



## **Exercise the Right**

### **Victims: 1, Robbers: 0**

On January 14, a police SWAT team apprehended Brandon Lee Plunk, 27, a man suspected of participating in a failed November 2010 attempted armed robbery of a Dutch Bros. coffee stand in Eugene, Oregon. The lone employee on duty at the coffee stand thwarted a twosome's attempted robbery when he drew his own gun and fatally shot one of the men. The other suspect, alleged to be Plunk, ran from the scene and now faces numerous charges, including attempted aggravated murder and first-degree manslaughter for the death of his accomplice. Under the felony murder rule, a criminal can be charged with the murder of an accomplice if the murder occurred during the commission of a crime. The barista, a man in his 20s, will not face disciplinary action from his grateful employer, even though he violated a Dutch Bros. policy by carrying his gun to work.

### **Victims: 2, Robbers: 0**

Jewelry store owner Anthony Spinelli was able to foil a robbery of his Bronx, New York, store on February 16. Two would-be robbers allegedly entered Spinelli Jewelers and pulled a gun on the owner, while a third suspect waited outside to act as a lookout. When the gunmen ordered Spinelli to open the safe, Spinelli pulled out his own gun and began firing at the burglars. The two robbers who were inside the store fled the scene while the third robber, who was serving as the lookout, was shot in the leg and taken to the hospital. An eyewitness reported that the suspect "was just yelling 'chill, chill, chill' — meaning don't shoot." Police are still searching for the other two suspects.

### **Victims: 3, Robbers: 0**

WTAE.com reported on January 2 that a wheelchair-bound man exercised his right against an armed intruder.

The incident began when the intruder fired a warning shot and yelled at everyone in the wheelchair-bound man's apartment to get down.

Baldwin Police Chief Michael Scott explained that a "rifle barrel protruded through the venetian blind in the window. A shot or two shots, we believe, were fired into the apartment."

Rocco Bombara, who lost his legs due to health problems, reached and retrieved a handgun from under his chair cushion. Allegheny County police Lt. Andrew Schurman told the news that as "the intruder was climbing through the window, he fired — that resident fired a round — striking the intruder. The intruder in turn returned fire, striking the resident."

The 19-year-old would-be robber died at the scene, owing to his injuries from Bombara's sure shooting. Bombara was treated at a nearby hospital for a slight hand wound.

"It was agreed that the resident would not face any charges yesterday. Beyond that, ultimately, the district attorney will decide what we do from this point forward," Schurman said.

## **Utah Proposes a State Gun**

Anti-gun activists in Utah have a new crusade to lead as lawmakers in Utah voted to name the Browning



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M1911 pistol the state gun of Utah. The measure has already passed the state House and will now be voted on by the state Senate. Republican Rep. Carl Wimmer is sponsoring the bill as a way to honor Utah's John Moses Browning, who designed the M1911 pistol in the early 20th century. The pistol was used as a standard U.S. Army firearm from 1911 until 1985.

Gun-phobic critics, who would never be satisfied with any public display of pro-gun sentiment, are up in arms. Chief among their present complaints is that it is insensitive to name a state gun after the January shooting in the neighboring state of Arizona that left six people dead and 13 wounded, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Other various complaints about the measure include a belief that it is just "in bad taste" and concern that a depiction of the pistol could show up in children's coloring books, alongside images of the state flower and state bird. Wimmer has countered claims that his legislation is "glorifying an implement of death" with the notion that "we're glorifying an implement of freedom that has defended us for 100 years."

## **Positive Trends in Gun Laws**

While most in the liberal media try to use every mass-shooting tragedy to extol the need for stricter gun laws, it seems that some states are actually taking the opposite approach in the wake of the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona.

In South Carolina, Republican state Rep. Mike Pitts supports a proposal that would eliminate the requirement for a permit to carry a concealed weapon. He says that this new legislation will bring South Carolina law more into line with the Second Amendment.

In Texas, Republican state Rep. Van Taylor has introduced a bill that would allow concealed weapons to be carried on community college campuses. If passed, this law would give students the means to protect themselves if they are ever faced with a shooter on the campus.

In addition, a Michigan state Senator, Republican Mike Green, has introduced a bill that would eliminate the "gun-free" zones where legally licensed gun-owners are currently prohibited from carrying concealed weapons, such as hospitals, arenas, schools, casinos, and churches. Green does not believe that rights should be taken away in certain locations. He added, "The people that are on the other side of this issue think that there are no crooks in these gun-free zones, and all they have to do is whistle and a police man will come running. That is the farthest from the truth you can find."

Meanwhile, in Colorado, fellow Republicans state Rep. Chris Holbert and state Senator Greg Brophy have proposed legislation that would make it legal for individuals to carry concealed weapons on grade-school, college, and university campuses without a concealed weapons permit.

Also, in Helena, Montana, lawmakers are pushing for the passage of a bill that would allow security guards and legislators to carry concealed weapons on the Capitol grounds. Currently, there is only one armed police officer at the Capitol, and this measure would give Montana lawmakers the ability to defend themselves if needed.



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