



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on September 27, 2022

Published in the October 17, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 19

Exercising the Right

Hero Mom Defends Children

WTMJ-TV, the NBC affiliate in Milwaukee, reported on August 17 about a mother who sprang into action and defended her children from an intruder. The woman was in the shower when she heard her children screaming that someone had broken into the house. The mother had bought a gun 10 years ago after finding an intruder sleeping under her child's bed.

The mother was now prepared, and grabbed the gun from her bedroom and rushed into the living room. Once there, she witnessed an intruder fighting with her two dogs. She yelled for the man to stop, but he kept advancing, so she fired her gun at him. The suspect died at the scene from the gunshot wound. The mother, who did not want to be identified, told WTMJ-TV, "It all happened so fast — an adrenaline rush.... I knew I'd be able to do it [shoot the intruder] ... to protect my kids."

The investigation is still ongoing, but neighbors lauded her actions, with one even going so far as to call her a "hero."

Tips for Dealing With a Home Intruder

Newsweek reported August 18 about the above-mentioned Milwaukee shooting, but added some guidance for homeowners in terms of what to do when faced with a home intruder. *Newsweek* reprinted guidance from Military.com, which suggested that you "develop a code word that will tell your entire family that it's time to spring into action." Upon hearing this word, your family should immediately retreat to the "safe room" you've set up in your house, which should be "stocked with several specific items that will help you survive the upcoming fight."

Military.com recommended that a mandatory item for the safe room is a phone that you can use to call 911. The article also suggested to remain in the safe room and resist the urge to confront the intruder. Most importantly, the article advised homeowners to create a "fatal funnel," which describes how to position oneself in the safe room if the intruder is about to break in. "If you are using a gun for home defense, position yourself in a corner of the safe room that is on the opposite side of the door. This will give you the maximum amount of time to decide if you're going to shoot, because you'll be the last thing the intruders see when they burst through the door. In this instance, you have the advantage because they will have to make an assessment of the room before they make a move. You only have to decide if you're going to shoot or not. You will know that it's either the police coming to your rescue or the bad guys coming to harm you. Just make sure you don't shoot the police."

Military.com advised readers to remain in the safe room "until the police have cleared the house and tell you to come out before you decide the home invasion is over."

Man With Gunshot Wound to the Head Still Stops Attacker

Fox News reported on September 7 about a shooting at a house party in the Phoenix suburb of Surprise, Arizona, that was ended by a "good guy with a gun." Raul Mendez was at a party with his pregnant wife and two daughters when out of nowhere he heard gunshots. Unbeknownst to Mendez, a neighbor of the party's host came to the party armed and randomly started shooting party-goers.

The shooter was later identified as 46-year-old Jason Hunt. Mendez was standing by his wife when the



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chaos started, and got shot right in the face by Hunt. Mendez explained to Fox News Digital, “My back was turned. I heard the first gunshot and that’s what made me, kind of turn my head.... But by the time I even was able to look and see what was going on, a bullet already had struck the side of my face.”

Mendez’ wife thought her husband was dead due to the amount of blood on his face, so she grabbed the kids and ran into a room deeper into the house. Mendez explained, “She barricaded the door with the dresser. There were three other children in there, not including my two daughters. A total of five kids. She ... throws them in the closet, throws clothes over them. Tells them, ‘Be quiet. Do not make a peep if you hear loud noises in this room.’”

While the wife was rushing to protect the children, two other women in the house began fighting with Hunt and yelling for Mendez, who they knew was a concealed carry holder. Mendez heard their cries and jumped right into action. “By the glory of God or the adrenaline and just everything, just the will to live and the will to protect my family, I was able to hear those pleas, those yells for help. I heard my name. And I was able to get up.” Mendez told Fox. Mendez rose to his feet, pulled out his firearm, and shot Hunt four times in the chest. When all the violence was finally ended, Hunt’s rampage had killed two party-goers and seriously injured four others, including Mendez.

Local authorities investigated and determined that both the women and Mendez were acting in self-defense.

Mendez was seriously injured in the shooting. He received treatment at a hospital and is slated for future surgeries. He lost his left eye and his sense of smell, and also suffered from a torn eardrum and fractured jaw. Mendez made a point to stress that the reason he and his family are alive is because of the Second Amendment. “I fully back up the Second Amendment and ... this is why I’m speaking up.... This world is unpredictable. And honestly, at the end of the day, the people that want to ban guns, they’re only banning it from good people, not criminals. Because again, there [are] no gun laws for criminals,” Mendez told Fox News Digital.

Mendez is a lifetime National Rifle Association (NRA) member, and filmed a video for the NRA explaining what happened and criticizing the media for not reporting on his story. In the NRA video, Mendez states, “If I didn’t have my gun with me, everyone in the house would have died. The news vans would’ve been front and center. But because I did, you never even heard about it.”

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