



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - June 20, 2007 - 7:00 PM**

**Sara's Place Restaurant**

**Joliet, IL (815) 741-3076**

This month, WCGR Chairman, **Doug Mayhall** will speak about his recent trip to Front Sight. Also, ISRA President, **Don Moran** will give us an update on the current legislation in Springfield and will answer questions you may have. We hope to see you there.

Will County ISRA member, Brandon Burzawa, was the name drawn at the May meeting in the WCGR "Gun Giveaway". Unfortunately for Brandon, he was not present. Another name will be drawn at our June meeting. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID card and comply with all local, state and federal firearm laws.

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## The Cost of Our Freedoms

The May meeting of the Will County Grassroots was dedicated to all of the Veterans who have served our country. In our past newsletters, we asked Veterans to join us on this special evening. We wanted to honor all Veterans, and especially those that paid the ultimate price, so all Americans can enjoy the freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Memorial Day is a day our Veterans hold most dear to their hearts. It is a day of remembrance.



Many Veterans had to face the horrors of combat and then the inevitable memories they echo back. Within these thoughts are the reminders of those that paid the final price for their comrades and country. Thoughts return them to those places that are rarely shared with loved ones, much less friends. Only other Veterans are able to understand the true meaning of what is felt. Memorial Day is for those that were not able to continue on with their

lives, as so many of us were fortunate to fulfill.

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lives, as so many of us were fortunate to fulfill.

It is difficult to give praise to a Veteran. They brag about their children or grandchildren. They talk about how big that deer was that they bagged last fall or the secret ingredient for the best-grilled steaks ever. However, when the subject of "war stories" comes up, it is one that is handled with care. Most of the time the story is not about them, but about someone else. And, it usually revolves around an incident not even related to the life and death struggles so common in war. To speak of others in any other light is not easy.



We were fortunate to have Veterans representing various branches of the US military, attend the meeting. Collectively, they represented most of the wars, conflicts and peace time eras. Some of the Vets are still on active duty and many have retired from the military.

One of our first speakers was MSGT Chris Miller, USAF. He is now stationed in Chicago as a recruiter, helping young men and women consider



a future in the U.S. Air Force. Others spoke about where they were stationed and gave us a brief glimpse into what their duties were. When they

thought back on why they joined the military, some said it was because they were in need of more stability in their lives or to earn more money. All spoke of their military past with loyalty, pride and the honor of being part of our country's legacy to protect our freedoms.

We may not have thought much of what the big picture was at the time we joined up. Eventually, many of us found out that what we were doing was not something we did for ourselves as individuals, but we were doing something as a group. Sharing experiences in the military sets bonds that are unlike any other. Combat life is a shared reality. Everyone that is brought together at those moments of conflict share the feelings of pain, suffering and death. Often, those that receive commendations for valor or bravery know that if it weren't for others, their heroic actions would not have occurred. These are the reasons that Veterans have such fondness for Memorial Day.

There was a sign I saw in Vietnam a few times. I don't know the author, but some have told me it

was from an old Korean War maxim. From there, some say, it came from an old WWII saying, with a few words changed here and there. It goes like this: "For those that fight for it, life has a flavor the sheltered shall never know". Knowing those moments will stay within us, honoring those that we remember will always be shared.



To all those Veterans that came by to share their thoughts and experiences with us, we thank you...and we honor you.

Al Tiscareno

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Open to any qualified person using a Glock for the first match. After the first match, only members of the Glock Sport Shooting Foundation are eligible.

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Current GSSF and ISRA Range rules will apply.

For more information, visit the ISRA website at:  
[www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org)  
or call the ISRA office at:  
815-635-3198



## Chairman's Comments

I am writing this article on Memorial Day, which is the perfect day to reflect on this great country of ours. We remember the men and women who have risked and even given their lives to keep our country "free".

At our May meeting, we honored the Veterans who helped keep the country free from aggression. Several Vets were present that night that served in WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, as well as in the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was truly touching to hear each of them share their experiences with us and I felt honored to be in their presence.

I am troubled, though, to say that I believe we are now fighting aggressors from within our own borders. I am troubled by those who want to take away the rights that we hold so dear. I believe that the Campaign Reform Act, which eliminates our right to criticize any politician on their views for sixty days before an election, stifled our First Amendment rights. Then, there are the anti-gunners who feel the Second Amendment is no longer necessary.

All of this was brought home to me on Saturday, May 26th. The Rev. Jessie Jackson decided to hold a protest against Chuck's Gun Shop in Riverdale. I decided to go and support Chuck's by making a purchase. I also wanted to see how the "anti's" would act during their protest.

I got there a little after the 1:00pm start time. As I drove by to find a parking spot, the police were just starting to close down the street. I noticed that there were many squad cars from both Riverdale and Dolton, but hardly any protesters. I parked approximately a block away and walked by about fifteen protesters on my way to the gun shop. There were certainly more of "us", at this point, than protesters. John Riggio, the owner of Chuck's, had food for his customers, so we ate while waiting for the action to begin. There were several ISRA members present and several from Will County. We were talking to the police, who were noticeably friendly and respectful of the gun

shop.

Finally, after 2:00pm, more protesters started arriving right before Jesse Jackson appeared. They started marching. Unfortunately for them, there was a semi parked right in front of the shop. Since they couldn't effectively march in front of it in the street, they stopped and decided what to do. Soon, they walked over to the vacant property to the north of the shop and started chanting. None lasted more than a minute, though. The crowd was not at all motivated to say the least. Jesse Jackson then gave a motivational speech saying that people had to be moral, that we didn't need concealed carry to go hunting and "...let's stop the violence".

Reporters for FOX and ABC news interviewed several of us on tape and some on video. When I was asked why we were counter-protesting, I commented that I was not counter-protesting. I was there to celebrate our civil rights, including the First and Second Amendments. The female reporter seemed taken aback, so I asked her if she believed in civil rights. When she replied affirmatively, I said that I did also and pointed out that the First and Second Amendments were included in our civil rights.

There were numerous pro-civil rights people there who were carrying signs. The one I thought most clever was one that read, "Jessie, how many armed guards do you have???"

Several of us discussed how few protesters were there and how they didn't seem very enthusiastic. When we counted those present, two hundred seemed to be the high number. When the event was over, five school buses pulled up and almost all the protesters got into the buses to leave. The way I figure it, a school bus has the ability to carry about 40-42 adults comfortably, so this confirmed our counts of merely 190-200 protesters. It appeared to me that the protesters were bussed in with the probable promise of some reward for coming. I can't help but think that if they truly believed in the cause, they would have driven themselves and there would have been a much larger (and more vocal) crowd.

What was extremely interesting and hypocritical to me was the fact that Rev. Jackson preaches morals, but he got caught with a girlfriend...OOPS. He hates guns and specifically the idea of concealed carry, yet he had seven armed guards protecting him, all

appearing to be carrying concealed weapons. He preached, "...let's stop the violence..." However, when Fr. Michael Pflieger stated that the owner of Chuck's Gun shop "...can't hide forever..." giving and spelling his name for the crowd, and said, "...we gonna find you and snuff you out", Rev. Jackson did not chastise him for promoting violence and calling for the murder of a law-abiding businessman. By the way, the owner of the gun shop was standing outside his store during the entire protest and was readily accessible to all reporters.

Now this all has been from my personal viewpoint and is my take on what happened that day at Chuck's Gun Shop. And it is my opinion that, especially after seeing what occurred at this protest, Rev. Jessie Jackson is the ultimate hypocrite. The hypocrisy is in that Rev. Jackson started this protest because "the police know...everyone knows...they get guns from here", yet when asked by a reporter for the Southtown, Jessie Jackson admitted that he has no statistics on the store. And, it's funny. This same reporter said there were 1000 protesters there that day. I sent a letter to the editor about that. Let's see if it gets printed.

Doug Mayhall

### ISRA Range Open House 2007

The weather was nearly perfect as hundreds gathered on Saturday, June 9th for the Fifth Annual ISRA Range Open House. Members came out to show their support of the ISRA and to see the latest improvements that have been made at the range. Many of the attendees were from the general public that were interested in learning more about the ISRA and our shooting facility, as well as other amenities we have to offer our members.

We were pleased with the representatives from the firearm manufacturing companies that were able to attend this year's event. Some of them included Armalite, Benelli, Glock, Para Ordnance, Rock River Arms and Springfield Armory. There were also representatives from Midwest Guns and Chuck's Gun Shop that came out to volunteer their time and support the ISRA.

All attendees went through a safety briefing

before they were allowed to proceed through the Open House. They were then invited to browse the manufacturers' tables and check out the latest in what the companies had to offer. If they so desired, they were able to test fire the firearms with the assistance of a coach, one-on-one. Even those who had never picked up a firearm before were able to learn a little bit about a particular firearm, including how to use it safely and properly and then gain some practical experience. A variety of firearms in various calibers were available for test firing. These included semi-automatic pistols, revolvers, small bore rifles, high power rifles, shotguns and muzzleloaders. As in years past, our younger guests seemed to get the most enjoyment from the air rifles and archery range activities. Lunch, provided by the Wilmington Lions Club, was also a big hit.

All in all, it was a good day. The volunteers did a great job in, once again, showing their un-ending support and dedication to the ISRA and its activities. A big 'thanks' goes out to all of you...we could not have done it without you!

I must say, though, that my favorite moment from this year's Open House is when a young man who had just fired an AR-15 for the very first time, walked away from the firing line to rejoin his mother in the spectator area, removed his safety glasses and said (with a smile from ear to ear on his face), "Mom...now that was awesome!" Ah...the future is alive and well.

Kim Beard

FOURTH ANNUAL

NRA/ISRA

YOUTH CAMP

Saturday, August 18, 2007

Children ages 10-14 are invited to attend

Cost: \$25.00 per child

(includes lunch, use of firearms, ammo & targets)

**\*\*T-shirts given to the first 40 applicants\*\***

NRA Certified Instructors will be teaching firearm safety, basic firearm components and allow the kids hands-on experience with a variety of firearms including .22 pistol, .22 rifle, shotgun and archery

Call the ISRA for more info or to register:

815-635-3198

### Calendar of Events

- June 15** Lockport Old Canal Days Parade - 6:30pm - State Street, Lockport (815) 838-3357  
[www.lockportchamber.com](http://www.lockportchamber.com)
- June 23** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at  
(815) 545-4872 or visit [www.firearmsafetytraining.com](http://www.firearmsafetytraining.com)
- June 23, 24** Morris Gun Show - Grundy County Fairgrounds - Jim McAra (773) 237-8844
- June 24** **Glock Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) ISRA League Match - ISRA Range -  
Bonfield - (815) 635-3198**
- July 7** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at  
(815) 545-4872 or visit [www.firearmsafetytraining.com](http://www.firearmsafetytraining.com)
- July 29** **Glock Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) ISRA League Match - ISRA Range -  
Bonfield - (815) 635-3198**
- August 4** NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation - Mega Sports - Plainfield - contact Kent at  
(815) 545-4872 or visit [www.firearmsafetytraining.com](http://www.firearmsafetytraining.com)
- August 11&12** CADA Gun Show - Dupage Expo Center - St.Charles, IL - (760) 202-4489
- August 18** **NRA/ISRA Youth Shooting Camp - ISRA Range - Bonfield, IL - (815)635-3198**
- August 18** NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation - Erienna Hunt Club - Morris - contact Kent at  
(815) 545-4872 or visit [www.firearmsafetytraining.com](http://www.firearmsafetytraining.com)
- August 18, 19** Morris Gun Show - Grundy County Fairgrounds - Jim McAra 773-237-8844
- August 26** **Glock Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) ISRA League Match - ISRA Range -  
Bonfield - (815) 635-3198**

*\*\* Please use the above contact information to confirm events as dates may change without notice \*\**

*Please contact Chairman, Doug Mayhall, or the ISRA office if you would like to help out at any of the **ISRA** events*

*E-mail [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter*

**\*\*\* Political Disclaimer \*\*\***

The ISRA and the Will County Division of the ISRA **cannot** and **will not** endorse any candidate or party. We feature speakers to allow us to learn about the positions a candidate holds on the Second Amendment and welcome all candidates to speak to us. Only the **ISRA Political Victory Fund (ISRA-PVF)** can endorse candidates or donate to political campaigns.

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