



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION *of* AMERICA

THE PATRIOT NEWSLETTER

ENDOWMENT • PATRON • BENEFACTOR

Politicians Exploit Coronavirus Crisis to Attack the Second Amendment

As a Patriot Life Member, you've reached a milestone only a small percentage of NRA members will ever realize. You're 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.

Time and again, I've relied on Patriot Life Members like you to lead the charge for the Second Amendment.

In the past few months, our daily lives have changed as millions of Americans have sheltered in place. And all across America, businesses and families have faced severe financial hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic.

During this crisis, I sincerely wish you the best, and I trust you and your family have taken the necessary precautions to stay safe.

And I've never been more grateful for your strong leadership of NRA than I am right now.

As I write this message, millions of law-abiding Americans are buying firearms for self-defense in these uncertain times. But in many cities and states, gun-ban politicians are working overtime to prevent law-abiding citizens from exercising their Second Amendment rights.

With the permission of California Governor Gavin Newsom, Los Angeles County used the virus as an excuse to shut down gun shops, while at the same time releasing hundreds of inmates from local jails.

Sadly, California isn't the only state to use this national emergency as an excuse to attack our firearm freedoms. We've seen similar tactics in New York, New Jersey, and states all across the country.

NRA has taken legal action to prevent the shuttering of hundreds of gun stores in these states.

And, at the same time, NRA has been working side-by-side with the Trump White House to ensure the



Second Amendment is protected everywhere in the country where gun shops have been shut down.

The powerful support you've provided has been critically important in giving us the resources to fight these battles. And as we face this national crisis, we also urgently need your Patriot Life leadership to fight and

win this year's crucial general election.

If Joe Biden wins the White House and gun-banners take over both houses of Congress in November, our Second Amendment freedoms could vanish forever.

We'll soon be facing draconian gun-ban laws like national gun registration, national gun owner licensing, and even the outright confiscation of the most commonly-owned firearms in America.

The bottom line is we're now in the toughest, ugliest fight of our lives against the most dangerous and determined enemies we've ever faced.

And it's a fight we cannot win without the vital support of Patriot Life Members like you.

That's why I hope you'll join me in the coming weeks and months to lead NRA into battle and save our guns and our freedom.

Thank you in advance for your steadfast leadership of our Association at this critical time. I wish you and your family the blessings of good health from all of us here at NRA.

Trump Administration Says Gun Stores Are Essential

The Trump administration's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued official guidelines for industry closures that includes as essential: "Workers supporting the operation of firearm or ammunition product manufacturers, retailers, importers, distributors and shooting ranges."

This is big news for the gun industry, as anti-gun officials in some states and jurisdictions have purposely shut down gun stores and ranges for purely political reasons. They have advanced this anti-gun agenda even as more people are buying guns for personal defense during this national emergency.

This means that if your local gun store, shooting range or gun manufacturer is shut down during this pandemic, it isn't because the federal government told them to close.

The DHS declaration came just a few days after New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy (D) literally laughed off a man's concerns on camera that New Jersey's shutdown of gun stores is making it more difficult for law-abiding people to protect themselves.

"If less guns reduce crime, will you give up your personal bodyguards?" the man asked Gov. Murphy. The man then said, "The poorest minorities living in the most-dangerous cities with the highest crime rates now have absolutely no way of buying a firearm.... You surround yourself with armed guards so clearly you understand the benefit of the Second Amendment.... At this very moment, how can a New Jersey resident who isn't already a gun owner exercise their Second Amendment rights?"

Murphy replied that he believes "a safer society has fewer guns, not more guns. And the guns that do exist are in the hands of the right people—particularly trained members of law enforcement. Like the guy to my left who



has a pistol on his hip...."

Other politicians who are opposed to our Second Amendment rights have also used this pandemic as an excuse to inhibit this freedom.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), for example, said, "Nobody is talking about taking away firearms, but there's no reason why gun stores should be given this exception; in fact, arming more Americans in their homes at a time of rising tension and anxiety seems more dangerous than ever."

Actually, a lot of people, including former Vice President Joe Biden, are talking about taking away Americans' most-popular guns, and the basic reason gun stores should be given an exemption is that people do need the chance to protect themselves until help arrives.

Blumenthal's comment above, meanwhile, is almost an exact quote from talking points put out by the gun-control group Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

It is actually even more critical that Americans have their Second Amendment-protected rights during local and national crisis; after all, at times like these, police departments can be overwhelmed with all that they do for us.

The Thing About Gun Sales and the Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, people aren't just emptying store shelves of toilet paper, bread and milk. They are also buying guns, lots of guns.

The FBI said, for example, that on Monday, March 16, background check calls in to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) were 300% higher than they were on the same day a year ago; in fact, since February 23, the daily volume for NICS background

checks has been nearly double what it was a year ago.

NICS is so overwhelmed that the FBI has alerted retailers that most NICS checks will get an immediate determination of "proceed" or "deny." For checks that get a "delay" notification, it's important to keep in mind that NICS investigations might be slightly delayed and the three business days mandated by the Brady Act doesn't include days when state offices are closed.

The mainstream media is taking facts like these and reporting that the surge in gun and ammunition sales

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Special Gifts and Discounts Available to Patriot Life Members Starting May 26

by Wayne LaPierre,
Executive Vice President

As a Patriot Life Member you're doing more right now to save our gun rights than most Americans will do in a lifetime.

And I can't fully express how much your NRA leadership means to me.

That's why I'm happy to offer you an early preview of a special gift offer and an extraordinary discount that will be available to Patriot Life Members at the Endowment, Patron, and Benefactor levels starting May 26th.

If you're an Endowment member, you'll be able to upgrade to a Patron Life Membership for just \$250 (*normally \$1,500*). Plus, you'll be able to choose between an NRA Black Mesa Elite Backpack (*a \$99 value*) or an NRA Gunstock Knife (*a \$60 value*) as a special gift from all of us at NRA.

If you're a Patron member, you'll be able to upgrade to a Benefactor Life Membership – NRA's highest level of membership – for just \$250 (*normally \$1,500*). And I'll send your NRA Black Mesa Elite Backpack or NRA Gunstock Knife with my sincere gratitude.

Or, if you're already a Benefactor Life Member and continue your leadership with a special

NRA contribution, I'll make sure you receive an extraordinary gift to honor your generous support.



Please understand that these discounts will only be available for a limited time and *they're unlikely to ever be offered again*.

In fact, this is the first time these rates have been offered in more than a decade. But I'd like to make these deep discounts available to Patriot Life Members as an extra way to say thank you for standing with NRA during the unprecedented national emergency we're facing right now.

So don't miss out on this opportunity to lock in your deep discount and help NRA win the crucial election battle we're facing this year. In the next few weeks, please be on the lookout for a letter or email with more information on how you can take advantage of this special offer.

I recognize better than anyone the unrivaled contributions you've made to protect and defend our Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

But as we face the toughest Second Amendment fight of our lives, I've never needed your continued leadership as a Patriot Life Member more than I do right now.

Thank you in advance for your generous support as we fight arm-in-arm to save our guns and our freedom in this year's crucial election battle.

The Thing About Gun Sales... Continued from Page 2

are all about "fear" and "panic." This simplistic spin misunderstands America. It also is yet another attempt to cast America's many millions of gun owners as unsophisticated rubes. The truth about this very real surge in gun sales is actually much more interesting than simple panic purchasing.

For example, Donald Trump Jr. touched on an interesting caveat when he recently tweeted: "The irony of it all is that it's my Democrat friends reaching out to me now asking me which guns they should buy just in case... in particular which ARs. I guess they're ok with the 2A now??? You don't need it, till you need it."

Looking for security in uncertain times is a natural reaction; shouldering responsibility, however, is not



necessarily a negative thing. Actually, if this is a wake-up call for some Americans who've never understood the

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fundamental importance of their Second Amendment freedoms, that's a good thing.

"We welcome these new gun owners to the larger gun-owning community and encourage them to choose the best safe-storage options for them and their families, to seek out training to use their firearms safely and responsibly and not just get out to a range and shoot, but take someone with you and introduce them to the shooting sports," said Mark Oliva, director of public affairs for the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

As Oliva points out, part of this story is that, during this national crisis, millions of America's gun owners actually now have more time to go to the range. MLB has postponed the 2020 season. A lot of people are now temporarily out of work. A lot of schools are closed. So going to the range or just plinking on the back forty offers some positive family time when going to movie theaters and more just aren't options—it takes guns and ammo to shoot recreationally.

Personal safety is clearly a part of this heightened demand, but then being prepared isn't just the Boy

Scout motto; it is actually a basic part of the American character. America grew to the Pacific on rugged individualism.

Fly today from New York to Los Angeles on a clear night and look out your window and you'll see little twinkling lights from small towns, farms and bright spots that are big cities across this great nation. Out there are over 100 million legal gun owners. Out across those horizons are people who know that if they're in trouble, law enforcement will come—God bless them—but that until they do, they must fend for themselves.

This is a big part of why, during national emergencies, gun and ammunition sales go up. Again, this isn't a bad thing; this is a practical thing. Self-reliance isn't the antithesis to helping others, but is rather exactly what communities big and small rely upon.

A rise in gun sales during a national emergency is the exhibition of the practical nature of Americans on display. We take care of ourselves, our families and our neighbors. It's a shame that the mainstream media can't appreciate this about us.

The NRA's Many Resources for New Gun Owners

In these uncertain times, many Americans have chosen to purchase a firearm for the first time and, by extension, to embrace and exercise their Second Amendment rights.

This is no small decision and with it comes a great deal of responsibility. The NRA has always advocated for responsible ownership of firearms and has made [numerous resources available](#) for those looking to exercise this constitutional right.

Chief among these resources are the NRA Mentor videos available on the [NRA Publications YouTube channel](#). From gun-safety basics to proper firearm maintenance to storage solutions and more, the channel is filled with detailed videos on everything a new gun owner may need. There are also detailed videos for skills, such as how to find your sight picture, as well as what you might expect to find once you visit a shooting range.

The NRA also offers a [wide array of programs](#) for gun owners of all experience levels. For first-time gun



owners, [firearms training](#) is the most pertinent among those offered. Attendance for NRA Training reaches approximately one million people annually and the NRA is recognized as the gold standard for firearm safety training at all levels.

Our Second Amendment gives us the freedom to protect ourselves and our families. It's up to each of us to make sure we handle this right responsibly.