



Exercising The Right

Disabled & Armed

KHOU reported on March 15 out of Harris County, Texas, about a disabled woman who was targeted by criminals but was able to defend herself because she had a firearm and knew how to properly use it. The incident occurred in the middle of the day when two suspects attempted to burglarize an apartment by breaking in through a patio window. The resident of the apartment was a 53-year-old woman who was home at the time of the break-in and was described by investigators as “disabled.”

She was terrified when the intruders broke the glass, reached through the shattered patio door to unlock it from the inside, and then opened the door to enter the apartment. Fortunately for the woman, she was able to retrieve her loaded firearm before the suspects could enter any further. She fired at the two men and hit the suspect who was standing in front. Both of the burglars fled the apartment, but the wounded suspect did not get far before collapsing on the grass outside the apartment, where he was later pronounced dead by responding authorities.

The woman called the Harris County Sheriff’s Office, who quickly sent deputies to her apartment. The deputies soon apprehended the other suspect, as well as a woman who they believe was acting as a getaway driver. The investigation is still ongoing, but detectives believe the deceased suspect was carrying a pistol at the time of the shooting and the getaway driver tried to hide the gun from police. It is likely that both of the two remaining suspects will face felony murder charges because their accomplice was killed in the commission of a violent felony. Investigators also think that the suspects might have been involved in similar burglaries in the area.

The Essential Second Amendment

Recent developments show that American gun owners won’t take infringements on their Second Amendment rights without pushing back.

As part of his state’s social-distancing policy, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy initially did not exclude gun merchants from mandatory closure requirements, but the ensuing uproar from gun-rights advocates got him to reverse his decision. Governor Murphy issued the retraction on March 30, as reported by NJ.com. Gun retailers are now classified as “essential businesses” that can remain open. This move came after the federal government identified gun dealers, ranges, and manufacturers as “essential businesses” in a guide published by the Department of Homeland Security just a few days earlier. It also was preceded by public condemnations from gun-rights advocates such as the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the New Jersey Second Amendment Society. The latter organization even filed a lawsuit against the state to get gun stores reopened.

Murphy, a Democrat, sounded a purely political tune as he tried to hide behind the DHS recommendations so as not to hurt his reputation with his party’s far-left base, which is openly hostile to gun rights. “It wouldn’t be my definition, but that’s the definition at the federal level and I didn’t get a vote on that,” Murphy told reporters at the press conference where he announced his reversal. Still, even though this was a victory, there are strings attached to the “essential business” classification, restricting the operating hours and requiring appointments being booked in advance. While gun shops being open is a welcome development for those of us who cherish our Second Amendment rights, we



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should not overlook the other restrictions that limit our freedom.

New Jersey was not the only place where draconian restrictions on guns were quickly rescinded after a public outcry. Los Angeles County also re-opened gun shops after initially mandating their closure. Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva made national news when he personally ordered a shutdown of gun shops and rationalized the decision by citing the spike in sales in gun shops as a concern from a public-safety standpoint. In a March 23 interview with Fox11, Villanueva was adamant about closing gun stores, and repeated anti-gun propaganda about having more gun owners leading to more gun violence. Villanueva told Fox11 that with all these gun sales “now you have the mixture of people that are not formerly gun owners and you have a lot more people at home and anytime you introduce a firearm in a home, from what I understand from CDC studies, it increases fourfold the chance that someone is going to get shot.” Villanueva’s tyrannical move led to massive denunciations by gun-rights activists and even a lawsuit at the state level by the NRA, as well as other gun groups, and was dropped.

New Gun Owners

As this column has previously reported, gun sales are surging during the coronavirus pandemic, and anti-gun activists and their mouthpieces in left-wing media such as *Mother Jones* are clutching their pearls at the prospect of all these newly armed Americans joining the rest of us who own guns. While claiming to be concerned about potential “gun violence,” you can read between the lines to see they’re afraid that people are waking up to the necessity of being armed for self-defense. The number of new gun owners since the coronavirus pandemic began is staggering, and any review of the figures shows the undeniable fact that this country will have a lot more people owning guns long after the pandemic subsides.

Rolling Stone reported on April 8 that all “across the country, Americans are buying guns in record numbers. A *New York Times* analysis showed that nearly two million guns were purchased in March, the second-highest month ever for gun sales. In March, the FBI processed over 3.7 million firearm background checks — the highest number in over 20 years — compared to 2.6 million in March 2019 and 2.8 million in February 2020. The week of March 16 alone saw nearly 1.2 million gun background checks, the most in a single week since 1998, according to FBI data. Ammunition website Ammo.com revealed it saw about a 1,000-percent increase in sales in Colorado, Arizona, and Texas since late February.” While these statistics strike fear into the hearts of anti-gun leftists, the rest of us recognize it as a positive trend, as people reject years of gun-control propaganda.

— Patrick Krey



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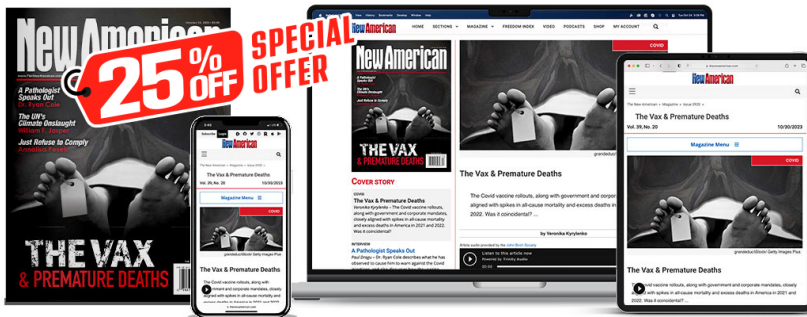
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