



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on September 6, 2022

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## **Exercising the Right**

### **“He Shot My Arm Off!”**

*USA Today* reported on August 3 about a shooting that illustrated the benefits of elderly citizens owning firearms. The story involved a convenience store in Riverside County, California, where the 80-year-old store owner was working behind the counter. Surveillance video showed four hooded assailants armed with long guns run into the store in an obvious attempt to rob it. The quick-thinking octogenarian behind the counter didn't waste any time before he pulled out a shotgun and opened fire at the advancing thugs. The blast terrified the criminals, who quickly ran from the store. One of the men, injured from the store owner's shotgun blast, repeatedly yelled “he shot my arm off!”

The store owner, later identified as Craig Cope, told CBS LA, “I would always protect my employees, my customers, myself. This instance, fortunately, I was here by myself, so I only had to worry about that. I took care of it and that was that.”

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department issued a press release stating, “In this case, a lawfully armed member of our community prevented a violent crime and ensured their own safety, while being confronted with multiple armed suspects.”

The police did later locate a 23-year-old man at a nearby medical facility recovering from a gunshot wound consistent with a shotgun blast. Despite the suspect's proclamations, his arm was not shot off, although he was listed in critical condition. He will be charged once he is released from the hospital. The other three suspects were all apprehended, and their vehicle — along with the firearms they used in the commission of their crime — was later determined to be stolen. They have been charged with “suspicion of robbery and conspiracy [and are] being held on \$500,000 bail.”

### **“We Will Never Back Down”**

On August 15, gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson released a powerful statement slamming the anti-gun coalition, which has been unrelenting in its attacks on the Second Amendment. The company published the statement on its Twitter account in response to what it called “an unprecedented and unjustified attack on the firearm industry.” Company president and CEO Mark Smith signed off on the 440-word press release, which pulled no punches in going after the “politicians and their lobbying partners in the media.” Smith made it clear that the reason people are buying guns is because they want to defend themselves from the rising crime wave that was created by the very same forces who are now working so furiously to ban guns. “Some have had the audacity to suggest that after they have vilified, undermined and defunded law enforcement for years, supported prosecutors who refuse to hold criminals accountable for their actions, overseen the decay of our country's mental health infrastructure, and generally promoted a culture of lawlessness, Smith & Wesson and other firearm manufacturers are somehow responsible for the crime wave that has predictably resulted from these destructive policies,” Smith wrote in his statement.

Smith also stated the obvious: that the so-called gun violence that the media can't stop talking about is caused by criminals, and not by the gun industry. “To be clear, a Smith & Wesson firearm has never broken into a home, a Smith & Wesson firearm has never assaulted a woman out for a late-night run in the city, a Smith & Wesson firearm has never carjacked an unsuspecting driver stopped at a traffic



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light. Instead, Smith & Wesson provides these citizens with the means to protect themselves and their families," he wrote.

He concluded by stating that Smith & Wesson "will continue to work alongside law enforcement, community leaders and lawmakers who are genuinely interested in creating safe neighborhoods. We will engage those who genuinely seek productive discussions, not a means of scoring political points. We will continue informing law-abiding citizens that they have a Constitutionally-protected right to defend themselves and their families. We will never back down in our defense of the 2nd Amendment."

## **400-pound Bear Terrorizes Family**

Fox News reported on August 19 about a terrifying event that showed how a firearm can defend you against any threat, even one that isn't human. The incident occurred in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where Colorado homeowner Ken Maudlin woke up in the early morning to his wife yelling, "There's a bear in the house!" She had just gotten out of bed to see why their dogs were barking so much, and discovered the trespassing creature in her dining room. The woman immediately thought of her three children, who were asleep in the house, so she yelled for her husband to come to the rescue.

Maudlin quickly retrieved his 40-caliber pistol, which he pointed at the center of the bear's body and fired. The wild beast charged at Maudlin, who fired a second shot. The bear then ran toward the stairs as the father kept firing. The animal eventually collapsed through a banister and fell down the stairs, where it stopped moving. The family stood in shock as the wounded animal breathed its last gasps before dying from its wounds. Maudlin called 911, and police and state wildlife officers soon arrived on the scene, where they found the dead bear in the home.

Maudlin later told the news that he attributed the scary ordeal to the fact that bears in the area are no longer afraid of humans. "We are in a situation now where we have town bears that have lost all of their natural fear of humans.... In my mind that's what we have to address," he told the Associated Press. Maudlin added that he acted on instinct alone and his "only thought was protecting my family and putting that bear down."

The black bear was reportedly 400 pounds, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife officer Justin Pollock, who is a 21-year veteran of the force, told the Associated Press, "I deal with bears a lot and I'd say this was a big bear." Colorado law does permit people to shoot a bear if they are in fear of being injured by it, and this entire event obviously appears to be within the confines of the law.



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