

Written by Patrick Krey on September 3, 2018





# **Exercising the Right**

### **Couple Terrorized**

KHOU.com reported out of Houston on July 18 about a home invasion targeting a married couple. Law enforcement says the incident began when a woman pulled into the driveway of her house and was immediately confronted by two armed suspects, who took her purse. The two criminals then forced her toward her house at gunpoint.

The husband was home at the time and heard the sounds of what was going on outside. Fortunately, he was able to grab his firearm and face up to the suspects as they tried to enter the house. The husband fired at the men, hitting one of the suspects in the head and sending the other suspect running from the scene. The couple called 911, and first responders transported the injured suspect to a nearby medical center, where he had emergency surgery.

### **Big Finance Attacks Rights**

This column recently reported on the unsettling development that large financial institutions are trying to ban guns in ways that are impossible through the political process — through cutting off lending and other financial services to gun-shop owners — and this story shows the real-world impact it is having. The Bangor Daily News reported on June 24 about a small businessman in Gainesville, Georgia, who realized just how powerful the financial industry can be. Gary Ramey runs a gun-making business that sells guns to the public, but Ramey recently began branching out to selling products online as well. His latest venture was completely upended, however, when the company that processes his payments informed him that they were dropping his account.

Ramey scrambled to find a replacement and soon learned that another credit card processing firm likewise refused to do business with him. Ramey was shocked to discover that the reason these financial companies were refusing to do business with him was that making firearms violated their company policies. Ramey was stunned to learn that payment-processing firms are bypassing the legislature and ignoring the democratic process to institute some form of "gun control" by unilaterally instituting new rules that make it much harder for gun makers and gun sellers to do business.

Michael Hammond, legal counsel for Gun Owners of America, recognizes the imminent danger these backhanded measures could have. "If a few banks say 'No, we're not going to give loans to gun dealers or gun manufacturers,' all of a sudden the industry is threatened and the Second Amendment doesn't mean much if there are no guns around.... If you can't make guns, if you can't sell guns, the Second Amendment doesn't mean much," Hammond was reported as saying in the *Bangor Daily News*.

But gun makers such as Ramey are not planning to lie down and play dead in the wake of these provocations. Ramey immediately filed a complaint with the Georgia attorney general's office, but the state rejected it on the grounds that credit card processing is not considered a financial service under applicable state anti-discrimination law. Ramey is livid about what he views as overreach by these companies: "We're just a small company trying to survive here.... It's hard enough competing with Smith & Wesson, Ruger and Sig Sauer."

But not all hope is lost for Ramey, as some Second Amendment activists are looking into what legislative changes can be made to deal with the problem. "We may have to seek legislation to make







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sure it can't be done and that you can't discriminate against individuals from lawful exercise of a constitutional right," Larry Keane, senior vice president and legal counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, told the *Bangor Daily News*.

### Gal and Gun Save Co-worker

Fox6 reported out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 6 about a case of a disgruntled customer caught on tape. The surveillance video from a George Webb restaurant recorded a dreadlocked customer going behind the counter to yell at a female employee before lashing out in rage and punching a woman working near the fryer. The police would later learn that the customer was irate at the waitress for taking too long and had demanded a refund. When the waitress went to talk to her manager about it, the man followed her into the kitchen to complain. The video shows the man aggressively approaching a female server while obviously yelling. Out of nowhere, he punches a female employee in the face. At that point, the female server, who was carrying concealed, pulled out her pistol and pointed it directly at the abusive customer. The man realized that he was no match for a bullet and left the restaurant. Local Alderman Bob Donovan talked about the incident, which occurred in his district. "It is sickening to see this unsuspecting worker assaulted so brutally by this individual.... For a man to do that to some innocent woman, it's just beyond me.... An individual capable of this kind of behavior is a threat to all of us.... I thank God the other waitress had a concealed carry weapon, has a permit.... I shudder to think, had she not been there and had she not had this weapon, what this guy might have done," Donovan told Fox6.

The two women involved in the encounter talked to Fox6 about their thoughts on what happened. Veronica Kaehler, the woman who got punched while working at the fryer and is the store manager, said that the suspect was a regular at the restaurant. "I have served this guy many times and never had a problem." Kaehler was stunned when she was hit: "He didn't even look at me when he punched me." Kaehler also said she was fortunate she didn't fall into the grill and sustain even more serious injuries.

Miranda Schaefer, the server who pulled her gun on the attacker, said, "I had to put two hands on the gun to show them, like, 'I am serious. You need to go.'" Ironically enough, it was only a day earlier that the restaurant owner told Schaefer she was permitted to bring her gun to work for her own safety. Both Kaehler and Schaefer acknowledged that crime is rampant in the neighborhood and is only getting worse. The restaurant upgraded its security, but Schaefer quit the night of the incident, feeling that her paycheck was not worth the risk. Kaehler will continue to work there because, she said, she loves her co-workers and regular customers too much to quit.

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