New American

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Exercising the Right

Second-Amendment Subterfuge in Virginia

Many political commentators are talking about the recent surprise victory in Virginia's gubernatorial race, where Republican Glenn Youngkin defeated Democrat Terry McAuliffe, but few talked about the deceptive tactics the Democrats used during the campaign. In one particular example, people dressed similar to rally attendees of the infamous 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville posed as Youngkin supporters but were later exposed as Democratic activists. KLEWTV.com reported on October 29 about the charade and explained that one "of the individuals in the group carrying tiki torches has been identified as potentially being a staffer for the Democratic Party of Virginia. Another allegedly works for Virginia Young Democrats. Both groups are affiliated with each other, according to the Virginia Young Democrats' Twitter bio." This didn't stop high-level McAuliffe campaign staffers from denouncing Youngkin and reacting as if the obvious plants were legitimate Youngkin supporters. Nobody was buying the lie, and it was quickly revealed on social media as Twitter users lambasted the Democrats for their obvious dirty tricks.

Sadly, these types of shady attempts to mislead people even extended to the Second Amendment and gun rights. Axios reported on September 28 that a political action committee that criticized Youngkin for not being supportive of the Second Amendment was actually backed by top Democratic strategists. The Accountability Virginia PAC was very active in posting ads on social media attacking Youngkin from the perspective of a Trump-supporting gun-owner. One ad boasted, "While the NRA backs Donald Trump, they REFUSED to endorse Glenn Youngkin. We can't trust Glenn Youngkin on guns." The PAC has a website that is very vague about who is funding it, and records show that the PAC has spent \$25,000 on these online ads, which have been viewed millions of times. Axios researched the PAC and reported that Accountability Virginia PAC's donation page is "hosted by the Democratic fundraising platform ActBlue. Its bank account is at Amalgamated Bank, a labor union-owned financial institution popular with Democratic political groups. The PAC was incorporated in Virginia by compliance consultants at the MBA Consulting Group, which works uniformly with Democrats. Its ads on Snapchat were purchased by Gambit Strategies, a firm founded this year by the Biden presidential campaign's digital director and the former head of Democratic super PAC Priorities USA."

These ads were run in rural parts of Virginia where Republican turnout is usually the strongest, and Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, told Axios that the ads appeared to be part of "an attempt to undermine Youngkin's support in western rural areas, where gun ownership is sacred and the Republican has a big lead — as all Republicans do these days."

Thankfully, these reprehensible tactics either backfired or didn't have the intended effect, as Youngkin won the governor's race.

Psycho Intruder With Knives

A crazy story out of northwest Atlanta demonstrates how a deranged person can quickly become a deadly threat. CBS46.com reported on October 14 about a suspect who broke in to a home shortly after 11 p.m. and grabbed two knives from the kitchen, which he then took into another room and used to attempt to stab a wheelchair-bound woman living at the house.

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The homeowner was able to retrieve a firearm and confront the knife-wielding suspect. Fearing for his life, the homeowner opened fire on the dangerous intruder, hitting him in the stomach and the arm. The wounded man then fled the home, but was apprehended by police officers responding to the 911 call. The injured suspect was transported to a nearby medical facility for treatment and is expected to recover.

Police investigators believe the suspect randomly chose the house and that there was no connection between the suspect and the intended victims. The burglary suspect was later identified as 36-year-old Tyrell Johnson, who had a criminal past involving arrests in 2017 for "aggravated assault (family violence) and battery-family violence."

Active Shooter Stopped by Good Guy With a Gun

Breaking911 reported on October 21 about a workplace shooting in Superior, Nebraska, that ended when an armed employee confronted the shooter. The violence unfolded at a grain elevator when 61year-old Max Hoskinson was fired early in the day. Police investigators say Hoskinson armed himself with a handgun and returned to work shortly before 2:00 p.m., at which point he shot three employees. Another employee, who was described by Breaking911 as "heroic," retrieved a shotgun from an office. News reports did not explain why there was a shotgun stored in an office at the worksite, but it's a good thing there was because the now-armed employee was able to halt the murderous rampage. The shotgun-wielding employee fired at Hoskinson, mortally wounding him.

Sadly, one of Hoskinson's victims was pronounced dead at the scene, and another later succumbed to her injuries after being transported to a hospital. The third victim who was shot was treated and released. The Nebraska State Patrol, Nuckolls County Sheriff's Office, Superior Police Department, and Nuckolls County Attorney's Office are all involved in the investigation.

The local community mourned the loss of life, but they expressed gratitude for the brave actions of the heroic employee who ended the shooting spree. Investigators believe that the employee's fast response saved many other lives. Nebraska State Patrol Sergeant Jeff Roby stated during a news conference, "In fact, it's likely that the employee's actions may have prevented much further loss of life in this tragedy."



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