



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on January 22, 2018

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## Exercising the Right

### Navy Vet Surprises Robbers

13WMAZ.com reported on December 11 about an incident in New Orleans that makes one mindful of the fact that you can't judge a book by its cover. Sixty-three-year-old Bennie Sideboerd and his cousin pulled up to their house, and two masked men appeared out of nowhere and approached the vehicle. The masked thugs thought the senior citizen would be an easy victim, but they found out otherwise.

One masked man grabbed Bennie and threw him to the ground. The other masked man told Bennie's cousin to put his hands on the car. As Bennie fell to the ground, he was able to grab his gun, which he had in a concealed holster. Bennie explained to 13WMAZ.com that the would-be robber told him not to move. "He said, don't you move, so I turned around.... He pointed at me and I pulled out my gun and boom boom boom!" Investigators from the New Orleans Police Department say that none of Bennie's initial shots hit the suspects. Bennie got down to his last round in his gun, and the suspects were not giving up on their violent assault. "Then he came running at me.... He knocked me down.... I grabbed him by his back and I went BOOM," Bennie said. "It was a five-shot gun and I knew I had one shot left, so when I grabbed him, I went boom.... He dropped the gun then he grabbed his stomach and said 'Oh Lord!' and rode out and ran." Bennie's cousin ran from the scene as soon as the bullets began flying, and made it to a nearby police station, where he reported the incident. Police soon arrived on the scene, but only found Bennie, as the two criminals had fled the scene.

Bennie is a Navy veteran and regularly practices target shooting at a local shooting range. Bennie told 13WMAZ.com that he wasn't nervous in the least. "When somebody comes at you like that, you can't be nervous.... If not, they're going to kill you anyhow. So you have a choice: Either you get them or they get you."

Neighbor Areme Marks expressed gratitude that things worked out the way they did and said she believes that Bennie's brave actions may have even saved others. "They could have gone on to harm other people, but because he fought back, they probably ended their night."

### All in the Family

In a terrifying ordeal, a homeowner fatally shot a burglar who broke in to his house in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. FoxNews reported on December 10 that 84-year-old Don Lutz was home alone when two masked men broke in to his house. Lutz was fortunate to have a loaded gun nearby and got into a physical altercation with the burglars. Lutz fired his gun, hitting one of the suspects, who collapsed and died at the scene. The other suspect ran from the house and is still being sought by police. When police arrived, they found Lutz suffering from injuries he sustained in the scuffle and the body of the deceased suspect. Investigators used facial recognition methods, along with fingerprints, to identify the deceased suspect as 49-year-old Dennis Mercadante. It turns out that Mercadante was Lutz's nephew-in-law. Mercadante had a long, sordid criminal history and struggled with drug addiction, so Lutz was not surprised by his fate.

Lutz exclaimed that it was his faith in God along with his God-given right to be armed for self-defense that saved him that night. "I'm a hard believer of guns — not gun control. We should never stop law-abiding people from having guns," Lutz told the *Ellwood City Ledger*. "I've never been afraid in my life,"



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Lutz, a Korean War vet, told WTAE. “God has always been with me, and I’m a hard believer in God and Jesus Christ, and God was with me tonight.” Lutz also said that he didn’t regret his actions, even after knowing that the suspect was his nephew-in-law, though he admitted it “was quite a shock.” Lutz told KDKA, “I know one thing for sure — they came here to kill me. They came here to get a gun off of me and they came here to kill me, and I know that now and I didn’t have an alternative to do what I did.” Lutz also told KDKA that he was grateful that his niece no longer needs to be bothered by the deceased suspect. “I’m glad I did it for my niece because I felt she was in danger all the time.”

## **Pizza Delivery Man**

A 2014 study published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics listed a “driver-sales worker” as the fifth-most-dangerous occupation, a term that includes pizza delivery drivers. A news story out of Fort Pierce, Florida, underscored how dangerous such a job can be.

TCPalm.com reported on December 18 about a 25-year-old pizza delivery man who was the victim of a robbery. John Parker, a pizza delivery man for Goodfellas Pizza, was driving around a neighborhood looking for an address but couldn’t find the house. Parker called his employer, who told him the order was most likely fake and that he should return to the pizza shop. As Parker drove back down the road, he saw a man waving at him to stop. Parker did not suspect any foul play, so he stopped his vehicle and got out to speak with the man. But before they could even exchange words, Parker observed that the man was holding what appeared to be a gun. Parker froze as the robber demanded his cash. Parker handed over the \$40 he was carrying, but the robber demanded more, including Parker’s cellphone. The suspect ordered Parker to go back to his car to get more stuff to give him. Little did the criminal know that Parker had a gun and ammo in his vehicle. Parker retrieved the pistol and loaded it. Emerging from the car, Parker opened fire on the suspect, who still had a gun pointed at him. Parker shot the assailant twice in the leg and once in the pelvis. The injured suspect fell to the ground, and Parker called 911.

Police soon arrived on the scene, and the injured suspect was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment. The suspect was later charged with armed robbery. Police say there will be no charges against Parker because, even though he did not have a concealed carry permit, Parker’s gun and ammo were stored in the vehicle, and Parker was well within his rights to retrieve them. Police also stated that the gun that the suspect used was actually an Airsoft toy gun, which looks like a real gun but only shoots plastic pellets. Authorities believe the suspect was hoping an unwitting victim would think the toy gun was real. Unfortunately for the suspect, that is exactly what happened!

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