

TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

FAMILY, FRIENDS & FUNDRAISING

National Corporate Sponsors Mossberg, Numzaan and SecureIt bring their family focus to Friends

THE ROAD TO GOLD

GINNY THRASHER climbs from high school shooting sports to winning on the world stage

RECOVERY ON THE FRONT LINE

Camp Valor Outdoors and Camp Perry help veterans stay strong and steady



SAYING **Y.E.S.** TO LEARNING
AT THE 2016 NRA YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT

Features



4

COVER STORY

Saying Y.E.S. to Learning

The Youth Education Summit is not only an exciting week of fun and friendship in D.C.—it is also the learning opportunity of a lifetime!

ON THE COVER



2016 Youth Education Summit attendees show off their teamwork skills and enthusiasm while visiting the national mall in Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL NEWS

10

20 Years of Y.E.S.: Alumni Celebrate the Anniversary

29

INDUSTRY CORNER | Mossberg, Numzaan & Securelt

12

Recovery on the Front Line

32

SPOTLIGHT | The Road to Gold: Ginny Thrasher

REGIONAL UPDATES

18

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

STAFF

Editor & Designer
Christina Paladeau

Co-Editor
Kristina Krawchuk

BOARD OF TRUSTEES & OFFICERS

Mr. James W. Porter II
President and Trustee
Mrs. Carolyn D. Meadows
Vice President and Trustee
Mr. William A. Bachenberg
Trustee
Mr. Allan D. Cors
ExOfficio and Trustee
Mr. Joel Friedman
Trustee
Ms. Susan J. Hayes
Trustee

Mr. Steve Hornady
Trustee
Mr. George K. Kollitides, II
Trustee
Mrs. Susan Kriley
Trustee
Ms. Anne Lee
Trustee
Mr. Robert A. Nosler
Trustee
Ms. Barbara Rumpel
Trustee

Mr. William H. Satterfield
Trustee
Mr. Rob Unkovic
Trustee
Mr. H. Wayne Sheets
Executive Director
Mr. Wilson H. Phillips, Jr.
Treasurer
Mr. Skipp Galythly
Secretary

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.



NRA's Youth Education Summit: The Torch that Illuminates America's Future

By Kyle Weaver

National Rifle Association General Operations Executive Director

I remember the first NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) very clearly... and the truth is, we really did not know what we were doing. The program grew out of a need to educate our young leaders about the Constitution and the political process, and exposing them to the NRA and our programs was an added benefit. We set the criteria required for applicants, and developed a process for selecting the right ones—the rest was unknown. Fast forward 20 years, and while the program continues to evolve there's been one constant throughout. The Y.E.S. program is absolutely great for one reason: the students.

For nearly 150 years, the National Rifle Association has been committed to training, educating and supporting American citizens in their quest to become better, smarter and safer gun owners. This commitment comes alongside the fight to defend our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms, preserving the backbone of liberty and freedom in our great nation.

It's no secret that the key to building a bright future lies within our youth, the young men and women who will one day take the reins from us and preserve the timeless ideals of our forefathers.

Youth education has been part of the NRA from the very beginning, with youth-specific programs dating back to the early 1900s. Many of these programs still exist today in structure, but Y.E.S was the first one focused on leadership. It has become NRA's main event in identifying and fostering the best of America's youth—uniting the brightest and most patriotic high school students—to cultivate the next generation of leaders.

Each year summiteers come from all corners of the United States and an array of different backgrounds, from rural farming communities to urban neighborhoods, suburban enclaves to the smallest American towns, and everywhere in between. Since inception, more than 850 students have earned the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., and take part in the program. The students apply in pursuit of college scholarships, but they also have the fortuity to enhance their understanding and respect for our Constitution and Bill of Rights—including our inalienable Second Amendment—and realize the significance of civic affairs and the role of our federal government in piloting our nation ahead into the future. From presentations about community outreach and political activism to tours of our nation's most revered monuments and halls of governance, Y.E.S. is designed to leave a lasting impression on students and the future of our nation alike.

While the national program carefully selects the best-suited 40 to 50 students annually, there are several state Y.E.S programs open to all high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors interested in learning more about their state government and the roles their generation of voters will play. There are currently five states that host a Y.E.S program mirroring the national program. In most cases students participating in these state programs can earn a spot in the National Y.E.S. the following year as an award for being the top state student.

20 years later, I am confident in what we've built. The program has become an elite high school leadership program. Y.E.S. students arrive as brilliant young Americans, and leave as even better, more experienced young adults. As they embark upon the next stages of their lives, they continue on to become leaders in business, commerce, politics and beyond.

Through the years we have changed many parts of the program, focused on different topics and ensured the relativity of the week to society. One thing that will never change is the most special and unique part of Y.E.S., the students. They are the brightest, most polite and most driven youth I have encountered in my career. I am confident the next great leaders in this country and protectors of our freedom will have gone through a Y.E.S. program. The NRA will always do whatever we can to build the future of our country through the young minds who hold such promise, one summit at a time.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT AT WWW.FRIENDSOFNRA.ORG/YES. NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2017 SUMMIT!

SAYING **Y.E.S.**

By Abigail Klein
Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator III



TO LEARNING

This year the NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) celebrated its 20th anniversary of bringing together some of the best and brightest rising high school juniors and seniors from around the country. From July 25–31, the 2016 Y.E.S. hosted 47 students from 37 states for a weeklong journey around the nation's capital. Each year the summit's non-stop itinerary in the greater Washington, D.C., area focuses on American history and government to teach students about the hard work, leadership and sacrifice required to preserve the liberties guaranteed to us by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The program also tests the students' academic and leadership abilities through debates and current events discussions covering Second Amendment freedoms and a wide range of other topics. Most importantly, each day brings exciting new opportunities for the students to grow as individuals and as a group of talented and responsible citizens, and this year's class of motivated and inspiring young people realized the full potential of every moment.

MONDAY was arrival and orientation day. From mid-morning through the evening, the 2016 Y.E.S. group slowly took shape as students arrived at the hotel. Despite long days of travel for many, all had energy and excitement to share in introduction and icebreaker activities throughout the afternoon. After a repeating chorus of "Hi my name is [Name], from [City, State]," innumerable times, it was time for dinner and the formal start of Y.E.S. The chaperones provided a quick orientation of the week's plans, goals and rules, and they guided the students through some team building activities—including an eight-legged race, the human knot, and a game of human bingo—that resulted in a few falls, a lot of laughs and, ultimately, success. To end the night students broke into their debate groups to continue working on the debate topics assigned to them prior to their arrival.



PHOTOS by Peter Fountain and Paxton Delaney. Opposite page: The 2016 Y.E.S. group gathers outside the National Firearms Museum after a tour of the extensive collection housed at NRA headquarters. This page, from top: Megan Brown (N.C.), Neil Payne (Texas), and Zach Aceves (Calif.) take aim at the NRA Range with the guidance of NRA instructors; Serena Lee (Nev.) awaits her turn to play one of the exciting games at the mock *Friends of NRA* banquet held at Tuesday's lunch.



TUESDAY found the group at NRA Headquarters for a special look at the programs and people that make up this organization, beginning with a welcome from Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. The students then heard from a number of guest speakers to learn more about how the NRA and The NRA Foundation function. Presentations covered Make a First, Hunter Education, the Institute for Legislative Action, School Shield, Refuse to Be A Victim, and more—Eddie Eagle himself even made an appearance! Senior NRA Field Representative David Wells joined the group and transformed lunch into a mock *Friends of NRA* banquet complete with games, prizes and a lot of fun. It introduced the students to the program's fundraising events and how they fund Y.E.S. and shooting sports programs across the country. In the afternoon, the students headed to the National Firearms Museum for a tour from Y.E.S. alumnus and NRA Firearms Specialist Logan Metesh. Hundreds of firearms from different eras and many one-of-a-kind pieces piqued their interest and provided the perfect segue to the next activity. After a safety briefing and range test, the group headed to the NRA Range, where students had the opportunity to shoot several different types of firearms and learn from NRA instructors. With the high energy and excitement from the range time still flowing, the group left headquarters and spent the evening at a local park getting to know each other better over a picnic dinner and field games.

PHOTOS Clockwise from top: Troy Ryder (Calif.) shoots a .22 rifle during the trip to the NRA Range; Emma Fleming (N.D.) steadies her aim with a pistol as an NRA instructor watches her technique; NRA Museums Firearms Specialist and Y.E.S. alumnus Logan Metesh stops at a highlight on his tour of the National Firearms Museum as Gretchen Evans (W.V.) and John Callens (Minn.) look on; Kayleen Bowie (Colo.), Emily Hootsell (Miss.) and Delana Wesen (Alaska) get their photo taken with the sign outside NRA headquarters.

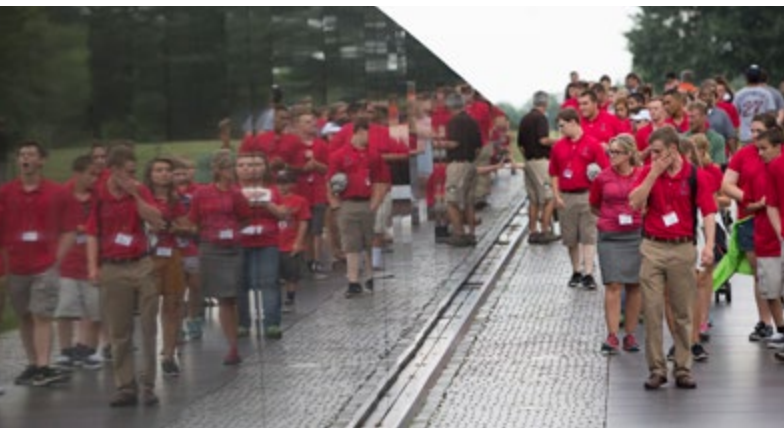


WEDNESDAY started off in D.C. at the NRA Institute for Legislative Action Federal Affairs office. Two ILA federal liaisons spoke about the lobbying process, explained what a “normal” day looks like for NRA lobbyists, and answered questions about federal government and legislative proceedings. Then it was off to the Capitol where students had the chance to see and learn about the House Gallery before touring the building. A short walk across the street led to the Supreme Court building for a lecture about the history of the court, the building, and some of the monumental decisions made in the courtroom where the students were seated. After a too-brief stop at the National Museum of American History—where favorite exhibits included the Star Spangled Banner, First Ladies and America on the Move—the summit returned to the hotel for a current events discussion. A wide range of topics challenged the students to think deeply and share their views effectively with others. In just a few hours, the chaperones and special guests watched them grow in their speaking skills and witnessed how they were able to influence others with their arguments. Moving stories from some students demonstrated how certain topics impacted them personally and truly inspired the rest of the group to respectfully and openly communicate throughout the evening.



PHOTOS Clockwise from top: Bryttani MacNamara (La.), Megan Brown (N.C.) and Kayleen Bowie (Colo.) play the Plinko game run by Y.E.S. alumnus and chaperone Sean Coffindaffer at the mock *Friends of NRA* banquet; The “Daniel Defense” group poses in front of the Star Spangled Banner exhibit at the National Museum of American History; Ben Moody (Idaho) presents part of his team’s argument during the debates at Hillsdale College’s Kirby Center; Zach Aceves (Calif.) shows off his target to Jake Wisener (Ala.).

THURSDAY morning had the students on edge but ready to finally present their debates at Hillsdale College’s Kirby Center for Constitutional Studies & Citizenship on Capitol Hill. The teams stated arguments, posed questions, offered rebuttals, and endeavored to eloquently and succinctly present their cases, demonstrating each individual’s continued growth of speaking and leadership skills. Next, a visit to the National Archives to view the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights left the students feeling awe-inspired by seeing these founding documents in person. After a stop for dinner in Chinatown, the group headed past the White House to begin a tour of the monuments and memorials on the National Mall. From the World War II Memorial, the students were guided to the Vietnam War, Lincoln, and Korean War memorials to experience some of the most beautiful, moving and important sites in the city. Walking along the Vietnam War Memorial and observing the vast wall of names was especially touching, and all the students filed past a visiting Vietnam veteran and thanked him for his service.



FRIDAY started extra early with a quick boot camp-style physical training session to get the students warmed up before traveling to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The group was welcomed to the museum by an active duty marine who answered the students' abundant questions about what service in the corps is like. The students then walked through 241 years of Marine Corps history brought to life through the unique and engaging exhibits at the museum. Afterward, the history lessons continued as the students spent the afternoon exploring George Washington's Mount Vernon. They toured the mansion, saw many of the other buildings on the property, and paid their respects at the tombs of George and Martha Washington. Following a stop by the Iwo Jima Memorial for a picnic dinner, the group attended the 8th & I parade at the Marine Barracks in D.C. where students witnessed "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and silent drill teams perform in dramatic fashion. They also had the opportunity to talk with more marines, and one student said that this experience solidified his decision to join the Marines.

SATURDAY, the final full day of Y.E.S., began on a somber note with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery. As the group watched in silent respect, Neil Payne (Texas), Robby Keiser (Mont.), Gretchen Evens (W.V.), and Evelyn Bizovi (Ore.)—selected as a recognition of their commendable participation throughout the week—participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. As always, the expansive fields of white crosses provided a moving reminder of just how many have sacrificed so much to secure American freedom. Afterward students visited the Newseum and learned about the freedom of the press in particular. The day ended with the closing banquet and awards ceremony at the hotel, and this year the group had the honor of welcoming NRA Secretary John Frazer as a special guest and speaker. Students and chaperones spoke about their experiences from the week, and the evening also included the presentation of \$16,000 in end-of-week scholarships awarded to the students whose participation during the week truly stood out. The night ended with students sharing their last few hours of time together, signing memory books and having an impromptu dance party that epitomized the fun and friendships created over the course of this very special week.

PHOTOS This page, from top: The group enters the Vietnam War Memorial and solemnly reflects on the sacrifices it represents; Y.E.S. students were enthralled by the realistic and impactful displays at the National Museum of the Marine Corps; The group poses for a photo with the iconic Iwo Jima Memorial after a picnic dinner; The students received an introduction to George Washington's Mount Vernon by a historical interpreter who brought the estate and its past residents to life. Opposite page, from top: William LaVelle (Neb.), Josh Hall (N.M.), Hunter DeLaRoi (S.D.), Jake Wisener (Ala.), Aidan Hayes (N.C.) and Neil Payne (Texas) get a photo in front of the Washington Monument as the group starts its tour of the memorials at the WWII Memorial; Ellen Reynolds (Fla.) earned the top end-of-week scholarship, which she accepted from NRA Volunteer Fundraising Director Sarah Engeset and NRA Secretary John Frazer at the awards banquet on the last night of the Summit.



The students came to Y.E.S. not knowing each other or what to expect from the summit. Now they are planning visits to each other and looking forward to sharing their Y.E.S. experience with prospective future participants. They expanded their knowledge of government, history and the Second Amendment, and, most importantly, they learned how as individuals and as a team they can effect change among their peers, in their communities and throughout the country. ■

Now it's your turn! NRA is issuing a call for all young leaders interested in making a difference for the 2017 Youth Education Summit! The summit will run Monday, July 24–Sunday, July 30, 2017. To apply please visit www.friendsofnra.org/YES, call (800) 672-3888, ext. 1351, or email yes@nrahq.org. Application deadline is February 13, 2017.

2016 END-OF-WEEK SCHOLARSHIPS

- \$3,500 ELLEN REYNOLDS** | Ocala, FL
- \$2,500 BEN MOODY** | Kunda, ID
OLIVIA ROGERS | Gardner, KS
- \$1,500 JAKE WISNER** | Guntersville, AL
EMILY SALTARELLI | Montgomery, TX
SERENA JUCHNOWSKI | Richfield, OH
- \$1,000 AMELIA BROWN** | Plano, TX
AIDEN THOMASON | Knoxville, TN
BRYTTANI MACNAMARA | Sulpher, LA



The NRA Foundation awards **GRAND SCHOLARSHIPS** to proactive Y.E.S. alumni every year.

These 2015 Y.E.S. students took what they learned and returned to their communities as ambassadors committed to furthering the mission of the NRA.

The NRA Foundation is proud to invest in these young leaders as they take steps to promote change and positively impact America's future.



\$2,500
TREVAR FISCUS
Juneau, AK



\$1,500
DELANEY YODER
Bremen, IN

20 Years of Y.E.S.

ALUMNI REFLECT ON THE IMPACTS OF THEIR EXPERIENCES

The NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) was started in 1996 with 20 students from 12 states. Since that first class, 864 students have attended the national Y.E.S., and 49 states have been represented over the years. After awarding \$5,300 in End of Week Scholarships and \$10,000 in Grand Scholarships to 1996 participants, Y.E.S. has continued to support the young achievers and future leaders of America who attend the program and awarded over \$500,000 in college scholarships.

So where are some of these amazing students now? Here is what some Y.E.S. alumni had to say about these four questions:

1. *Where are you now and what are you doing?*
2. *How did the Y.E.S. program influence your future?*
3. *What was your favorite part of the program?*
4. *Do you still keep in touch with other Y.E.S. alumni?*

Brooke McCann

Represented Wisconsin

1996

1. I currently live in Pine Island, Minn., and work at Mayo Clinic Rochester in the Immunostains Lab. For the past three years I have loved mentoring students, residents, fellows and future Mayo Clinic employees through the College of Medicine Mayo Clinic as an Instructor in Laboratory Medicine and Pathology.

2. Y.E.S. had a big influence on my future even though I wasn't aware of it at the time. It gave me the resources to be able to make a dream come true when I was blessed to get a scholarship to shoot on Morehead State University's NCAA Division 1 rifle team.

4. Jenny Rogers and I are still in contact and we also spent four years in college shooting together on MSU's Rifle Team.



Megan Dively Lehman

Represented Pennsylvania

1997

1. I live in Williamsport, Penn., with my husband, Forrest, and son, Harrison, who is 2 1/2 years old. I have my MA in Urban Affairs and Public Policy; Concentration: Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Delaware. I work as the Lead Planner in Lycoming County's Department of Planning and Community Development.

3. My favorite part of the program was touring and photographing so many historical and important buildings, and getting to know people from all over the country that I had a lot in common with.



Sean Coffindaffer

Represented Connecticut

2013

1. I moved from Oxford, Conn., to Guntersville, Ala., immediately after Y.E.S. 2013, and I am currently a sophomore at Samford University in Birmingham.

2. Y.E.S. inspired me to pursue a degree in History with a focus on Legal Studies and apply to be a chaperone at a future Summit—which I did, and I had the opportunity to chaperone Y.E.S. 2016!

3. My favorite part of Y.E.S. 2013 was when we visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps; it was, without a doubt, one of the best museums I had ever visited.



Wyatt Saltarelli

Represented Texas

2012

1. I am currently entering my junior year at The College of the Ozarks in Branson, Mo., where I am studying criminal justice and business. I am a pitcher on the baseball team and help lead Fellowship of Christian Athletes at my college.

2. The Y.E.S. program taught me about the Second Amendment and the great freedoms we have been blessed with as Americans. Y.E.S. also challenged me to be a leader in my community! As part of my Grand Scholarship project I helped to start the Texas Y.E.S. program.

3. My favorite part was going to Marine Corps Base Quantico and spending the day on the base. It was an incredible experience!



By Abigail Klein



NEW DECADE: NEW DESIGN

Check out the new Y.E.S. logo!



**YOUTH EDUCATION
SUMMIT**

Y.E.S. is celebrating it's 20th Anniversary with this new logo design that capitalizes on the program's mission to educate young leaders about the American government, Constitution and political process.

Samuel Lyon

Represented Texas

2001

1. I am currently a Captain in the United States Army serving on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. I have been here for almost four years, deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, then Commanding a Stryker Infantry Company, and now as the Aide de Camp to the Commanding General of the 7th Infantry Division. I have been married to my wife, Ana, for over five years now, and have an eight-month-old daughter, Gabriella.



2. The Y.E.S. program is what illuminated my desire to serve our nation through our Armed Forces. It wasn't until seeing our nation's capital, the Marines training at Quantico, Vir., and the 8th & I parade in Washington, D.C., that I realized I wanted be a Soldier.

Ashley Thompson Tomasek

Represented West Virginia

2003

2. Y.E.S. helped me learn to be more outgoing, and to work hard for what I want in life. I loved the Y.E.S. program because we were all from different parts of the country and different types of people, and by the end of the week we were a family.



4. I am so thankful for the friendships I made, and I still keep in touch with several of my Y.E.S. alumni on Facebook. I was very excited when my brother Matthew got to go when he was in high school, and later interned at NRA headquarters. It gave me a chance to come back to NRA headquarters and reminisce.

Daniel Wendt

Represented Louisiana

2011

1. I just started the MS in Finance program at LSU, and I also started a business called Tonal Innovation with my best friend about a year ago.

2. Y.E.S. helped me to understand the principles I believe in—especially in terms of politics. I plan on running for office fairly soon, and I attribute much of my desire to run to Y.E.S.



3. My favorite part of the program was debating at Hillsdale College's Kirby Center for Constitutional Studies. While I did not end up going to Hillsdale, I have taken many of their online programs.

4. There are a number of people I keep in touch with, especially those who went to other SEC schools. We typically meet up on game days for a few minutes.

Logan Metesh

Represented Michigan

2005

2. Y.E.S. solidified my interest in and passion for history and firearms and it made me much more aware of politics in our country. Both of those things have been vital in shaping my personal and professional life.

3. I really enjoyed seeing the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Constitution with my own eyes. That visit to the National Archives took those foundational documents of our country out of the ethereal world of history books and made it real and tangible to me. My other favorite part of the program was getting to ride in a Riverine Assault Craft on the Potomac River at the Marine Corps Base Quantico.





Reco on Fro

By Kristina Krawchuk
*Event Marketing & Communications Manager,
National Rifle Association*

Camp Perry claims to be the largest outdoor shooting range in the world, but it has functioned as many things over the years: a training center for officers and marksmanship instructors during World War II, a POW camp for German and Italian prisoners and a National Guard training facility. A large number of those original buildings still exist and are in use today. The old POW camps are now on the docket for historical preservation and other housing structures are continually being updated with renovations like air conditioning.

However, Camp Perry is probably best known as the home of the NRA-sponsored National Matches which have been held there since 1907. For five weeks every summer, more than 1,500 rifle and pistol enthusiasts from around the globe celebrate marksmanship and compete in Pistol, High Power, Mid-Range, and Long Range events with skill sets varying from beginner to the world's best. And the view—300 acres perfectly situated on Lake Erie in northern Ohio—immediately sets a tranquil tone for any competitor.

This year Camp Perry was also host

very the nt Line



to eleven special athletes who spent a week competing in the NRA High Power Service Rifle Championship and the Long Range Championship. These are no ordinary competitors. They have overcome tremendous life hurdles to get here and, although they come from different backgrounds, they all share the commonalities of being disabled veterans competing for Camp Valor Outdoors—an organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of wounded, injured and ill veterans.

John Schwent is the man behind the mission. As Executive Director and Founder of Camp Valor Outdoors, he

says there are too many of our veterans suffering in life. “As a guy that retired from the Marine Corp, I not only served but have been working with wounded veterans since 2010 and have seen how adaptive sports and outdoor recreational activities have impacted their lives,” he explains. “I just felt that there was something we could do to help. So essentially it’s reconnecting ill, injured or wounded veterans with the outdoors. We are 100% volunteers—none of us receive a salary—we just do it to better the lives of our brothers and sisters.”

Richard Stalder, known as “Shaky

Jake,” is from Muenster, Texas, and has been part of the Camp Valor Outdoors Team since 2012. But this is his first time at Camp Perry, and, although the temperatures are scorching this week, he said he couldn’t think of a better way to spend his time than with his fellow veterans and team members. “It’s kept me out of my room,” said Stalder. “It’s kept me out of that dark place. It’s kept me pushing. It doesn’t let me stop. It makes me want to be better as a person, as a veteran to other veterans. If I didn’t have Camp Valor, I’d still be in my room right now.”



Back in 2010, Stalder was a Marine getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan. February 4 was a day that changed his life. Vaccinations to prevent anthrax and malaria didn't agree with Stalder's body and physically shook him to his core. "I have full body tremors, I syncope so I pass out, I've had 29 kidney stones to date, gallbladder infections, stomach infections, a hernia in my esophagus, and my memory isn't so good anymore and my brain doesn't function like it used to because I hit my head so many times passing out—but I don't let that define me," says Stalder with a Cheshire cat grin. "I'm 'Shaky Jake' because I want to be and I wouldn't have it any other way."

This is the second consecutive year Camp Valor Outdoors has participated in the National High Power Rifle Championships through the support of The NRA Foundation. The availability of funding is thanks to Dennis Willing, director of NRA Competitive Shooting, who applied funding received from the Foundation to the program. Denise Loring, chief operating officer of Camp Valor Outdoors, says that support is crucial to growing the organization: "It was critical," she says. "We are young, just having been formed four years ago. Without the funds from The NRA Foundation, we wouldn't be here at the National Championship. We are very passionate about this organization and the shooting sports, and we want to share it with other veterans."



This year that funding increased to \$15,000, allowing more team members to attend Camp Perry with funds covering travel, entry fees and special housing for those with disabilities. Willing, a disabled veteran himself, says a grant like this has immeasurable impact. "It is important to get disabled veterans doing something they know how to do and remind them of the fun they can have," he explains. "One participant this year told me he wasn't far from suicide when Camp Valor stepped in to help him; shooting has turned him around and he is enjoying life once again."



According to a new Department of Veterans Affairs study, 20 veterans commit suicide each day. In 2014 more than 7,400 veterans took their own lives. That number accounts for almost 20% of all suicides in America, highlighting the serious mental health problem faced by many who served in the military, especially older and female veterans. One of the Camp Valor Outdoors vets told me about his brother who came back from the Korean War with PTSD. At the time, the diagnosis wasn't something people understood.

Unfortunately his brother was unable to process his situation or get proper help, and he took his own life a few years ago. His tragic story just one of many that call attention to the same underlying issue—the need to properly integrate vets back into society.

When I questioned Schwent about handing a firearm to a vet with mental health issues, he told me it's exactly what that former service member needs. "Every warrior has pulled a trigger," he said. "We've all been trained that way. It's the one

common denominator that all branches of service share. "Often times when you get hurt on active duty and you get medevacked out, when you finally get discharged you are never able to put the uniform back on. You are never able to put that rifle back in that warrior's hand to make you whole and complete again. So we use the shooting sports as a key contributor in the healing process to make you what you once were."

Camp Valor Outdoors is now in its fourth year, and so far they have helped over 750 veterans and their families reconnect with the outdoors. Laura Root is another one of those 750. She hails from St. Petersburg, Fla., and linked up with Camp Valor Outdoors just this past spring. She has an eye for the 600 yard line but laughs and says this week has been a little challenging, yet also inspiring. "They've taught me how to shoot with the big boys," she says. "It's an amazing opportunity to shoot with the best of the best from all these different branches—it's a kind of chosen family. I feel really grateful to be here."

Root was a Navy Intelligence Officer gearing up to deploy to Libya in 2012 when she was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy and had to be hospitalized. The navy then connected her with adaptive sports. "I've been involved in a lot of adaptive sports programs," says Root, "but shooting is the most under-appreciated yet the most transformative. I've seen a lot of new shooters get

on the range and recover a lot of their confidence and also get into a community that they were craving. I think one of the biggest problems that we have with veterans coming home is that it's not trauma that's killing them, it's isolation."

"There are a lot of wounded veterans that we are unable to reach right now because [that population] is coast to coast," says Schwent. "We operate in 13 states, and the more states that come on board, the more warriors that want to participate. It requires more gear, more volunteers, but that

means our message is getting out there to warriors and their family members that we are here to make a difference. Whether it's guided hunting or fishing events or recreational or competitive shooting—there is always an opportunity to volunteer and help make a difference."

It's a difference that has helped Shaky Jake get back on his feet. He may rely heavily on a cane to walk, but give this guy his rifle and put him in prone position, and he's on a level playing field with everyone else. On this day "Shaky Jake" shot his personal best—a 758-14x. His smile could light up a small city. It's a day he isn't sitting alone in his room waiting for the next round of doctor visits and tests, wondering what's going to happen to his body next.

He's just a competitor en-

joying his first time at Camp Perry, his adaptive family and his awesome score—you might call it the ultimate bullseye. ■

For more information about Camp Valor Outdoors go to www.campvaloroutdoors.org, and watch the video of our visit to Camp Perry at www.youtube.com/user/FriendsofNRA. Learn more and apply for an NRA Foundation grant at www.nrafoundation.org, and attend a Friends of NRA event near you to help fundraise in support of shooting sports programs like this one. Find one at www.friendsofnra.org/Events.

2016 NATIONAL MATCHES CAMP VALOR OUTDOORS TEAM

DAN GRAY

*U.S. Army
Virginia*

LESLIE LEWIS

*U.S. Army Reserve
South Carolina*

DENISE LORING

Chief Operating Officer, CVO
*U.S. Army Reserve
Virginia*

JIM ORILLE

*U.S. Navy
New Jersey*

AARON PERKINS

*U.S. Army
Airborne Infantry
California*

LAURA ROOT

*U.S. Navy
Florida*

JOHN SCHWENT

Founder/Executive
Director, CVO
*U.S. Marine Corps
Missouri*

**RICHARD "SHAKY
JAKE" STALDER**

*U.S. Marine Corps
Texas*

BILL WALTER

*U.S. Air Force
Florida*

PHOTOS By Jon Isbell. Previous page: Laura Root prepares to shoot in the prone position. Opposite page, from top: Shaky Jake checks the sites on his rifle; Denise Loring transports her gear; John Schwent proudly represents Camp Valor Outdoors; Director of NRA Competitive Shooting Dennis Willing helped the Camp Valor Outdoors team make it to the 2016 National Matches through NRA Foundation grant support.

Femmes with FIREARMS

By Kristina Krawchuk, *Event marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association*



What started as a casual conversation a few years ago became an overnight sensation for women in Monongahela, Penn.

“There was such a response, the club had to turn women away,” says *Friends of NRA* volunteer Laraine Grcich. “They planned on having 40 attendees but had enough requests to do another class and then some.”

No it wasn't the latest exercise craze, it was the NRA Women On Target® clinic supported by The NRA Foundation, and it was all anyone in town could talk about. Wendy Karem was one of those women eager to participate. She and her sister, Sandy Hager, signed up immediately. “I have my carrying permit, but I never felt comfortable carrying a gun let alone firing one,” Karem said. “I have been around guns all my life but never really had any use for them. My dad had tons of guns and my husband has that many plus more. But in today's world, I felt that I needed to carry one and most definitely need to know how to shoot one. My husband tried to teach me, but if you are married—well, you know how that goes.”

Grcich's husband, Steve, happens to be the chair of the Mon Valley *Friends of NRA* committee and vice president of the Valley Inn Sportsman's Association. He, along with Valley Inn Sportsman's Association Club President Rusty Polonoli, applied for an NRA Foundation grant to support the clinic. Sure enough, yesterday's Women On Target® discussion quickly transformed into today's Women On Target® clinic. The grant helped cover the costs of ammo, hearing and eye protection and targets while the club supplied more ammo and instructors.

Now it was time to call in the women, a group Grcich excitedly says was incredibly unique. “We took 40 women with ages ranging from 21 to 84, [women with] different lifestyles, mothers and daughters with little or no experience handling a firearm, and one by one, club members gave these ladies the knowledge, skills and attitude to properly handle that firearm.”

“I had no idea what this class was going to be like, and, honestly, my sister and I were both scared. But wow!” exclaims Karem. “The class was awesome. From beginning to end, it was informative, hands-on and most of all interesting.”

Gathering in groups of 10, women took turns firing at various ranges after their safety instruction. They learned how to load, unload and safely fire all the firearms with enough time at each discipline.

“Women spent the day shooting 3,500 rounds of .22 caliber, 2,400 rounds of .223, 900 rounds of 9mm, 800 rounds of .38 caliber and 200 rounds of .45 caliber,” says Grcich. “They also had a fully automatic M16 and an MP40 for those shooters who wanted to take advantage of shooting something they wouldn't



Photos courtesy Wendy Karem and Valley Inn Sportsman's Association



normally shoot.”

Karem tells me emphatically, “I have told and will continue to tell women that they need to experience this class. I think it's important for everyone who owns a gun or wants a gun to know this information.”

“We taught them to shoot, not just pull the trigger,” Grcich points out. “Since the event, I have received numerous emails and thank you notes from attendees expressing their gratitude and asking to be contacted to further their training with shooting.”

“I'm 45 years old and Pandora's Box opened,” enthuses Karem. “Now I'm looking at guns I want to own, carry and shoot. And be comfortable with them. And it opened the door for me to shoot with my husband of 26 years and not feel afraid!”

After eight hours of pure adrenaline, those 40 women went home and no doubt became overnight ambassadors for women in the shooting sports in Monongahela, Penn. ■

Support Women On Target® and other educational shooting programs in your area by fundraising with Friends of NRA and applying for an NRA Foundation grant! Apply at www.nrafoundation.org. Learn more about Friends of NRA in Pennsylvania at www.friendsofnra.org/PA.

A Lasting Love & Legacy

By Christina Paladeau

*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*

The Darnalls of Bloomington, Ill., have deep roots in the shooting sports community, and both Sue Darnall and her daughter-in-law Alison fully embraced that family heritage when they married into the family. Sue and her husband Ron Darnall now helm Darnall's Gun Works & Ranges, the family-owned business started by Ron's grandfather in 1923. Their facilities for trap, skeet, sporting clay and indoor and outdoor pistol and rifle shooting have grown into an epicenter of shooting sports activity and fostered wide-reaching programs.

Sue is an original founding member of the Illinois Women's Shooting Association (IWSA), which was started to meet the growing interest of women looking to get involved in the shooting sports. As part of that effort, the IWSA expanded its scope to involve kids and give them the hands-on experience needed to safely enjoy shooting, especially after receiving their DNR Hunter Safety cards.

"There wasn't a whole lot of that going on back in the 90s," Sue explains. "So that's where we started. We had a clinic. Our camp was begun because we felt the need badly for young people to be able to shoot firearms, all different ones. I always felt that we needed something to tell them that when you get the DNR Hunter Safety card, you need the hands-on experience. I had a one-day clinic, and each child was sponsored by an adult. We had no equipment, no anything. And we had 84 kids show up. The interest was incredible."

That first one-day clinic was held in 1994 and has since grown into the extend-

ed, overnight NRA Youth Shooting Camp. Participants arrive on Thursday afternoon and stay through Sunday evening, camping out in tents and rotating in groups through the numerous disciplines and activities offered—.22 rifle, shotgun, pistol, archery, cowboy action, ruger steel (pistols and rifles), rimfire, black powder, air rifle, air pistol, and paintball. The goal is to provide youths with exposure to a wide variety of shooting in the hope that they will find one or more disciplines they wish to pursue outside the camp environment.

"We try to make it a little different every year since we have a lots of kids that come back year after year. It's about half and half new and returning shooters," Alison shares. "Parents even plan their vacations around the camp. This year we had 135 participants, aged 9-16. Some younger kids can come too, with a parent. After 16 they can come back as junior staffers to teach the new groups coming through."

Thanks to the support of NRA Foundation grants—IWSA has received 48 grants

from The NRA Foundation since 2000, totaling more than \$185,000—the camp now owns the necessary equipment for all of these disciplines and young shooters, though that wasn't always the case. "Back when we started we didn't have money or equipment, so we were borrowing everything," Sue says. "For years and years we did that. But we got involved with the grant program and slowly we have acquired equipment through grants—shotguns, rifles, pistols, tents, canopies—enough to let the kids have plenty of opportunity. That was the hardest thing to do, to make sure we had enough and the right equipment for them."

And now that they have all of this equipment at their disposal, Sue makes it available, along with their assistance, to anyone who would like to have a day clinic or try to put on a camp like theirs. "I used to travel with our trailer to a lot of different places to provide what was needed to start a clinic, including everything from canopies to coolers," Sue says. "Camps throughout



Illinois started this way—with our assistance, their volunteers and the awareness of the grant program.”

Like those camps throughout Illinois, the Brownells/NRA Day program was modelled after Sue’s camp—the longest running youth shooting camp in the country. “When asked what’s at the top of my list of accomplishments in my shooting life, I have to say it’s my NRA Youth Camp,” beams Sue. “I’m so proud of it because of the kids that come, how they learn and have fun, being kids and interacting with each other while getting to shoot in a safe environment. My camp is my crown-jewel achievement.”



The Darnalls understand the full circle of the fundraising that supports the NRA Foundation grant program. Sue and Ron started the Bloomington *Friends of NRA* banquet 25 years ago. “One of our committee members takes pictures of the camp and runs those throughout the dinner to promote how the fundraising is for the youth and the women and the shooting sports,” Sue adds. “I’ve been promoting the NRA all of my married life, 50 years. There is a part of the NRA that isn’t political and it depends on the community and they depend on the grants.”

“All these kids know the NRA and what it stands for,” Alison says. “You spend a weekend with these kids and it’s an educational time for the kids and everyone involved in supporting these camps. It’s due to the fundraising and grants that we’re able to offer a full three-day program for only \$100—shooting 12-15 disciplines for two hours each, with ammo and food. If it wasn’t for the grant that we receive from the Foundation it would not be this affordable or reasonable, and that’s what makes it so accessible. It’s a passion for this family, not just a business. With the aging population of volunteers, it has become apparent to me how important it is to get the kids interested young, make them active shooters and advocates for the sport to pass it on.” ■



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



COMMITMENT BEYOND BORDERS

THE FRIENDS OF NRA
COMMUNITY STRETCHES
ACROSS COMMITTEES
AND STATE LINES

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

As evening approached on Saturday, July 30, new Lexington County *Friends of NRA* Chairman Dave Anatra was busying preparing for his committee's banquet with his fellow volunteers. Little did he know that he was in for an amazing surprise as the event unfolded.

Dave first got involved with *Friends of NRA* in northern Ohio. With a passion for supporting charitable organizations—and a history of volunteering for organizations from Lion's Club to Kiwanis Club—he quickly agreed to help out with a *Friends of NRA* banquet when invited. "I consider *Friends of NRA* the same as those other organizations, except *Friends of NRA* has the focus to combine both of my passions—teaching, training and educating people about firearms and the chance to help fund that by raising money through different events," says Dave. "When I worked the first banquet I got to see all of these people who feel the same and I was welcomed like I was a longtime veteran. And it was awesome."

Dave was hooked. He began volunteering at different events like the Wall of Guns and linked up with the Northeast Ohio *Friends of NRA* committee. More banquets. More fundraisers. And through all of this he was able to observe the spark at the heart of the program's mission and success. "I got to see the passion of different committees when I went to their events," Dave says. "One thing that they all had in common was that everyone was there to have a good time but had no bones about why we were there—fundraising."

When Dave and his wife moved to South Carolina in December 2015, he remained committed to supporting that fundraising for the shooting sports and quickly sought out NRA Field Rep Freeman Coleman, who was also new to South Carolina *Friends of NRA*. "I became a pest," he chuckles.

"I was ready to get with a committee and help out! We talked many times over the phone, and finally he told me about the committee in Lexington." The two of them met up with the treasurer and some other volunteers to start discussing 2016 plans, but the committee was in need of a leader. When Freeman asked who wanted to be the chairman, the room went quiet. But Dave isn't one to shy away from a challenge. "I'll take it," he decided. "I'll dive in head first and then learn how to swim."

When the committee started recruiting more members and working to plan a banquet, Dave reached out to Freeman again. This time it was for a special request. "I told him I didn't want to lose sight of what I'm here to do and why," Dave says. "I asked him to send me a copy of the signed event charter so I could hang it on my wall and keep me focused."

After months of planning and the collection of an entire room full of donations, the day of the event arrived. "I was more nervous than

a kid on his first prom date," Dave confesses. "I didn't know what to expect. I had people in my committee who I didn't know and they didn't know me except for our meetings, so I'm sure they had high expectations."

As people began funneling in the door, Dave kept busy working games. In all the excitement, he didn't notice a few familiar faces make their way into the crowd—four members of his old Ohio committee. "I look up and here are four people who drove 10 1/2 hours just to come to my banquet because they knew I was the chairman," he says. "There was Todd, Bob, Suzanne and Darrel, all with big smiles on their faces. And Freeman had known about this for months!"

The visitors did more than just boost Dave's spirit and participate as attendees at the banquet, they also pitched in as volunteers. "Come time for the live auction, they jumped up and helped out as runners in the live auction," Dave recalls. "Not only did they drive here and spend money at the banquet, but they physically helped out. It was their way of saying thank you."



NRA Field Rep Freeman Coleman, Northeast Ohio Committee Chairman Todd Figard, Northeast Ohio committee member Bob Heidbreider, Dave Anatra, Northeast Ohio committee members Suzanne Sattler and Darrel Shaw at the July 30 event.

All the excitement, hard work, surprises and dedication paid off. The Lexington County event tripled its fundraising from 2015 to 2016, and the committee isn't stopping there. "None of us have lost interest," Dave affirms. "We are more energized because we've got a good group of people. And when the Ohio volunteers came down to the banquet, right then and there, it sunk in for me that these guys are like family; we'll do whatever we can to help each other. *Friends of NRA* aims to be a family function that is open to all ages and all walks of life. That experience just reinvigorated me and made me realize again that that's what we are—a family. Time and distance doesn't separate us once you make that connection. Our program has no borders." ■

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

READY, AIM...

REPEAT

Plenty of clays, shells and repetition helps three Arkansas teams gain a competitive edge

By Ben Afshar





Fall is in the air, and the skies of Arkansas are once again filled with sporting clays. The state already boasts an impressive number of trap and skeet shooter alumni, including U.S. Olympic Team member Kayle Browning, and there's no letting up in sight. Among the largest in the nation, Arkansas's youth shooting sports program has continued to experience tremendous growth in the recent past.

Friends of NRA and The NRA Foundation have contributed to this development, and evidence of that support can be found three times over in Mississippi County, Ark. Over the past two years, grants from The NRA Foundation provided three Mississippi County clubs—Armored Public Schools Trap Team, Big Lake Claybreakers Club, and Gosnell School District Pirates Trap Team—with nearly 52,000 shot shells as well as shotguns and other equipment and supplies.

“With the number of students that we have and with limited funds—all of our fundraising is done by ourselves—these grants allow our team members a lot more practice,” said Greg McGuirt, assistant coach of the Gosnell Trap Team. “They are able to get more rounds in and increase their number of opportunities to look at targets and break targets before going to competitions. Just like any other sport, the more you practice, the better you get. In shooting, the more you shoot, the better you get. It takes a lot of rounds. Throughout a season, an average trap shooter will shoot anywhere from 10,000 to 12,000 rounds before they ever even compete.”

Those extra repetitions are crucial for any young shooter, but they're especially valuable for those who have almost zero experience with firearms of any type. Part of what makes these programs so special is their impact on youth who are brand new to the shooting sports. “We take kids, some of whom have never held shotguns before in their entire lives, and we

get them busting clays in their first practice,” said Jason Pruet of the Armored Trap Team. “We teach kids safe gun handling, sportsmanship and fair play. It introduces kids to the shooting sports—some of these kids build a whole lifetime of shooting based on their experience in this program.”

While some of these clubs are associated with their local school districts, the fundraising is more or less up to the club members themselves. The NRA Foundation's grants program is a crucial component of the fundraising process, providing these clubs with much-needed supplementary materials to aid in the development of these young shooters. “We have a very limited budget as far as what we have to operate on, and the one thing that this [NRA Foundation grant] does for us is give us the ability to not have to do a whole bunch of extra fundraising,” said Pruet. “We've operated solely on the grant funds that we've received—they've funded our entire program for the last two years.”

While competitiveness and good-sportsmanship are irreplaceable components of these programs, above all else comes firearms safety. “Our program's core is safety,” said David Keys of the Big Lake Clay Breakers. “Any inexperienced kid and parent can rest assured that the number one thing taught is safety.” ■

Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund educational shooting sports programs like these in your area! Go to www.nrafoundation.org to learn more.

PHOTOS Courtesy Armored Public Schools Trap Team, Big Lake Claybreakers and Gosnell Pirates, counterclockwise from top: Armored team members prepare to compete at the 2016 regional competition; Big Lake Clay Breakers Senior Squad; Gosnell senior teams at AYSSP Regionals Tournament; Armored team member shoots her clays at regional competition.



SCOUT HOLLOW'S NEW SKILLS

By Kristina Krawchuk
*Event Marketing & Communications Manager,
National Rifle Association*

Scouting in Idaho dates back to the early 20th century when the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) incorporated in 1910. Ashton Council was formed in 1917 followed by the Pocatello Council in 1919 and the Idaho Falls Council in 1922. Back then the focus was teaching young men basic frontier skills in the great outdoors such as pioneering, resourcefulness and adaptability. Although many of those scouting skills are still part of this century-old organization, the BSA has grown and evolved over the years and now entails building more current skills, developing a community spirit and enjoying more outdoor activities such as camping.



of the Grand Teton Council. The council oversees 14 counties in eastern Idaho, western Wyoming and southwestern Montana and with the help of 11,000 volunteers, they serve over 22,000 scouts. Scout Hollow is one of many camps they sponsor and they are always looking to strengthen programs within the shooting sports. Knowing they need funding to launch a Pellet Rifle Program, Jenson reached out to several volunteers of the Henry's Fork *Friends of NRA* committee and learned about applying for an NRA Foundation grant.

Thanks to his efforts, Scout Hollow was awarded almost \$3,500 from The NRA Foundation in 2016. That money launched the program and paid for pellet rifles, targets and ammunition. And the feedback was overwhelming. "The boys and girls that participated loved experiencing a new firearm for the first time," says Jenson. "These boys and girls were also excited because they felt like they were graduating from a BB gun to a pellet rifle. It gives them something to look forward to as they get older."

Around 1,700 older boys and girls—ages 10 to 11—directly benefited from new pellet rifles. All 4,000-plus Scout Hollow attendees took advantage of the new targets. Besides the Boy Scouts of America, both the Girl Scouts and Activity Day girls organizations benefited from the new inventory.

And camping at Scout Hollow is all of that and then some. Located in Rigby, Idaho, on 40 acres of former farmland, Scout Hollow is a scouting oasis serving 4,000 Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and participants of other empowering organizations for girls each year. The highlight of this camp is the shooting sports programs, says Jeff Jenson, Camp Director for Scout Hollow. "It's the reason so many kids attend," he says. "The ages we serve are boys 6-10 and girls 5-11. We had archery, BB gun, and slingshot as program activities that our kids could participate in, but we wanted to enhance the experience of the older kids in the program as a way to continue peaking their interest in shooting sports. It was decided that a pellet rifle program would do the trick."

Jenson is also the District Executive

"In the case of a Cub Scout Camp like Scout Hollow, the NRA Foundation grants provide boys and girls the opportunity to learn firearm safety in a safe environment," says Jenson. "Watching boys and girls hit a target for their first time and seeing their excitement brings a lot of joy to myself and my excellent staff. Watching how they share their accomplishments with their peers and leaders is extremely satisfying."

Things have changed a bit in the last 100 years. Can you imagine the looks on their faces if you told a group of kids it's time to learn how to pioneer? But if you tell them to put down their bb gun and pick up their pellet rifle—now that's a different story. Not bad for bringing the tradition of teaching practical skills in the outdoors among a spirited community into the 21st century. ■



Photos credit Levi Shaffer



Visit tetonscouts.org for more about Scout Hollow and the Grand Teton Council. Go to nrafoundation.org to apply for a grant for your program! Learn more about Idaho Friends of NRA at friendsofnra.org/ID.

FINDING A FUTURE THROUGH SHOOTING SPORTS

By Jim Russell

*Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Director, Board Member for both Cal-Diego and National PVA,
NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, Major, USMC (Ret)*

Since 1946 the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), a congressionally chartered nonprofit organization, has been working diligently to insure that catastrophically disabled veterans receive quality health care and government benefits, plus recreation and rehabilitation through many venues, including the shooting sports.

Our challenge is to motivate young men and women to get involved in their future when they have lost the use of their legs and more. These are military veterans who bravely served our country with honor and dedication and in the process lost the use of their limbs. Many lost the use of both of their legs (paraplegics) while others lost the use of both of their arms as well (quadriplegics). We spend the majority of our time, when not advocating for medical care and funding medical research, working to provide a more meaningful life through rehabilitation, education and employment, plus sports and recreation. It is only because of generous individuals and organizations like The NRA Foundation that we are able to provide this much-needed assistance.

For more than 30 years our Cal-Diego PVA chapter in San Diego, Cal., has been pursuing a rehabilitation program through the shooting sports that includes trap, high power rifle and pistol, and air rifle and pistol, and the Southern California *Friends of NRA* has been a great supporter of our efforts.

During 2015 and 2016 PVA Cal-Diego sponsored several shooting events that touched the lives of more than 350 people. Those events included: a two-day air rifle and pistol seminar and competition at Naval Base San Diego, Point Loma, Calif.; a one-day high power rifle and pistol competition at

the Lytle Creek Firing Line, Lytle Creek, Calif.; a three-day trap seminar and competition at the Redlands Shooting Sports Park, Redlands, Calif.; and a two-day air rifle and pistol seminar and competition at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif. We also were able to send our chapter team to five other PVA shooting events in Seattle, Portland, Tucson, Las Vegas, and Minneapolis, all with the help of The NRA Foundation.

“ Our challenge is to motivate young men and women to get involved in their future when they have lost the use of their legs and more. We work to provide a more meaningful life through rehabilitation, education and employment, plus sports and recreation. ”

Supporting our efforts, a 2016 grant of about \$7,550 from The NRA Foundation provided us with two new 12 gauge autoloader shotguns, two sporter air rifles and two air pistols. This equipment makes it possible for those who do not own the required equipment to participate in our programs, and we have ‘sip-n-puff’ triggers available for quadriplegics that are physically unable to hand actuate their triggers.

The grant also provided us with hearing and eye protection as well as 2,000 air gun pellets, 1,000 10 meter air rifle and pistol targets, 1,500 rifle and pistol cartridges, and more than 25,000 shotgun cartridges. All of these resources have helped decrease the out-of-pocket costs for our event participants and defrayed the practice expenses for our chapter team, allowing PVA Cal-Diego to continue sponsoring and

participating in shooting sports programs that engage wounded veterans and the communities around them. ■

Learn more about Friends of NRA in California at www.friendsofnra.org/CA. Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund educational shooting sports programs like this one in your area! Go to www.nrafoundation.org.



"After my injury in 2012 and subsequent hospitalization, I found I had a lot more free time on my hands than I was used to. I decided to get back into shooting sports. I had shot competitive pistol in college and was actually an NRA certified pistol instructor. However, being active duty in the Navy did not allow me the time to keep up with my shooting. Now that I had the time I wanted to start shooting trap as well.

Unfortunately the shotgun I had was ill suited to competitive trap. Luckily Jim Russell was able to loan me a Weatherby 12 gauge shotgun that had been provided to Cal-Diego for that specific purpose by the NRA Foundation. With that shotgun I have been able to progressively improve my shooting and I hope to make the Cal-Diego PVA Trap team this year. I sincerely send my appreciation to The NRA Foundation for their support."

- BRIAN DELANEY



"When I first saw our PVA members shooting trap, air rifle and air pistol I wanted to get involved. I spoke with Jim Russell and I joined him at the trap range at Camp Pendleton for a few practice rounds. Additionally, Jim was able to loan me a shotgun provided by The NRA Foundation to allow new shooters to get involved. He even arranged for me to try an adaptive device, but even with that my disability prevents me from being able to enjoy participating in the sport of trap.

However, air gun is another thing. Again I called on Jim Russell. He loaned me a sporter air rifle that had been provided to Cal-Diego by The NRA Foundation. That worked so well that I purchased my own air rifle and as a result I have attended several air rifle/pistol seminars and competitions and am able to win awards with both. Through the therapy of air gun shooting I can now load the pellets without using a pellet pen and my arm has become much stronger. My thanks to The NRA Foundation for their support of disabled veterans and the shooting sports."

- DAVID WYLIE



"As one of the leaders in shooting sports for PVA, it is one of my responsibilities to come up with the where-with-all to allow our members to participate. I am so grateful to the NRA Foundation for assisting in providing the firearms, ammunition, targets, and the safety items we need to conduct safe tournaments."

- JIM RUSSELL

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO APPLY!

2017 GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

WESTERN REGION

HI	09/21/16*	WY	11/10/16
ID	11/02/16	OR	11/15/16
MT	11/02/16	MN	11/16/16
SD	11/09/16	WA	11/18/16
ND	11/09/16	AK	12/01/16

CENTRAL REGION

WI	10/04/16*	KY	11/30/16
IA	10/24/16	MI	12/01/16
ILS	10/27/16	ILN	12/01/16
MO	11/16/16	IN	12/08/16
NE	11/21/16		

EASTERN REGION

NYU	09/08/16*	NJ	11/01/16
PAE	10/13/16*	RI	11/01/16
PAW	10/13/16*	ME	11/02/16
DE	10/18/16*	VT	11/02/16
VA	11/01/16	NH	11/02/16
CT	11/01/16	OH	11/03/16
NYL	11/01/16	WV	11/03/16
MA	11/01/16		

SOUTHWEST REGION

AZ	10/06/16*	CAS	10/25/16
CAC	10/25/16	UT	11/09/16
CAE	10/25/16	NV	11/10/16
CAN	10/25/16		

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

CO	10/05/16*	TXS	11/17/16
NM	11/15/16	KS	12/01/16
TXN	11/17/16	AR	12/13/16
TXW	11/17/16	OK	01/11/17

SOUTHERN REGION

FL	09/02/16*	SC	11/22/16
	02/02/17	LA	12/15/16
NCE	10/01/16*	TN	12/30/16
NCW	10/01/16*	AL	02/23/16
GA	11/22/16	MS	02/23/16

NOTE: Deadlines listed by state abbreviation with regional designation where applicable

GRANT APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE ACCESSED AT
NRAFOUNDATION.ORG

*Contact your NRA Field Representative for information about applying for a grant in 2017

THE **NRA** FOUNDATION

TEACH FREEDOM



FAMILY, *FRIENDS* & FUNDRAISING

Three family-focused companies lend a hand
as National Corporate Sponsors to support
Friends of NRA fundraising success

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

O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC., shares the enthusiasm for preserving America's shooting sports traditions that drives the *Friends of NRA* fundraising and NRA Foundation grant programs. Having long supported the NRA with donations to national events, sponsorship of the National NRA Foundation Banquet and television shows, and more, Mossberg also sought to have more involvement with The NRA Foundation by becoming a National Corporate Sponsor of *Friends of NRA* in 2015 and sponsoring games at the 2015 NRA Foundation national events. It has continued that dedication as a 2016 Defender level sponsor of the program and game sponsor at the 2016 National NRA Foundation Banquet in Louisville, and will carry that support into 2017 with its third year as Defender level corporate sponsor.

Mossberg's dedication as a company stems from the philosophy and commitment of the founding family itself. Current Chief Executive Officer A. "Iver" Mossberg, Jr., and his father, Alan I. Mossberg, retired CEO and now Chairman of the Board, have continued America's oldest family-owned firearms company's tradition of having a Mossberg at the helm. Since its start in 1919 when founder Oscar Mossberg and his sons Iver and Harold introduced the .22 caliber Brownie pistol, four generations have been manufacturing sporting firearms and maintaining a small-business family environment for its hundreds of employees.

That family-owned functionality of Mossberg allowed the company to survive and thrive in spite of the Great Depression and do the same in today's unpredictable economy and changing firearms industry. It can move quickly in response to developments in the market and take advantage of direct feedback from customers and staff because it doesn't get lost in a complicated system. Day in and day out, the Mossbergs are on site at the plant in North Haven, Conn, along with the company's extended family—the experienced designers, engineers, hunters and sportsmen who make up the core management team and help continue the Mossberg legacy into future generations.

Extending the reach of that legacy, Mossberg sponsored two stages at the 2016 NRA World Shooting Championships. Held at the Peacemaker National Training Center in Glengary, W.V., September 15-17, the event was a great opportunity for all competitors to demonstrate their skills in virtually every discipline. Mossberg saw it as the perfect opportunity to demonstrate their new sporting clays gun as the stage gun on the 5-stand stage and their break-action over/under shotgun on the wobble trap stage.

"For nearly 100 years, our family has worked to build a successful business in the firearms industry," stated Iver Mossberg, CEO, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. "We have succeeded by making sound business decisions and by always doing our part to support the future of hunting, shooting and gun ownership in America. For Mossberg, it is a simple choice. Supporting *Friends of NRA* is an

investment with a return that can be easily measured. We measure it by the number of places our customers have to shoot and compete, the quality of firearm safety and educational materials available to them, the number of hunters in the field and the number of Americans that not only understand what it means to be a gun owner, but also share a deep respect for the rights endowed by the Second Amendment."

NUMZAAAN SAFARIS joined the national level of NRA Foundation grassroots fundraising efforts in 2015, becoming a Defender level sponsor of the program by donating 50 hunts to be used over two years at local events across the country as well as at the National NRA Foundation Banquet at NRA Annual Meeting. But booking agents Ed and Linda Stevens have been involved with the South Africa outfitter for over a decade, and they are no strangers to working with the *Friends of NRA* program, either. Field Representatives along the east coast have worked with the Stevens for several years to provide attendees with access to these exciting hunts at local events.

With over 400,000 acres of land in the Limpopo region, the family-run business is one of the leading outfitters in South Africa. Stef and Lynette Swanepoel founded Numzaan Safaris in 1993 and now two of their sons are taking part in the business, working daily towards or having already passed the very difficult certification process that South Africa requires to become a Professional Hunter (PH) or outfitter. The Numzaan Safaris family has grown over the years and now consists of four other Professional Hunters and their families—Jean Louis and Jana Viljoen, Johann and Vanessa Combrink, Mike and Marselle Watridge and Jaco Swanepoel—who all work hard towards the common goal of offering all hunters the adventure and hunting trip of a lifetime. Visitors arrive as clients and leave as family due to the welcoming environment and efforts of all of these families.

Numzaan Safaris extends that hand of family focus and support to programs in the local African community around Thabazimbi, S.A., including the local special needs school, frail care facility, farmers affected by a multi-year drought, and lunch packs for those in need. On a yearly basis, Stef Swanepoel also offers a wounded warrior a free hunt in South Africa. "For me, the early attraction to this family-run outfit was the high character and honesty of all involved and those sentiments still exist for me today, many years later," reflects Ed Stevens. "I always hear those beliefs coming through loud and clear when talking to any of the returning hunters."

On this side of the pond, as they say in Africa, it is very much a family-run business too. Ed Stevens runs the booking operation in the States with the help of only his wife Linda and his son Cody. Many weekend nights they will all be in separate states from Alaska to Florida and many places in between at *Friends of NRA* events. They have attended over 90 events already this year to help facilitate fundrais-



ing on the local level. “We feel so fortunate to be able to meet *Friends of NRA* attendees all across America and offer such a great opportunity for a great experience,” shares Ed.

“Having these donated Numzaan hunts at our events has provided a great boost to our fundraising efforts,” says NRA Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. As of September, Numzaan hunts had raised more than \$350,000 at local *Friends of NRA* events in 2016—nearly \$675,000 total since the outfitter became a corporate sponsor in 2015. That powerful fundraising tool will once again be available to *Friends of NRA* in 2017 thanks to Numzaan’s donation of 25 more hunts as a Protector level sponsor.

“All of us here at Numzaan Safaris are extremely proud to continue with our corporate sponsorship of *Friends of NRA*,” says Ed. “Due to this corporate sponsor relationship we have been able to raise significant funds for *Friends of NRA* beyond even our highest expectations of two years ago. As we all know, not just our Second Amendment rights, but all of our basic freedoms are at stake now like never before. The money raised at these *Friends of NRA* events all across America—when transferred back to the local areas and used nationally to support the future of the shooting sports through the grant programs—will be one of the best avenues to ensure our freedom for generations to come.”

SECUREIT TACTICAL, INC., is another National Corporate Sponsor continuing its support of *Friends of NRA* for the second year in 2016. In 2015 the company donated 300 Falcon FAST Box gun safes to The NRA Foundation and NRA’s Law Enforcement Division competitions. Those Falcon FAST Boxes were available at select *Friends of NRA* banquets in 2015, generating funds to support local and national shooting sports programs. For 2016, SecureIt has donated new products—RAPID 6 retrofit modular gun safe conversion kits—to be used by *Friends of NRA* and NRA Law Enforcement. “SecureIt Tactical, Inc. is once again proud to support *Friends of NRA* and its efforts with a product donation,” says Tom Kubiniec, President and CEO of SecureIt Tactical, Inc.

As a leader of weapon storage systems for US Military armed forces for almost two decades, Tom Kubiniec, owner of SecureIt and inventor of CradleGrid™ Technology, is dedicated to bringing the same exceptional level of storage and organization to *Friends of NRA* attendees. While SecureIt continues to provide weapon storage solutions and armory design services to the military and law enforcement, it recently entered the civilian market with firearm storage solutions for the shooting enthusiast and hunter as well.

SecureIt will extend its support of the *Friends of NRA* fundraising program into 2017 as a Protector level corporate sponsor with the donation of 150 Rapid 2 kits. These kits feature CradleGrid™ technology, which allow the user to add simplified firearm organization to a gun safe, cabinet or wall. As an entrepreneur, Tom has built

several companies under the principle of “Innovate and Simplify”: All things being equal the simplest solution is the one that will withstand the test of time. CradleGrid™ technology is his blend of pure function and total simplicity. SecureIt changed the way the US military thinks about weapon storage with this technology, dramatically simplifying weapons storage in military armories in spite of the growing variety of military weaponry, and now it is bringing the technology to *Friends of NRA*’s attendees and its population of civilian sport shooter, hunter and enthusiast.

As a manufacturer that focuses on the gamut of weapon storage from the largest military armory to the smallest under-the-bed device, SecureIt understands and appreciates the goals of safety, security and personal freedom shared by The NRA Foundation. “We take great pride in supporting the National Rifle Association, *Friends of NRA*, and The NRA Foundation. These groups represent the very best in American values,” says Tom.

Through Tom’s commitment to hire veterans, National Guardsmen and reserve unit members, SecureIt has a team of highly experienced weapons and firearms experts, dedicated to supplying proper and efficient firearm storage solutions. The SecureIt family believes in and promotes the notion that “Respect for your firearms doesn’t end when you close the door.” Proper storage is critical to long-term performance. Donating firearm storage products such as Fast Boxes and gun safe upgrade kits to *Friends of NRA* banquets, Tom hopes to continue the education process stressing the importance of proper storage and plans on supporting *Friends of NRA* for years to come.

“Because The NRA Foundation regularly funds NRA programs that train and educate the growing population of firearm owners and shooting sports enthusiasts, it spreads the pertinent knowledge of firearm safety and responsibility that everyone should know,” Tom explains. “The attention that they bring to this necessary cause is genuinely the best way to prevent superfluous gun-related accidents while keeping the sport of shooting fun, positive, and one that brings people together.”

The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA* want to thank O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., Numzaan Safaris and SecureIt Tactical, Inc., and their committed staffs for all the support they provide the NRA and The NRA Foundation. All three of these companies, along with the other 2016 National Corporate Sponsors, have combined to form a strong foundation for *Friends of NRA* from a national perspective. Their enthusiasm in providing support for the shooting sports makes them valuable allies for *Friends of NRA*, helping raise millions of dollars for the protection of America’s shooting sports traditions and Second Amendment freedoms. ■

Interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor of Friends of NRA? Visit www.friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx to learn more.





the road to GOLD

By Kristina Krawchuk

Event Marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association

Credit to NRABlog

During days of career distress, my Nana would always tell me, “Kristina, Rome wasn’t built in a day...” Well Nana never saw Ginny Thrasher in action.

“Shooting has always been about becoming the best version of myself,” Ginny humbly says. “I was never trying to specifically make the Olympic Team; I was just trying to be the best shooter I could be.”

Unlike many athletes, Ginny hasn’t been honing her craft since she could walk. In fact she’s only been shooting competitively for the past five years. Her first love was ice skating and she competed often—even practiced before school. Her interest in shooting began with an adventure with her grandfather, but Ginny’s dad, Roger Thrasher, tells me the shooting DNA runs through both sides of the family. “Both sides of the family have a long-time hunting heritage,” he says. “On her paternal grandfather’s side, deer hunting was a big pastime amongst her grandfather, father, uncles and cousins. On her maternal grandfather’s side, it was very similar. Her Aunt Vicki hunted often when she was Ginny’s age and loaned Ginny her

first competition smallbore rifle when Ginny was just starting on that gun. Finally, it was Ginny’s two older brothers that wanted to hunt with their grandfather as soon as they were old enough, which inspired her to also ask to go hunting with Grandpa.”

That hunt with Grandpa struck a chord in Ginny. Although she continued skating, the laces took a back seat when it came to the rifle. She began shooting in August 2011 and started high school a month later. Fortunately, in 2010 West Springfield High School applied for an NRA Foundation grant to launch a rifle team. The school received \$5,000 in merchandise grants that both Ginny and her mom, Valerie, said was crucial to her success. “The high school team was able to get started 6 years ago with the help of The NRA Foundation, which supported them in getting a set of equipment for five shooters to start the team,” says Valerie Thrasher. “The NRA Foundation has been very supportive over the years with helping us get rifles, equipment and training aids for the high school students. Ginny definitely benefited from and used that start-up equipment as we were then able to

slowly purchase equipment for her.”

“Shooting through my high school was a huge part of my early success,” says Ginny, “Without those opportunities that were provided by the NRA Foundation grant, my high school team may not have existed.”

Valerie Thrasher is not only Ginny’s mom and a full-time nurse—she was also one of Ginny’s assistant coaches and continues to coach at West Springfield High School. When Ginny took up shooting, Valerie jumped on board and they both took rifle classes together. From that point forward, her father said, Ginny just excelled. “Ginny has always been on a fast development path—mainly because she was a sponge for learning about shooting and trying to apply it immediately to her practices and competitions,” Roger Thrasher proudly beams. “I distinctly remember the summer after her high school sophomore year as being one of great progress, even if done in an unusual order. Because she got a relatively late start in shooting, she ended up doing multiple competitions and clinics that summer. She started with the NRA Advanced Smallbore Camp in Vermont, then came right back for

a WVU rifle clinic, then went to the NRA/USAS/CMP three position air rifle championship in Alabama, then immediately to the NRA Smallbore Competition at Camp Perry—where she won her first big award: high intermediate junior in iron sights—then she did the NRA Intermediate Smallbore camp before closing out the summer with the CMP advanced standing camp! That just exemplifies her dedication to her shooting craft, and she has continued a similar path right up through today.”

Ginny's path to gold continued at West Virginia University where her Coach, Jon Hammond, also applied for an NRA Foundation grant. The West Virginia Mountaineers received three grants—one in 2012 and two in 2016—which provided nearly \$12,000 in gear, including Anschutz 8002 air rifles, pellets, gloves, boots and a match set sight. Hammond says the goal of the grant was to enhance the team's equipment and allow more training with live ammunition. A former Olympian himself, having competed in both Beijing and London Olympics for Great Britain, who also garnered medals in the Commonwealth Games for Scotland, Hammond says the past year has been nostalgic. “It has been amazing watching her journey over the last 6-12 months and especially the summer,” says Coach Jon Hammond. “It certainly brought back many memories for myself, and despite not competing it was just as much of a thrill to live it through Ginny and be a part of her experience. It was great to see all of her hard work and all her preparation pay off the way it did down in Rio.”

And pay it did. While Ginny originally had her eyes on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, her shooting skill set said otherwise when she qualified for Rio in both women's air rifle and smallbore. But even at the games, Ginny held a steady hand. “I was never focused on winning a medal,” she says. “Even when it became clear that I was in contention, I was incredibly focused on my breathing and my process because I knew that was the only way to take me to the result I wanted.”

What a result it was, with her mom, dad and two older brothers nervously watching their 19-year-old family member upset China's gold-medal champion Du Li in the 10-meter rifle competition and take home the first Gold medal of the 2016 games for Team U.S.A.

“Winning the first Gold for Team USA

was a completely overwhelming experience but one that instilled me with a great sense of pride for my country,” says Ginny enthusiastically. “Standing on the podium was a great moment for me, and it encompassed everything the Olympics mean to the US and my sport of competitive shooting. It also gave me a voice to help more people realize how amazing competitive shooting can be and how it helps create such great qualities in the athletes. I wish more spectators understood my sport. I hope that this first Gold helps make competitive shooting a more popular sport within the United States.”

As you can imagine, the family is overjoyed with Ginny's success but wanted to point out that there were a lot of dedicated hands helping Ginny on her road to gold. “I'm a firm believer that it takes a village to raise a child,” says Valerie Thrasher. “Ginny was so fortunate to have a strong community around her. Rifle is a small community and you get to know each other when traveling to all of the high level competitions. Ginny had great coaching at the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America in Centreville, where her air rifle journey began her freshman year of high school. Everyone on the range is a volunteer and I would not be able to guess the number of hours that Coach Bucky Sills and Coach Oscar Starz spent with Ginny. She also practiced a lot at the NRA range in Fairfax and the staff there was also wonderful to

her. Kevin Wright, one of the range safety officers, would let her know when she could come to the range and get extra practice. She had support from all of the high school coaches in the area as well. If she wanted to practice, there was always someone who would open the range and stay with her.”

“We are grateful to the many organizations that have supported youth shooting sports,” Roger Thrasher states. “Not just for Ginny, but for hundreds of youth shooters the opportunity to learn discipline, safety, responsibility, maturity and leadership through the shooting sports provides valuable life lessons.”

“I think that anyone can participate in the shooting sports,” Ginny points out. “One of the best parts of competitive shooting is that natural ability does not play a factor into one's success. I would say to anyone: it is so important to find your passion. For me, competitive shooting is my passion.”

So maybe Rome can't be built in day, but Ginny Thrasher just proved it can be built in five years with passion, purpose and persistence. What's next for this charismatic Olympic Gold Sharpshooter? The journey continues to Tokyo and I'm sure I can speak for all of us when I say, we can't wait! ■

Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund educational shooting sports programs in your area! Go to www.nrafoundation.org to learn more. Read the NRABlog story at www.nrablog.com.



NRA FOUNDATION DONORS

GIFTS OF \$750K+

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Callan
Arizona
Mr. David S. Mangeim
New York
Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Potterfield
Missouri
Mr. Robert W. Considine
Michigan

GIFTS OF \$100K-\$500K

Mr. Monty Lewis
Georgia
Cars With Heart
Texas
Mr. Daniel J. Genter, Jr.
California
Mr. David M. Katz
New York
Mr. Thomas J. Schneider
Texas
Mrs. Barbara W. Rumpel
Florida
Mr. Orrin Ingram
Tennessee

GIFTS OF \$25K-\$100K

Mr. Keith Mosing
Texas
Anonymous
Connecticut
Anonymous
Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kamps
California
Mr. Bruce R. Keller
Wyoming
Mr. Steven E. Zinn
Texas
Mr. T. G. Steele
Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Shepstone
Illinois
Turbine Tool & Gage, Inc.
Michigan

GIFTS OF \$5K-\$25K

Mr. David A. Dell'Aquila
Tennessee
Natchez Shooters Supply
Tennessee
Dallas Safari Club
Texas
Mr. Craig M. Letrich
Illinois
Mr. John D. Pearson
Michigan
Mr. Walter Powell
Texas
Anonymous
Texas
Anonymous
Pennsylvania
Numrich Gun Parts Corporation
New York
AmazonSmile Foundation
Mr. Paul Davies
Texas
James D. Julia Auctioneers, Inc.
Maine
Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association
Minnesota

Mr. Bob Jervis
Ohio
Mr. Norman D. Pearce
Arizona
Mrs. Robin L. Howell
Georgia
Mrs. Sherri T. Ghilarducci
Colorado
Wake County Wildlife Club
North Carolina

GIFTS OF \$1K-\$5K

Mr. Michael J. Bolger
New Mexico
J.A. Daley III Foundation
California
Mr. Robert M. Serrano
New York
Graf & Sons, Inc.
Missouri
Frank G. and Gertrude Dunlap Fund
Michigan
Daniel Defense
Georgia
Virginia Gun Collectors Association
Virginia
Mr. Arthur Baron
New York
Mr. Jerome Bolick
North Carolina
Glock, Inc.
Georgia
Mr. Charles Henry Dube
Florida
Mr. Christopher K. Spencer
Pennsylvania
Dillon Precision Products Corp., Inc.
Arizona
Mr. Will DeRuyter
Washington
MissionFish/PayPal Giving Fund
District of Columbia
Earl & Bertha Pruyun Foundation
Montana
Mr. Gerard Kennedy
Virginia
J & G Sales, Ltd.
Arizona
Bright Funds Foundation
California
Mr. H. Scott Rosenbush and Ms. Cindy Zimmerman
New Jersey
Mr. Christian G. Klanica
Pennsylvania
Mr. Dennis W. Futch
Georgia
Mr. Dieter Kriehoff
Pennsylvania
Mr. Doug Johnson
California
Mr. Jeff Marsalese
Pennsylvania
Mr. Michael R. Fuljenz
Texas
Mr. Patrick Bennett
Illinois
Mr. Pierce D. Webster
Georgia
Mr. Randy Weiss
Idaho
Mr. Shelley H. Collier, Jr.
Texas
Mr. William Meyersohn
Florida
Mrs. Isabel Q. V. Cadenas
Puerto Rico

Mrs. Susan J. Hayes
California
Mrs. Vicki Swan
Tennessee
Ms. Elizabeth Rogers
Texas
Ms. Emmy Rogers Ballantyne
Texas
Ms. Mary Anderson Abell
Texas
Verdad Foundation
Wyoming
**The Brinkman Family Foundation, Richard Brinkman
Dr. Cameron
The Patricia & Carey P. Gilbert II Charitable Fund
Anonymous**

GIFTS OF \$250-\$1K

Mr. Brian W. Clements
Pennsylvania
Mr. Wayne J. Kelley
Missouri
Eric Huebner
Ohio
Brittany Gray
Ohio
Mr. Albert C. Fernandez
Washington
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sauer
Michigan
Mr. David E. Mann
Florida
Mr. Eric Siegrist
Texas
Mr. Geoff Owens
California
Mr. James L. Wattenbarger
California
Mr. John R. Yagelka
Florida
Mr. Joseph G. Breton
Texas
Mr. Mark A. Bakke
Minnesota
Mr. Michael Mayman
Arizona
Mr. Jike Smith
Virginia
Mr. Quentin Ryan
Connecticut
Mr. Robert M. MacLean
Washington
Ms. Jane Brockenbrough
Virginia
United Sportsmens Club
Missouri
Mr. Melvin Marvel
California
G.D.I. Enterprises, LLC
Washington
Anonymous
Arizona
Mr. Thomas Gordon Suter
California
Ms. Barbara A. Wurl
Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Toppen
Washington
Mr. Emmet K. Knott, III
Washington
Mr. William K. Johnson, Jr.
South Carolina
Mr. Charles F. Gladish
Idaho
Mr. and Ms. A. C. Fernandez
Washington

Mr. Charles B. Coffman
Arizona
Mr. Daniel O. Maldonado
Texas
Mr. Robert L. Silva
California
Mr. William J. Proefrock
New York
Mr. and Mrs. Lathan D. Murphy
Florida
Mr. Donald G. Chilcote
Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Shride
Washington
Anonymous
Pennsylvania
Aimpoint Inc.
Virginia
Mr. William Grimes
Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey W. Chastain
Washington
Mr. and Mrs. Norman E. Nabhan
Texas
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Krauss
Michigan
Mr. Edward L. Nettles, Jr.
Washington
Mr. Gary L. Pinkston
California
Mr. James Dickey
California
Mr. Kenneth N. Connaughton
Connecticut
Mr. Richard L. Bartlett
Colorado
Ms. Robin Zacha
California
Mr. John Costic
California
Mr. Charles Mickel
South Carolina

IN KIND GIFTS

Mr. Michael J. Bolger
New Mexico
Mr. Charles Henry Dube
Florida
Glock, Inc.
Georgia
Mr. Michael J. Jackson
Massachusetts
Mr. Gerard Kennedy
Virginia
Mr. Malcolm MacPherson
Pennsylvania
Mr. Thomas Gordon Suter
California
Mr. Randy Weiss
Idaho
Ms. Barbara A. Wurl
Virginia

IN HONOR OF GIFTS

Scotty Bailey
Mr. Jack Milan
Chris Buckley
Mr. Paul A. Cote
Wayne R. LaPierre
Mr. William Meyersohn
James W. Porter
Mr. Carey Gilbert
Jamius Wermuth
Mr. Steve Ross
Steven Wischmann, Happy Birthday
Ms. Lynn R. Lindsay

IN MEMORY OF GIFTS

John G. Aducat
Mr. Keith Langan
Richard E. Almasi
Mr. Tim Timmons
Gary Archer
Mr. Frederick M. Dye
Kevin and Cathy Boyle
Mr. Joe Satcher
Freddy Calhoun
Ms. Kelly M. Mahoney
William Campbell
Mr. Daniel Higgins
Taylor Chapman
Mr. Norman Butts
William C. Chupela
Mr. Jennifer Rebarchick
Col. Jeff Cooper
Mr. John Blatchford
Mr. David Bolton
Mr. Robert Brown
Mr. Michael Clark
Mr. Benjamin Dicke
Mr. Karl Engdahl
Mr. Lawrence Granish
Mr. Kevin Smith
Mr. Stanislav Vlicek
Mr. Eric Vonderscheer
Hugh Davis
Ms. Elizabeth Kemp
Frank E. Buster Bachhuber
Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Blair
Mr. Thomas P. Hamerla
Ms. Jan Jon
Mr. James Low
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Melang
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Zipp
James C. Ferguson
Mr. Edward Golab, Jr.
Mr. Douglas A. Gregory
Ms. Doris J. Ippolito
Mr. Dawn Ratliff
Mr. Dennis E. Yokley
Frederick Boutell Fletcher
Ms. Jody K. Meagher
William R. Freitas
Mr. Ronald Jones
Phil George
Mr. Michael A. Kendrick
Mike Greer
Mr. Greg Garraway
Claire Grossman
Bright Funds Foundation
Roy Grossman
Bright Funds Foundation
J.T. "Tom" Gulick
Mr. Curtis Towne
Ricky H. Herrin
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Baggs
Ms. Juvelyn Nickel
John Robert Herron
Ms. Kimberly Davis
John Hope
Ms. Christina Kemp
Dr. Alfred Horn
Kadar Orthodontics, P.A.
Mr. John V. Pohl
Harley E. Krager
Ms. Courtney Koenig
Richard Lamar
Ms. Anne B. Shahan
Houston Lesley
Ms. Katie Piazza Lesley
Bill McCoy
Mr. Beau Bloom

Eugene Merrill
Ms. Gilda B. Slomka
Michael A. O'Connell
Mr. Gregory Lampert
Larry Orluskie
Mr. Michael B. Richmond
Robin Pellisier
Ms. Karin Mckerahan
Bernard Pierce
Mr. Charles M. Bressman
Gladys Potter
Ms. Susan M. Morphew
Walter Connally Powell, Jr.
Mr. Walter Powell
David D. Rogers
Mr. Michael A. Guth
Ms. J.W. Lane
Harvey Scott
Mr. Vincent J. Vanpelt
Louis N. Silvestri
Ms. Alexandria Silvestri
Glen Smith
Mr. Michael B. Lindzy
Robert C. Stahlecker
Mr. John R. Yagelka
Lee B. Stanley
Ms. Mindy Dahl
Arlen Stennett
Acuff McClung Coop Gin
Jack R. Tuerner
Mr. Paul R. Whitnah
Glen D. Whitman
Mr. Nathan R. Robinson
John W. Wooden
Mr. Peter R. DeKramer

ESTATES

Anonymous Estate
Pennsylvania
Estate of Frank and Mary Barnyak
California
Estate of Marsha A. Chudzik
Illinois
Estate of Cortlandt S. Dietler
Colorado
Estate of Jose Ferrer
Estate of James M. Giles
Pennsylvania
Estate of Alta S. Graft
Missouri
Estate of Robert A. Hitzke
Indiana
Estate of Albert Holman
Florida
Estate of Jerry L. Maddox
Washington
Estate of Robert J. Oman
California
Estate of Lloyd H. and Shirley J. Sontag
Texas
Estate of Rollin K. Wilson
Colorado

Listed contributions do not necessarily reflect total giving for the year.

We make every effort to ensure accuracy of donor names.

If you notice any errors or omissions, please contact us at 800-423-6894 or nraf@nrahq.org.

THE NRA FOUNDATION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VA 22030



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
THE NRA
FOUNDATION

SAVE *The* DATE



**The Great American
Outdoor Show NRA
Foundation Banquet**
Harrisburg, PA • February 4, 2017



**The 2017 NRA
Foundation Banquet
at Annual Meeting**
Atlanta, GA • April 27, 2017



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.friendsofnra.org/nationalevents**