



## Thursday Bulletin – December 7, 2023

### *Executive Director's Message*

#### **Richard Pearson**

#### **December 12, 2023 Hearings**

We are eagerly awaiting the court hearing before Judge Steven P. McGlynn for the United States Court for the Southern District of Illinois. Judge McGlynn will be considering a request for a preliminary injunction against the registration requirement of the Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA).

On the same day, there will be a hearing before the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) in Chicago. Hopefully this will clarify some of the muddle surrounding the PICA Act. As far as the hearing goes with Judge McGlynn, it might take a couple of days or more for him to render a decision. In either case, we will let you know the outcome as soon as we know.

#### **Illinois Supreme Court Rules FOIA of FOID Information Not Allowed**

The Illinois Supreme Court says people cannot file public records requests to get information about their Firearm Owners ID card.

In September, the Illinois Supreme Court heard a case brought by two individuals who used the Freedom of Information Act to try and get records regarding why their FOID cards were either revoked or suspended. During oral arguments, Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis raised the prevailing point that was ultimately issued unanimously Thursday.

“These documents are not subject to FOIA, can’t be inspected or copied, but there are other avenues that people can get information,” Theis said. Representing the plaintiffs, attorney Thomas Maag said getting such information by calling Illinois State Police is not efficient. “I invite this court to go to their website and dial the telephone number and see how many hours it takes to get a person, if you even can,” Maag argued.

In Thursday's unanimous decision siding with Illinois State Police in blocking the FOID card information release, even to those individuals who made the request about their information, the justices said they agree the law does not provide any exemption for individuals who are seeking their own information, even if the individual provides consent for the disclosure.

After Thursday's ruling, the lower court's judgment was reversed.

### **Permit to Purchase Requirements Look Vulnerable**

We don't require a permit to exercise any of our rights. The closest we see in most cases is registering to vote.

Guns are different, but they shouldn't be. I'm just stating that they are. Americans who want to buy a gun must jump through a series of hoops to do so.

In some states, though, it's worse. You must have a permit to purchase a firearm at all. This is the case in Maryland. A federal court overturned a Maryland law requiring a such a permit. The court found it was inconsistent with the standards laid down in the Bruen decision. *This may spell bad news for similar laws across the nation.* In Illinois, you must have a FOID card to purchase or possess a firearm. Can the requirement that you must have a FOID card be far behind? If the Maryland decision is upheld by the Supreme Court, my guess is that the FOID card will go away.

Maryland argued that its law fits a tradition of disarming "dangerous" individuals, such as people with felony records, illegal drug users, and people convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors.

Writing in dissent, Judge Barbara Milano Keenan highlighted the Supreme Court's distinction between "may issue" laws like New York's, which required carry-permit applicants to demonstrate "proper cause," and "shall issue" laws, which make permits available to all applicants who meet "objective criteria."

While the Supreme Court did indicate that "shall issue" laws could be consistent with the Second Amendment, it also noted that "any permitting scheme can be put toward abusive ends." It therefore did not rule out "constitutional challenges to shall-issue regimes where, for example, lengthy wait times in processing license applications or exorbitant fees deny ordinary citizens their right to public carry."

## Federal Judge Strikes Handgun Sales Ban For 18-20 Year Olds In West Virginia

A federal district court judge in West Virginia has ruled that a federal law prohibiting handgun sales to 18-20 year-olds is “facially unconstitutional” and granted a summary judgment in a case brought by the Second Amendment Foundation.

U.S. District Chief Judge Thomas S. Kleeh enjoined the defendants — in this case the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF Director Steven Dettelbach, and Attorney General Merrick Garland — from enforcing the provisions “against Plaintiffs and otherwise-qualified 18-to-20 year-olds.”

“This is a huge victory for Second Amendment rights, especially for young adults,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. Recently, several courts have ruled that a person’s civil rights are fully vested at age 18.

SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb notes “At that age historically, young adults were considered mature enough to serve in the militia, the military, and take on other responsibilities.”

**Here is a great Christmas gift idea for our valued members, their friends and relatives!**

**Every time you recruit a new member you will have a chance to win 1 of 30 fantastic prizes!**

**FIRST PRIZE:**  
Henry 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Tribute .22 rifle

**Duplicate prizes will be awarded to BOTH new member AND recruiter!**

**ADDITIONAL PRIZES!**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE: Hard-side Pistol Case
- 3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE: Streamlight Tactical Flashlight
- 4<sup>th</sup> PRIZE: Midway Range Bag
- 5<sup>th</sup> PRIZE: Bushnell Binoculars 7x50
- 6<sup>th</sup> PRIZE: Tactical Pistol Case
- 7<sup>th</sup> PRIZE: Buck Knife (made in USA)
- 8<sup>th</sup> PRIZE: Electronic Ear Muffs
- 9<sup>th</sup> PRIZE: Midway Rifle Bag
- 10<sup>th</sup> PRIZE: ISRA Flag
- 11<sup>th</sup> ~ 15<sup>th</sup> PRIZES: 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Flags
- 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 30<sup>th</sup> PRIZES: 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Metal Signs

**All entries must be postmarked by Dec 31, 2023.**

Winners need not be present to win. All local, state and federal regulations regarding firearm transfers will be observed. Membership dues, donations and purchases paid to the ISRA are not tax deductible.

**It is very important that you help us get new members to fight the battles before all gun owners. To carry on this fight, we need more and more, new people to become members of the ISRA.**

**You AND your new members will be entered into the drawing, for every new member you sign up!**

Please feel free to make copies of the form you received in the mailing, if you can recruit more than one member. Call the office at 815-635-3198 if you did not receive the mailing, and we'll mail the form to you.

***Your help is needed and very much appreciated!***

## ***Tidbits***

**December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor Bombed by Japanese.** It was a peaceful Sunday morning in Hawaii. Soldiers and sailors were sleeping in, writing letters home, and some were off on sightseeing tours on Oahu. Several local flying services were training young flyers using the Government Civilian Flight Training Program (CFTP). Among those off on a sight-seeing journey were National Guardsman Sgt. Henry Blackwell, Corporal Clyde Brown, and Sgt. Warren Rasmussen. Also, up on a training flight that morning was Instructor Tommy Tomberlin and his student James Duncan. The three National Guardsman had rented two Piper Cubs and Tommy Tomberlin was flying an Aeronca to train his student James Duncan.

At 7:52am, Tomberlin recorded in his log that Japanese War Planes had fired on and hit his aircraft. Tomberlin was an experienced pilot and dove towards the sea to avoid the Japanese planes. Sgt Henry Blackwell, Corporal Clyde Brown and their passenger, Sgt Warren Rasmussen, were not so lucky. Parts of their planes were found washed up on the beach. They were the first casualties at Pearl Harbor.

While the official attack at Pearl Harbor is listed at 7:55am. The first encounter with the Japanese was a few minutes earlier. Tomberlin escaped because he was an experienced pilot. Blackwell and Brown were new pilots and probably didn't have a chance. These were the first of the 2403 people killed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

**December 8, 1941 – U.S. Declares War on Japan.** President Franklin D. Roosevelt requests, and receives, a declaration of war against Japan, as

America's Pacific fleet lay in ruins at Pearl Harbor. As Japanese Admiral Yamamoto had predicted, all the attack did was awaken the sleeping giant and filled him with terrible resolve.

**December 9, 1898 – The First of the Two Tsavo Man Eating Lions is Killed.** The two lions had developed a taste for human flesh and began attacking Kenyan railroad workers at night as they slept in their tents. The lions would drag the workers off into the bush and eat them. They ate somewhere between 30 and 135 people.

They couldn't be scared away so Lieutenant-Colonel John Patterson, one of the leaders of the railroad company began to hunt them. He tracked one of the man-eating lions and only wounded it in the leg. The lion then began to stalk him. Fortunately, the second time he shot at the lion, he hit it in the heart. Twenty days later, he shot the other lion.

He skinned the lions and had their hides turned into carpets, which are now on display at the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History.

**December 10, 1690 – First Paper Currency Issued in the Colonies.** Because of shortages of the official currency in the colonies, they would sometimes use playing cards as currency.

**December 11, 1872 – Buffalo Bill Cody's First Stage Performance.** His world-famous show, "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show" was still touring when Buffalo Bill Cody died in 1917.

**December 11, 1941 – Germany Declares War on the United States.** Adolf Hitler declares war on the United States, bringing America, which had been neutral, into the European conflict. FDR wanted to declare war on Germany but couldn't, because no aggressive action had been taken by the Germans. When Hitler declared war on the United States, it solved FDR's problem.

Hitler's declaration of war also greatly relieved Great Britain's Winston Churchill, because he knew Germany could not defeat the United States.

**December 13, 1862 – Battle of Fredericksburg.** The Confederate Commander General Robert E. Lee ordered 500 expert marksmen to take positions along the Rappahannock River in houses and basements across from the Union Troops. Their expert rifle fire disrupted the building of pontoon bridges and other activities across the 400-yard-wide section of

the river. This gave General Lee time to fortify a ridge known as Marye's Heights above Fredericksburg. These fortifications were so strong that not even one Union soldier made it within 50 yards of the confederate position. The Union suffered 12,653 casualties compared to the Confederacy's 5,377 killed, wounded and missing soldiers. The 30 plus day delay provided by the Confederate expert marksmen helped turn the tide of battle.

The use of expert marksmen during the United States Civil War generally revolves around the formation and development of the Union Berdan Sharpshooters. The Berdan Sharpshooters used Model 1859 Breach Loading Sharps Rifles. This gave the Berdan Sharpshooters the ability to fire from the prone and kneeling positions. Often overlooked are the expert marksmen in the Confederacy. Confederate expert marksmen were not as well equipped or organized as the Union Sharpshooters. Most of the Confederate marksmen used Enfield 3 Band rifles. These were all muzzleloaders and didn't have the advantage of being breach loaded, and being easily fired in the prone or kneeling positions. Nevertheless, the Confederate marksmen were very effective.

**December 13, 1887 – Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Alvin York is born.**

**The Illinois State Rifle Association  
is the home of marksmanship in Illinois.**

### *At the Range*

***Click [here](#) to view the entire calendar. All classes and events are open to the public & all range members, unless otherwise noted.***

## **ISRA Academy NRA Basic Rifle Class December 10 at 8:00 am -6:00 pm**

Instruction on the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary for the safe use of a rifle in target shooting. Minimum 25 rounds of ammunition. Open to the public. Limit 10 students. No walk-ins allowed. Cost: \$75 (ISRA member); \$150 (nonmembers). Instructors: Jeff Marienthal and Tony Clark. Contact: ISRA Office at 815.635.3198 or email [member@isra.org](mailto:member@isra.org)



## ***Range schedule this Week***

12-10 - [ISRA Academy NRA Basic Rifle Class – Clubhouse, Range 1 – 8:00-6:00](#)

12-12 - [Air Gun Practice – Range 12 \(Indoor Range\) – 5:00-8:00](#)

12-13 - [F-Class Indoor League – Clubhouse/Range 12 – 10:00-2:00](#)

12-13 - [Air Rifle Practice – Range 12; Clubhouse – 11:00-3:00](#)

**The ISRA Range offers great classes and leagues,  
for shooting enthusiasts!**

**Interested in joining a league?  
Just show up 15 - 30 minutes early.**

[Range memberships are available.](#)

**A day at the ISRA Range is *always a great day!***

***Thank you for being a member!***



**If you are not an ISRA member, [join today](#)**

**Donate: <https://isra.org/support-us/>**

**Visit: [www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org)**

**Upcoming Meetings: <https://isra.org/isra-activities-and-events/>**

**Upcoming Range Events: <https://isra.org/the-range/#range-calendar>**

## ***Upcoming Gun Shows***

***While the gun show information shown in this email is believed to be correct – sometimes changes occur. This is provided for informational purposes only.***

**December 8 – 10** The Big St. Charles County Gun Show, Steel Shop Athletic Ctr St Charles MO

**December 9 – 10** Peoria Gun & Knife Show, Exposition Gardens, Peoria

**December 10** Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane Co. Fairgrounds, St. Charles

**December 16 – 17** Kankakee Gun & Sportsman's Show, Kankakee Co. Fairgrounds

**December 16 – 17** ECA Hunting & Trade Shows, IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield

**December 17** McHenry County Gun Show, McHenry Co. Fairgrounds, Woodstock

### **2024 SHOWS (added to as we receive more information)**

**January 13** Davenport Gun & Knife Show, Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport

**January 14** Kane County Sportsman's Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles

**January 20 – 21** Dubuque Gun & Knife Show, Grand River Conference Ctr., Dubuque