



## **Exercising The Right**

### **Arming Teachers**

In the wake of the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, President Trump famously advised “arming teachers” to deal with school shooters, but the suggestion sent the anti-gun crowd into a tizzy. The left-wing activists who make up the base of the Democratic Party openly mocked the suggestion of teachers being armed, and many weak-willed Republicans tried to distance themselves from the concept. Deep Blue New York State even just recently passed a law that explicitly prohibited teachers from being armed. But Fox News reported on July 6 that roughly 30 Utah teachers attended training put on by law-enforcement officials about how to use firearms to properly respond to active shooter situations. Utah permits licensed gun owners to carry concealed weapons in public schools. Teachers who are licensed thought it would be a good idea to get some group training on how to most effectively respond to a scenario in which an active shooter targets their school. Local law enforcement was more than willing to step up and provide training because, as Utah County Sheriff Mike Smith told Fox News, “If teachers are going to be bringing firearms into schools, let’s make sure they know how to handle them safely.”

The training was held in a warehouse that resembled a school but also contained a shooting range. Teachers were instructed on both basic marksmanship skills and also where to place their shots on the body of an active shooter. Attendees also received training on emergency medical procedures for dealing with the type of traumatic wounds one might encounter at a mass shooting, such as how to properly pack an open wound and tie tourniquets. Fox News reported that at least half of the teachers who attended brought their own firearms and had positive things to say about the training. The training has grown so much in popularity that there is a waiting list to attend. And graduates of the course were quick to tout the benefits of the instruction. Nancy Miramontes, a school psychologist, told the Associated Press, “I know how to protect myself and my students now; I know what to expect if the worst happens.”

### **Carrying Father Saves Son**

In a story out of Des Moines, Iowa, the local CBS affiliate reported on July 3 that a father was able to successfully save his son from a would-be carjacker using his concealed-carry firearm, without even firing a shot. The incident occurred as the father and son were going out for a day of fishing together. The two were getting into the father’s truck around 5 a.m. when a man with a criminal record made his move. When the 10-year-old son climbed into the truck’s passenger seat and was getting his seatbelt on, his father, Bret Ratkovich, ran back to grab something from the garage. That was when the suspect, later identified as Steven Wayne Six, made his move. Six, who has a long rap sheet for crimes such as burglary, allegedly ran up to the truck in an attempt to steal it. Ratkovich spotted the man and ran to confront him at the truck.

Ratkovich recalled the incident for KCCI news and explained that Six, who was “kind of down low, goes to pull up, looks in (and) sees my son.... I come around the corner ... pulled [my gun] and told him to get on the ground.” Ratkovich says that Six, in an act of desperation, tried to claim that the two were acquaintances. “He’s like, ‘Hey, I’m Steve. Don’t you remember me? I’m Steve.... And I was like, ‘Dude, I’ve never met you in my entire life.’” Ratkovich also said Six tried escaping, but Ratkovich was able to



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detain him long enough for the police to arrive, which he said felt like an eternity. “He did get on the ground. Then he got back up. Then he got back down.... He tried to escape at one point. He came at me multiple times where I could’ve then defended myself with my firearm.”

Ratkovich’s son, Logan, told KCCI news that he locked the truck’s doors as soon as he saw Six coming up the driveway. “He was walking exactly to me.... I locked the doors when he was just entering the driveway and my dad came from inside the garage and defended me with his gun.” When authorities arrived, Six was taken into custody and later charged with attempted burglary. Law enforcement lauded Ratkovich for his brave actions and his composure, which prevented the situation from becoming violent. “The privilege of carrying a handgun comes with a lot of responsibility.... That’s where the police department always puts their emphasis and [Ratkovich] checked all the boxes,” Des Moines Police Sergeant Paul Parizek told KCCI news.

Ratkovich did go fishing that day with his son, but they ended up only catching a small bluegill, which did not match the excitement from their early-morning experience.

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## **A Sanctuary City for Gun Owners?**

The Associated Press reported on July 8 about the desert town of Needles, California, which recently declared itself a “sanctuary city” for gun owners. Though the term “sanctuary city” is most commonly used to describe Democrat-controlled municipalities that refuse to cooperate with the federal enforcement of immigration law, Needles is firmly within the hands of Republican politicians and what they’re seeking sanctuary from are California’s strict gun laws. Needles is a small town of roughly 5,000 residents, and it borders Arizona and is only a few miles from Nevada, so it gets a lot of visitors from other states. The Needles City Council issued a resolution that directed the city attorney to draw up a resolution asking the California legislature to grant gun owners who are licensed in other states reciprocal carry rights in Needles. The resolution was unanimously passed and contained wording declaring Needles a “2nd Amendment Sanctuary City,” though there won’t be any legal changes unless the state government agrees with the city attorney’s request, which political observers say is highly unlikely.

Needles City Councilman Tim Terral sponsored the resolution, but was upfront about its dim prospects. He explained that the title was meant to highlight the hypocrisy of Democrats who refuse to comply with immigration law but express outrage at the prospect of noncompliance with gun-control laws.

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