



Exercising the Right

Active Shooter at Whataburger

President Trump was recently ridiculed by anti-gun activists for suggesting teachers could be armed to deal with potential school shooters, but a news story out of southwest Houston showed how crucial it is to have someone armed and ready before a shooter arrives. KTRK reported on September 15 about how a man wearing a white bandanna over his face ran in to a Whataburger restaurant around 1 a.m. and opened fire. There were only about 10 customers in the restaurant when the incident occurred, but they all began running for the exit as the assailant fired.

Thankfully for the customers and employees of the store, there was an armed security guard on duty who opened fire on the suspect and hit him four times in the leg. The wounded suspect ran from the store and tried to flee in a vehicle, but didn't get very far since one of the bullets had hit an artery and caused him to lose so much blood that he died. Houston police officer Cullen Duncan commended the actions of the security guard and said, "He's pretty shaken up, but I explained to him and the other officer explained to him, that he did a great job."

Gas Station Robbery

The *Sun Sentinel* reported out of West Palm Beach, Florida, on September 15 about a man with a concealed-carry permit who used his handgun to save his life. The victim had just paid at a gas station and was returning to his vehicle when three men ran up to him and demanded his money. The robbery victim pulled out his pistol and fired at the suspects, injuring one of the men. Teri Barbera, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman, released a statement to the press in which she described what had occurred: "The victim, in fear of his life, discharged his firearm, which he has a concealed weapons permit for, striking one of the suspects.... All three suspects fled.... The injured suspect is in custody and is expected to survive his wounds." Authorities are still searching for the other two suspects. Owing to Florida's Stand Your Ground law, it is unlikely the customer who fired his gun will face any criminal charges for his actions.

Armed Citizen Aids Cop

The gun-control crowd is always telling people that they don't need to be armed because police officers can come to protect them. A recent incident out of Cicero, Illinois, flipped that liberal convention around, as it was an armed citizen who came to the aid of a wounded police officer in need. WGN9 reported on September 18 about how a routine traffic stop escalated into a deadly shootout. Illinois State Police say they had reports of a Mercedes driving erratically, and they tried to stop it. When the driver of the vehicle refused to pull over, officers cornered the vehicle to force him to stop. The driver jumped out of the car and opened fire at the police, hitting one of the officers three times. The shooter fled the scene with the injured officer's partner in pursuit. A citizen who witnessed the shootout pulled his own gun and opened fire at the suspect. Although it was the bullets from another officer's gun that felled the man, authorities were grateful for the actions of the brave citizen who assisted them in neutralizing the deadly threat. "We were lucky enough to have a citizen on the street there who is a conceal carry holder, and he engaged in gunfire with the suspect," Cicero Police Superintendent Jerry Chlada, Jr. told the *Chicago Tribune*.



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

Published in the October 22, 2018 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 34, No. 20

The injured suspect was taken for treatment to a nearby medical facility and was soon charged with two counts of attempted first-degree murder of a peace officer and aggravated battery of a police officer. The wounded cop also received treatment and is expected to make a full recovery. Investigators learned that the suspect is a felon who has previously served time for a human-trafficking conviction involving a child.

Chinese Restaurant Shooting

The Associated Press reported on September 21 about a violent robbery at a Chinese restaurant in Columbia, South Carolina, where an armed assailant tried holding up the place. The crime occurred around 11 p.m. when the suspect, dressed all in black with a hoodie covering his face, ran into the business and pointed a loaded weapon at two employees. The suspect threatened the employees and ordered them to turn over all of the eatery's money. Police say the employees were complying with the gunman's demand when a third worker entered the restaurant to check on his associates. This man was startled when he witnessed what was happening and immediately began struggling with the suspect. As the two men wrestled with each other, another person who police say was a familial relation of the workers entered the fray, using his lawful firearm. This man pulled out his own gun and fired it at the hoodie-wearing thug, hitting him in the upper chest. Authorities are still investigating, but they currently believe the shooting was done in self-defense and do not expect to charge the shooter for his actions.

Young Gun Owners Carrying

ABC15 out of Arizona reported on August 28 about some recent polling that revealed that younger gun owners are concealed-carrying their firearms at a much higher rate than older gun owners. The poll conducted in July by Ipsos, in partnership with Newsy, also revealed that younger Americans are just as likely to own guns as older Americans.

The research also showed that younger Americans are two times as likely to carry their firearms on them as older gun owners. And the polls challenged some conventional wisdom about America's youth being opposed to gun ownership. Among the most notable findings were that younger gun owners have an increased interest in carrying for self-defense, and also watch online videos about guns from sites such as YouTube and Facebook at a much higher rate than older gun owners.

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