

## THE REGISTER CITIZEN

# Connecticut GOP speaker blasts police, says 'guns are awesome'

Posted on May 18, 2012

"Guns are awesome," said Trevor Burrus of the Cato Institute in opening a speech he gave on the importance of the 2nd Amendment to Connecticut Republican State Convention delegates Friday morning.

"Every person in Connecticut is guaranteed the right of being able to defend themselves with a weapon," he said.

Burrus said that guns are needed because "the police is not a crime prevention organization," but rather someone who comes in and "cleans up the mess" after crime happens.

### **Photos: 5th District Connecticut Republican State Convention**

He said that the existence of gated communities, private security guards and other safety measures by citizens is evidence that "the police aren't doing their jobs."

"An armed society is a polite society," Burrus said.

He referenced various misconceptions about history, including the "Wild West," which he said was actually a pretty calm place with a very low murder rate.

Burrus said that delegates should go out and "tell their leftist friends" about the "racist roots" of gun control.

"The KKK emerged originally as an organization entirely formed to disarm blacks," he said.

He also cited Torrington, Connecticut, native John Brown's failed attempt to arm the slaves.

Burrus said that there are many parallels between the abortion debate and gun control debate.

Opponents of gun control, just like supporters of abortion, see any encroachment whatsoever on the right to be a danger, he said.

The difference, Burrus noted, is that protection of the right to bear arms is in the constitution while abortion isn't specifically mentioned.

Burrus cited examples of citizens with concealed weapons permits stopping crimes. "This happens a lot," he said.

He called "gun-free zones" at, for example, college campuses, "fake gun-free zones," because the only people who will really respect the ban are people who are not criminals.

Answering a question from the audience, Burrus said the concept of federal registration of guns is "so far off the table" and the NRA is so on top of issues like it that there's no big concern.

He criticized the restrictiveness of gun laws in England, saying that the British Olympic pistol team has to go to France to practice.

Another audience member decried the "very oppressive assault weapon ban" that exists in Connecticut.

Despite being one of the more controversial topics on the agenda for the convention, Burrus did not draw a large audience. Only a dozen delegates showed up for his speech.