



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on October 10, 2023

Published in the October 30, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 20

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## **Exercising The Right**

### **A Six-pack and Seven Shots**

WoodTV.com reported on August 22 about a wild incident that occurred the prior month in Cassopolis, Michigan. The whole ordeal was caught on camera at a Marathon gas station when a thug wearing a hoodie charged into the store and rushed behind the counter to rob the business. He reportedly told the clerk behind the counter, “You know why I’m here,” before pulling out a box-cutter and threatening to cut the clerk if he didn’t hand over all of the money in the cash register.

Fortunately for the clerk, an armed customer witnessed the whole incident. The customer quickly pulled out his handgun and shot at the suspect until he collapsed to the floor. The customer later explained to the police that even though he couldn’t exactly see what was in the burglar’s hands, he could tell the clerk was in fear for his life and it was reasonable to believe that the robber was threatening the clerk with deadly force. He fired a total of seven shots from his gun, all while holding a six-pack of beer. 911 was called, and authorities soon arrived on the scene.

The suspect, 35-year-old Cordelius Anthony Martin, was taken for medical treatment for multiple gunshot wounds. After being discharged from the hospital, he was charged with several crimes, including armed robbery. Since Martin is a three-time felon, he may now be facing life in prison. The clerk was grateful for the heroic actions of the armed customer, and told the local news that the man had saved his life.

Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz was interviewed on NewsNation and explained that, after a lengthy investigation, prosecutors determined the customer’s actions were justified under applicable law.

### **Armed Citizens Make Communities Safer**

Amy Swearer, writing at The Daily Signal on September 7, made the same case this column regularly does by highlighting lawful defensive uses of firearms. Swearer prefaced her series of stories by explaining, “The reality is that the right to keep and bear arms, whether exercised individually or collectively, has always played an important role in protecting life, liberty, and property — and it continues to do so today. Almost every major study has found that Americans use their firearms in self-defense between 500,000 and 3 million times annually, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has acknowledged. In 2021, the most comprehensive study ever conducted on the issue concluded that roughly 1.6 million defensive gun uses occur in the United States every year.”

After concluding her survey of recent successful self-defense uses of firearms, Swearer concluded, “As these defensive gun uses demonstrate, lawful gun owners are more than capable of exercising their Second Amendment rights in a responsible manner, and on the whole, they make their communities safer by helping to stop violent threats.”

### **“You’re Going to Have to Kill Me”**

Fox5Atlanta.com reported on September 15 out of Fayette County, Georgia, on a story involving a wanted felon who broke in to a family’s house. The suspect, later identified as 28-year-old Michael James Brooks II, is from Columbus, Ohio, and was wanted for murder at the time of the break-in.

The Fayette County Sheriff’s Department said that the crime unfolded around 2:00 a.m. when an alarm



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was tripped at the house, which notified the alarm company of a potential break-in. The homeowners were fast asleep when they were alerted that someone had broken in to their house.

The father armed himself with a gun and confronted Brooks, who was wielding a knife, in the basement. The father told Brooks to leave the house, but had to shoot him when Brooks aggressively moved toward him. The father then ran back up to the second floor and stood at the top of the staircase to protect his family if the deranged burglar wasn't going to stop. Sure enough, even though Brooks was already suffering from a gunshot wound, he began following the father up the stairs while wielding a knife and making threats to harm the family. The father was left with no other option but to fire his gun at the man a second time to halt his advance.

Fayette County Sheriff Barry Babb explained that as the father stood at the top of the stairs and had his gun pointed at Brooks, Brooks outrageously challenged the man to shoot him. "There, he took his stand as the [suspect] made his way up to the second floor. [Brooks] made the comment, something to the effect of, 'You're going to have to kill me.'" Sheriff Babb also explained that even though Brooks was suffering from two gunshot wounds, law enforcement had difficulty restraining him when they arrived on the scene. "When the resident fired a second shot, that was about the time the deputies got there. From what we can tell, he was coming down the stairway with a second gunshot wound.... At that point, they actually still struggled with him [as they] took him into custody," the sheriff explained.

Brooks was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment of his gunshot wounds. Police investigators soon discovered a vehicle that they believe Brooks carjacked in Kettering, Ohio. They are not sure why Brooks traveled to Fayette County, and believe the break-in was random. They also said that Brooks apparently tried breaking in to other houses in the upscale neighborhood before he broke in to the house where he was shot.

This appears to not be the first time he had done something like this: The Columbus Division of Police confirmed that Brooks was wanted for the lethal stabbing of a 77-year-old woman in a previous home invasion.

He has a long criminal history, and has served time for aggravated robbery, robbery, and receiving stolen property. The Fayette County Sheriff's Office stated that Brooks will now be facing new charges of home invasion, burglary, and theft by receiving once he is released from the hospital.



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