

# Military, Law, and more ...

*Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!*

## Gabriela Zych named coordinator of the UofM mixed rifle program

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 11, 2026– The University of Memphis has announced that Gabriela Zych will take over as coordinator of the mixed rifle program, with head coach Morgan Wilson moving on from the program.

"I am incredibly grateful to Morgan for her leadership and the foundation that she built in this role," said Zych. "She has been an exceptional mentor and coach and has left an undeniable mark on this program. I am honored for the opportunity to continue being a part of this program's growth and I am looking forward to continuing its momentum."

Zych moves from student-athlete to program coordinator after a decorated collegiate career at Memphis. Zych's career accolades include being a two-time CRCA First Team All-American, two-time CRCA Second Team All-American and a seven-time All-GARC honoree.

In her final collegiate season, Zych posted averages of 585. In smallbore, 594.0 in air rifle and 1179.5 in aggregate, garnering higher honors as the 2025 USA Shooting 50m Smallbore Cham-



Gabriela Zych is ready to take reins of UofM's mixed rifle program (Photo/Courtesy: UofM Athletics)

pion in the Women's and Junior Women's Divisions and a runner-up in the Junior Olympics division.

Zych was an honorable mention on the All-GARC team in smallbore, air rifle and aggregate. Zych's season culminated in a ninth-place finish at the GARC Championship, a second-team

CRCA All-American nod in smallbore and being selected as an NCAA Championships Alternate in smallbore.

As a sophomore, Zych had one of the most decorated seasons in program history. With averages of 586.786 in smallbore, 595.357 in air rifle and 1182.143 in aggregate, Zych was a First Team

All-GARC selection in all three phases, along with being a First Team CRCA All-American in smallbore and air rifle and a Second Team CRCA All-American in aggregate.

She also showed promise in her freshman campaign, earning honorable mentions in air rifle on the All-GARC and CRCA All-American teams.

Zych, a native of Anchorage, Alaska, was also a four-time CRCA Scholastic All-American and earned the 2024 NCAA Rifle Championships Elite 90 Award, an honor given to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average at the NCAA Championships for a given sport.

Zych will transition into a full-time role as the program's head coach on August 1, 2026.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Rifle, visit [www.GoTigersGo.com](http://www.GoTigersGo.com) and follow the team's social media channels on X, Instagram and Facebook.

## SAF declares a victory in New York 'Sensitive Places' carry ban law

BELLEVUE, Wash. — May 18, 2026 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and its partners secured an important win today on a key issue in Christian v. James, a case challenging New York's "sensitive places" carry ban law.

In October 2024, SAF celebrated a major victory when a federal district court ruled the state's restriction against concealed carry on private property open to the public is unconstitutional. That same ruling, however, upheld New York's carry ban in parks.

In the May 18th ruling, the court affirmed the permanent injunction SAF won at the district court as it relates to carry on private property open to the public (aka the "Vampire rule"). In the same opinion, however, the court upheld the facial constitutionality of New York's carry ban in parks, above SAF's objections, and drawing a thoughtful dissent from the court.

"After the Bruen decision forced recalcitrant states like New York to issue carry permits to their residents, they responded by creating overlapping patch-

*"While today's ruling strikes down a key pillar of New York's carry ban law, there's still plenty of work to be done, including on the issue of carry in parks," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "The idealogues who think they can create 'sensitive places' to ban the legal carry of firearms should understand that SAF will continue to fight for the right to keep and bear arms for all Americans, just like we've done for more than five decades."*

works of 'sensitive places' in which even permitted carriers could not exercise their rights," said SAF Senior Director of Legal Operations Bill Sack. "New York's carry ban on private property open to the public – essentially all private businesses – was intended as the state's next novel circumvention of the Second Amendment. We are thrilled the Second Circuit saw through this ruse and tossed

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## A report from the Memphis Safe Task Force (MSTF): Florida fugitive arrested in Tennessee; More than 1,500 illicit firearms removed from streets!

LINDEN, TN, May 19, 2026 – The U.S. Marshals Two Rivers Violent Fugitive Task Force in Jackson, Tennessee, arrested a Florida fugitive on the run for 15 years.

**Perry Hand, 69**, was arrested May 19, 2026, on arrest warrants issued in 2011 in the Circuit Court of Bay County, Florida, for Failure to Appear for Possession of a Firearm by Violent Career Criminal, Sale of a Controlled Substance (2 Counts), Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Sale of Marijuana, and Trafficking Hydrocodone. The Bay County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from the USMS Florida Caribbean Re-



Fugitive Perry Hand, 69, arrested by Two Rivers Violent Task Force. (Photos/Courtesy: Memphis Safe Task Force).

gional Fugitive Task in Panama City in finding fugitive Perry Hand.



Information was recently developed that Hand was possibly in Tennessee. Deputy marshals and

*"When the U.S. Marshals Service is on your trail, today could be the day your run is over; said Marshal Tyreece Miller, Western District of Tennessee."*

task force officers tracked Hand to where he was living at the Drop Anchor RV Park in Linden. He was taken into custody and transported to the Perry County Jail.

"When the U.S. Marshals Service is on your trail, today could be the day your run is over, said Marshal Tyreece Miller, Western District of Tennessee.

More information about the U.S. Marshals Service can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov>.

### MSTF Report from May 13

MEMPHIS, May 13, 2026 — The Memphis Safe Task Force surge operation has seized its 1,500th illicit firearm since the unprecedented collaboration's inception in September 2025.

A recent case led to the arrest of **Deshande James**, wanted for intent to evade arrest, auto risk/death, petition to revoke suspended sentence, possession of prohibited weapon and convicted felon in possession of firearm. The MSTF located and took possession of two guns, an AR Pistol

and Glock 23.

"The streets of Memphis are safer today thanks to the men and women working day in and day out targeting violent crime," said Marshal Tyreece Miller, U.S. Marshal for the District of Western Tennessee. "By removing 1,500 dangerous firearms from Memphis streets, we have achieved unprecedented results in a short amount of time."

The Memphis Safe Task Force, a multi-agency initiative, was organized in September 2025 to combat violent crime in Memphis. It is composed of federal, state and local law enforcement,

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## Tennessee Historical Commission Certificate of Merit Awards announced; Among them Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historical Park

NASHVILLE, May 15, 2026 - The Tennessee Historical Commission has announced the sixteen recipients of this year's annual Certificate of Merit Awards. These awards are presented each May during National Preservation Month. Since 1975, THC's Certificate of Merit Pro-

gram has recognized exemplary work by individuals, groups, organizations, corporations, or governmental entities to further promote historic preservation or the study of history in Tennessee. Our office was pleased to host a well-attended awards ceremony for these recipients on May 15,

2026. "For the past 51 years our awards program has honored those working to revitalize Tennessee's historic places. The Merit Awards program also highlights people and organizations for the work they do in the areas of publication and education re-

garding our State's unique history and heritage," said Miranda Montgomery, State Historic Preservation Officer and Interim Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission. The Historic Preservation category recognizes excellence in the preservation, restoration, or re-

habilitation of a historic or archaeological site, preservation leadership, preservation planning, publications related to historic preservation, public programming, or research. 2026 recipients in this category include:

• **Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park**, for the preservation and renovation of the Honey-moon House in Pall Mall, TN. Built in 1940, the Honey-moon House served as home to Alvin

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