



# The PATRIOT

WINTER 2018



## Protecting Your Freedom

Wayne LaPierre,  
Executive Vice President

Welcome to *The Patriot*, NRA's all-new, insider's newsletter published exclusively for Patriot Life Members.

In order to serve you better and to strengthen our efforts to defend the Second Amendment, I'm proud to announce that NRA's Endowment, Patron, and Benefactor members are joining forces under the banner of our new Patriot Life membership program.

As a Patriot Life Member — whether you're at the Endowment, Patron, or Benefactor level — you'll enjoy some special benefits not only designed to recognize your key leadership role, but also to make sure you and I can work together as closely as possible in our efforts to ensure freedom's survival in the battles we now face.

## NRA's **EXPERTICITY PROGRAM** Offers Exclusive Savings to Patriot Life Members



▶ LOOK FOR A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN YOUR MAILBOX ABOUT HOW YOU, AS A PATRIOT LIFE MEMBER, CAN ACCESS THIS EXCLUSIVE PROGRAM.

### YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- **A subscription to *The Patriot* newsletter**  
Delivered to your inbox four times per year, *The Patriot* is your inside look into NRA's strategy to win the big battles for your Second Amendment rights. *The Patriot* also includes early notifications of NRA events, only available to Patriot Life Members like you.
- **Access to the Experticity program**  
As a Patriot Life Member, you have access to our Experticity program — where name-brand manufacturers of shooting and outdoor gear are ready to offer you discounts of up to 70% through a special password-protected website. (Please see the fourth article in this newsletter for more details.)
- **An exclusive, toll-free telephone number**  
Our new toll-free concierge phone number for Patriot Life Members is 1-844-672-7755. Use it whenever you call the NRA and dedicated representatives will help you with any membership matter, as well as make sure your comments and views can be instantly transmitted to top-level NRA staff members.
- **Induction into the Patriot Hall of Honor**  
I'm proud to announce you are eligible to have your name prominently featured in our new Patriot Hall of Honor at our NRA headquarters, just outside of Washington, D.C. where members from all over the country can pay tribute to your sacrifice for freedom.

I'm pleased to provide all Patriot Life Members — whether at the Endowment, Patron, or Benefactor level — these exclusive upgrades. If you have any questions, please reach out to a member services representative at your new Patriot Life Member phone number 1-(844) 672-7755.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as a member of NRA's leadership team.



# Can the Government Unmask Gun Owners?

by Frank Minter

*The following is adapted from an article published on NRA America's 1st Freedom's website on July 17, 2017.*

Imagine this scenario. You get up one morning, make your coffee and check the news. You find that an online feature article in a big, urban newspaper in your state is nothing but a one-sided, ignorant attack on your right to bear arms. In this case the article is focused on attacking a local firearms manufacturer, but it also impugns your Second Amendment rights.

Okay, that's not so unusual, but this time you've either worked at that company or know someone who does, so you decide to respond with the facts. You go into the comment section below the article and soberly show the journalist where they went wrong.

Now you feel good about yourself. You've spoken up for your freedom and kept your head about it. You used a screen name, so it was an anonymous debate, as is your right. You only hope that your factual response makes the journalist think. But later you hear the Department of Justice (DOJ) is pressuring the newspaper to give them your IP address, because they want to talk to you. Can they do this?

Yes, said a court.

In a case that could kick out the trusses of online freedom, Judge Diane J. Humetewa of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona ruled in June that the DOJ can force a private company — say, Facebook, Yelp or a local media company — to give up your identity simply because you expressed an opinion online.

This ruling occurred after the DOJ obtained a grand jury subpoena to make Glassdoor, an online job-review website, give up the identities of eight people (the DOJ initially wanted 125 peoples' identities). The DOJ wants these peoples' internet protocol (IP) addresses, their credit card information and other identifying details so it can identify them, question them and perhaps compel them to testify against a company the DOJ is investigating.

Glassdoor, a California-based company, quickly appealed the ruling to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which is where it stands at the time of this writing.

If this ruling stands, this could affect speech across the internet. And politically incorrect groups, such as those who choose to own guns, could be particularly susceptible to any administration that opposes their constitutional rights.

A state's district attorney or a U.S. attorney, for example, could use such a newfound power to go on a fishing expedition against citizens or an industry it doesn't like. It could force gun owners, for example, who use internet pseudonyms while on a gun blog talking about a manufacturer's trigger system to be unmasked and dragged into a judicial process.

Let's say such a person is a gunsmith or works for an outdoor retailer. The spin that could result from them being subpoenaed could cause them to lose their jobs or occupations — as it could do to the eight people the DOJ is trying to force Glassdoor to reveal.

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## ONE THING THE NRA HAS LONG LOBBIED AGAINST IS ALLOWING THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE DATABASES OF GUN OWNERS.

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One thing the NRA has long lobbied against is allowing the government to create databases of gun owners. Such a newfound power for government could easily lead us in that direction. After all, "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed" includes protecting the privacy of gun owners.

Brad Serwin, general counsel at Glassdoor, said: "We'd like a precedent set that respects American freedom in today's world. The government is arguing they should be able to find out someone's identity as long as it is not acting in 'bad faith.' We're arguing that, legally speaking, the government is required to pass a 'compelling interest' test before being given the authority to demand people's identities from a private company."

Fourth Amendment protections don't block this because the government is going after a private company (a third party) for these people's info, so according to the Supreme Court's "third-party doctrine" these people have "no reasonable expectation of privacy." According to this judge, all those pseudonyms we see on social media and in comment sections below articles are no protection if the government wants to know who is speaking anonymously.

If this sounds like a lot of what-ifs, you're right. But watching out for our freedom by looking ahead for new pitfalls is part of keeping our right to bear arms intact in this digital age.

*Frank Minter is the author of Kill Big Brother, a novel that shows how to keep government from infringing on our liberties. Minter is also the author of The New York Times' bestseller The Ultimate Man's Survival Guide — Recovering the Lost Art of Manhood, This Will Make a Man of You and The Future of the Gun. He is a contributor to Forbes and writes for many publications. His website is FrankMinter.com.*

# New Patriot Hall of Honor Planned for 2018

NRA is proud to commemorate Patriot Life Members like you by offering you the opportunity to have your name placed in NRA's forthcoming Patriot Hall of Honor.

As a Patriot Life Member — whether at the Patron, Endowment, or Benefactor level — you are the backbone of NRA and the gun rights movement. And this is now your chance to be honored for your rightful place in Second Amendment history.

The Hall will be located in the atrium just steps away from the National Firearms Museum and will feature the names of the heroes whose courage and sacrifice have won battle after battle for freedom — including NRA Patriot Life Members like you.

And not only will the Hall pay tribute to NRA members, it will feature informative displays on the history and legacy of the Second Amendment, all designed to educate the thousands of visitors NRA welcomes each year.

Through this unique exhibit, your friends and family members will be able to pay tribute to your sacrifice and learn more about the battles we've fought and won together.

Construction on the Patriot Hall of Honor has begun and is scheduled for completion on March 31, 2018. So please, don't miss out on this unique opportunity. Visit [NRA2018.org](http://NRA2018.org) today for details about how your name can be included as well as how you can receive special member gifts we've reserved for you until March 7th.



Artist's Rendering by ArtandDesignStudios.com

## NRA's Experticity Program Offers Exclusive Savings to Patriot Life Members

As a Patriot Life Member, you've reached a milestone that only a small percentage of our members will ever realize. You are a heart-and-soul leader of freedom's cause who's taken a major step up from NRA regular Life Membership into our highest leadership ranks.

Thanks to you, NRA is a big step closer to ensuring that future generations will always enjoy the full measure of freedom that our Second Amendment guarantees.

As a token of appreciation, we're proud to introduce a brand-new benefit exclusive to Patriot Life Members — our Experticity program — where name-brand manufacturers of shooting and outdoor gear are ready to offer you discounts of up to 70% through a special password-protected website.

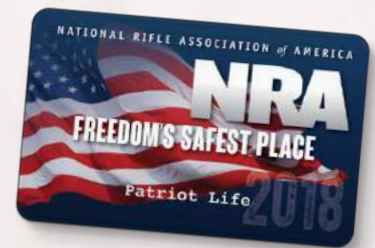
Just as athletic apparel companies want professional athletes to be seen wearing their products, firearms

and outdoor manufacturers want other NRA members to see you using their brands on the range or the deer stand.

These companies understand that other shooting and outdoor enthusiasts look up to you as a top-level NRA member. That's why they are willing to provide you with deep discounts that, in fact, could pay for your Patriot Life membership many times over.

In addition to firearms and accessories, you'll find dozens of items from the leading brands in camping, bicycles, workout equipment, and fitness apparel, all available to you at deeply reduced prices.

So please, watch for a special announcement in your mailbox about how you, as a Patriot Life Member, can access this exclusive program.





## “Your Grandkids Or Your Constitutional Rights”: Michigan Makes Veteran Choose

by Stacy Washington

*The following is adapted from an article published on NRA America's 1st Freedom's website on July 31, 2017.*

It's the kind of story that resembles a television drama. A 54-year-old disabled Marine Corps veteran gets notice that his grandchild is in state custody: “Come get him,” the state employees say.

But when William Johnson and his wife Jill arrived to pick up the child, a case agent for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services executed a warrantless search on the veteran. When the agent could find no weapons, the agency used his concealed-carry license to justify a bizarre directive: Register your guns with us, or you cannot foster your grandchild.

Of course, Johnson refused. That's when the fight started.

Under Michigan DHHS Foster Care Rules pertaining to “hazardous materials,” Rule 415 states: “(1) A foster parent shall follow the agency's hazardous materials policy. (3) Firearms are subject to the following conditions: (a) Stored in a locked metal or solid wood gun safe or (b) Trigger-locked and stored without ammunition in a locked area. (c) Ammunition shall be stored in a separate locked location. (d) A handgun shall be registered. Documentation of the registration of the handgun shall be available for review.”

Johnson is a law-abiding citizen under no investigation and with no prior arrests — in other words, an all-around model citizen. The MDHHS wasn't just asking for a list of firearms that Johnson owned; no, the agency wanted the make, model and serial numbers of each gun. For what good purpose would Johnson or any other American citizen willingly provide that information to a government agency? And how many other good people willingly provided this information because their minor relative's safety hung in the balance? There isn't any available data on that, but Johnson has taken steps to ensure it never happens again.

A lawsuit has been filed on behalf of Johnson. In it, the plaintiff alleges that a caseworker for MDHHS said: “If you want to care for your grandson, you will have to give up some of your constitutional rights.”

Obviously, that is pure, unadulterated bollocks. Entering into a foster care arrangement for a minor relative does not require the relinquishment of any constitutional rights. That is, unless you're in the state of Michigan which has a law stating as much.

The plaintiff's lawsuit explains the problems with Michigan's foster care rules quite succinctly by going directly to the source materials — the Second and Fourteenth Amendments.

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The Second Amendment is very clear, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Equally well defined is the first part of the Fourteenth Amendment, “No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

The Johnsons should be applauded for suing to remedy this situation. They are doing every gun owner in Michigan a service. If they fail at the state level, an appeal is definitely in order to right this egregious wrong.

Just take a look at what the judge told the Johnsons in open court when they sought relief from the anti-Second Amendment rubbish MDHHS was pushing on them: “We know we are violating numerous constitutional rights here, but if you do not comply, we will remove the boy from your home.” Really? Constitutional lawbreakers certainly have a ton of moxie, don't they?

The Johnsons aren't the only ones party to the suit — they are joined by Brian Mason, a pastor and NRA Range instructor, and his wife Naomi Mason, an author and substitute teacher. The Masons also want to become foster parents, but are precluded from doing so because of their refusal to submit the required de facto gun registration information.

In essence, some of the best people around — those with the lowest rate of criminality, and who are the most altruistic because they are openly willing to give their lives in the defense of others — are barred from caring for children in need of a safe home because they own guns.

This is the type of nonsense the Second Amendment was created to prevent. Godspeed to the plaintiffs here.

*Stacy Washington is a decorated Air Force veteran, Emmy-nominated TV personality and host of the nationally syndicated radio program “Stacy on the Right,” based in St. Louis.*