

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 407

Condemning the National Rifle Association for holding its annual convention on the anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

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# RESOLUTION

Condemning the National Rifle Association for holding its annual convention on the anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Whereas representatives of the National Rifle Association, in written materials to its members and in public comments to various publications, refer to many Federal employees in hateful, violent terms by comparing them to “Storm Troopers, Gestapo agents, and jackbooted thugs”;

Whereas the National Rifle Association continues to misrepresent the events at the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, for purposes of fund raising and membership;

Whereas the National Rifle Association unjustly blames Federal agents for the fire at the Branch Davidian compound on April 19, 1993, despite clear evidence that the fire was started by David Koresh;

Whereas the National Rifle Association, through its publications and comments by its Board Members, has helped to establish April 19 as a day of martyrdom to appeal to those on the extreme right-wing who loathe the American Government;

Whereas the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was blown up on the second anniversary of the fire at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco;

Whereas the two principal suspects, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were obsessed with the Waco stand-off;

Whereas publications by the National Rifle Association and comments by its Board Members continue to direct inflammatory rhetoric at Federal employees even after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City;

Whereas Neal Knox, National Rifle Association Vice President, was quoted after the Oklahoma City bombing as saying, "If the jackboots fit, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have to be marched into the Congress and the Courts.";

Whereas Jeff Cooper, National Rifle Association Board Member, was quoted after the Oklahoma City bombing as saying, "We are somewhat amused by the hysteria manifest in the press at the suggestion by Gordon Liddy that if one is menaced by bad guys, particularly the ninja

(meaning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms), one is wise to shoot for the head.”;

Whereas a National Rifle Association direct mail letter, published after the Oklahoma City bombing, included a reference to “government agents, dressed in black, armed with automatic weapons,”;

Whereas Robert Brown, National Rifle Association Board Member, in articles published after the Oklahoma City bombing referred to Federal law enforcement officials as “those foul-mouthed, trigger-happy storm troopers of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms”, “trigger-happy Rambos and Bubbas”, “gun Gestapo”, “jack-booted thugs”, and also asked whether certain Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms procurement was “contingency preparation, in case they have to strafe another church full of women and children”;

Whereas the National Rifle Association deliberately chose the date April 19, 1996, for its 125th annual convention;

Whereas the National Rifle Association’s deliberate choice of April 19, 1996, for its 125th annual convention is disrespectful of the families and friends of the 169 individuals killed and the hundreds who were injured in the Oklahoma City bombing, all Federal employees, and the American people; and

Whereas the inflammatory rhetoric by the National Rifle Association may contribute to further terrorist attacks on Federal Government institutions by right-wing extremists: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives con-
- 2 demns the Board Members of the National Rifle Associa-
- 3 tion for choosing April 19, 1996, as the date for its 125th

- 1 annual convention, and for comparing Federal employees
- 2 to Nazis, Storm Troopers, and Gestapo agents.

