



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

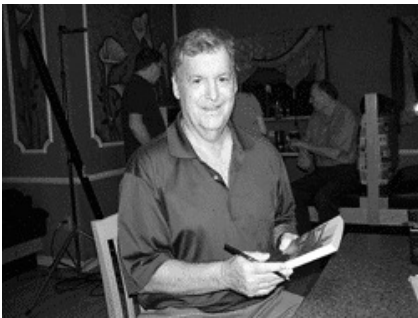
**NEXT MEETING - September 16, 2009 - 7:00 PM**  
**Ivo's Express Restaurant**  
**23819 West Eames Street**  
**(Southeast Corner of Route 6 and I-55)**  
**Channahon, IL 60410**  
**815-467-0940**

This month our speaker will be **Detective Sergeant Duane Davis** of the Will County Sherriff's Department. He will speak to us about ways we can protect ourselves and give us tips on how to remain vigilant with regard to ourselves and our surroundings, thus helping to insure our safety. This should prove to be an interesting and informative evening. As always, we invite you to bring along a friend.

Will County ISRA member, *Jeffrey A. Goodspeed*, was the name drawn for the WCGR Gun Giveaway last month. Unfortunately, Jeffrey was not present so another name will be drawn at the next meeting. Remember, the winner must be present, have a valid FOID and comply with all local, state and federal laws.

## Reconciliation

The August meeting of the Will County Grassroots gave Earl Gorman an opportunity to talk about the two times he was in Viet Nam. Some of our guests may have met Earl at the 2009 ISRA Range Open House. There, he was selling the book that he authored named, "Fire Mission: The World of Nam - a Marine's Story". This is Earl Gorman's account of his experiences in Viet Nam, past and present. Earl brings to the reader what Viet Nam was like for him in 1965 and upon his return in 2007 on a humanitarian mission.



Earl put together a photographic presentation that showed our Marines in the I- Corps area of Viet Nam in 1965 and what the country looked like at that time. Some of our WCGR members that were present that evening are very familiar with that area and I am sure this brought back many memories. The photos from 2007 showed a countryside that has not changed that much. In fact, it still is a country where the natural, lush vegetation along with its terrain leaps out and

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(815) 635-3198

[member@isra.org](mailto:member@isra.org)

gives the Viet Nam veteran another look into his past.

There is one thing that Earl hoped for on his trip in 2007 and that was to find out if there was anyone from his Viet Nam past that was still alive. His photos of those that he remembered in 1965 and those that remembered him today are an astonishing part of Earl's journey.

Contact Earl J. Gorman at [www.firemissionnam.com](http://www.firemissionnam.com) for more information about his book.

**Al Tiscareno**

\*\*\* Please note \*\*\*

Articles in the WCGR newsletter contain information gathered by and are of the specific viewpoint and beliefs of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ISRA.



## Chairman's Comments

by Doug Mayhall

Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 was a great day for me. Work went smoothly and after work, I was able to go out to dinner with two great friends, which was something we did once a month. Both were WWII vets, but on different sides of the war. One was from Germany and was drafted when he was only fifteen. The other enlisted in the US Army to fight the 'evil' Axis powers. At the end of the war they were both in Germany, one as the conqueror, the other as the conquered. They first met at a party I had a couple of years ago and found they had several, similar interests and became fast friends. Soon, we started going to dinner every month. Joe (from Germany) and I lived on the Southside. Our friend, Carl, lived near Bartlett. Since he didn't really enjoy driving at night anymore, Joe and I would drive up to Bartlett and pick him up for dinner. We developed a routine. We would go to this Chinese restaurant in Geneva, have a nice dinner, then retire to Carl's house and swap stories for another hour or so. Joe and I would then drive home. This last dinner we enjoyed together was especially nice. We toasted to being three great friends. Carl had made several plans he informed us about and also spoke of how he wanted to take us to a special restaurant in Dundee next month.

However, that all changed the next day. I got a call late Friday night, informing me that Carl had passed away, apparently of a heart attack. I was shocked, of course, as he was so full of ambition the night before. I thought, though, at least he had lived eighty-two good years.

Carl Kuhn: January 25, 1927 - August 21, 2009

Saturday morning, I spoke with Carl's son, Eric, and found out the house was officially determined to be a crime scene. Robbery and more was suspected, although officials were still saying Carl died from natural causes. At the request of one of the detectives, I drove up to Carl's house and

spoke with the detective. She asked me to look at things inside the house. It was apparent to me that things were not in their normal positions. I then got a call the next evening, informing me that Carl had been murdered. Two suspects were in custody and admitted, on videotape, to suffocating Carl. It was hard for me to accept losing an old friend to natural causes, but much harder to accept losing him the hands of a murderer. Carl was not able to walk well for the last few years. To suffer the fright and humiliation of being suffocated is still very hard for me to accept and comprehend.

So who is this friend I lost so tragically a couple of weeks ago?

He was a WWII veteran. After the war, he was a Glen Ellyn police officer, Badge Number 11. He then was an attorney for fifty-two years and was a Judge for several of those years. He was a VFW member and past commander of his Post. He was very involved with his church and a life member of the Knights of Columbus. But more importantly for me, was his lifelong respect for the Second Amendment and his love of firearms. He was a firearms collector, starting right after the War and purchasing his last gun a couple of weeks before he was killed. He was an avid hunter and shooter and Life Member of the ISRA Range. He was an ISRA Benefactor Member and Board Member for twenty-two years. While on the Board, he was once an Executive Vice President and a Second Vice President. When he retired from the Board a couple of years ago, I was proud to have him nominate me to take over that position and I was pleased the Board voted me in to fulfill that position. Carl's legal knowledge and experience was always an enormous help to the ISRA during his tenure. He had the ability to know when to compromise and when to stand by his guns (pun intended). He sure helped the ISRA move forward into its place as a well-respected firearm rights' organization.

Carl was also very involved in the NRA, being a Benefactor Member and he attended every convention until the last two years. He was involved in the Fox Valley FNRA for many years. He was known

for helping to get it started, being its Chairman for several years and for making it one of the more successful fundraising dinners in Illinois, year after year. Eventually, he retired from that group. Because of our friendship, he asked to join our Three Rivers FNRA Committee. (I think he was bored not belonging to a dinner committee anymore) We gladly accepted him and he was especially helpful in teaching us better ways of making our dinners more successful, thus helping to make our dinners, too, one of the more successful dinners in Illinois. He liked having unusual things to sell at the dinners. For instance, some of the things he acquired were a stuffed white fox, a stuffed turkey, a stuffed Coyote and a stuffed armadillo. He got us a totem pole and a fur coat, a wolf rug and a Crusin' Cooler.

Carl's most prized possession was his extensive firearm collection. Many of the firearms were very rare and valuable. His favorites were the very unusual and "one of a kind" type of long gun or pistol. He could tell you every detail of every gun. He enjoyed coming down to our Will County Grassroots meetings whenever he was able to make it. Twice he came down to our monthly Grassroots meetings as the guest speaker and shared with us some of his very unusual and rare firearms. Many of these were fascinating to see. He really was pleased to be able to show just a small part of his collection to individuals who genuinely appreciated his collection.

Carl's son, Eric, is very involved with the Patriot Guard Riders. The Patriot Guard is a group of (primarily) motorcyclists who, at the request of the families, attend the funeral services of members of the U.S. Armed Forces killed in action and veterans. They stand at attention with flags at the wake and funeral and offer protection from those trying to interrupt the services such as pushy reporters and especially protestors. Carl was very proud of this and had asked Eric to have them escort him when he died. This wish was granted.

Eric said that Carl was a WWII vet and was therefore entitled to the escort. Eric even got the Illinois State Police to provide an escort to block intersections for the long drive from Bartlett to the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Carl's final resting place. Eric also arranged for a bagpiper to play at the church service. I felt the need to do my part to help honor Carl's request for the motorcycle escort so I, along with a fellow ISRA Board member and friend of Carl's, rode my motorcycle in the rain down to the cemetery. I was honored when Eric asked us to lead the motorcycles. The service at the cemetery was very touching. Eric arranged for a gentleman to play "Taps" at the service. The folding and presentation of the flag was quite an emotional experience I had not seen before and it touched everyone that was present in their own special way.

Carl was a great individual who literally devoted his so much of his adult life to protecting and promoting our Second Amendment rights. In his latter years, it was almost a full-time job for him. Let's not allow his contributions, sacrifices and dedication to our freedoms be wasted. Let each one of us carry on his tradition of promoting our Second Amendment rights. Then, I know, he will rest in peace.

**Carl Kuhn**



**January 25, 1927 - August 21, 2009**

**Rest In Peace, Carl**

\*\*\* **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.

## Calendar of Events

- September 5 & 12** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program-Handgun - Howell Shooting Club-Yorkville-David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- September 12** **ISRA/NRA Youth Shooting Camp - ISRA Range** - Bonfield - (815) 635-3198
- September 12&13** Kankakee Gun Show - Kankakee County Fairgrounds - Terry Keller (866) 930-4422
- September 13** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. -NRA Refuse To Be A Victim Course Gander Mountain - Joliet - David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- September 16** **ISRA Will County Grassroots Meeting - Ivo's Express Restaurant -** 23819 West Eames St. (Southeast Corner of Route 6 and I-55) - Channahon
- September 20** **ISRA CMP Qualification & Vintage Military Rifle Match - ISRA Range -** Jess Brandt: (815) 697- 2205 or John Newman: (815) 485-0351
- September 20** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Reloading-Shotgun Shell Gander Mountain - Joliet- David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- Sept 25,26,27** Second Amendment Foundation's Gun Rights Policy Conference - St.Louis, MO
- September 26** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - Wilderness First Aid - Gander Mountain - Joliet- David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- September 26 & 27** Northern IL Hunting & Fishing Days - Silver Springs State Park - Yorkville, IL  
[www.huntingandfishingdays.org](http://www.huntingandfishingdays.org)
- October 3** **ISRA .30 cal Service Rifle Match - ISRA Range** - Bonfield, IL  
Claude Heale (815) 553-0591
- October 3 & 4** Revolutionary War Veterans Association Appleseed Shoot - **ISRA Range** - Bonfield, IL  
Dan Hendrickson (630) 529-5654 [www.appleseedinfo.org](http://www.appleseedinfo.org)
- October 4** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - Jim McAra (773) 237-8844
- October 10** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. - NRA Basic Pistol Course  
Howell Shooting Club - Yorkville-David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- October 11** SAFER USA & Howell Shooting Club, Inc. -NRA Range Safety Officer Course - Gander Mountain - Joliet- David Lombardo - (815) 744-5487
- October 11** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - Kathy Carlson (815) 758-2773
- October 18** **ISRA Carbine & Pistol Match - ISRA Range** - Bonfield, IL - ISRA (815) 635-3198

*\*\* Please use the above contact information for detailed information (i.e. fees, registration)  
and to confirm events as dates are subject to change without notice \*\**

*Please contact Chairman, Doug Mayhall, or the ISRA office if you would like to volunteer at any of the **ISRA** events  
E-mail us at [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) if you have any events you would like included in this monthly newsletter*

## Join the ISRA

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[www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org)

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NRA Life Member & Recruiter  
EVC 11th Congressional District  
ISRA Life Member

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3.1.2-3.1.3-3.3.1

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