firearms. We had a blast setting up, with people stopping by saying WALLLLLLLLLL of Gunnnnnssssss.....I guess they all know our marketing pitch. The NRA Foundation gave away over 64 firearms, raising over \$159,370 net for The NRA Foundation. The wall also had seven Draw of the Century winners who had their choice of a Century Arms firearm.

We certainly could not have done this without the support of our sponsors Henry Repeating Arms, Kimber, Century Arms, Kel-Tech, and Otis who provided financial support along with firearms and merchandise to display and give away at the Wall of Guns. In total, close to thirty companies donated firearms or merchandise to show their support for the NRA Foundation by helping add items to the Wall of Guns. Special thank you to Nine Line Apparel for sponsoring the 2019 Wall of Guns t-shirts which were custom for the event and very popular. You won't want to miss the Wall of Guns at the 2020 NRA Annual Meeting and Exhibits in Nashville, Tennessee. 🇺🇸





CELEBRATING THE FINEST FACES OF FRIENDS

By Diane Sohn

Event Marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association

The NRA Foundation recently honored its 2018 *Friends of NRA* Regional Volunteers of the Year and the 2018 Outstanding Committee of the Year. Award recipients received an all-expense paid trip to the 148th NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Indianapolis, Indiana, and special recognition was given during the National NRA Foundation BBQ and Auction on Thursday, April 25, 2019.

There are over 13,000 *Friends of NRA* volunteers across the country and countless nominations for Volunteer of the Year awards, but only six garner the well-deserved recognition of the *Friends of NRA* Regional Volunteer of the Year. Regional Volunteers of the Year were recommended by their respective NRA Field Representatives and evaluated on a number of criteria including banquet tickets sold, years of service, leadership, and overall impact on the program. Combined, this year's volunteers have over 100 years of experience and raised more than a half a million dollars in 2018.

Congratulations to Eastern Region Volunteer of the Year Don Pagath of Duncan Falls, Ohio. Don has been volunteering for 25 years and is currently the Chairman of the Zanesville Area committee. Don works tirelessly in his community creating and maintaining relationships to help ensure participation and support from the community at the event.

The Central Region Volunteer of the Year is Steven Raquet from Indiana. Steve is the Chairman of the North Central Indiana committee and has been volunteering for 21 years. He has worked hard to improve the event and is always asking for critiques and implementing new ideas that have worked for other committees. He is a leader in his community and always tries to tie the event to the accomplishments of a local hero that has similar values to the NRA.

The South Central Region Volunteer of the Year from Monahans, Texas is Joshua Smith. Three years ago, the caterer canceled the week of his event, so Josh borrowed a BBQ pit and cooked for over 150 people. Last year he approached his Field Representative about taking over the event should the chairman retire. When she did, he recruited seven new committee members and held a mini-workshop on what was needed. The result was doubling 2017 attendance and hitting a new all-time high for the committee.

Congratulations to the Southern Region Volunteer of the Year, Mitch Dean from Lakeland, Tennessee. He is the Chairman of the Memphis committee and has volunteered for three years. Mitch went the extra mile to enhance the success of the Memphis event for 2018;

he oversaw nine pre-event contests raising over \$11,000, conducted eight committee meetings, and spoke to coaches representing 19 different shooting teams about volunteering and the grant process.

Denise Knight is our Southwest Region Volunteer of the Year from Huntsville, Utah. She has volunteered for 12 years with the Ogden committee. Denise has focused on creating ways to ensure that the banquet day goes smoothly for the committee and the attendees, developing procedures that streamline and organize every aspect of the event day.

The Western Region Volunteers of the Year are Trudy and Rich Jackson of Idaho. This couple has volunteered together on the Treasure Valley Committee for 13 years. Trudy and Rich have worked many hours throughout the Treasure Valley, around the state of Idaho, and across the Pacific Northwest promoting Idaho *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation. In 2018, they volunteered over 1,000 hours to support *Friends of NRA*. Trudy and Rich Jackson have also racked up miles traveling to help other committees succeed, and in 2018 they attended 14 events.

The 2018 Committee of the Year award goes to the Coastal Georgia *Friends of NRA* Committee of Black Creek, Georgia. This award goes to the Committee that had the most outstanding achievement and holds the honor of highest net income out of all 1,100 *Friends of NRA* committees. The Coastal Georgia committee is chaired by Cindy Daniel, along with her incredible committee, and are steady and unwavering in their beliefs and have a fierce drive to be the best *Friends* committee every year. Cindy and her team solicited more than \$48,000 in donations for the live auction and worked tirelessly to sell table sponsorships. She and her committee broke the 26-year history of the *Friends of NRA* program by raising over \$322,000 at a single event.

Again, thank you to all of the *Friends of NRA* volunteers. The dedication year after year is amazing, and The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA* would not be where we are today without your support. We would also like to thank all of the hard-working volunteers that helped with the National NRA Foundation BBQ and Auction. This event would not have been a success without you! ■

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit <https://www.friendsofnra.org/VolunteerSignup.aspx> or contact your local Field Representative.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

CENTRAL REGION

Illinois (North): Robert Schlichting
Illinois (South): John & Tracey Warren
Indiana: Steven Raquet - Region VOY
Iowa, Nebraska: Tim Cartel
Kansas: Kendell Roberts
Kentucky: Kenny Ruckel
Michigan: John Oldani
Missouri (North): Brad Scarbrough
Missouri (South): Tony Kalna
Wisconsin: Paul Ryan

EASTERN REGION

Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire: Mike & Jennifer Young
New York (Upper): Tony Dragotta
New York (Lower), Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey: John Hirons
Ohio (North): Kenny Unkefer
Ohio (South): Don Pagath - Region VOY
Pennsylvania (East), Delaware: Michael & Theresa Craley
Pennsylvania (West): Robert Tekavec
Virginia (East), Maryland (East), DC: Richard Holbrook
West Virginia, Virginia (West), Maryland (West): Roy Gross Jr.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Arkansas: Wanda Calloway
Colorado: Lynette Cerise
New Mexico: Jessica Gonzales
Oklahoma: Brian Scoles
Texas (East): Sarah & Kenny Lamb
Texas (North): Melissa Mann
Texas (South): Doug Nicholson
Texas (West): Josh Smith - Region VOY

SOUTHERN REGION

Alabama: David Neeley
Florida (North): Bill Elrod
Florida (South): Frank Narki
Georgia: Harold Smith
Louisiana: Tim Leger
Mississippi: David Chancellor
North Carolina (East): Tony Forte
North Carolina (West): Jerry Black
South Carolina: Theresa Ramsey
Tennessee: Mitch Dean - Region VOY

SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona: Steve Miller
California (Central): Tim Benedix
California (East): Bruce & Debbie Anderson
California (Middle): Kim Shirkey
California (North): James Walker
California (South): Dan McDougall
Nevada: Darren Norcross
Utah: Denise Knight - Region VOY

WESTERN REGION

Alaska (North): Austin Mahalkey
Alaska (South): Greg Collins
Idaho: Trudy & Rich Jackson - Region VOY
Minnesota: Joseph Martinson
Montana: Paul Tribble
North Dakota: Steve Langlie
Oregon, Hawaii: Bryan Broadfoot
South Dakota: Gary Stadlman
Washington: Nathan Reitz
Wyoming: Alan Cantley

PHOTO by Peter Fountain. From left: NRA Director of Field Staff Philip Gray, Don Pagath, Cindy Daniel, Connor Daniel, NRA Western Regional Director Brad Kruger, Trudy Jackson, Rich Jackson, Brenda Potterfield, Larry Potterfield, Denise Knight, NRA Southwest Regional Director Jason Quick, NRA Southern Regional Director Al Hammond, Mitch Dean, NRA South Central Regional Director Tom Ulik, Josh Smith, NRA Eastern Regional Director Bryan Hoover, Steven Raquet, NRA Central Regional Director Don Higgs, NRA Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset

TRAINING Undercover

By Christian Vara

Training Program Coordinator, National Rifle Association



The NRA's Carrying a Concealed Weapon (CCW) program has been about two years in the making and the first NRA program that meets all the state's requirements for concealed carry. The course is specifically designed to meet the minimum requirements of all the different states that issue Concealed Carry permits. In it, the course covers 10 different classroom lessons and can range from 1 to 16 hours. If necessary to meet the state or local requirements, a qualification course of fire may also be administered. In the NRA CCW course, instructors will teach the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to carry a concealed pistol for personal defense.

For the instructor level course, the trainers will cover how the course will be administered to the public. By design, the course lesson plan is "a la carte," based on the state's minimum requirements. Some of the available topics to be taught may include firearms safety, basic defensive pistol skills, loading and stoppage remediation, carry modes, and pistol concealment. When the instructor creates the course on the instructor portal, they choose which lessons out of the 10 will be taught. If the state's minimum requirements are a class on firearms safety, that's all the instructor will choose if they are sticking to the state minimum.

Some states require additional training, such as firearm safety, drawing from a holster, and possibly a legal considerations portion. These topics can all be selected individually to meet the requirements of the state in which the class is administered. Additionally, in order to become NRA certified, the instructor level course requires the instructor to be proficient with defensive pistol manipulation and solid fundamental shooting skills. This is tested using a timed qualification course of fire in which the instructor must pass with a 90% or better. The NRA is holding the instructor candidates to higher standards than that of the student (80%) to help ensure that the instructor cannot only teach, but also do.

Getting certified as an NRA CCW instructor does have prerequisites. In order for someone to be certified as an NRA CCW instructor candidate, they must first already be certified and have an active rating as an NRA Basics of Pistol Instructor. Instructor candidates must also first take the student level CCW course, as per the minimum state/local requirements for where they reside. As mentioned earlier, the instructor candidate will also need to score a 90% or higher on the written exam as-well-as scoring 90% on the live-fire exit shooting qualification for the instructor course.

For the student, they will be signing up to take a concealed carry class, taught by an NRA certified CCW instructor who possesses the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to provide the best possible entry-level concealed carry course in the country. Whether the student takes a one hour class or the full two-day class, which includes live fire range instruction, they will walk away from the course knowing they took the best possible training they were able to get. ■

Plan on getting your concealed carry permit and take this course today. To find a course nearest you, check out the NRA Find a Course search feature by visiting <https://www.nrainstructors.org/Search.aspx>.



Photos courtesy CCW Program



NRA **YOUTH DAY**

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

This year's NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits included the 6th annual Youth Day with over 500 youth participants and their parents. The Sunday of Annual Meeting became Youth Day since it started in 2013 at the NRA Annual Meetings in Houston, TX. On average, 400-500 youth participate in Youth Day activities, with the average age being 10 years old.

Youth Day is an afternoon full of activities and games for any youth that attends the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits. "We have a variety of activities; an airsoft range, a BB gun range with hourly competitions, a nerf gun range, nerf archer and crossbow, a laser shot range, an Aim Points interactive shooting simulator, a scavenger hunt, and much more," stated Claudia Olsen, coordinator of Youth Day.

"The event starts at 10 am, and kids can either start on the scavenger hunt or start in the hospitality room with the various activities," explained Claudia. "My goal has always been that every youth wins something, which we have been able to accomplish each year. Once the drawing of the prizes is complete, we close the doors around 5 pm."

"My goal has always been that every youth wins something, which we have been able to accomplish each year."

For the scavenger hunt, Youth Day organizers have sponsors that sign on to be part of the scavenger hunt by providing merchandise that they use to give the youth during the drawing of the prizes. The youth receive a hunting card that has to be validated at each participating sponsor. "We have one of our NRA Youth Shooting Sports Ambassadors assigned to each sponsor booth to sign the hunt cards as the youth come by. Once the card is completed, they take it back to the hospitality room where they get a ticket for the drawing," explained Claudia. Sponsors of Youth Day change from year to year, but Henry Repeating Arms, Pyramid Air, and Brownells have sponsored the event with merchandise for the prize drawing since Youth Day's inception.

Although this may sound like all fun and games, there is also an educational aspect to the day where youth learn about wildlife at an identification station. This station includes furs, antlers, and tracks for youth to identify. Students were also taught how to rope with the National High School Rodeo Association and how to play cornhole with USA Shooting's Olympic Athletes.

"We change the theme of Youth Day each year, and this year's theme was racing. The scavenger hunt's card looked like a checkered flag to match the theme," noted Claudia. Next year, Youth Day will be expanding in hopes of drawing in even more kids, and the theme will be Country Music as the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits will be held in Nashville, TN. ■

Make plans now to attend next year's Youth Day at the Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Nashville, TN which will be held April 17-19, 2020. Visit www.friendsofnra.org/nationalevents for more information on NRA events.

Photos courtesy NRA Youth Day

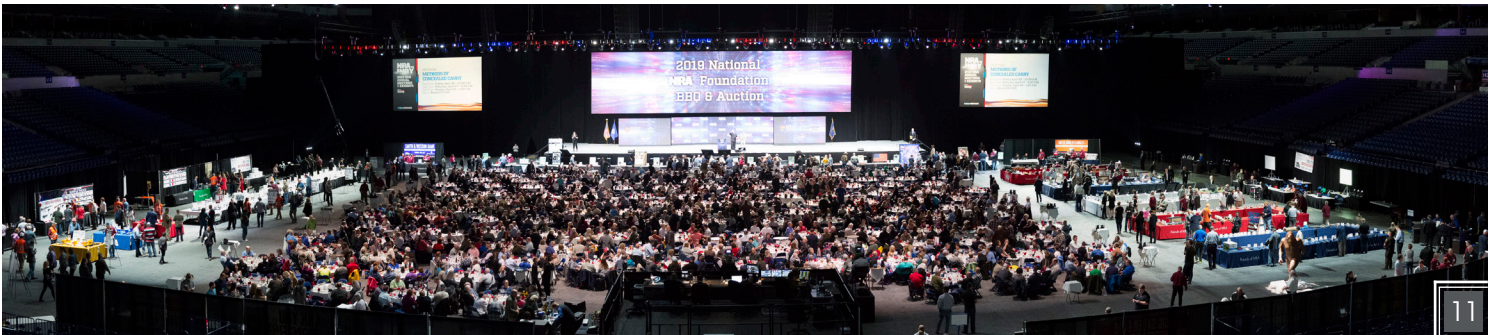
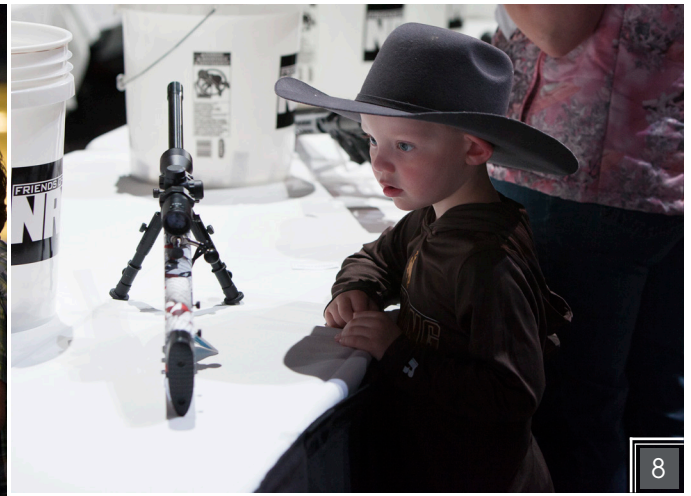


SNAPSHOT

FRIENDS OF NRA **GETTING TOGETHER** AT THE NATIONAL NRA FOUNDATION BBQ & AUCTION



- (1) The National NRA Foundation BBQ & Auction was kicked off with the presentation of the colors.
- (2) One attendee looks down the scope of the BG Defense Type-A 300BLK A3 Pistol.
- (3) Second Amendment supporters of all ages attended The National NRA Foundation BBQ and Auction!
- (4) NRA Foundation bidders take a chance on bucket raffles.
- (5) NRA Foundation BBQ and Auction volunteers sell Pick of the Auction raffle tickets to hopeful attendees.



- (6) Winners of the Table of Guns drawing celebrate their victory of the Kimber Team 2A Custom II .45 ACP 1911.
- (7) One husband and wife duo decide together which firearm they want to take their chance on winning.
- (8) Young auction attendee admires the Crickett Precision Rifle.
- (9) Two firearm enthusiasts pose with the Fostech Origin 12.
- (10) Omar "Crispy" Avila stops for a picture with two young Second Amendment supporters before the BBQ & Auction starts.
- (11) The National NRA Foundation BBQ & Auction was sold out for a night of fun, food, and firearms!

In Loving Memory of

James W. Harrington

By Shannon McLenithan
Secretary, Green Mountain Friends of NRA

June 17, 1953- February 28, 2019



Jimmy's passion for shooting sports started as a child. His father was an avid hunter and gun collector which sparked his lifelong interest in the shooting sports, gun collecting, and Second Amendment advocacy. In his early twenties, his love for old guns began. He spent countless hours researching and fixing old guns. His favorite was the 22 pump action rifle. He had more than a dozen of them, including one rare collector's item. Jimmy was a proud citizen of Bennington, Vermont and enjoyed collecting rare and interesting objects of Bennington's history. He was especially fond of the Bennington Monument and its history.

In Jimmy's spare time you could find him at the local gun shops or the Armory sharing his passion for guns with anybody that would listen. He enjoyed educating people on the history of guns, how they work and the importance of our right to bear arms. It was Jimmy's strong belief in the Second Amendment that led him to volunteer for the Brattleboro Vermont *Friends of NRA* banquet twenty years ago. After a few years of volunteering in Brattleboro, Jimmy decided it was time to bring a banquet to his home town of Bennington, Vermont. With the help of his friend Phil Ackerman, they started a committee, The Green Mountain *Friends of NRA*. Fifteen years later and up until



his passing in February of 2019, Jimmy was an active member of The Green Mountain *Friends of NRA*, which has raised more than \$254,000 for The NRA Foundation.

At the annual banquet, you would find Jimmy running the Wall of Guns. That was his game. He knew everything there was to know about each gun on that wall. In the most recent years, Jimmy had the honor of sharing his passion for the shooting sports and guns with grandson Kasey. Every year Kasey and his family would travel down from New Hampshire to share in the annual *Friends of NRA* banquet festivities. Jimmy savored the day and it showed in the twinkle in his eye as he shared in the day supporting what he loved with his family.

This year's Green Mountain *Friends of NRA* banquet was held just weeks after Jimmy's passing. His family came to the banquet, and his 12-year-old grandson ran the Wall of Guns to honor his grandfather's memory. Something else special happened that night. Two years ago Jimmy purchased a liberty bell at the banquet, and his wife donated it back for the 2019 banquet. Before the bell was auctioned off, there was a special tribute for Jimmy. Everyone wiped away their tears and the bidding began. A new banquet attendee who never met Jimmy or his family won the liberty bell. He walked over and handed it to Kasey and said, "in honor of your grandfather please keep his legacy and love for shooting sports alive."

Jimmy leaves behind a family tradition. A tradition in the shooting sports, gun collecting and Second Amendment advocacy. His family is dedicated to keeping his legacy and the Second Amendment alive. ■



Jimmy with his grandson Kasey and son-in-law Alan

One Amazing Auctioneer

By Gianna Guzzo

2017 Youth Education Summit Participant

MEET CARTER HASLAG!

While most 12-year-old boys are out riding bikes with their friends, or playing video games on Saturday afternoons, you can find Carter on the center of an auction block helping his community. Carter is a 5th-grade student from Missouri who, despite being so young, his proud parents say, “has a gift and we go with it. It is all him. We feel it is such a blessing.”

Carter has been a blessing not only in the eyes of his family but his entire community. When he found out his teacher was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, it was with the help of his parents and support of his hometown that he organized and ran an auction of donated items that raised over \$4,500 dollars to help with her medical care!

Carter says auctioneering “has been really cool. It is such a pleasant experience with all the hustle and bustle. It is really amazing I could do that to help my teacher.”

Carter has also become a regular auctioneer at his local community auctions, helping to sell cattle and farm equipment. “I got into it about a year ago; now I’m selling at local benefits and auctions.”

He describes this experience saying it has, “been really amazing to be the auctioneer and help the community and farmers. I am happy helping them sell their livestock and items, it is a very pleasant experience, and I hope it will keep getting better.”

When asked how he got into this unique sport at such a young age, his answer was quite surprising. He said, in an adorable southern accent, “I didn’t really think I would become one. We were selling calves a lot, then I started copying and mouthing the words of the auctioneers.” He then thought of the idea to record the auctioneers and bring the tapes home. “I would bring them into my room at night, (my parents didn’t know), and I would study them every single night.” He said it took him an astounding eight to nine months to learn to roll the entire auctioneer chant. After all those determined months of practice, he says, “I was crisp and clear.”

He said he also consulted YouTube to feed his growing passion. “It started as an interest, how auctions worked and all. I soon learned that running an auction wasn’t easy. My first sell at a cattle auction I got stage fright, but I got over it and I got used to the crowd. Then I got my numbers in, and that was it.”



“I got into auctioneering about a year ago; now I’m selling at local benefits and auctions.”




Carter has now brought his gift to the *Friends of NRA* by auctioneering at one of his local banquets. He said, “My experience at the *Friends of NRA* banquet was amazing and very fun. It was a ton more fun than other auctions, and they were served prime rib!” He was also impressed by their outstanding service. He pointed out how smoothly the auction went. “There were no hold ups or slowdowns, it was very quick. It was a really fun auction, and I hope to do it again in the near future. The other auctioneer was all hands on to let me do the selling, and everyone was friendly.”

When asked about his opinion on firearms, Carter said he likes his 20 gauge shotgun best, which he earned himself through his own hard work. “I make money by selling calves and mowing lawns. I also invest in calves and help around the farm.”

Carter then discussed his thoughts on the importance of the Second Amendment to American culture and history. “It’s very important and amazing that we can have firearms in America. We can go hunting and have the experience of going out and waiting for a big buck to come by.” He also brought up the important point that hunting provides “you to

have a freezer full of meat, and gives you pelts and more.” Hunting is a special family tradition to Carter, and he was so humbled to meet fellow hunters who also love The NRA Foundation at the banquet he attended. Carter told us how important hunting is to so many people, and therefore the Second Amendment is important to their livelihood.

After speaking with Carter one could immediately tell he has a very bright future ahead. He says he wants to, “open a sale barn and wants to network now so I can meet buyers. I also want to get to know people so they can buy my cattle.” Carter’s dream is to work with his dad on the farm, and also pursue his passion for helping his community with his special auctioneering talent. This makes Carter incredibly happy because he says, “I love auctioneering.” 

Support your local Friends of NRA by attending an event near you. To find a local Friends of NRA event, visit www.friendsofnra.org/events.





FEMALES, FIREARMS, AND FRIENDS OF NRA

By Kim Condon

*The Well Armed Woman Certified Instructor
& Friends of NRA Committee Member*

At the age of 53, a grandmother, a business owner, and someone who was adamantly afraid of firearms, I would have never guessed that I would be sharing this amazing journey.

My journey began shortly after the Aurora, Colorado, theater shooting in July 2012. You see, I had just opened my own business where I worked some late nights. Around that same time I also often found myself taking our grandsons to the movies when this horrific tragedy happened over 1,000 miles away from my home. One would ask, “Why did it make such an impact on you?” I still don’t have the answer to that. The only thing I can say is that it did, and I realized that we were living in some very scary times. I kept thinking what if that had happened in my hometown? I would be completely defenseless! I didn’t like knowing that, so I started looking for solutions. I went to my husband and asked him to teach me to shoot a gun. I knew with my small stature I would need an equalizer to stop any kind of threat that would try to take my life or the life of my loved ones.

Fast forward to April 2013. I completed a week-long firearms course in Arizona, which was 100% life changing. I came back home to Mississippi where I was surprised to find out there were no local training schools available like the one I just attended. I worked for and earned various training and instructor certifications so I could become as knowledgeable as possible. As a woman, a main focus was to make training opportunities appealing to the females. I researched the various national organizations and came across The Well Armed Woman, a non-profit 501(c)3. Their mission was to educate, equip, and empower the female shooter.

Now, in 2019, I am a certified training counselor with United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA), a certified instructor with National Rifle Association (NRA), State Leader for Mississippi and Regional Trainer for MS, LA, AL with The Well Armed Woman (TAW), a D.C. Project delegate representing Mississippi in Washington, D.C., and an active committee member of our local *Friends of NRA* in Central Mississippi.

My affiliation with The Well Armed Woman (TAW) and the *Friends of NRA* has afforded me opportunities to network and connect the two organizations for the past four years. In Mississippi, we have five local shooting chapters of TAW, which are close enough to our *Friends of NRA* events that we have been able to assist with many of the banquets. As the former Mississippi State Leader for TAW and a current active committee member with *Friends of NRA*, my goals are to have these two organizations work together, not only to bring awareness to the women at the events, but to provide networking opportunities with like-minded females for them locally, and help the *Friends of NRA* grow their audience. I coordinated with other chapter leaders within the state to attend their local *Friends of NRA* banquets, offer assistance, and provide door prizes for the ladies who attend.

My former local chapter, as well as other TAW shooting chapters in Mississippi, have been recipients of NRA Foundation grants. With the support of these grants, chapter leaders are able to provide training tools to help educate and equip members in the safe handling of firearms. Just to give an idea of how many ladies TAW reaches each month, the TAW Shooting Chapter Organization has over 350+ chapters all over the United States, with approximately 10,000 members. I have seen first-hand that when the women of the families are involved, the entire family is involved. These two mission-driven organizations, The NRA Foundation and TAW, want the same thing: to grow the shooting industry and serve our communities.

I am thankful for them both as I continue to grow as a shooter, an instructor, and a Second Amendment supporter. Age is only a number, and it is never too late to start your journey. ■

Apply for a grant today to help bring a firearms safety and education program like TAW to your hometown by visiting <https://www.nrafoundation.org/grants>.

“With the support of NRA Foundation grants, we are able to provide training tools to help educate and equip our members in the safe handling of firearms.”



The DEFENDER

Stephen Willeford



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

On November 5, 2017, evil entered a Sutherland Springs church in Stephen Willeford's community in the form of a gunman. Twenty-six beautiful souls were lost in the Chapel of the First Baptist Church, and twenty others were wounded. By the grace of God, Stephen was able to respond. He grabbed his rifle and ran across the street and exchanged gunfire, stopping the gunman.

“That day, evil entered our community, intent on destroying us. Evil stole away some of the most beautiful Christians that the world has ever known—but it did not destroy us. In their memory, in their honor, our community continues on, spreading the message of God, and his hope to those we meet. We lost some truly amazing people that day, people that I hope the world never forgets. People who are now rejoicing in heaven by God’s side,” stated Stephen.

Before this life-changing day, Stephen was already heavily involved in shooting sports in his community. He was a part of his church life group where all of the men shot together on Sundays after service. There, it was suggested that they should all become NRA Certified Instructors so they could bring their children into the shooting group. Together, they had a whole handful of kids they were able to train ranging from fifteen to 7 years old.

A local range offered Stephen and the other instructors a secondary range to shoot on, which also attracted other local families to participate. “Priority was gun safety, which most of these kids had been learning since they were old enough to understand directions. A healthy respect for a firearm is paramount,” explained Stephen.

With one instructor per student, the kids were taken through NRA qualifications. Stephen shared, “all three of my children were NRA Distinguished Experts by the time they were 8 years old!” The shooting group eventually evolved into attending local competitions, and a few students went on to national competitions and did very well. “One of our kids, Heather Deppe (now Telle), went on to set a national record on September 13, 2013, in Individual Outdoor Women’s Collegiate Sport Pistol. She later graduated West Point Military Academy,” Stephen proudly shared.

Bringing his friends with him, Stephen also regularly attends *Friends of NRA* fundraisers in his community. He has also been involved with the NRA for most of his adult life, and has always been a steadfast supporter of what this organization stands for. “There is a lot of misunderstanding about firearms. People stigmatize what they don’t understand. Firearm training teaches awesome lessons in responsi-



Frank Pomeroy, Pastor of First Baptist Church Sutherland Springs, Stephen, and Sheriff Joe Tackett when Stephen’s rifle was returned to him.



Daughter-in-law Heather Willeford, son Blake Willeford, daughter Stephanie Augustine, and son-in-law Bruce Augustine shooting at their range.

bility. They are good for self-defense, and sporting events, whether that is hunting, or shooting at the range with family,” said Stephen.

“I have been overwhelmed and humbled by the opportunities with which I have been presented since that horrific day. I was given the honor of speaking at two NRA National Conventions, and have spoken at a few *Friends of NRA* events in my community.” Stephen shared he wants to tell his story because it “illustrates the importance of protecting the Second Amendment, and my desire is to give glory to God for what happened.”

The training Stephen has received played a big part in equipping him with the proper skills to respond the way he did on November 5, and overall affected the outcome in this life-altering experience. His love for this country and knowledge of firearms will no doubt continue to spread, educating more people and saving more lives in the future.

When Stephen isn’t out saving lives, he enjoys riding his Harley Davidson with his family. “There is nothing quite as amazing as going on an adventure with your family on the open road, and feeling the wind on your face,” he shared. “We love shooting, hunting, and camping. And now I have two perfect grandbabies, Alice and Charlotte. They are the most beautiful little girls ever. They bring immeasurable joy into my life.” ■



Pictured above: Stephen speaking at the National Christian Protectors Conference in April in Kansas City, MO

Pictured left: Granddaughters Charlotte Willeford on left and Alice Howe on right.

A RISING TIDE RAISES ALL BOATS

By Greg Stephens

Southern Alaska Field Representative, National Rifle Association

Homer, Alaska *Friends of NRA* Chairman, Greg Collins, knows tides. As a former commercial fisherman who for the past twenty-four years has lived at the head of Kachemak Bay in the northern Pacific, he has seen his share of tides. Turnagain Arm Bore Tide is one of the largest, most aggressive and fast-moving tides in the world, and is a tide that Greg has found a lesson in and applied to his Second Amendment rights.

In the sleepy little fishing town of Homer, Alaska, population 4,000, Greg and the Homer *Friends of NRA* committee have managed to transcend the typical limitations of small-town fundraising. He and his committee have marked their spot on The NRA Foundation fundraising map in the sparsely populated nether regions at the edge of the world. Homer, Alaska has averaged over \$80,000 net per fundraising banquet for the past six years, with an all-time best of \$130,000 net. In 2016, this committee was ranked number seven nationally among all other *Friends of NRA* committees! Greg has earned the South Alaska Volunteer of the Year title three times, and his committee treasurer and daughter, Charmaine Blaine, has earned it once. Humbly, Greg will be the first to say that one doesn't attain these lofty goals alone or by taking from their community. Rather, those achievements come from surrounding yourself with other like-minded, passionate volunteers and then giving back whenever you can.

As an ambassador of volunteering locally in the Homer community, Greg is a well-respected captain in the local volunteer fire department. He is the chairman of the *Friends of NRA* committee. He regularly takes leadership roles in various worthy community charitable causes. He also volunteers his excavating equipment and his time as an operator making improvements at the local range. He is active as a staunch pro-Second Amendment voice in all media channels at the local and state level. In Homer, Alaska, Greg is "Mr. Second Amendment," and any local citizen who believes in freedom is buoyed by his efforts.

As he is always striving to set new records, Greg challenges his state NRA Field Representative to find new and different ways that he can effect positive progress within the Second Amendment community at the level of the Alaska State Fund committee. As an innovative leader, he and his committee pioneered and perfected the *Friends of NRA* Date Night Wall of Guns concept. They also became involved with the Alaska Sponsor Hunting and Fishing trip concept. After finding these one-and-done type events relatively easy and profitable for his committee, Greg brought the concepts to the Alaska state workshop to share with his peers. He reasoned if it worked in Homer, it should work in other places as well. Within the Alaska *Friends of NRA* community, Greg is recognized as a respected and experienced leader who listens to others, offers good advice, and works with other committees to advance the cause of freedom.





In 2018, Greg stepped up once again to transcend his efforts beyond Alaska, setting his sights on the *Friends of NRA* nine-state Western Region. He informed his Field Representative that he wanted “to see more fingers on triggers.” He wanted to donate beyond his local committee to the Second Amendment community region-wide. He wanted to instill safe and responsible firearms best practices while raising money for the cause. He then devised a package to donate to each committee in the nine-state region, which included two lifetime training memberships to a premier firearms training facility. Through the sales of those packages in live auctions, in 2018 The NRA Foundation received over \$250,000 net dollars!

Recently, Greg was contacted through the Homer, Alaska *Friends of NRA* social media page by a Swedish couple, Christopher and Anna, on their honeymoon in Alaska. They inquired about shooting at a local range. Greg graciously offered to take them to the Kachemak Bay Gun Club range to shoot his various handguns, AR rifles, and 50 BMG, to which they enthusiastically agreed. They had a great day and got to shoot firearms they had never seen before, let alone fired. Humorously, afterward, Greg joked that Christopher, who was in the Swedish military, had never fired a handgun in his life. And, his wife, Anna touched off the 50 BMG and blurted out some Swedish words of which Greg was not familiar, but he was sure he understood all the same!

With Sweden under his belt, the bar is now set at the international level. Where is the boundary for one determined patriot to affect freedom? Apparently, the sky is the limit! To borrow from our Second Amendment, football-loving brothers and sisters down south in Alabama, the Alaska Bore Tide is rolling and all boats in the Second Amendment Armada are rising! Roll Tide! 🇺🇸



Photos courtesy Greg Stephens

FAITH IN TEAM

USA

By Hunter Lindemann
2018 Youth Education Summit Participant



An attendee of the NRA's Youth Education Summit in 2018, Faith Pendergrass began her shooting career at a very young age. Many of her family members are involved in law enforcement, and she learned the importance of gun safety through frequent exposure to firearms early in life. What started as a childhood hobby eventually grew into a passion. Faith expresses her passion for firearms through competitive trap shooting—something she began doing at just nine years old. Around the age of twelve, she began travelling with a competition team.

“When I started traveling, I just wanted to see where shooting led me,” Faith explained. She never imagined just how far this decision would take her. When she shoots in competitions now, Faith wears the bright red and blue world team jacket. “It’s a very overwhelming and emotional experience. Even though I’m not on the Olympic team for next year,” Faith says, “It’s very inspiring to look at those shooters and see that they and I are wearing the same jacket. Just as they are representing the United States, I am too.” Faith is currently the top-ranking female in her age group nationwide. She and her teammates will represent Team USA in the World Championships in Lonato, Italy, and the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, in June. “The next step is to work to make a World Cup team,” Pendergrass said. “After that, I’ll be working to build points for the Olympic team in 2020.”

Faith shoots Olympic trap which she lovingly describes as “basically just regular trap except on steroids.” Unlike the traditional trap shooting competition, Olympic trap has fifteen machines that fire clay pigeons upwards of 85 miles per hour as opposed to the typical 35 miles per hour in traditional trap. Unfortunately for Faith, the nearest facility where she can train is two hours away from her home, and she needs to practice four days a week. While this would be a daunting challenge even for someone with a lot of free time, Faith also manages to juggle high school and a part-time job. Faith explained, “I’ve been very lucky to have a supportive school district and a boss that is very understanding of all that I do.” The sheer level of effort Faith puts into being able to maintain her hobbies is indicative of her passion and extreme devotion to the sport.

Faith describes shooting as “the hardest sport I have ever done.” While shooting may not be as physical as other sports, the level of mental strength and focus needed to be successful requires lots of training. Faith would say to any new shooters, “It’s very hard to keep trying and staying motivated at first. Don’t get discouraged. Just chase the feeling of breaking one more target.”


Faith will be attending Martin Methodist College in Tennessee on a scholarship she acquired through her shooting. “For anyone who loves shooting but doesn’t see a future in it, getting a college scholarship is always a benefit,” Faith adds. She will be majoring in Criminal Justice in the fall to carry on her family tradition of public service. ■

To learn more about the Youth Education Summit and apply for the 2020 session, visit www.yes.nra.org today. Applications for 2020 open late summer 2019.



STAY SHARP

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

A person wearing a black balaclava, safety glasses, and gloves is working in a workshop. They are using a bench grinder to grind a metal object, which is producing a large amount of bright sparks. The person is wearing a black t-shirt and a black balaclava with a headlamp. The workshop has a concrete wall with electrical outlets and cables.

“NOBODY HAS
THE RIGHT TO
TAKE AWAY WHAT
IS RIGHTFULLY
OURS.”

Brad Smith, Founder and Managing Partner of SILVER STAG Knives, fell in love with knives when he was just five years old. His fondest childhood memories were helping his father gather his hunting or fishing gear for one of their weekend outings. “My father kept his assortment of hunting knives in a shoebox in the kitchen cupboard above the refrigerator. He told me not to mess with them and I didn’t, but I remember when no one was around, I would push a stool across the kitchen so I could reach that special cupboard and would just stare at the knife collection with amazement,” shared Brad. Finally, his father gave him his first knife and from that day forward, he has always carried one on his belt or in his pocket. “I remember taking my first pocket knife to grade school and I would carve on my school desk wishing I was out hunting or fishing. There was nothing better than heading to eastern Washington to pheasant hunt with my dad, brother, and our two yellow labs. I was blessed to grow up in a conservative, close family. I spent most of my free time outdoors, enjoying everything the Pacific Northwest had to offer.”

Brad’s first attempt to make his own knife was in his high school wood shop. “I made a few handles that turned out ok. But when I tried to grind old files into a blade, all I did was destroy them. I tossed each one into the trash,” explained Brad. It took 15 years for Brad to try to create his own knife again. “I had just been laid off from a white-collar corporate job that I hated and was wondering what the heck I was going to do with my life. With the help



of my 70-year-old neighbor Bob, we started building a few stag knives in my garage. They were far from perfect, but the blade designs were good and they performed well in the field. We built up an inventory and decided to sell them at local gun shows. They were rustic, traditional, and stood out from all of the mass-produced imported knives that were flooding the market in the late ‘90s.”

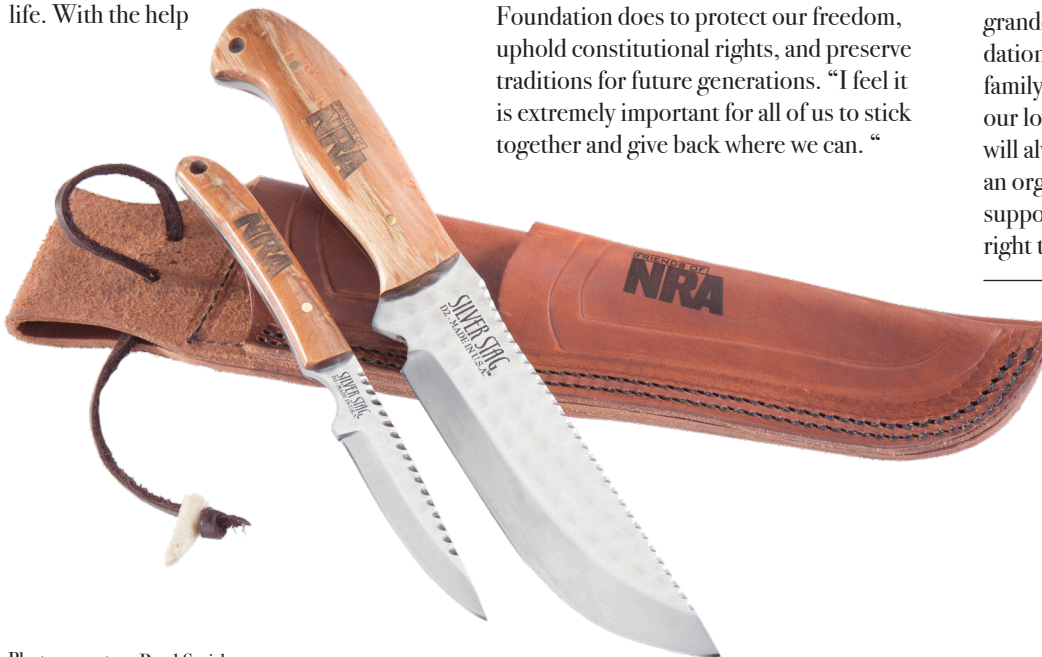
Fast forward to 2005, and Brad has SILVER STAG in major retail stores, moved his operations to a large shop where they still are today in Blaine, WA, and grew to a 15-member production team of avid supporters of the Second Amendment.

“My grandpa and father were NRA members, and not too long ago I came across some of my dad’s NRA medals he won at shooting events dating back to the 1950s,” explained Brad. He goes on to share how he has always been a supporter of The NRA Foundation and all the great work The NRA Foundation does to protect our freedom, uphold constitutional rights, and preserve traditions for future generations. “I feel it is extremely important for all of us to stick together and give back where we can.”



Over the past decade, Brad has donated many knives to various *Friends of NRA* banquets to use as fundraising items. “In 2009, I sent a batch of donations to the *Friends of NRA* selection committee, and one SILVER STAG knife in the bunch was awarded the *Friends of NRA* 2010 Knife of the Year award,” explained Brad. “What an honor! Since 2010, my small company has been blessed to partner with *Friends of NRA* on several exclusive knives that have been included in local fundraising banquets, and in a few national banquets.”

“I feel strongly about our right to pass on a wonderful way of life to our children and grandchildren, and without The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA*, our freedom, family traditions, and the ability to protect our loved ones would be taken from us. I will always do my small part to contribute to an organization that teaches freedom and supports traditional values. Nobody has the right to take away what is rightfully ours.” ■



Interested in becoming a Friends of NRA donor or sponsor? Visit friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx for more information.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO APPLY!

2020 GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

WESTERN REGION

AK 11/01/19	ND 11/08/19
HI 11/06/19	OR 12/03/19
ID 10/31/19	SD 11/08/19
MN 11/13/19	WA 11/19/19
MT 11/05/19	WY 11/07/19

CENTRAL REGION

IA 10/03/19	MO 11/13/19
ILN 12/05/19	MI 12/04/19
ILS 11/15/19	NE 10/17/19
IN 12/12/19	WI 10/01/19
KY 11/26/19	

EASTERN REGION

CT 11/13/19	NYU 09/04/19
DE 10/17/19	OH 11/07/19
MA 11/13/19	PAE 10/15/19
MD 11/07/19	PAW 10/15/19
ME 11/01/19	RI 11/13/19
NH 11/01/19	VA 11/07/19
NJ 11/13/19	VT 11/01/19
NYL 11/13/19	WV 11/20/19

SOUTHWEST REGION

AZ 10/04/19	CAS 10/23/19
CAC 10/23/19	CAM 10/23/19
CAE 10/23/19	NV 10/30/19
CAN 10/23/19	UT 10/31/19

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

AR 11/19/19	OK 01/09/20
CO 10/31/19	TXN 11/14/19
KS 10/31/19	TXS 11/14/19
NM 11/15/19	TXW 11/14/19
	TXE 11/14/19

SOUTHERN REGION

AL 12/18/19	MS 12/18/19
FL 09/05/19	NCE 11/01/19
	NCW 10/01/19
GA 11/21/19	SC 12/10/19
LA 12/18/19	TN 12/27/19

GRANT APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE ACCESSED AT

[NRAFOUNDATION.ORG/GRANTS](https://nrafoundation.org/grants)

*Dates subject to change

NOTE: Deadlines listed by State Fund Committee (state abbreviation with regional designation where applicable)

THE **NRA** FOUNDATION

TEACH FREEDOM

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

I was on the first committee started in Asheville, North Carolina back in 1993. I went on to be the co-chairman in 1997, and then chairman for several years before the state was split into the two regions it is today. Due to the split, a second Field Representative position was added which I applied for and became in 2002. I was also an election volunteer coordinator in 1996, 1998, and 2000.

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

Almighty God, family, friends, the wild places, and accurate rifles.

REP WRAP

What did you do in your previous life...

Before getting involved with *Friends of NRA* as the Western North Carolina Field Representative, I was a business broker from 1995-2002.

Favorite firearm and why...

My favorite firearm is the 98 Mauser. Not only was it the preeminent battle rifle when it was introduced, but it has been used as the basis for some of the finest firearms created by custom rifle builders for over a century. I'm not that sentimental about any particular rifle I have. I like them all.

Tell us something unique about you...

I have been blessed to be able to experience some great hunting on six different continents. It's always exciting to pursue different game and see new places, but it also makes me appreciate what we have here in the USA. We experience liberties that most people can only dream of, and even though we have to defend our rights to maintain them, I am honored that I am a part of the NRA as a champion for our cause.



Doug Merrill

WEST NORTH CAROLINA

Senior Field Rep since March 2002



FRIENDS OF *Freedom*

2018 AREA VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



Darren Norcross
Chairman, Reno *Friends of NRA*

"Darren is an outstanding communicator and exhibits the characteristics of a great leader. He recognizes that all of the people on the committee are volunteers and that everyone needs to be involved, feel valued, and enjoy the work in order to be successful. He communicates and genuinely cares about the organization and his committee members."
- **NRA Senior Field Representative, Steve Wilson**

Steve Miller
Chairman, Zane Grey & Zane Grey II *Friends of NRA*

"This man bleeds red, white and blue. He believes in supporting the NRA, the Second Amendment, veterans, and so many more groups that are considered 'underdogs' in today's modern society. He leads through example and doesn't expect anything in return."

- **NRA Field Representative, Winston Pendleton**



Tony Kalna
Chairman, Big River *Friends of NRA*

"Tony is a leader in his community and his *Friends of NRA* event. He is the person that everyone goes to for answers, ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, and much more. He is very well respected in the community as a leader."

- **NRA Field Representative, Tim Besancenez**

Mike & Jennifer Young
Chairman & Secretary, Central Maine *Friends of NRA*

"Mike & Jen both exemplify integrity, moral characteristics, and the spirit of volunteerism. I trust them to do any task with competence and in a timely manner. They are the first to arrive at meetings and for their banquet, and are always the last to leave. Mike & Jen are two of my most trusted volunteers."

- **NRA Field Representative, Brian Smith**



Richard Holbrook
Co-Chairman, Pittsylvania Danville *Friends of NRA*

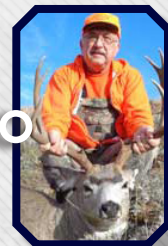
"Richard is so passionate about the *Friends of NRA* program. He sets the bar high and inspires others on the committee to work hard. His success year after year speaks volumes on how well respected and well liked he is in his community."

- **NRA Senior Field Representative, David Wells**

John Oldani
Treasurer, Oakland-Macomb *Friends of NRA*

"John has been my go to person on any questions regarding state raffle licensing and raffles in general. He has a wealth of information on raffles and how to run large events as the Oakland/Macomb *Friends of NRA* is the largest in the state of Michigan at over 750 attendees. John is an avid hunter and strong supporter of the Second Amendment, and has been involved with the *Friends of NRA* program for over 20 years."

- **NRA Senior Field Representative, Al Herman**





Paul Ryan
Co-Chairman, Superior Area *Friends of NRA*

"Paul is well respected by all. He is a man of high integrity and moral character with a great, friendly personality. He is always smiling, and is an inspiration to all."

- NRA Senior Field Representative, Scott Taetsch

Tim Benedix
Chairman, King City *Friends of NRA*

"Tim is consistent, persistent, detail oriented, driven, skilled at working with volunteers, and able to bring his committee to compromise and consensus."

- NRA Senior Field Representative, Steve Wilson



John & Tracey Warren
Co-Chairman & Treasurer, Kaskaskia River Valley *Friends of NRA*

"John and Tracey truly understand the bigger picture and set their sights on obtaining the very best for the overall good of The NRA Foundation. Their strong devotion to our gun rights is a leading professional quality others listen too, understand and follow."

- NRA Central Region Director, Donald Higgs

Wanda Calloway
Co-Chair, Buffalo River *Friends of NRA*

"This lady does not have an ounce of quit in her body. She is such a leader in our program and represents the core values and strength of the *Friends of NRA* volunteers in Arkansas. She is as humble as they come and never steps forward to take credit for the work she puts into this program. Deserving is an understatement when it comes to the character and work ethic of Wanda."

- NRA Senior Field Representative, Erica Dunn



Doug Nicholson
Chairman, Hill Country *Friends of NRA*

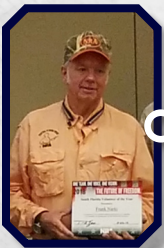
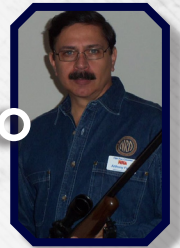
"Doug's passion for the cause is seen by everyone on the committee. His determination and drive for excellence is contagious to everyone around him. He is quick to fix problems and the first to take action on anything committee related."

- NRA Field Representative, Tyler Ward

Tony Forte
Chairman, Cape Fear *Friends of NRA*

"Tony is an NRA Certified Instructor and a Certified North Carolina Concealed Carry Handgun Instructor. He believes in our mission and puts forth a great amount of time and effort to help make the Friends program a success. He goes above and beyond to help support our mission and is very deserving of this award."

- NRA Field Representative, Garland B. Storey, III



Frank Narki
Co-Chairman, Central Florida Ridge *Friends of NRA*

"I have never met anyone that cares so much for the youth programs of Florida and has dedicated his life to making sure that they have the opportunities to participate in the shooting sports for generations to come. Frank's drive and dedication to the future of the shooting sports is second to none."

- NRA Senior Field Representative, Tom Knight

Brad Scarbrough
Chairman, Greater Northland *Friends of NRA*

"Brad is a take charge kind of guy who is always thinking of ideas and better ways to improve his own local event, and calls frequently with offers to help me with other Friends events in the area. He firmly believes in the Second Amendment and the mission of The NRA Foundation, and wants to see the program grow to new heights not only through the growth of his own event, but in his help to other events in Missouri."

- NRA Senior Field Representative, Travis Scott



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