



## **Exercising the Right**

### **Awakened by the Sound of Footsteps**

A young couple was awakened around 4:00 a.m. on May 21 by the sound of footsteps in their house. CBS Los Angeles reported that the husband and wife jumped out of their bed and the husband armed himself. The two then went to investigate, and confronted an armed intruder. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department told CBS Los Angeles that the burglar was shot multiple times and died at the scene. The sheriff's department believes there was another suspect involved in the burglary who fled the scene after the shooting. Thankfully, the young couple did not suffer any injuries in the shooting. CBS Los Angeles interviewed neighbors who were shocked that such a violent incident could occur in their community. "I thought this was a very safe neighborhood," Elaine Thai said.

### **Property Is Not Worth Your Life**

A story out of Millington, Tennessee, is a good reminder of the dangers of confronting a criminal who is stealing your property. [Breaking911.com](#) reported on May 23 about 35-year-old Jonathan James Lee being sentenced to 24 years in prison with no parole for his actions related to a car burglary that happened back on January 14, 2019. In that crime, Lee was trying to steal a car outside the residence of the car's owner. The vehicle owner noticed what was going on, armed himself, and then went outside to confront the would-be thief. Lee, who had retreated to his own vehicle at this point, shot at the homeowner through the window of his car, and then exited the vehicle and continued to shoot a few more times.

The homeowner got hit both in his right eye and his back, but was able to return fire at Lee, hitting him in the stomach. The now-wounded Lee hopped back into his vehicle and drove away, but did not get far as he got his car stuck in the mud at a nearby construction site. He ditched his car and was arrested by deputies as he walked down the road. After receiving medical treatment, Lee was charged for his crimes. The victim, who lost his right eye due to his injury, went to the sentencing hearing to explain the damage that Lee had done to him. Lee was ultimately convicted of "attempted first-degree murder, employment of a firearm in the commission of a dangerous felony, two counts of burglary of a motor vehicle, and theft of property over \$1,000."

### **A Gun Will Always Beat a Knife**

Breaking911 reported on May 22 about a road-rage incident in Palm Coast, Florida, that began when 50-year-old Rafael Vincent Rivera allegedly lost his cool and cut off a motorcycle driver in traffic. When both Rivera and the motorcyclist came to a stop, Rivera exited his truck and approached the motorcyclist holding a knife.

The motorcyclist's wife was sitting on the back of the bike and recorded the entire incident on her cellphone. The motorcyclist immediately suspected a violent encounter and prepared himself for a physical altercation. Rivera aggressively motioned toward the motorcyclist and began slashing his knife at him. It was at this point that the motorcyclist pulled out the gun that he was lawfully carrying and pointed it right at the knife-wielding Rivera. The cellphone video shows Rivera immediately backing away as soon as the gun is drawn.



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The Flagler County Sheriff's Office soon arrived on the scene. After interviewing witnesses and watching the cellphone video, deputies placed Rivera under arrest. According to [Breaking911.com](#), Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly made a statement that "traffic disagreements should never result in violence in our streets. In this particular incident, the video captured by the victim's wife clearly shows that her husband's life was threatened. I applaud the way the motorcyclist handled this situation.... After his life was clearly threatened, he lawfully defended himself and then de-escalated the situation." [Breaking911.com](#) reported that Rivera had a criminal record including both theft and trespassing. He is currently being held without bond, and has been charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill.

## **Robbery Ends as Soon as It Started**

[WHIO.com](#) reported on May 12 about how effective carrying concealed can be at stopping crime. The story involved a man smoking a cigarette outside his South Philadelphia home when a man on a bike rode up to him, pulled out a gun, and demanded his money. The smoker responded by pulling out his own gun, which he was lawfully licensed to carry, and pointing it at the suspect. The two men engaged in a brief exchange of gunfire, but the victim was apparently a better marksman, as he shot the suspect in the head. Police were soon called to the scene, where they discovered the lifeless body of the suspect lying on the sidewalk near where the robbery attempt occurred.

## **Chances of Re-offending Are Zero**

This column previously reported on Florida Sheriff Bob Johnson's statement that "if someone is breaking into your house, you're more than welcome to shoot them in Santa Rosa County. We prefer that you do, actually."

Sheriff Johnson was a guest on Fox News on April 26, when he said, "If somebody breaks in your house in Santa Rosa County and you shoot and kill them, the chances of them re-offending after that are zero, and we like those odds." Sheriff Johnson also explained his strong support in the community: "I tell everybody 99% of the people here love law enforcement and the other 1% are in my jail currently." With lines such as this, when Sheriff Johnson retires from law enforcement, he might have a bright future as a comedian.



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