

# LE.A.D.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES DIVISION



## Kayne Robinson and the Value of Staying Power

By J.R. Robbins

Manager, Communications Department  
NRA General Operations

Most of America knows Kayne Robinson as the last NRA President. But long before he held that post, Robinson wore a badge.

Like police everywhere, Robinson patrolled dangerous streets, worked countless hours of overtime, faced down violent thugs, and dealt with stress most people can't even imagine.

Robinson entered the law enforcement profession after a four-year stint in the Marine Corps, which included service in Vietnam. Asked why he chose law enforcement as a career, he said without hesitation, "I always had an interest in it." But his family background had steered him in that direction, anyway. His father ran a private detective agency and his grandfather had been an "on-and-off" marshal in Wisconsin.

Robinson's first law enforcement post was as a deputy sheriff in Polk County, Iowa in 1967. In time he would move to the Des Moines Police Department, where he became the youngest sergeant in department history.

Over the next several years, his duties demanded a wide variety of abilities. He acted as sergeant on the night shift. He was put in charge of a jail that kept 12,000 prisoners a year. He served on a Tactical Unit that combined SWAT teams, motorcycle units and even riverboat patrols. He spearheaded the first Des Moines Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP), which dramatically streamlined the process of getting drunk drivers off the street. "Before ASAP it could take four hours to book a drunk," Robinson said. "ASAP got it down to half an hour."

In 1977 Robinson was promoted to lieutenant and made watch commander on the night shift. Later he commanded the Special Area Crime Unit (or "flying squad") that concentrated on high crime areas, major crimes, robbery stakeouts, etc.

Recognizing his leadership skills, the Des Moines Police Department then promoted Robinson to Chief's Staff, Research and Development. This key position required decision-making on a variety of issues: equipment, training, budget and finance, special projects and the development of stan-



Former NRA President Kayne Robinson spent more than 30 years on the front lines of law enforcement. As assistant chief of police for the Des Moines, Iowa Police Department, he oversaw more than 400 officers and 100 civilians.

dard operating procedures. The tasks under his direction affected virtually every officer in the department. Promoted to captain, Robinson commanded the largest shift. Then Robinson was promoted to assistant chief of police for the Des Moines department. In this position, he oversaw more than 400 officers and 100 civilians.

Like all cops, Kayne Robinson has stories to tell. He can tell you about the natural gas explosion that leveled two square blocks of Des Moines. No, he never had to shoot a suspect, but he was compelled to hold many at gunpoint while making arrests. He can talk about many Presidential candidates, all of whom visit Iowa for the caucus, and coping with their entourages and the armies of media that accompany them. And he can tell you about the biggest challenge he ever faced as an officer – a cataclysmic flood in 1993.

According to Peter Corrigan of the National Weather Service, "The Great Flood of 1993 was unprecedented in magnitude and severity across central Iowa. The human impacts and property damage were enormous. There were seven

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deaths, 21,000 houses, apartments or mobile homes destroyed or damaged, and crop losses estimated at \$1 billion. Total damage statewide was estimated at \$2.7 billion."

To cope with the crisis, the Des Moines Police Department named Kayne Robinson Incident Commander.

"It was a hell of a mess - a huge amount of water," Robinson recalls. "We had 30 boats in the streets. There was no power. There was no potable water for more than 30 days. We had water trucked in and set up hundreds of water stations. You couldn't flush a toilet, so we had 12,000 potajohns brought in. Homes were wrecked everywhere and we had to patrol the whole area. We did everything that rescuers did on the Gulf Coast, although on a smaller scale."

Robinson left the force after more than 30 years of service to devote more time to the NRA. He served five years as NRA First Vice President and was elected NRA President in 2003, for a two-year term. In May of this year he was appointed executive director of NRA General Operations. In this, his current position, Robinson oversees all of NRA's many programs devoted to hunting, education, training, competition, gun collecting and law enforcement. The lessons Robinson learned as a police officer serve him well in his current job.

"When you're a cop, " he said, "you've got to learn to make decisions that affect a lot of people and have a lot of consequences. Say you come up on a bad accident. You've got to find answers on how to deal with it, in real time under

extreme pressure. You've got to do the right thing with people hurt, people screaming and people voicing conflicting concerns. You learn to make rapid-fire decisions, and you get real-life feedback. You'll know if you make mistakes - and you've got to learn to handle those, too."

Rapid-fire decisions are key to any policeman facing an armed assailant, and that's one of the reasons he considers NRA law enforcement training programs so valuable. Picking good people for critical jobs is the key to success.

"The marksmanship and the tactics of police shooting are pretty logical," he said. "But the decision to shoot another human is the biggest one you'll ever make in your life. Under pressure, despite the tension, you have to do the right thing. You have to go through a thinking process - without slowing down. It isn't something you can practice, fully. But our training programs allow it to be practiced to the extent it can. It's not unlike flight simulations that pilots go through."

Commenting on NRA's other programs, Robinson touted their value in supporting the basic mission of NRA.

"NRA exists to protect the Second Amendment," he said. "It's the right to bear arms that's important. But to have a viable movement to protect that right, people have to be involved. People want to learn to shoot, to compete, to collect, to hunt," he said. "Our programs get people involved and keep them involved. They give people staying power - the staying power we need to defend the Second Amendment."

After 30-plus years in law enforcement, two years as president of NRA, and responsibility for all of NRA's programs, staying power is something Kayne Robinson can speak about with authority.

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## **HR218 - National Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act: Progress in Iowa**

**By Christopher A. Conte  
NRA Institute for Legislative Action Counsel**

President Bush signed into law HR-218 in the summer of 2004. This law is also known as the "National Concealed Carry for Cops" legislation, or "National Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act." This law provides that authorized law enforcement officers and retirees may carry firearms nationwide without a concealed weapons permit. Implementation of this law is being left to individual law enforcement agencies; there will be no federal regulations.

As a retired Iowa State Trooper (32 years) and a 4th term Iowa State Representative, the National Rifle Association requested that I comment on Iowa's progress toward HR-218 implementation. Currently Iowa's rules have been developed by individual law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Each agency requires that retirees shoot a passing qualification score on the same course of fire as active duty and reserve officers. The course of fire that is required state-wide has been approved and certified by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

Right now, the only consistency across Iowa is the fact

that all officers, regardless of status (active, reserve, retired,) are required to fire the same course. The firearms certification card currently issued varies from department to department. I think that this card should be standardized to assure validity. In addition, any retired officer should be allowed to certify annually at any range from any of Iowa's certified law enforcement academy instructors. If there is a monetary charge for certification, it should be a minimal charge. These men and women have dedicated most of their adult lives to public safety. These officers are trained, experienced professionals so it is in the best interest of public safety to support these retirees. It should not be a monetary burden for these officers to continue their service to the public.

I have already had discussions with Iowa Law Enforcement Academy staff and they believe that standardizing rules and regulations concerning HR-218 is possible. Lobbyists representing Iowa's Department of Public Safety, Sheriff's & Deputies Assoc., and Chiefs of Police & Peace Officers Assoc. all have stated that their organizations are 100% behind the ideals of HR-218. For these reasons, while some states and cities may not honor the HR-218 law, I do not anticipate this being the case with Iowa's law enforcement agencies.

# NRA Honors Harlon B. Carter

In honor of Harlon B. Carter's extraordinary service in defense of the Second Amendment, NRA unveiled a bronze bust in his likeness at a reception September 21 at NRA Headquarters in Fairfax, Va. Created by distinguished artist Bill Davis of Hyannis, Neb., the bust will remain on permanent display in memory of the man who gave so much of himself to preserve the rights of the nation's 80 million firearms owners.

"Harlon Carter's vision for NRA was as important as George Washington's was for America," said NRA President Sandra S. Froman. "He was larger than life, and when he spoke, everyone listened."

Reminiscing about Carter, a host of speakers at the reception emphasized the characteristics that made him such an effective leader at NRA's most crucial hour. "Harlon Carter set a lot of standards in a lot of ways. No one could out-debate him, or surpass his leadership, intellect, and love for this association and our cause," Wayne LaPierre, NRA's Executive Vice President, said of his predecessor and mentor.

Carter, who became an NRA Life Member in 1936, was a renowned competitive shooter, an NRA Board Member from 1951 to 1969, and NRA President from 1965 to 1967. He was also a legendary U.S. Border Patrol officer who rose to become the head of that Federal agency. Following the enactment of the 1968 Gun Control Act, Carter and his allies fought to create a forceful lobby group, and succeeded in 1974 with the establishment of NRA's Institute for Legislative Action (ILA). Carter was the only man whom NRA wanted to lead this new group as its first Executive Director - a post he held until 1976.

"During those hectic first days as ILA's chief, Harlon established an unofficial yet critical hiring code for ILA," said Chris Cox, ILA's current Executive Director. "It was essentially this: If you come to work for ILA, you're not taking a job - you're embarking on a mission." His establishment of ILA and the hiring decisions he made led directly to NRA being hailed today as the most effective lobby on Capitol Hill.

Under Carter's leadership, ILA sent out its first legislative mailings, resulting in over 300,000 letters received by the Consumer Product Safety Commission in opposition to a proposal that would have placed all ammunition under its regulatory control. He helped defeat hundreds of anti-gun and anti-hunting bills that were introduced in the 94th Congress, and he oversaw the creation of ILA's Political Action Committee, the Political Victory Fund.

Speaking before Congress on a bill to ban so-called "Saturday-night-specials," Carter told the gathered politicians that, "Law-abiding people, and particularly gun-owners, are tired of being blamed for crime. They are sick of being harassed with federal bureaucracy and having their freedom progressively and incessantly chipped away because of the inability or unwillingness of their government officials to deal with those responsible for crime, namely, criminals." Harlon Carter introduced politicians and anti-gun activists to the real gun lobby - the organized membership of the NRA.



At a reception on September 21, NRA unveiled a bust of Harlon Carter that will remain on permanent display at NRA Headquarters. Pictured are, from left, artist Bill Davis, Maryann Carter, Bill Carter, and NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre.

Speaking to members at the 1977 Annual Meetings, Carter said, "You the membership, are entitled to have an NRA that is responsive to your wishes. That is right, that is what you have demanded, and that's the way it is going to be ... You are the NRA, not I, not these gentleman here. You are all we have." It was at this meeting that Carter came out of retirement to lead a revitalized NRA as its Executive Vice President, a position he held from 1977 to 1985.

Kayne Robinson, NRA Executive Director of General Operations, also spoke about the value Carter put on the membership. "Carter understood that our members are a huge sea of numbers and that protecting the right to own guns is what matters most. It is why our members join the NRA," he said.

Carter also understood the importance to NRA's mission of fostering shooting education programs, especially for young people. He overhauled several NRA divisions, improving and expanding outreach, training, and education opportunities for new shooters, especially juniors, and built new partnerships with the Boy Scouts and 4-H. He also increased emphasis on competitive shooting, law enforcement training and field operations.



# How South Carolina Revived its PPC League

By John Garrison

Maintaining a successful PPC shooting organization has taken several years of work by the elected officers and each member of the South Carolina Police Combat League. Not too many years ago, at the end-of-season "Governor's Twenty" banquet, we had to take donations and require members pay their membership dues for the following year just to pay for the meal. Matches were down to fewer than 20 per year, and it was not unusual to have six shooters or fewer attend. The league was on its last leg, and we had to decide if we wanted to continue having a viable shooting organization or let it end.

A core group of shooters, some of whom had been in the league since it was formed in 1976, decided to combine their efforts and try to make the league healthy again. This involved changing officers, looking for alternative funding, increasing the number of matches per year and, most importantly, increasing membership. Without having something to offer new shooters as an incentive to join, the chance of increasing our membership was not very good. Some of the members took it upon themselves to spearhead the movement to improve membership and look for funding outside what had been tried in the past.

The league incorporated and sought to obtain an IRS exemption as a tax-exempt "police training" organization whose effort was aided by the fact the National Rifle Association has always classified its police shooting as an extension of training. A local accountant was solicited and agreed to volunteer his services, using his donated time as a tax deduction for his company. Gathering the required documentation and records took months, but once they were submitted, they were evaluated and returned in a prompt manner from the government. This exemption allowed us to solicit funds and donations as a "tax exempt" organization. However, the exemption also carried requirements on reporting and record keeping while also restricting how the funds could be spent. As a result, the elected league officers were required to be liable for misuse of funds or other violations of the IRS code, which opened them up for penalties and fines if the rules were not followed. This is where the change in league leadership played a major role, in that the officers had to be willing to accept the responsibility to maintain the required records and meet the

required deadline in filing state and federal documents.

A gun shop/police supply business in Sumter, which had always been good to the league, agreed to help and connected the league with a group who uses bingo games to raise funds for charitable organizations. To be eligible, the league would

have to apply to the State of South Carolina to become a "charity" and comply with the rules of gaming and fund raising in the state. With this came more requirements on reporting and record keeping. The league board met and voted to make the application. When the application was accepted and approved, the league became the sponsor of a bingo game played one night a week. This allowed the league to collect 16% of the tax paid on the playing cards purchased by the organizer. While not a great deal of money, the funds came in on a regular basis and allowed the league to begin offering benefits to its members in the form of better prizes and awards, ammo sold at bulk price, a drawing to attend the NRA Nationals, "new shooter" clinics, and a sponsored regional PPC match.



The South Carolina Police Combat League presented Sheriff Leon Lott (right) with an engraved Smith & Wesson revolver for his support of the league. Also pictured are, from left: league members Jim McClary, Rodney Gonzales, Betty Bouknight and David Okinaga.

More departments were willing to allow the matches at their range when the league offered to help fund upgrades and maintenance. With an active recruiting effort and seeing that the league actually offered benefits for joining, the membership increased to the point that multiple relay matches became the norm, and the number of matches shot per year increased to over 30 per season. With the increase in participation and the number of matches, the league has been able to sustain itself on the revenue of membership and match fees, saving the fundraising money for projects such as the regional, and purchasing guns for the "Governor's Twenty" winners and the high out-of-state shooter. Eventually, the league purchased two additional guns per year and began giving them by drawing to those members who did not have the scores for the "20" but had qualified in every other way. Again, this gave all members incentive to come out and shoot more matches.

The league also contacted gun manufactures in an effort to allow the league to purchase in quantity and save money. One of the members has an FFL and agreed to act for the league as long as the league paid the fees for his license and any other costs he incurred. Springfield Armory allowed the league to purchase guns at special prices as long as the minimum number was purchased and that the league agreed that

all firearms purchased under this program would be given as awards or prizes. This relationship with Springfield has resulted in the purchase of over 100 guns thus far from this one manufacturer.

Seeing that this was successful, Smith & Wesson was contacted through the local law enforcement representative, who agreed to help in the purchase of a number of firearms that would also be used as prizes. The factory became involved with the project and the weapons purchased were sent to the Custom Shop, where they were laser-engraved with the logo of the pistol league and sent with sequential serial numbers. And this was all at a price the league could afford and well below retail. The fact that the purchase was for a relatively large number of guns and that the payment was prompt and in certified funds allows these companies to justify selling to the league.

Other companies are more than willing to contribute to the larger matches, if someone would only ask and give them the opportunity, especially if their product targets a specific group and the contribution gives them more exposure to a potentiality larger customer base. Hanging company banners at the matches and providing a competitor list is a small price to pay for a company donating products or services to the league. Contacting gunsmiths who have built weapons for members and asking for a contribution of services has worked well in the past with even the donation of full-blown PPC revolvers being given. Someone just had to take the initiative to ask.

After getting the league on solid fiscal ground again, it

was important to maintain this level and grow to only what could be reasonably maintained. All matches are considered family affairs; shooters regularly bring family members to the matches and they are welcomed by the shooters and made to feel that they, too are a part of the activities. The "Governor's Twenty" winners are allowed to bring multiple guests to the banquet at league expense and all members are encouraged to attend. Past guest speakers have been the S.C. Attorney General, S.C. Speaker of the House, state representative and local officials. All department heads of the members are invited to attend, are recognized and presented with a gift as a token of appreciation for their support during the year. This had paid dividends in gaining their support for using ranges and allowing their officers time and necessary equipment to attend and shoot the matches as their representative.

Furthermore, a website was established which provides interested persons with a list of upcoming matches, league news and lists items that members have for sale or trade. PPC shooters from any league, visiting South Carolina, are encouraged to visit the site and see if a match is being held during their time in the state. If so, they would be welcome to shoot and enjoy a little southern hospitality.

Hopefully, the South Carolina league will remain healthy in the future if it maintains an influx of new, motivated members and retains veterans who are willing to share their experience and work to keep the league on solid footing. The resurgence has not come easy, but has been well worth the effort.

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It was for all of these accomplishments that Harlon Carter's friends, family and co-workers gathered to unveil the bronze bust created by Bill Davis. Starting with just a handful of photos of Carter, Davis spent almost a year on the work, and welcomed input from the Carter family during the process. Bill Carter, Harlon Carter's son and an NRA Board member said, "This bust combines the reality of my father as he was when he led NRA, both stern and focused, as well as the artist's impression of him as a man."

Surrounded by Harlon Carter's brother and sister, his son and his grandchildren, Maryann Carter talked about the man she married and how he most likely would not have approved of such fanfare in his honor. "He was a humble and private man. Not much for ceremony or comfortable with fame, but he was committed to the cause of the NRA and always described its future as 'magnificent'," she said.

Those who cannot visit NRA and see the Carter bust can still honor his memory another way—through The Harlon B. and Maryann Carter Endowment. Established by his family through The NRA Foundation, the endow-

ment will permanently fund NRA's Law Enforcement Instructor Handgun and Shotgun Training Program. "We rely on the endowment's support to train police officers nationwide. The pistol and shotgun school is our most popular school and the foundation on which we base all of our law enforcement firearms training," said Ron Kirkland, Director of NRA Law Enforcement Activities Division. Over the past 10 years alone, NRA has trained nearly 20,000 police instructors in America, whose courses protect thousands upon thousands of law enforcement officers.

*Established in 1990, The NRA Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that raises tax-deductible contributions in support of a wide range of firearm-related public interest activities of the National Rifle Association of America and other organizations that defend and foster the Second Amendment rights of all law-abiding Americans. These activities are designed to promote firearms and hunting safety, to enhance marksmanship skills of those participating in the shooting sports, and to educate the general public about firearms in their historic, technological and artistic context. More information about The NRA Foundation can be found online at [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org).*

## INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS



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## PPC Tournament Sponsor News

We are now accepting dates for the 2006 Police Pistol Combat shooting season. Please submit your tournament dates to us as soon as possible so they can be featured in our publications and on our website.

If you have unreported tournaments for 2005, please submit them to us for inclusion in our database.

Keep in mind, you can issue NRA Award Points as prizes at your matches. NRA Award Points may be used to renew your NRA membership, join the NRA, as match fees at NRA sanctioned tournaments and may be used to purchase NRA memorabilia items.

**Tournament reporting:** Match sponsors, please include NRA membership numbers along with your scorecards or scoresheets. We will need membership numbers and complete addresses for all new shooters!

## Brad Neff Passes Away

It is with great sadness that we share with you the passing of Brad Neff.

Brad served as an official at both the Police Nationals and Camp Perry for the past 10 years.

Brad will be greatly missed.



## 2005 NPSC Sales Items Reduced

Visit the Law Enforcement website to check out all the clothing items remaining from the 2005 National Police Shooting Championships, which were canceled due to Hurricane Katrina. All prices have been reduced in an effort to move this merchandise quickly.

<http://www.nrahq.org/law/competitions/npsc/npsc.asp>



# Brownell Gift Boosts NRA Foundation's Law Enforcement Training Endowment



Ron Kirkland (left), Director of NRA's Law Enforcement Activities Division, accepts a colossal gift to the Law Enforcement Endowment from Frank (center) and Peter Brownell.

Frank Brownell, President of Brownell's, the Iowa-based gunsmithing supply house, recently gave a generous personal gift of \$253,000 toward The NRA Foundation's Law Enforcement Endowment. This endowment is earmarked to support NRA's Law Enforcement Patrol Rifle Training Program.

"Our law enforcement men and women are near and dear to me," commented Frank Brownell. "I have many good friends in the profession and I know their training is important to saving their lives and also our own - those they protect," he said. "I was brought up believing that if you could help, you did. I was brought up to act on what I believed in, to follow my heart, and to put my money where my mouth is."

Support from Brownells is not new. In 1993, the Brownells were the first major endowment donor to The NRA Foundation, and have donated over \$500,000 to the foundation's Youth Education Endowment to support NRA's Youth Shooting Sports Camps Program. In addition, through their company, the Brownells encourage their customers to "round-up" their purchases to the next dollar, using the donated change to support NRA. Including this most recent gift by Frank Brownell, the Brownell family, the company and its customers have donated well over \$1.3 million.

Commenting on the Brownell gift, Sandra Froman, NRA President, said, "On behalf of the National Rifle Association and its nearly four million members, let me express our grate-

ful appreciation to you and your family for your generous support of NRA's educational programs, and most of all, for your extraordinary vision and leadership at a time when the concept of funding NRA programs through endowments was just an idea."

The NRA's Law Enforcement Activities Division (LEAD) provides firearms instructor training exclusively to public and private law enforcement officers and military personnel. The Patrol Rifle Instructor School is one of seven disciplines available. In 2004, LEAD trained a record 1,900 police firearm instructors from the ranks of federal, state, and municipal police departments, as well as from the military. According to Ron Kirkland, NRA Director of LEAD, "We have trained over 50,000 Law Enforcement Firearm Instructors since 1960, and over 12,000 NRA Certified Instructors are currently training police officers nationwide." In fact, NRA is the largest private law enforcement training organization in the United States.

## Qualification Program Encourages Law Enforcement Explorers

The NRA Law Enforcement Explorer Qualification Program helps Explorers increase shooting proficiency with a handgun, while letting them set their own pace and achieve challenging but attainable scores. Performance is measured against established par scores and any Explorer who meets or exceeds those scores is entitled to the corresponding recognition awards for the rating earned.

Used as a development tool for young shooters, this program allows Explorers to continue in the shooting sports and helps prepare them for national and international competitions.

Explorers can qualify for awards that indicate the level of skill they have achieved. This program allows for instant recognition with a patch and bars that can be worn on the Explorer's uniform, and qualification certificates suitable for framing are all available for purchase from the NRA Program Materials Center. If participants are members of the NRA, and have achieved the rating of Law Enforcement Explorer Distinguished Expert, NRA Headquarters will send their Distinguished Expert award to them, free of charge.

To enroll a Post, or obtain more information about this program, contact the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Coordinator at 703-267-1505 or [dconni@nrahq.org](mailto:dconni@nrahq.org). Visit the NRA Program Materials Center at <http://materials.nrahq.org>.



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