

Message from Sean M. Smoot

PB&PA Chief Legal Counsel - Treasurer of NAPO

Right to Carry Update
H.R. 218/S. 253

**PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS RIGHT TO CARRY INTO LAW
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!**

President George W. Bush signed H.R. 218, the “Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act,” into law the morning of July 22nd at the White House. The bill became effective immediately upon the President’s signature. Now, qualified active and retired law enforcement officers are allowed to carry their firearm while off-duty for the protection of themselves, their families and our nation’s communities.

This legislation has been one of the PB&PA’s top priorities for federal legislation. As your appointed representative to NAPO for almost ten years, I have personally traveled to Washington numerous times to lobby members of Congress to advance this legislation. I could not be more pleased, as the elected Treasurer of NAPO, to list the enactment of this long overdue law among the missions accomplished during my term of office.

Rep. Cunningham, author and tireless supporter of H.R. 218 for more than fourteen years, witnessed President Bush sign the bill into law. Speaking on the passage of this legislation, Representative Randy “Duke” Cunningham passionately stated, “And I would say that if one takes a look also at who supports these positions, they wrote this, the law enforcement agencies helped over the years write this bill. It helps them. If one looks to Law Enforcement Alliance of America, LEAA, the National Association of Police Organizations, NAPO, the National Law Enforcement Council, all of them support this bill. . . .”

On behalf of the PB&PA and the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) I sincerely extend my thanks to Rep. Cunningham for his unwavering dedication to the law enforcement community. His determination to ensure the bill’s passage has brought additional safety and security to America’s officers and communities.

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), a fellow Harley rider, and sponsor of similar legislation in the Senate, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT) and the Committee’s Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (D-VT) also played key roles in securing the President’s signature on this legislation. Due to the Senators’ unfailing commitment, the bill achieved overwhelming support and made its way to the President’s desk. We also owe a debt of thanks to the House and Senate staffs, with whom NAPO, and other law enforcement groups, worked tirelessly. Such efforts should not go unnoted.

