



## Exercising the Right

### Don't Mess With Texan Grandmothers!

KLSA reported out of Texarkana, Texas, on January 3 that an elderly woman was able to use her firearm to defend herself against a dangerous intruder. The woman, 74-year-old Rebbie Roberson, was watching the news at home when a masked man armed with a gun entered her house. Roberson told the local CBS news affiliate KLSA that though the man had his gun pointed right at her, she was able to grab her .38-caliber pistol from a nearby table and aim it at her attacker, causing him to turn and run from the house. Roberson said she fired a few shots, but likely missed her target. Police were called to the scene and discovered bullet holes, but the burglar was gone. Authorities are still looking for him.

Roberson told KLSA about the details of the harrowing incident:

I had to walk right out in front of him. I didn't know if he was going to kill me or what.... I reached over there and grabbed this gun. And when I swerved around, I pointed it at him and he ran.... I tried to kill him.... Anybody break in on me, I'm going to kill them. He's going to kill me or I'm going to kill him.

Roberson later explained that it was the first time she ever used the firearm, and she hopes it's the last.

Local law enforcement said that Roberson was justified in her use of force. Bowie County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jeff Neal told KLSA, "It could have been worse for both individuals, both the victim and the suspect." Neal also explained that under state law, "every citizen, according to the Texas penal code, has the right to defend themselves and their family."

### Hood Death

A violent home invasion out of Missouri was unusual owing to the fact that the suspect was a woman. While the vast majority of these types of crimes are committed by men, 44-year-old Rhonda Hood was breaking stereotypes when it came to armed felonies. Hood forced her way into a house at gunpoint. Hood held the occupants within the house at gunpoint and demanded their valuables, but one of the victims began fighting back. The male would-be victim struggled with Hood and was able to wrest her gun away, which he then fired at her. Law enforcement was called to the scene, where they discovered Hood's lifeless body. She had just succumbed to her gunshot wound. After a thorough investigation, the local prosecutor ruled that the shooting death was justified.

### Upscale Neighborhood

The ABC affiliate KTRK reported on January 5 about a burglary attempt in an upscale Houston neighborhood that was ended by an armed homeowner. Mike Colgin was asleep in bed around 4:30 a.m. when he was jarred awake by the sound of breaking glass. Colgin immediately suspected foul play, so he retrieved his firearm and quickly ran down the hallway toward the living room. Colgin peered around a corner and witnessed an intruder breaking in through one of his windows, so he moved for a closer look to confirm it wasn't a neighbor who needed help before he fired on the suspect. Once he was certain that it was a burglar, he fired one shot at the man, hitting the suspect. The suspect fled the scene but was arrested by police officers down the street with minor injuries.

Julio Socoy-Velasquez was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment and was taken to jail shortly afterward. Colgin was able to capture Velasquez' actions leading up to the break-in by reviewing the



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security camera video from his front door. In the video, Velasquez can be seen grabbing a paver from Colgin's front yard and throwing it through the window. Colgin reflected on the shooting for KTRK, "It's really surreal.... I'm getting a lot of grief (from my friends) for not firing twice, but I'm okay with just once."

Doug Hawn, a neighbor in the upscale community, was completely blindsided by the break-in and subsequent shooting: "I thought it was shocking there was a shooting in the neighborhood.... Although I think my neighbor had every right to do it."

## **Woman Kills Violent Attacker**

WWAY News reported out of Wilmington, North Carolina, about a man who was shot and killed by a woman he sought to victimize. The woman, 35-year-old Kay Dickinson, was returning home to her apartment when Willie Franklin Stith came up from behind her and forced his way into her apartment. "As soon as I got the door unlocked he grabbed me and pushed me into the apartment," Dickinson told WWAY.

Stith began violently beating Dickinson and then tied her up with a cellphone charger and a belt.

Fortunately for her, Stith was not very capable when it came to tying knots, and Dickinson was able to free herself. She quickly grabbed her gun, which she kept in her bedroom, and fired it at Stith, who was mortally wounded. "I got loose from the belt. And I had a gun sitting on a bible on my headboard. I jumped up on the bed, grabbed the gun, turned around and just pulled the trigger," Dickinson said. Stith tried to flee the scene, but his injuries were too severe and he collapsed near the front door, where his lifeless body was found by police, who soon arrived.

Dickinson expressed gratitude for having survived the ordeal: "I'm just glad I'm alive today. I mean that's really the big thing. You know it was a scary experience, one I really never want to go through again. Never want anyone else to have to go through. And you know, I mean, from what I've heard about the guy he's notorious for robberies and everything so, you know, I mean, I may have saved somebody else from having to go through anything," Dickinson told WWAY.

When Dickinson said Stith was "notorious for robberies and everything," she wasn't kidding. WWAY reported that Stith had a long and storied criminal record dating back to 1998 that included multiple arrests for crimes similar to the type he was engaged in at the time of his untimely death: breaking and entering, larceny, burglary, assault, and possession of stolen goods.

— Patrick Krey



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