

*Floridians get  
their knives back  
on June 2, 2003.*

Two years of organizing, fundraising, lobbyist direct action and industry letter writing, phone calling and emailing that began with an AKTI industry meeting at the 2001 Blade Show resulted in Florida Governor Jeb Bush signing HB 1227. It clarified the definition of "ballistic knife" (banned in the state).

*Effective immediately one-handers, easy-opening models and automatics cannot be legally called "ballistic knives" in Florida.*

AKTI and AKTI support for the Florida Cutlery Association ... with more than \$25,000 spent in lobbying fees and countless hours of lawmaker contact ... gave Floridians their knives back.

*The passage of HB 1227 gave all those who supply the Florida market their market back.*

AKTI is committed to ...  
*"Keeping Knives in American Lives"*

*"AKTI has a lot  
more clout than  
any one company  
or individual  
could ever have."*

AKTI's commitment to action on behalf of the entire knife industry can only be sustained with a growing corporate and individual membership base. We need your financial support to maximize our impact on behalf of every responsible knife supplier and every responsible American knife user.

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*Keeping Knives  
in American  
Lives*

*Working to support every  
responsible, law-abiding,  
knife-using American and the  
entire American knife industry  
since January 1998.*

# American Knife and Tool Institute Defends Entire Knife Industry

AKTI stands strong as the first and only trade and lobbying organization serving individual knife owners and the entire knife industry. AKTI has built its credibility and influence with lawmakers with a history of successful actions.

Far-sighted industry leaders supported AKTI's official launch in January 1998. AKTI membership has grown steadily as it continues to support its four goals:

- 1) **To provide a unified voice representing the knife-making and knife-using community.**
- 2) **To promote the general public's awareness of the history and utility of knives as tools.**
- 3) **To encourage sensible knife legislation and responsible law enforcement.**
- 4) **To educate young people about proper knife safety and the responsible use of knives.**

AKTI takes action across the country to build credibility and broader acceptance of the entire knife industry with lawmakers and law enforcement:

- Spearheaded Florida passage of HB 1227 (signed by Governor Bush on 6/2/03) to more clearly define banned "ballistic knives." Coordinated lobbyist funding in 2001/2002 and supported Florida Cutlery Assn lawmaker direct contact campaign in 2002/2003. Cost \$25,000 PLUS.
- Developing "model laws" material to present to lawmakers nationally before they write arbitrary or unenforceable legislation (2003).
- Initiated contact and invited input from all 50 State Attorney's General (May 2003) on a national standard for measuring knife blades.
- Produced AKTI "advisory" on knife naming that reinforces the positioning of "knives as tools" (February 2003).

- Reversed the Boston City Council proposed ordinance banning knives longer than 2 1/2 inches (October 2001). AKTI Board Members personally testified before the Council (at their own expense) to protect area retailers and knife owners. Boston's new law now allows carrying knives for all legitimate recreational purposes.

- Released "AKTI Honors Americans on National Day of Prayer and Remembrance" (9/14/01) to AP, UPI, Reuters, ABC, NBC and TNN following the 9/11 tragedy.

- Followed up with the national release of "AKTI Remembers American Patriots" on the 1st anniversary of the terrorist attack on America, as well as a 2nd anniversary statement.

- Conducted Blade Show seminars on "FAA Rules on Knives" (2002) and "Dealing with Local Lawmakers" (at 2001 show).

- Saved one-handers for use by responsible, law-abiding knife owners in California in 2000 and 2001. When the California District Attorney's Association (CDAA) proposed to combat gang violence by removing the exemption for one-hand opening knives from the state's switchblade statute, AKTI quickly responded. AKTI hired a lobbyist, met with CDAA (March 2000) and negotiated an agreement that one-hand opening knives with a "bias toward closure" would not be declared switchblades and banned (virtually every industry company sells one-handers in California). AKTI's modifying language successfully passed during the 2001 session. Cost \$50,000+ over two years.

- Conducted groundbreaking presentation for Oregon U.S. Congresswoman Darlene Hooley (May 2000) on economic impact of industry in Oregon and nationally. Congresswoman Hooley was impressed by the AKTI story. When Columbia River Knife and Tool Company (CRKT) had 50 models of it's one-hand opening knives arbitrarily seized by U.S. Customs for 16 days in October 2000, Oregon U.S. Senator Gordon Smith and Congresswoman Hooley sent a letter to the Commissioner of U.S. Customs in Washington, D.C. It was instrumental in U.S. Customs quickly dropping all charges against Columbia River. The 16-day seizure cost CRKT more than \$1,000,000 in lost sales (and nearly ruined their company).

- Created New Legislative Action Plan (with model letters and strategic recommendations to help build relationships with lawmakers in several states, eventually creating a national network of lawmakers who understand and support knife and tool manufacturers and responsible knife users. The Oregon experience convinced the AKTI Board of Regents they were looking at a model for effective legislative action in other key states where there were AKTI member companies.

- Redesigned and updated AKTI website (June 2001) at [www.akti.org](http://www.akti.org).

- Produce newsletters for members (four per year).

- Produce monthly news releases for 50+ outdoor/hunting/firearms publications and the four industry knife magazines and Internet publications.

- Produced "The Dilemma of Knife Definitions" (May 2002) detailing our monitoring of knife bills introduced in 2002 in 14 states (distributed to all magazine contacts, KnifeForums.com and BladeForums.com).

- Provide member access to "StateNet" legislative and regulatory monitoring service that costs AKTI \$10,000 annually. (Contact Executive Director for password.)

- Published "A Guide to Understanding the Laws of America Regarding Knives" (available from the Executive Director).

- Published "My First Knife – Tips on Safety, Use, Maintenance, Sharpening, Conservation, Outdoor Ethics, Fishing and Camping" (available from the Executive Director).

- Regularly monitors changing FAA rules on knives in checked baggage.

**AKTI ... ready for quick and decisive responses wherever knife "right-to-carry" laws are considered excessive.**