

The penalty for selling a gun to a person who is a criminal, mentally ill, mentally incompetent, alcohol abuser or drug abuser is a 10-year federal felony. That's now, today, with no changes to the law.

It is even a federal felony to submit false information on a background check form for the purpose of purchasing a firearm.

Even so, according to a 2012 report to the Department of Justice, more than 72,000 people were turned down on a gun purchase in 2010 because they didn't pass the background check. Yet, only 44 of those cases were prosecuted. Why, when criminals are caught in the act of lying on the form to illegally purchase a firearm are they not prosecuted?

On Thursday, January 10, 2013, in the White House meeting of President Obama's Gun Agenda Task Force, Vice President Joe Biden answered that question, telling NRA's Director of Federal Affairs, James Baker, that the Obama administration didn't have time to prosecute people for lying on the federal background check form.

In an article in The Daily Caller (1/18/2013) Biden said, "And to your point, Mr. Baker, regarding the lack of prosecutions on lying on Form 4473s, we simply don't have the time or manpower to prosecute everybody who lies on a form, that checks a wrong box, that answers a question inaccurately."

If the Obama Administration currently doesn't have the time or manpower to prosecute those who lie on background check forms, then why do they want more background checks, more paperwork and more forms? It's backdoor gun registration.

Universal background check system legislation that we have previously seen, allows the government to keep a computerized government registry of gun owners.

In addition to the absurdity of having to do background checks on people you know are not criminals, would you like to pay up to \$100 or more just to give your grandson a shotgun or lend a hunting rifle to your best friend or give your Mom a gun for protection?

Transfer fees alone could run from \$50 up. Firearms dealers, like other businesses, charge as much as they can get away with. Background check fees for a federally mandated program can be any amount they decide.

The Obama administration's gun ban agenda and universal background check system are unconstitutional regulatory schemes to gut the Second Amendment. These proposals which mandate the government collection of data on lawful gun buyers and sellers amount to universal gun registration and gun owner licensing.

This agenda focuses on peaceable citizens, not violent criminals who obtain guns on the black-market to carry out unspeakable crimes already prohibited under federal and state laws. Instead of stopping crime and eliminating criminal conduct, they are creating more criminals—they are targeting you.

That's why NRA Members and the nation's 100 million firearms owners will stand in solidarity and fight against these misguided and diabolical proposals that have nothing whatsoever to do with curbing criminal violence but everything to do with stripping us of our guaranteed civil rights and our freedom.

Marion P. Hammer is past President of the National Rifle Association and is Executive Director of Unified Sportsmen of Florida

HONORING DONALD VAUGHN,
FORMER CHIEF ENGINEER, ALA-
BAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANS-
PORTATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to pay tribute to Mr. Donald W. Vaughn, a distinguished civil servant of the State of Alabama who will be inducted into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame on February 23, 2013.

A 1971 graduate of Auburn University's School of Engineering, Don Vaughn served the Alabama Highway Department for more than 40 years before retiring in 2012. His contributions to the enhancement of Alabama's transportation system over the last four decades are reflected in the state's modern highways and continued emphasis on traffic safety.

Don holds a lifelong passion for engineering that began even before he earned his degree. Indeed, he started work as a survey party member for the Alabama Highway Department in 1966 at the same he entered college. He spent summer breaks and between quarters assisting state surveyor crews even as he studied at Auburn University. After graduation in 1972, Don began full-time work in the Alabama Highway Department's Engineering Education Training Program as a Graduate Civil Engineer. He subsequently rose in the ranks, starting as an Interstate Bureau Engineer, 1973–1976, Assistant Location Engineer, 1976–1979, Location Engineer, 1980–1983, Assistant Chief of Design Bureau, 1983–1987, Bureau Chief of Office Engineer Bureau, 1987–1989, and, in July 1989, he was appointed Administrative Engineer to the Transportation Director.

Under Governor Fob James, Don was promoted to Assistant Transportation Director on October 1, 1997. He served in that position until February 1999 when he was appointed Assistant Chief Engineer. Governor Donald Siegelman appointed him Assistant Transportation Director on July 1, 2001. He was appointed to the position of Deputy Director, Operations in February 2003. On June 1, 2005, Don was appointed Chief Engineer by Governor Bob Riley.

An active leader in Alabama and national transportation organizations, Don was President of the Alabama Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Chairman of the Traffic Safety Committee, Chairman of the US Route Numbering Committee, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Safety Management of the Standing Committee on Highways of the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials. He also served on the Alabama Enterprise Zone Advisory Council, the Inland Waterways and Intermodal Infrastructure Advisory Board, and the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

Don retired at the rank of Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves Civil Engineer Corps and was the 2009 Auburn University Outstanding Civil Engineer Alumnus.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I would like to extend personal congratulations to Don on his induction into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame. His service to improving the

quality and safety of Alabama's roads, bridges and transportation infrastructure is second to none.

I wish Don and his wife, Becki, and their entire family the very best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA "PATTY" BENNETT AS THE 2012 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR THE TOWN OF NOVATO, CALIFORNIA

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Novato resident Patricia (Patty) Bennett as the 2012 Citizen of the Year for the Town of Novato located in Mann County in Northern California.

Patty's enduring service to the town is marked by her quiet presence and many positive outcomes. As a local community activist committed to the growth and care of the Novato community, Patty has been serving on various committees around town for many years. Since 2004, Patty Bennett has served on the board of the Novato Youth Center (NYC), where in addition to her duties as Vice-President of the NYC Board and chairperson of the Development Committee, she founded and co-chairs their biannual fundraising event Cruisin' the Classics.

Patty's strong compassion for working parents motivated her to join NYC board of directors in 2004 to help make accessible quality childcare for these parents. Among her many contributions as a director, Patty played a critical role in transitioning the leadership of the NYC after the retirement of an Executive Director who served 23 years.

Patty's dedication to Novato has remained constant though the years. She currently serves as Treasurer for "Novato 2010—Celebrating 50 years" Birthday Celebration Steering Committee and has worked for many years on the Coordinating Committee for the Paint the Town Red event. She is also an Elder at the Presbyterian Church of Novato and has served as President of the Parent Teacher Association for Pleasant Valley Elementary School and on Leadership Councils for Novato Unified School District schools including Pleasant Valley Elementary, Sinaloa Middle and San Marin High School.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate that we honor Patty Bennett for her exceptional community service and civic engagement, commend her generosity of spirit and extend to her our congratulations for her selection as the 2012 Citizen of the Year.

WHERE'S THE BUDGET

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Groundhog Day has come and gone.

The little fella did not see his shadow, and once again, Congress saw no budget from the White House.

That's right, MS, for the fourth time in five years this Administration has missed its legally required deadline to submit a budget.

The Budget Act of 1974 says: "On or after the first Monday in January but not later than the first Monday in February of each year, the President shall submit a budget of the United States Government for the following fiscal year."

But once again the White House ignores laws it doesn't like.

Ironically, the Administration missed the legal deadline the same day that the "No Budget No Pay" act was signed into law.

That law freezes pay for Members of Congress unless we pass our own budget by April 15.

Last year, the President's tardy budget failed to receive a single vote in either Chamber.

So what's the plan now?

Show us the budget.

Your move, Mr. President.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, due to constituent obligations in my district, I was unavoidably detained in Massachusetts on February 4, 2012. I was therefore unable to cast a vote on rollcall votes 31, and 32. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 31, and "yea" on rollcall 32.

HONORING THE LIFE OF R. BRIAN KIDNEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues and former members of the California State Legislature Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. WAXMAN to pay tribute to the life of R. Brian Kidney, who passed away on December 22, 2012 at the age of 82. Mr. Kidney was an extraordinary person, and he will always be remembered as a man who lived his life with purpose and a dedication to public service, with almost 30 years in the California State Assembly, Office of the Chief Clerk.

Brian Kidney earned a Bachelor's degree in Russian History from the University of Michigan. He went on to further his education at the University of San Francisco and earned a Master's degree in Government. Upon completion of his Master's degree, Mr. Kidney joined the United States Air Force and served our nation as a Russian Translator in Libya.

His impressive and irreplaceable service to the State of California began in 1963 in the California State Legislature, where he served as an office messenger for Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh. Two years later he became assistant clerk, and in 1991, Mr. Kidney retired after serving 25 years as chief clerk.

Mr. Kidney was an expert at his profession, but he brought more than knowledge and expertise to work every day. His understanding of the legislative process was an asset to each member who served in the California State Assembly during his tenure. Mr. Kidney's passion for government positively impacted the State of California in numerous ways.

In 1989, Mr. Kidney created the Assembly Chief Clerk Legislative Internship Program. He recognized the importance of having young minds with innovative ideas in the office, and paid interns began to work full-time alongside staff to gain the most fruitful experience possible. The interns benefit from their involvement and the office gains a fresh perspective from the interns.

Mr. Kidney did not stop working after retirement. He served as a parliamentary consultant to governments in Hungary, Malawi, Namibia, and South Africa, and spent several years as a lobbyist for The Gualco Group.

However, life did not always revolve around politics for Mr. Kidney. He never took for granted the simplicity of a great meal surrounded by conversation and laughter with his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. WAXMAN in paying tribute to the life and career of R. Brian Kidney. He was a shining example of a true public servant and proud American.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR HINTON MITCHEM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a long-time Alabama political leader and businessman who dutifully served the Tennessee Valley region for more than 30 years in Montgomery. Former State Senator Hinton Mitchem, of Union Grove, passed away on January 22, 2013, after an extended illness.

A Georgia native and a 1961 graduate of the University of Georgia, Senator Mitchem served in the United States Coast Guard before moving west to Alabama in 1962 to pursue his future. It was not long before he left a mark on his community by becoming both a successful businessman and a respected public official.

In 1965, Senator Mitchem founded Hinton Mitchem Tractor Co., Inc. in Albertville and continued to serve the farming community for 40 years before selling his business in 2005. He first entered politics as a member of the Albertville City Council in 1968. In 1974, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives, representing the 25th District, serving a single four-year term from 1975 through 1979. He then ran and won election for State Senate in 1979. His Senate district included Marshall County and parts of Blount, Madison, and at one time, DeKalb County.

In 1986, Senator Mitchem set his gaze towards higher office, entering the Democrat primary for Lieutenant Governor. After coming in

third in the statewide contest, he returned to the Senate a year later easily winning a special election created when a vacancy occurred in his former Senate seat.

A statesman who was respected by politicians on both sides of the aisle, Senator Mitchem was elected President Pro Tempore of the Alabama Senate on January 9, 2007. He chaired the Finance and Taxation and Education Committees and, twice, the General Fund Committee. He was selected as one of the five Outstanding Senators in 1983 and again in 1984. In 1985, he was voted by his colleagues "The Outstanding Senator" in Alabama. When he retired from public office in 2010, he held the distinction of being the longest-serving member in the Alabama House and Senate, having served a total of 36 years.

Upon his retirement in 2010, Senator Mitchem told the Arab Tribune that his single most significant legislative accomplishment for his constituents was the passage of a bill directing TVA "payment in lieu of taxes" funds to the Alabama counties in which the federal utility is located. Prior to the passage of the legislation, the Alabama general fund received the TVA payments. Senator Mitchem also sponsored legislation creating the Alabama Housing Finance Authority, and was a staunch supporter of Alabama's two-year college system and Alabama's State Parks, to name but a few of his many contributions.

Senator Mitchem's public service was not limited to elected office. In 1980, he was appointed by then-Republican Governor Fob James, Jr. to chair the Alabama Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness, serving in that capacity for 28 years. He also served 18 consecutive years as Chairman of the Alabama Special Olympics.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend my personal condolences to his wife, Judy; and their four children, Todd, Tanya, Dee and Brittnie; their three grandchildren and their extended family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY'S ELECTRIC EDGE BAND

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the talented musicians of the "Morehead State University and Electric Edge" band, which performed at the renowned Kentucky Society of Washington DC's Inaugural Bluegrass Ball on Saturday, January 19, 2013. Known for its high class entertainment, fine food, and Kentucky hospitality, the Bluegrass Ball is our premier inauguration party, made even more memorable when Electric Edge takes the stage.

Great music is synonymous with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and so it has been my pleasure to welcome these gifted educators and musicians to the nation's Capitol City.

In fact, music has always been an important way of life in Kentucky. We enjoy a rich music heritage from Appalachia on into the cornfields of western Kentucky. In classrooms and on stage, these band members are helping keep