**Breitkreuz named International Legislator of the Year**

February 10, 2014

Ottawa Canada: Garry Breitkreuz, member of the Canada’s House of Commons, has been named International Legislator of the Year by Safari Club International (SCI). This award was bestowed on February 7, 2014 at the SCI Annual Hunters’ Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

 “As an organization representing hunters from around the world it is critical that Safari Club International recognize lawmakers who protect the hunters and hunting opportunities around the world,” said SCI Chief Executive Officer Phil DeLone. “For more than a decade Gary Breitkreuz has shown an unwavering commitment to protecting both gun ownership and the freedoms of all sportsmen and women, setting a high standard for others to follow.”

 Born October 21, 1945, Breitkreuz completed 6 years of post-secondary education, including a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan and was first elected to Canada’s House of Commons in 1993 as a member of the Reform party representing the people living in the Yorkton-Melville region of eastern Saskatchewan, Now serving his sixth term in the House of Commons, he is better known to his fellow parliamentarians as the “gun guy.” Garry is recognized both nationally and internationally for his extensive work and expertise on the Canadian gun registry file.

 Overreaching firearm legislation (including a long-gun registry) was introduced back in 1995 in response to the college campus shooting at L’École Polytechnique in Quebec. The government of the day promised the registry would cost Canadian taxpayers no more than $2 million to register all long guns. In Garry’s estimation, this did not add up, and after many years of extensive research, including more than 550 Access to Information requests, Garry exposed the true costs of the database of responsible gun owners at more than $1 billion. As the Official Opposition Critic for Firearms, Garry’s findings led to a financial audit of the gun registry by the Auditor General of Canada in 2002. In December of that year, the A.G. confirmed what Garry had been reporting for years--that the registry would cost taxpayers more than 500 times the original estimate. Moreover, the A.G. informed Parliament that the governing party of the day had known this fact for two years and had knowingly withheld this information from Parliament.

 Garry’s in-depth research received recognition both at home and abroad as he posted his findings on his parliamentary website. With over 40,000 hits a month from around the world at the height of what was dubbed, “the Gun Registry Boondoggle,” his website provided gun enthusiasts worldwide with an opportunity to keep a careful watch on what was happening in Canada.

 Garry’s research revealed that registering a gun does not make us safer, exposing the fact that, in truth, criminals do not register their guns, only law-abiding firearms owners do--and they are not the problem. While there are some cases of crimes being committed with registered firearms, they simply provide additional proof that a firearms registry cannot reduce crime. Indeed, the tax money wasted on the registry could have had *real* crime reduction potential if it had been invested in more police officers and law enforcement technologies. Garry also exposed a very troubling fact--that criminal computer hackers had successfully breached the registry database on more than 300 occasions over a four-year period, making it a ready-made shopping list for criminals.

 While it took 17 long years of perseverance and hard work, Garry was pleased to see the long gun registry finally repealed by Parliament in the spring of 2012.

 As another feather in his cap, in 2006 Garry founded the Parliamentary Outdoors Caucus--a non-partisan group of Members of Parliament and Senators whose task it is to help protect the Canadian heritage of hunting, fishing, sport shooting and trapping in Canadian law.

Modeled on one of the largest and most active caucuses in the United States Congress--the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus--the Outdoors Caucus strives to keep the lines of communication open to discuss our common outdoors interests. To this day Garry continues to chair the Outdoors Caucus, which has one of the highest memberships on Parliament Hill. He also continues his work advocating on behalf of law-abiding gun owners and works closely with the federal government to bring more common-sense reforms to Canada’s firearms laws.

 Prior to receiving the prestigious SCI International Legislator of the Year award, in 2010 the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters awarded Garry with a certificate of merit for his “many years of dedication, leadership and outstanding work on behalf of anglers, hunters and the outdoors community in the province of Ontario.” In 2011, in recognition for his “outstanding contributions to Canada’s Firearms Community,” Garry received the John Holdstock Memorial Award from the Canadian Shooting Sports Association. On the international front, in the spring of 2005 Garry was given a prestigious award from the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities, “Shooting Sports Ambassador of 2005.” Gary is a proud member of Safari Club International (Canada).

 For more information, contact Safari Club International Canada Manager of Operations 877-429-4868. More information on Safari Club International can also be found on the organization’s website, <http://www>.sci-canada.ca

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Safari Club International – First For Hunters is the leader in protecting the freedom to hunt and in promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. SCI’s approximately 200 Chapters represent all 50 of the United States as well as 106 other countries. SCI’s proactive leadership in a host of cooperative wildlife conservation, outdoor education and humanitarian programs, with the SCI Foundation and other conservation groups, research institutions and government agencies, empowers sportsmen to be contributing community members and participants in sound wildlife management and conservation. Visit the home page [www.safariclub.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cbreitg0%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5COPY87EMZ%5C_blank), or call (520) 620-1220 for more information.