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Exercising the Right

Massie Christmas Photo Causes Controversy



twitter/ThomasMassie

Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) caused quite a controversy when he tweeted out a Christmas photo of his family with all of them holding firearms and the comment “Merry Christmas! ps. Santa, please bring ammo!” Massie is well-known as a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment and, as explained by The Blaze on December 5, “has introduced into the U.S. House numerous Second Amendment-related bills in his nearly-one decade tenure as a lawmaker. Massie has introduced a bill to restore Second Amendment rights in Washington, D.C., multiple bills to repeal the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act, a bill that would honor concealed carry reciprocity in Washington, D.C., and most recently a bill that would permit all voting-age Americans to purchase handguns.”

Massie’s gun-toting family photo was obviously done tongue-in-cheek, but leftists reacted with the same exaggerated outrage we’ve all grown to expect from them. Twitter leftists denounced the photo as evidence of everything they feel is wrong with America, including racism and so-called domestic terrorism. The comments were crude and obscene and obvious overreactions, but Massie wisely avoided responding to the Twitter mob. In the end, though, he mailed out a Christmas card to his constituents that didn’t feature the family firearms.

Retaliatory Lawmaking

California Governor Gavin Newsom, who just recently avoided a recall election, issued a statement on December 11 that his administration will copy a Texas law aimed at preventing abortion but apply it to guns in the Golden State. The controversial measure in Texas effectively bans all abortions after six weeks of pregnancy by making abortion providers subject to private lawsuits, which could bankrupt them. As intended by its drafters, the Texas law went before the Supreme Court for review and was upheld as constitutional, and this sent leftists into a raging fury. Newsom decried both the Supreme Court ruling and the Texas law but, at the same time, announced he was now going to copy the law and modify it to implement gun control that has previously been struck down in federal court.

As Vox reported on December 12, the “proposed bill, according to a press release from Newsom, would



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allow Californians to sue ‘anyone who manufactures, distributes, or sells an assault weapon or ghost gun kit or parts’ for damages — the same injunction-skirting mechanism Texas has used to ban all abortions after six weeks, which has so far been permitted by the Supreme Court.”

A law professor interviewed by Vox doubted the Court would uphold Newsom’s proposed law, and felt that the law, unlike the Texas law it was based on, would be ruled unconstitutional.

“A Person’s Home Is His Refuge”

Breaking911 reported on December 16 about a shooting in Lakeland, Florida, that involved an intruder who broke in to a house in the middle of the day. The Polk County Sheriff’s Office said a 42-year-old man named Steven Stillwell threw a flowerpot through the rear glass door of a house and then forced his way inside. The homeowner did not know the intruder; he retrieved his legally owned firearm and shot the man three times.

The homeowner immediately called the police, and deputies arrived to discover the suspect lying on the floor of the living room, suffering from gunshot wounds. He was transported to a nearby medical facility for treatment and is expected to survive. Investigators found a shotgun belonging to Stillwell in the backyard, and Breaking911 reported that the suspect has a long criminal history.

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd held a press conference in which he praised the actions of the homeowner. “The castle doctrine is very clear in Florida law.... A person’s home is his refuge. The evidence in this case at this point indicates that the suspect illegally forced his way into the home. The homeowner did exactly what he had a right to do. I commend him for protecting himself and defending his home,” Judd told reporters.

Armed Lyft Driver Shoots Carjackers

Fox29 reported out of Philadelphia on January 4 about a wild carjacking that involved two men being shot.

The incident unfolded in West Philadelphia on the afternoon of January 3, when two suspects in a car repeatedly rear-ended a Lyft vehicle, ran up to the driver and pointed a shotgun at him, and demanded he give them the vehicle. Thankfully, the Lyft driver had a handgun accessible and knew how to use it. He opened fire on the two suspects, causing the would-be carjackers to back away from the car.

The Lyft driver quickly exited his vehicle and began helping his customer out of the back of the car. As he was aiding his customer, however, one of the wounded suspects leapt into the vehicle and began driving away. The Lyft driver opened fire on the man now driving the vehicle, as well as the second suspect, who was trying to escape in his original vehicle, and reportedly hit both men. The carjackers were successful in fleeing the scene, but did not get far.

Police discovered the injured men about thirty blocks away. Both were taken for medical treatment and are expected to survive their injuries, and have been charged for the violent carjacking.



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