

Jack Weaver, 1928-2009

Former Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff Jack Weaver of "Weaver Stance" fame, died on April 7 in Carson City, Nev. John "Jack" Harold Weaver was born on Nov. 1, 1928, in South Gate, Calif. His lifelong love affair with firearms began at an early age and encompassed a variety of makes and models. Weaver quickly developed a particular fondness for the revolver due to the intricacies of its mechanism.

Weaver attended Glendale Community College, but his studies were cut short in 1950 when he was drafted into the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

Weaver began shooting in competitions in the mid-1950s in the Big Bear (Calif.) annual Leatherslap quick-draw matches. At the time, the vast majority of participants used traditional one-handed

shooting stances, such as hip and point shooting, using either single-action revolvers or semi-automatic pistols. Weaver dared to be different by competing with a S&W K-38 revolver, which he shot strictly double-action. He developed his own shooting stance—now known as the Weaver Stance—that incorporated the use of both hands to grip the revolver, the application of isometric tension to dampen recoil and the slight lowering of one's head to allow for a flash-sight picture.

Weaver's effort paid off when he took home the Leatherslap trophy in 1959. As a result, other shooters took notice of his shooting style. Weaver achieved consecutive victories in the years that followed, prompting gunwriter and fellow Leatherslap competitor Col. Jeff Cooper to declare the Weaver

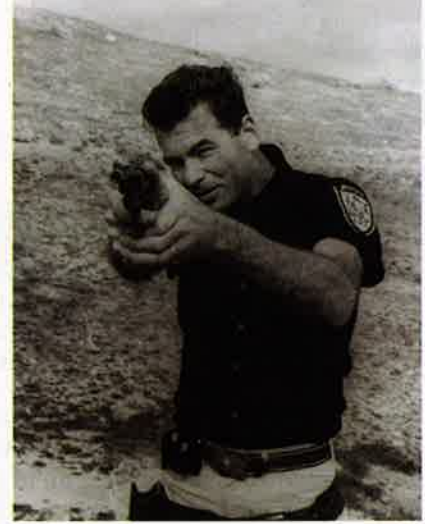


Photo courtesy of jefcooperfoundation.com

Stance "decisively superior" to any other shooting method. Further credence came in 1982 when Weaver received a letter from the assistant director of the FBI informing him the bureau had accepted the Weaver Stance as its official shooting style.

Weaver is survived by his spouse of 56 years, Joy; sons Alan, Mark and Gary; and five grandchildren. Cards and notes of remembrance can be sent to Joy Weaver, 920 Ruby Court, Carson City, NV 89705.

—BOB BOYD, ASSISTANT EDITOR,
SHOOTING ILLUSTRATED

PRODUCT PREVIEWS

Editor's Choice

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—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, SENIOR EXECUTIVE EDITOR

