In Memoriam

Sarah Brady, firearms injury prevention advocate

Sarah Brady, chair of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, died of pneumonia April 3 at age 73.

She and her husband, former White House press secretary James Brady, were dedicated to advocating for stricter protections to reduce firearms injuries and deaths. Their efforts led to the enactment of the AAP-supported Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in 1993 that requires background checks for firearms purchases.

In 1981, Mr. Brady was caught in the crossfire during the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan. He sustained a head wound that resulted in lifelong partial paralysis. Four years later, their young son attempted to play with a handgun laying in a truck, clarifying for the Bradys the need for tighter gun safety measures.

Mrs. Brady served as chair of Handgun Control Inc. and the Center to Prevent Gun Violence, which were renamed the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence in 2000. She led both until her passing. Her husband died Aug. 4, 2014.