



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION *of* AMERICA

# THE PATRIOT NEWSLETTER

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## Ocasio-Cortez Joins Effort to Pressure Banks into Adopting the Far Left's Anti-gun Agenda

*The following was adapted from an article published on NRA-ILA's website on March 29, 2019.*

The battle over politics in the financial marketplace continues to intensify. The combatants include anti-gun politicians who insist that banks have a social responsibility to sign onto the far left's political agenda. Opposing them are patriotic Americans of all stripes who believe that federally chartered banks should serve the law-abiding public without ideological or political discrimination.

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**AT STAKE FOR GUN OWNERS IS WHETHER THE INDUSTRIES THAT PROVIDE FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, AND RELATED ACCESSORIES TO THE CIVILIAN MARKET WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ECONOMY.**

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It's becoming increasingly clear what the world would look like if the most dedicated opponents of the NRA and pro-gun politicians had free reign to implement their vengeful and discriminatory agenda against their political enemies.

They do not want a fair and open policy debate. They do not want to have to defend their own objectives.

There is, in their minds, no legitimate opposition to them, so any tactic is on the table to get what they want.

This includes the thinly-veiled extortion of wielding government influence and the virtual outrage mob against anyone who will not bow to their demands.

If you don't believe us, just ask "Socialist Democrat" and media darling Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY).

The freshman congresswoman is proving a quick study



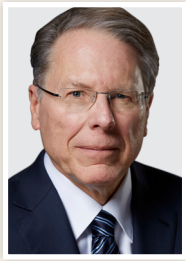
when it comes to the extra-legal use of her official position and considerable celebrity to promote political goals that have failed to advance through the lawmaking process.

We recently reported on how Ocasio-Cortez's fellow gun control advocate Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) used a congressional oversight hearing to berate a bank executive, not for actually breaking the law, but simply for refusing to follow the example of other banks in refusing business with law-abiding gun sellers. Maloney insinuated the bank was somehow complicit in mass murder and explicitly accused it of "putting profits over people."

Never one to avoid the media spotlight, Ocasio-Cortez took up that refrain last week by taking several national banks to task on Twitter for helping to finance lawful projects or industries that she finds distasteful, including "fossil fuel pipelines," "private prisons," and businesses involved with "assault rifles."

Ocasio-Cortez, like Maloney, sits on the House Financial Services Committee, which is involved in banking oversight. Perhaps just as relevant, in what passes for the modern marketplace of ideas, she has nearly four million Twitter followers, many with seemingly endless time and energy to execute whatever happens to be the social justice directive of the moment.

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## Stage Set for Massive Battle for Freedom

by Wayne LaPierre,  
Executive Vice President

In the history of our great country, every generation of American patriots has fought to save our freedom.

It's our turn to stand up for the Second Amendment and save our American way of life from those who seek to destroy it.

Because the truth is, the threat to our freedom has never been greater.

Gun-ban leftists like Nancy Pelosi and radical socialists like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are moving the most devastating anti-gun agenda in U.S. history through Congress – and nearly 250 years of American liberty is under direct attack.

Elitist billionaires like Michael Bloomberg are pouring millions of dollars into anti-gun groups like Everytown for Gun Safety – all in an effort to push crushing gun-control legislation through the House this year.

The media is running non-stop attacks against the NRA and law-abiding gun owners like you and me – saturating the airwaves 24/7 with Fake News, lying to the American people about guns and crime, and poisoning the minds of voters across the country.

And gun-ban extremists are launching a massive campaign to win election victories in 2020 that would give them control of the House, Senate, and White House – and the power to destroy the Second Amendment as we know it.

As a Patriot Life Member – whether at the Endowment, Patron or Benefactor level – you've been a critical, key leader in freedom's cause.

Without your key leadership and support, we never would've had the strength to win one battle after another for our gun rights.

And now, I'm counting on you to stand by my side at this critical hour in our nation's history.

I wish I could tell you that victory would be easy. But we both know it won't be. It will be a costly battle. And it will test our resolve to the limits.

But we've come too far and fought too many battles together to lose our freedom now.

If you and I come together right now and fight arm-in-arm in an unbroken line, we can stop the gun-banners from gutting the Second Amendment and fundamentally transforming this great country.

I can't put into words how much I appreciate Patriot Life Members like you. And I look forward to fighting by your side in the massive battles we face in the weeks and months ahead.

## How Hollywood Abuses Firearms

by Zita Ballinger Fletcher

*The following was adapted from an article published on America's 1st Freedom's website on March 27, 2019.*

You can probably name more than a few movie stars who have made anti-gun statements recently and called for infringements on Second Amendment rights, but you probably haven't realized the full spectrum of how the Hollywood movie industry is responsible for promoting senseless gun violence.

Hollywood depicts firearms as mere "props" to sell movies. How many guns have you seen used to market high-budget films in recent decades? Guns appear

in posters, trailers and other marketing materials as gimmicks to sell movies to wide audiences.

Using firearms as selling points, Hollywood displays them as cheaply and as often in film advertisements as sunglasses or jeans. No understanding is imparted, no training shown. Hollywood promotes gun carelessness and desensitization—not gun safety.

Firearms in Hollywood are portrayed in films as killing machines, instruments of power or simply "cool-looking" objects for people to pose with. Firearms in movies are used like magic wands with a careless effort depicted like the mere push of a button. No understanding is given about the real and legitimate purposes for which guns are legally used by law-abiding American society.

Hollywood uses firearms in movies to amplify and

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glamorize fake violence—simply to advertise and sell movies to the public. The old Roman practice of selling “bread and circuses” to people for profit has, in modern times, taken on a whole new level as entertainers have sought to manipulate the image of the firearm.

Hollywood has hijacked the gun to sell its glossy fake violence to viewers. For example, Hollywood violence often depicts a single glamorous individual using firearms against “opponents”—often stuntmen whose identities are obscured to create a sense of meaninglessness. Ask yourself what effect those lies in images have on an impressionable human mind.

In Hollywood movies, criminals wielding firearms are nearly always depicted as sleek, smart and powerful individuals—although, as televised police surveillance videos show us, that is a far cry from the truth.

Absent from Hollywood films are responsible ordinary law-abiding gun owners who use firearms to hunt game and protect themselves and others.

It is violent mindsets and thoughts that can create criminals—not guns. It goes without saying that minds, especially young ones, are influenced unduly by the images and suggestions they see constantly in Hollywood movies and film advertisements.

Those who bear responsibility for creating an environment in America conducive to violence are not law-abiding gun owners or outdoorsmen fighting to uphold their Second Amendment rights.

The real culprits are studio executives sitting in luxurious offices in Los Angeles—increasing filmed images of violence in human minds to increase dollar amounts in their bank accounts.

Ocasio-Cortez elaborated on what she was hoping to accomplish in statements to *Politico*. “There’s more than one way to skin a cat, and not everything has to be done through legislation explicitly,” she said. “We can also use the tools that we have here to pressure change in other ways as well.”

That includes the implicit threat of telling regulated entities they are now on the Official Naughty List for not toeing the political line and unleashing activist hordes to bombard their social media feeds with defamatory accusations or to perhaps take more drastic action in the real world.

Fortunately, not everyone on Capitol Hill has adopted the scorched-earth outlook of Maloney and Ocasio-Cortez, and some are actively trying to ensure that America’s business and banking sectors are not completely subsumed into Washington, D.C.’s increasingly toxic political battles.

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**AS WE REPORTED LAST WEEK, SENS. KEVIN CRAMER (R-ND) AND JOHN KENNEDY (R-LA) INTRODUCED S. 821 THE FREEDOM FINANCING ACT, A BILL TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE FIREARMS INDUSTRY IN THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES.**

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This week, Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, sent

a series of letters to the presidents and chief executive officers of America’s biggest national banks. Those letters expressed concern with the increasing politicization of banking services.

“Large banks, which receive significant forms of government support and benefits, should continue to provide credit and services to customers and companies that comply with federal and state law and should not seek to replace legislators and policymakers,” Chairman Crapo wrote. “Business lending decisions should be based on creditworthiness, rather than politics and political pressure.”

Chairman Crapo’s letter also referenced the *Politico* article quoting Ocasio-Cortez on “pressur[ing] change” outside the lawmaking process as an example of this disturbing trend.

The Obama administration pursued similar tactics under Operation Choke Point (OCP), with federal regulators leaning on banks to drop relationships with gun sellers and other lawful but disfavored businesses who were portrayed as a “reputational risk” to the institutions’ financial soundness.

But those objectives were hotly denied by the administration and dismissed as a “conspiracy theory” by its media surrogates.

Yet now they are being openly promoted and celebrated by those on the far left, which pursues the same style of government corruption, but without the self-awareness to

engage in any pretense of hiding it.

Ocasio-Cortez would apparently be only too happy to tell you that OCP was A-OK.

For now, fortunately, these anti-gunners' worst ambitions are still kept somewhat in check by the division of political power in Washington, D.C.

Should that situation change, lawful firearms businesses and other targets of the far left's wrath won't just be fighting overreaching legislation and bad publicity from a complicit press.

They'll be facing their exclusion from modern society altogether.

## Fear & Loading: Safety a Key Industry Focus

by Guy Sagi

*The following was adapted from an article published on American Rifleman's website on April 8, 2019.*

More than 30 million youngsters have learned if they see an unsecured firearm they should, "Stop! Don't Touch. Run Away. Tell a Grownup," thanks to the NRA Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program, which was established in 1988. Enlisting the aid of law enforcement, educators, parents and others, it's the industry's most successful program, although the National Rifle Association is far from alone in the educational effort.

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**"MOLLIES MISCHIEF" IS DESIGNED FOR VIEWING BY CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2ND GRADE, WHILE "NOT COOL, KYLE" IS TAILORED FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES TWO THROUGH SIX.**

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McGruff the Crime Dog made his first appearance on TV in 1980, but thanks to a recent partnership between the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), he is now delivering a similar safety message—with some help from his nephew Scruff. Created by Danger Pigeon Studios, the pair of 120-second public service messages feature the popular animated characters also explaining at the sight of an unattended gun they should, "Stop. Don't touch! Get away. Tell an adult!"



"NCPC is thrilled to partner once again with NSSF on the important issue of gun safety," said Ann Harkins, President and CEO of the National Crime Prevention Council. "The videos are informative and an entertaining way for kids to learn about McGruff's 4 Steps to Gun Safety."

Eddie Eagle is better known for personal appearances in classrooms and at events—like the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits—but he's also starred in his own video. The trio of youth-friendly clips provide an added resource for parents and may be of particular interest for those with home-schooled children.

The outreach efforts aren't limited to videos, either, a fact highlighted by this month's Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's donation of \$25,000 to the NSSF Project ChildSafe Foundation. The funds will help provide new gun locks and education literature distributed by law enforcement agencies, community organizations and other partners across the country.