



Exercising the Right

Mother Protects Her Children

Fox News reported on October 30 about a terrifying burglary in rural Hidalgo County, Texas, that involved small children. Police investigators say a man broke in to a house occupied by a mother who was home alone with her children in the early evening. Fortunately, the mother reacted quickly, rushed her kids into a bedroom, and locked the door. The suspect had gained entry to the house through the garage and tried breaking in to the locked room. The mother yelled to the intruder that she was armed and had called the police, but the man continued to try to break through the locked door. The mother was left with no other options, so she fired her gun through the bedroom door, hitting the suspect, who then fled from the house.

Police soon arrived and discovered the wounded suspect near the house suffering from a gunshot wound to his left arm. He was later identified as 36-year-old Carlos Garcia and, after receiving medical treatment, was charged with burglary of habitation with intent.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Eddie Guerra talked to KRGV about what occurred and praised the mother for her actions: "You have the right to defend yourself in your own home against an intruder.... I imagine she was in fear of her life ... so she did what she had to do, and we support her." Guerra also said that the mother's actions were lawful and that she won't face any charges. "You don't have to give notice, if someone's breaking into your home you have the right to protect yourself and use deadly force, and you're not going to have any problem with the sheriff of Hidalgo County."

Guns on the Ballot

The 2022 midterm elections featured gun-law related ballot measures that went before voters in two states. Iowa had a proposed state amendment, titled the "Right to Keep and Bear Arms Amendment," that would amend the state constitution to include wording similar to the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The amendment also specified that "any and all restrictions" on gun ownership would be "subject to strict scrutiny" by the state courts. Iowa's current state constitution does not contain its own gun-rights protection, and the amendment's sponsor wants to remedy that. Opponents of the law worry that the proposed amendment might prevent future attempts at gun control, and might even overturn previous gun-control legislation already approved by the courts. Hopefully their fears are well-founded, because the measure was approved by a wide margin on election night.

On the other side of the spectrum, the state of Oregon had an anti-Second Amendment measure on the ballot that was popularly referred to as the "Reduction of Gun Violence Act." The law requires new gun owners to obtain a permit prior to purchasing a firearm. It also prohibits any magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds. Most alarmingly, the measure requires law enforcement to maintain a database of all the permits and firearms.

Interestingly, this measure did not originate with the state Legislature, but was drafted and proposed by a leftist anti-gun group, the "interfaith" organization "Lift Every Voice Oregon," which collected more than 112,000 signatures to get it on the ballot. Unfortunately, the initiative was narrowly approved by voters. This might be demoralizing for gun-rights supporters, but perhaps they can get creative and replicate the actions of the anti-gun organization and collect enough signatures to get a



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pro-gun act on the ballot for 2024.

See No Evil

WKRC reported on November 2 about a burglary attempt in Franklin, Ohio, that ended when the homeowner shot the suspect. This story is particularly unusual because the homeowner who fired at the suspect was reported to be partially blind, and actually had a close relationship with the suspect.

The homeowner had just returned home after a stay in the hospital when he discovered an intruder in his house. The homeowner fired at the suspect, who fled the house, and then quickly called 911. The partially blind homeowner was recorded telling the 911 dispatcher, "I got a shot off him. He was coming right towards me.... I don't know if it hit him or not." Law enforcement arrived at the scene and began searching the house, and followed a trail of blood to a shed around the corner, where they found 36-year-old Jeffrey Carl. The man who owned the shed later told the news that the suspect was shot in the rear end.

Carl told police that the homeowner was practically an uncle to him, and that he thought the homeowner was still in the hospital when he tried robbing him. Neighbors said that he has his own personal issues, which include criminal charges for drugs and weapons. Police believe that Carl stole some music equipment and guns from the victim before he was shot. He was taken to a nearby medical facility and is facing charges for burglary. According to court records, he had a warrant out for his arrest related to domestic violence.

Knife vs. Gun

WHTM reported on October 21 about a burglary in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where a burglar broke in to a house by kicking in the back door. The suspect, Keon Washington, was confronted by an armed resident, who warned him to stop and leave the house. Washington allegedly ignored the verbal commands of the homeowner, causing the homeowner to fire at him.

The wounded suspect fled from the house and was later apprehended by police, who said he was carrying a butcher knife. Thankfully Washington complied with the police officer's lawful commands, and was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment of his gunshot wounds. He was later charged with felony trespassing, attempted burglary, terroristic threats, and recklessly endangering another person. n

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