



**NRA Celebration of American Values Leadership Forum  
Welcome and Opening Remarks  
Gov. Jan Brewer  
Friday, May 15, 2009**

Thank you very much for that warm introduction.

To all you friends and visitors here today, let me officially welcome you all to Phoenix and the Great State of Arizona! We are so excited you are here!

Make no mistake ... Arizona is NRA country!

And as Governor of Arizona, I am a proud member of the NRA . . . AND ARDENT SUPPORTER OF OUR NATION'S SECOND AMENDMENT.

I would also like to quickly take a moment to recognize some of Arizona's very own in the NRA:

Former NRA President and current NRA Board Member SANDY FROMAN  
NRA Board Member and Arizona's NRA Lobbyist TODD RATHNER, and  
Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association President and long-time gun rights activist  
LANDIS ADEN.

I work closely with each of them and together we are always focusing on protecting the right to bear arms here in Arizona. Indeed, this year it is also a banner year as it happens to be the Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association's 100th year anniversary.

Since statehood, Arizona has cherished the *individual* right to keep and bear arms. The Arizona constitution captures that quite clearly as it states:

"The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired."

And over the years, our Arizona frontiers men always kept a gun under their seat of their wagon and you know, ...a saloon girl or two were even known to eep a Derringer in their garter belt . . . just in case!

Following up on that frontier tradition, the NRA has often drawn from Arizona for leadership. We're proud of our heritage and Arizona values, as our state has been home to multiple NRA Presidents from: The late General Joe Foss, former Arizona Attorney General Robert Corbin, to our own Sandy Froman.

Arizona is currently home to 5 members of the NRA's Board of Directors: (1) as mentioned Sandy Froman and, (2) Todd Rathner, (3) Don Saba, (4) Robert Corbin and (5) the newly elected member,...Buz Mills. I want to congratulate them all.

As you can see, Arizona is well represented on the NRA board, but more importantly, Arizona represents the NRA and it's values of freedom and personal responsibility. Again, Arizona truly is NRA!

I don't think I have to mention it, but, Arizona has deep roots in the firearms community from large manufacturers to numerous smaller manufacturers and gun builders throughout the state.

Despite this long tradition of protecting our right to bear arms, let me be clear, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. After our recent victory in the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirming what we always knew, (namely that the gun control advocates keep on coming up with new arguments to restrict our Second Amendment rights).

Just last month, the newest argument was put forward pushing for new gun control laws to "halt the border violence in Mexico."

Well, I am not having any of that! At the recent U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, I testified we should not cloud the issue of border security. New gun laws are NOT the answer to the issue of increasing border violence in Mexico.

The issue is to SECURE THE BORDER and leave the Second Amendment freedoms of U.S. citizens alone! Don't mess with the Second Amendment!

Well, in conclusion, we are so grateful that the NRA has come to Arizona to hold their national convention, and I encourage each of you to go out and spend lots of money!

May God bless the NRA and all of you during your stay here in Phoenix. God Bless Our Armed Forces. And may God Bless America!

Thank you.