



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SCOTT L. BACH



"DOMESTIC GUN TERRORIST"

Occasionally, I receive letters commenting on my Second Amendment activities. Some are approving, some disapproving, but nearly all are respectful. Sometimes, however, I receive what can only be described as hate mail, and it usually follows some kind of legislative success for gun owners.

A particularly nasty piece of hate mail came my way last year, shortly after one of ANJRPC's most visible legislative wins—the defeat of a ban on firearms of .50 caliber and larger. That bill was touted as targeting only the supposedly "evil" .50 bmg rifle, but in fact would have also banned hundreds of hunting and historical firearms. It underscored the absurdity of trying to fight crime by banning guns based on the size of the hole in the barrel, rather than punishing criminal behavior.

Shortly after the bill was defeated, an anonymous letter with no return address showed up in my mailbox. You need to know what it said, because it reveals both the mindset we are up against, as well as a strategy that may be used in the future to persecute those who defend the Second Amendment. Here's the pertinent excerpt:

"Domestic gun terrorists like you are more dangerous than Islamic terrorists. You aren't 3,000 miles away; you are around the corner. I am tired of being held hostage by gun worshippers like you who belong to the National Rifle Association. It is obvious that you are loopy. That any "responsible citizen" would want to own such a weapon is absurd. Any overgrown adolescent who has the need to play with such a dangerous weapon should have either (a) stayed in the military or (b) should join the military."

Think about it: "Domestic Gun Terrorist." That's the new label anti-gun extremists have given you and me for defending the Constitution and exercising our freedoms.

Consider the implications of that label, especially in light of the coming U.S. elections, and the ease with which political and ideological winds can shift. If gun control zealots become the national majority, will we be branded terrorists for defending the Second Amendment? Will anti-terror laws be used to scrutinize and persecute us? How far might it go?

Frankly, I have always regarded these kinds of questions as unrealistic and alarmist. But when a letter like that showed up on my doorstep, it made me think twice. Especially given the postmark on the envelope: State Capitol, Trenton, New Jersey. ■

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ANJRPC Annual Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, October 11 is the date of ANJRPC's Annual Meeting and combined Members' Banquet and Friends of NRA Dinner/Auction. Exciting speakers and special prize giveaways at the afternoon business meeting are being planned, in addition to the evening FNRA dinner/auction. See upcoming issues of *News & Briefs* for additional details.

NOTICE

Effective May 1, dues for basic (non-range) memberships will increase to cover rising costs. The new rates are: Annual Adult: \$30; Age 60 & over: \$25; and Life: \$300.

GUN & KNIFE SHOW



CALENDAR

May 2-4, York, PA
York Fairgrounds
Info: (717) 697-3088

May 3-4, Middletown, NY
Orange County Fairgrounds
Info: (845) 343-4826

May 10-11, Allentown, PA
Allentown Fairgrounds
Info: (610) 997-8613

May 17-18, Reading, PA
Greater Reading Expo Center
Info: (570) 679-2250

May 24-25, Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Army National Guard
Info: (717) 697-3088

June 14-15, Harrisburg, PA
Farm Show Complex
Info: (570) 679-2250

June 20, 21, 22, King of Prussia, PA
Valley Forge Convention Center
Info: (610) 975-0877

June 28-29, York, PA
York Fairgrounds
Info: (717) 697-3088

July 12-13, Allentown, PA
Allentown Fairgrounds
Info: (610) 997-8613

August 16-17, Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Army National Guard
Info: (717) 697-3088

Sept. 6-7, Middletown, NY
Orange County Fairgrounds
Info: (845) 343-4826

Sept. 6-7, Harrisburg, PA
Farm Show Complex
Info: (570) 679-2250