

No. 19-55376

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

VIRGINIA DUNCAN et al.,

Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

ROB BONTA,

in his official capacity as
Attorney General of the State of California,

Defendant-Appellant.

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of California,
No. 3:17-cv-01017-BEN-JLB

**BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE JOHN CUTONILLI
ON REHEARING *EN BANC*
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS-APPELLEES**

John Cutonilli
P. O. Box 372
Garrett Park, MD 20896

21 May 2021

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Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 26.1, amicus John Cutonilli certifies that the amicus is not a publicly held corporation, that the amicus does not have a parent corporation, and that no publicly held corporation owns 10 percent or more of amicus's stock.

/s/John Cutonilli
John Cutonilli
P. O. Box 372
Garrett Park, MD 20896

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INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE

Cutonilli is a resident of Maryland and is subject to laws like those under consideration in the California case. As he is unable to bring suit against Maryland due to the precedent set in *Kolbe v. Hogan*, 849 F.3d 114 (4th Cir. 2017), he seeks to provide additional insight into other aspects of the law that were neither addressed in *Kolbe* nor in the court's decision in this case. His intent is to help this court avoid previous errors so that other fellow Americans are not subject to such laws, which are detrimental to public safety. No counsel for any party authored this brief in whole or in part. Apart from amicus curiae, no person contributed money to fund this brief's preparation and submission.

There are several key considerations that this amicus brief brings to light, which are missing in the parties' briefs. It provides a further evidence that Large Capacity Magazines (LCMs) are commonly used. It provides additional analysis of public safety, the limits of the government's interest in public safety as well as the role law-abiding individuals play in providing public safety. It points out the insubstantial nature of the data used by California to justify the law in question and the logical fallacies inherent in their analysis of that data. This brief makes clear why the law will not alleviate the harms it proposes to address in a direct and material way. It also demonstrates the overbroad nature of the California Law.

ARGUMENTS

I. LCMs are in Common Use

As underscored in *Heller*, the Second Amendment is structurally and grammatically divided into two parts: an operative clause and a prefatory clause. The operative clause guarantees a pre-existing right of the individual to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation, *Heller v. D.C.*, 556 U.S. 570, 592. The prefatory clause, which refers to this right relate to the formation of militias, is best understood within the context of the Tenth Amendment, which clarifies the respective powers delegated to the federal government or reserved to the states. The Second Amendment was codified to ensure that the federal government does not disarm the militia *Id.*, at 599. It ensures that the federal government does take away the right to keep and bear arms from the people. Other examples of the right to keep and bear arms appear in state declarations of the time, such as the right to possess arms for self-defense or to hunt *Id.* at 642 (Stevens dissenting). These examples are enumerated in state declarations because they apply at the state and not the federal level. Together, the Second Amendment plus the various state-level declarations constitute the full expression of citizens' rights to keep and bear arms.

While the right to keep and bear arms is broader than -- or extends beyond -- the Second Amendment in this way, it is not unlimited. *Heller* at 627, for example, notes the historical prohibition on carrying "dangerous and unusual weapons," a

phrase that originates in the Statute of Northampton. See 4 Blackstone 148–149 (1769). Heller does not elaborate on what is meant by “dangerous and unusual weapons,” and the legal history since Northampton provides little in the way of a clear definition of the phrase. Nonetheless many assumptions and unfounded assertions have been made. Fortunately, a number of 17th- and 18th-century treaties provide useful interpretive context (W. Blackstone, 4 Commentaries on the Laws of England 148-149 (1769), W. Hawkins, Treatise on the Pleas of the Crown ch 63 § 4 (1716). These texts consistently demonstrate that there was no general prohibition on carrying common arms, but instead a specific prohibition on arms deemed “dangerous and unusual.”

LCMs are in common use in society today. In the context of this case, the California legislature has accepted that they play an important role in protecting public safety and property, though the AGCA attempts to downplay this fact. California allows federal, state, and local law enforcement to use LCMs in the course and scope their official duties. In addition, private security personnel, such as armored vehicle employees, are also permitted to use LCMs in the state of California for self-defense and the protection of property. In allowing the use of LCM’s not only by the police but also by certain private security personnel, the state acknowledges the public safety benefit LCMs provide. Given this, it must be asked why – if LCMs provide a demonstrable and valued public safety benefit in

the hands of the police and certain private security personnel – the same benefit would be denied to law-abiding citizens?

2. California allows private security firms to use LCMs for their protection, but not private citizens – though both groups provide for public safety

Many U.S. laws are rooted in the English legal system and can be illuminated by an appreciation of their lineage. In the English tradition, the average citizen played a central role in providing law enforcement and protection for society. Emerging around the time of King Alfred (c 871), this tradition persisted for hundreds of years and was more formally codified with the Statute of Winchester (1285), which included provisions for arming the people, making arrests, and raising the “hue and cry” to apprehend offenders. The Statute of Winchester also established unpaid constables and watchmen—private citizens who functioned as security for the community.

This system lasted through our founding and was the primary method of law enforcement at the time. One of the roles of the militia in colonial America and after the Revolution was law enforcement. (See Article 1 Section 8 Clause 15.) Professional law enforcement agencies did not arise until the mid-19th century, and it was not until 1878, with the passage of the Posse Comitatus Act that military and law enforcement functions were formally separated (*Heller* at 716, Breyer dissent).

The Maryland State Police pays homage to this long-standing tradition on its website:

“Under English common law, every person had an active responsibility for keeping the peace...The responsibility included crime prevention through vigilance and the apprehension of suspected lawbreakers by groups of persons raising the ‘hue and cry’ or the more official ‘posse comitatus.’”

This was the most practical system, given the rural conditions in England and America at the time (J. Malcolm, *To Keep and Bear Arms* 2 (1994)). It was not without its limitations, however, as there was no institutional means to prosecute felons; that was the job of the victim (Beattie, J. M., *Policing and Punishment in London, 1660-1750: Urban Crime and the Limits of Terror*. p. 226 (2001); Sklansky, *The Private Police*, 46 *UCLA L. Rev.* 1165, 1198 (1999)).

With the rise of industrialization in the U.S., many companies began to hire private police to protect their interests, which led to the emergence of private security companies. Today, in fact, in the U.S., the number of security personnel employed by private security companies outnumbers public police by a factor of three to two.

However effective, the role of the police is inherently limited. Because the government has limited resources, there are limits to the degree of safety the government can provide. This is not merely a practical issue; it is a legal issue as

well. As explained in *Warren v. DC*, 444 A. 2d 1 (DCCA 1981), “...courts have without exception concluded that when a municipality or other governmental entity undertakes to furnish police services, it assumes a duty only to the public at large and not to individual members of the community” *Id.* at 4. In that case, the District of Columbia was found to have based its case on the “uniformly accepted rule...that a government and its agents are under no general duty to provide public services, such as police protection, to any particular individual citizen” *Id.* at 4.

Consistently, courts have ruled that public safety, through the government’s police power interests, is owed to the public at large and not to any specific individual. (*Warren v. DC*, 444 A. 2d 1 (DCCA 1981), *Fried v. Archer*, 775 A. 2d 430 (Md. Ct. Spec. App.), 2001, *Castle Rock v. Gonzales*, 545 U.S. 748 (2005), *DeShaney v. Winnebago County*, 489 U.S. 189 (1989)). Therefore, the government has no interest in the protection of any specific individual because it cannot deliver protection at the individual level.

Private security firms address the security gap that police are unable to fill; their services supplement those of the police. In the state of California, both law enforcement and certain private security companies are allowed to use LCMs. For many individuals, particularly those who may not enjoy the protection of private security, the right to keep and bear arms similarly addresses the security gap that police, through no fault of their own, are unable to fill. Yet private citizens – unlike

the personnel employed by certain private security firms – are denied the protections that LCMs provide, as acknowledged by the state of California. This unequal application of the law is unfair and unjustified. It unnecessarily endangers citizens, and it should not be upheld.

3. Data does not demonstrate the regulation will alleviate gun violence in a direct and material way.

It's been established that Second Amendment rights cases are to be held to the standard of intermediate scrutiny, at a minimum (*Heller*). At the core of this standard is the requirement for the government to draw "reasonable inferences based on substantial evidence" because the government "must demonstrate . . . that the regulation will in fact alleviate these harms in a direct and material way." *Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. FCC*, 512 U.S. 622, 664 (1994). When courts fail to uphold this essential requirement, they fail to maintain the standard of intermediate scrutiny. Without substantial evidence, the intermediate scrutiny standard devolves to the lower order of the rational basis standard, which does not require substantial evidence. Instead, rational basis cases may be decided on the basis of "rational speculation *unsupported by evidence or empirical data*." *FCC v. Beach Communications, Inc.* 508 U.S. 307, 315 (1993) (Emphasis added.) Rational basis inappropriate for fundamental rights, such as those comprised by the Second Amendment, *Heller* at 628. Infamously, in the *Korematsu* decision, the court failed to properly evaluate the evidence and, instead, accepted at face value the

government's assessment of the evidence. This abnegation of the court's proper role compromised the constitutional rights of American citizens rather than protecting them – and serves as both an analogy for past Second Amendment cases and an object lesson for future ones.

Cutonilli's Amicus Brief in Opposition and his panel Amicus Brief enumerates unfounded inferences made by the AGCA and presents four reasons why the evidence presented by the AGCA does not demonstrate that the proposed regulation will in fact alleviate threats that LCMs pose to public safety and police officers. They are:

1. The data shows that the proposed ten-round limit will not prevent gun violence.

2. There is insufficient data to demonstrate that banning LCMs will mitigate gun violence.

3. The data on the number of shots fired is based on incomplete data and unfounded assumptions.

4. LCMs are rarely used by NYC Law Enforcement Personnel yet are still beneficial.

This brief expands on numbers 2 and 3 above, with further information on the data on the number of shots fired as well as the insufficiency of the data used to

demonstrate that banning LCMs will mitigate gun violence. It also enumerated additional faulty inferences made by the AGCA.

For example, one unreasonable inference that the AGCA makes is that the data demonstrates that LCM's are not needed for self-defense. An AGCA expert, Allen, uses the NRA's Armed Citizen database to support this inference. It is critical to recognize that 64% of these reports (June 2016 to May 2017) do not identify the number of rounds fired. Therefore, Court should understand that using this data to demonstrate that 10 or fewer round will effectively provide for all self-defense situations is an unreasonable inference given how little "shots fired" data is in these reports. Note that a copy of the reports from June 2016 to May 2017 is included in the appendix to this brief for the Court's review.

The AGCA makes two additional unreasonable inferences: 1. that pauses in shooting caused by reloading mitigate lethality, and 2. that banning LCMs will increase such pauses. Allen provides data related to 96 mass shootings in Appendix B of her report. However, not all of these shooting can be used to determine if pauses or magazine capacity may be relevant. Only 42 of the 96 (44%) shootings included the number of rounds fired and only 6 of the 42 (14%) of the relevant shootings did not involve LCMs. Based on the subset of relevant shootings, analysis shows the following:

- The number of rounds fired per casualty (killed or wounded) varies between 1 and 20 rounds with an average of around 3.5 rounds per casualty.
- While there are significant variations among the shootings as a whole, there are not significant variations between shootings where LCM are present and where they are not present when evaluated on the number of rounds fired per casualty.
- The variance in the number of deaths between LCM and non-LCM shootings is more attributable to happenstance than to the difference in magazine capacity. This is because the number of deaths is related to the number of rounds fired rather than the size of magazines and the law in question does not restrict the number of rounds that can be fired.
- Fewer than 10% of the cases involved the firing of 10 or fewer rounds while the average number of rounds fired is more than 60.
- The fact that 64 rounds fired is the average would indicate that magazine changes are very common during mass shootings, even when LCMs are used. Almost no data is available on the benefits of those magazine changes.

One of the main pieces of evidence supporting the AGCA's unreasonable inference that reloading pauses mitigate gun violence is the Newtown shooting incident. A more in-depth analysis shows that these pauses are not as useful as the AGCA claims. According to the CT State's Attorney report of the incident, 154

spent rifle cases were recovered along with three empty magazines, three partially empty magazines, and additional ammunition on the shooter. Two live rounds were also found (one in each classroom). The State's Attorney report stated that a "CSP-ESU" (CT State Police Emergency Services Unit) report described that the rifle used appears to have jammed. When the rifle was later tested, it functioned properly. The two live rounds would suggest that some kind of feeding malfunction may have occurred. Based on the rounds fired and the number of partially empty magazines, there would have been six magazine changes during the incident. The two live rounds suggest that two additional pauses occurred. Despite eight likely pauses in the shooting, the AGCA can identify only one instance in which a pause of some kind, perhaps unrelated entirely to reloading, allowed some children to escape. The evidence produced by the AGCA does not demonstrate the precise circumstances or causes that allowed for this escape, though assertions are made. Conversely, given the number of magazine changes based on the number of rounds fired, one might assume based on the AGCA's argument, that reloading pauses proved beneficial to more of these reloadings, yet not such evidence is brought forward.

What is clear from the AGCA's evidence is that is that these mass shootings generally stop when the perpetrator is confronted by police or bystanders. Another AGCA expert, (Klarevas) provides seven examples (including Tucson) of

bystanders stopping the perpetrator. In four of the seven examples, the shooter was prevented from killing more than three people. However, the AGCA fails to connect these beneficial confrontations with pauses to reload, which might have strengthened his case. According to the AGCA's expert, there are a countless number of examples of direct confrontations with shooters leading to cessation of the shooting.

4. The LCM ban is Overbroad

One of the requirements for intermediate scrutiny is that the proposed law be narrowly tailored to the government interest and not burden more of the individual's right than is absolutely necessary. The *Turner Broadcasting* (*Turner* at 682) case made the point this way:

"A regulation is not 'narrowly tailored' - even under the more lenient [standard applicable to content-neutral restrictions] - where ... a substantial portion of the burden on speech does not serve to advance [the State's content neutral] goals." *Simon & Schuster*, 502 U. S., at 122, n. (internal quotation marks omitted). If the government wants to avoid littering, it may ban littering, but it may not ban all leafleting. *Schneider v. State (Town of Irvington)*, 308 U. S. 147 (1939). If the government wants to avoid fraudulent political fundraising, it may bar the fraud, but it may not in the process prohibit legitimate fundraising. *Schaumburg v. Citizens for a Better Environment*, 444 U. S. 620 (1980); see also *Edenfield v. Fane*, 507 U. S. 761, 776-777 (1993). If the government wants to protect householders from unwanted solicitors, it may enforce "No Soliciting" signs that the householders put up, but it may not cut off access to homes whose residents are willing to hear what the solicitors have to say. *Martin v. City of*

Struthers, 319 U. S. 141 (1943). "Broad prophylactic rules in the area of free expression are suspect. Precision of regulation must be the touchstone " NAACP v. Button, 371 U. S. 415, 438 (1963) (citations omitted).

In some cases, however, a law may appear to be narrowly tailored to the government interest, but still may reduce more of the right than is necessary. Korematsu provides a relevant object lesson. In this case, the Supreme Court upheld an executive order causing the internment of approximately 120,000 Japanese-Americans. While acknowledging that most of those who were interned were "no doubt were loyal to this country," *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 US 214, 219 (1944) the Court seemed blinded to the fact that the internment order was overbroad.

As with Korematsu, where the rights of many law-abiding citizens were drastically compromised because of the criminality of some, it is typical for gun control advocates to seek to deny the rights of law-abiding citizens because of the criminal behavior of others. It may be claimed that a restriction on LCMs places only narrow limitations on Second Amendment rights by banning a specific type of weapon. However, such a restriction cannot be said to be narrowly tailored if it infringes upon the rights of millions of law-abiding gun owners to use a common weapon in widespread use among citizens, private security personnel, and police. The Court should find that these laws are overbroad and not narrowly tailored

because they punish the vast majority of gun owners that possess and use LCMs for lawful purposes.

CONCLUSION

This brief demonstrates why LCMs are commonly used. It provides additional analysis of public safety, the limits of the government's interest in public safety as well as the role law-abiding individuals play in providing public safety. It points out the insubstantial nature of the data used by California to justify the law in question and the logical fallacies inherent in their analysis of that data. This brief makes clear why the law will not alleviate the harms it proposes to address in a direct and material way. It also demonstrates the overbroad nature of the California Law.

The judgment of the district court should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John Cutonilli
John Cutonilli
P.O. Box 372
Garrett Park, MD 20896
(410) 675-9444
jcutonilli@gmail.com

21 May 2021

APPENDIX

American Rifleman Armed Citizen June 2016-May 2017

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

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An escaped convict who probably figured he had nothing to lose by committing a crime while he was on the run was wrong: He lost his life. The former inmate broke into a Vicksburg, Miss., home to hide out. With a knife in hand, he corralled a man and his family into the bathroom, where the criminal tied up the man and held the family hostage. Eventually, the bound man broke free and attacked the escapee. The bad guy overpowered the homeowner, though, and stabbed him in the shoulder. Shortly thereafter, the homeowner's wife persuaded the intruder to let her leave the bathroom to take care of something. She returned with a gun and shot the escapee. She then freed her husband, who shot the suspect again, killing him. The escaped con, who had been jailed on suspicion of murder, had been on the lam for about a week since breaking out of the Warren County jail. (*The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, Miss., 3/10/16)

In a battle with a hatchet-wielding masked man, an armed citizen saved the day at a 7-Eleven store in Washington state. One Sunday morning, the armed citizen was drinking coffee at a table in the convenience store when a man with a hatchet came in and started swinging at a customer and a store employee. The 60-year-old holder of a concealed-carry permit drew his gun and fired. The initial investigation found no wrongdoing on the part of the armed citizen, according to the King County Sheriff's Department. (*The Seattle Times*, Seattle, Wash., 3/13/16)

When a man broke into a home in Bangor, Mich., he found himself staring down the barrel of a shotgun held by a female resident. The woman had been entertaining friends when they heard suspicious noises outside. While the guests went outside to investigate, the woman grabbed her shotgun. After the stranger broke in, she held him at gunpoint until the police arrived. (WWMT.com, Kalamazoo, Mich., 3/7/16)

Dinner took an unexpected turn for an off-duty security guard who shot and killed one of two armed thugs who tried to rob him. The guard, who was on a late dinner break but was armed, was eating in the parking lot of a 24-hour Whataburger restaurant. The two criminals approached the diner. When the guard saw that at least one of the two miscreants had a gun, he pulled his own gun

and killed the armed robber. That man's cohort fled, but he was later detained. (*San Antonio Express-News*, San Antonio, Texas, 3/18/16)

One employee responded to screams of "active shooter" at his workplace by running out to his car, retrieving his gun, tracking down the shooter and holding him at gunpoint until the authorities arrived. The incident occurred at a Jacksonville, Fla., landscaping company, when a disgruntled employee shot and killed his supervisor. Someone who heard the shots called 911, but it was the armed citizen's quick action that prevented the malcontent from fleeing the scene. The suspect was later arrested and charged with one count of murder. (CBS47 and FOX30, Jacksonville, Fla., 3/10/16)

A 71-year-old Virginia man refused to fall prey to a couple of teenage ruffians who targeted him during an armed robbery attempt; instead, he drew his carry handgun and shot one of the teens to death. The two hoodlums approached the man in an apartment complex. One flashed a gun and then they demanded his valuables. They

probably didn't expect him to have a gun on him or that he'd be prepared to use it. But the man didn't hesitate to defend himself, shooting an 18-year-old in the chest and chasing off his younger accomplice. Police have since cleared the man, saying the shooting was self-defense, and a 15-year-old has been charged for his role in the attempted armed robbery. (*Daily Press*, Hampton, Va., 3/14/16)

Some thug who thought a disabled North Carolinian might be a pushover during a home invasion found out otherwise. The Hickory retiree heard someone knocking, but he didn't answer the door. Next, he heard glass shattering as the burglar kicked in the back door. The homeowner grabbed his .22-cal. revolver and shot three times at the intruder, striking him twice. "I felt like I was about to have a heart attack," the resident said. "I didn't want to do this, but I had to." The suspect fled, but police found him at a lounge that was about a mile away. He was taken to a medical center for treatment. Charges were expected to be filed against him. (*Hickory Daily Record*, Hickory, N.C., 2/17/16) ★

If you have a firsthand "Armed Citizen" experience, call NRA-ILA PR/Communications at (703) 267-3820.

Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts. Send clippings via e-mail to armedcitizen@nrahq.org, or by mail to "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. For bonus features, visit "The Armed Citizen Blog" at americanrifleman.org. **View this column online at nrapublications.org.**

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Instilling a respect for the principle of self-defense in her son is one reason why an 88-year-old Chicago woman survived a break-in. The elderly mother was awakened one night by the sound of a gunshot. Fortunately, it had come from her son, who fended off someone who was trying to enter the house through a window. Keeping guns around for self-defense is a practice the elderly woman has followed since her husband was shot and killed during a home invasion more than 50 years ago. "My son said he wasn't going to let that somebody come in that window. He knew those boys came in the house and killed his father. He wasn't going to let somebody come in the house and kill me," the mother told television reporters after the incident. The suspect was taken to a hospital and treated for his injuries. (abc7chicago.com, Chicago, Ill., 3/28/16)

Shots rang out in a suburb of Pittsburgh when a homeowner protected his property from four juveniles who were breaking into the home. The boys were trying to enter the home through a window that housed an air conditioner. The armed citizen grabbed his .380 ACP handgun and confronted the intruders. He fired multiple shots, wounding two of the teens. All four of the suspects fled. One of the wounded was found on a nearby bridge; the second was found at a relative's house. The two uninjured accomplices were also caught. All have been charged and placed in a juvenile detention facility. Officials said the homeowner was within his rights to defend his home. (Tribune-Review, Pittsburgh, Pa., 3/23/16)


Bad guys who think the elderly and disabled make an easy target better think twice. An elderly man in Missouri, who relies on an oxygen tank, got the better of two ruffians who broke into his home as part of an attempt to steal the man's prescription drugs. The armed citizen was acquainted with one of the would-be thieves, police said, but apparently the bad guy didn't know him well enough to know he kept a gun for defensive purposes. The two men, police said, approached the door and knocked. Since the homeowner recognized one, he opened the door. The suspects, one of whom had a mask over his face, bullied themselves in, pushed the resident aside and started to rifle through his belongings. The citizen grabbed his

gun and shot one intruder in the abdomen. (dailyjournalonline.com, Park Hills, Mo., 4/1/16)

Police officers responding to a report of gunshots in Georgia learned that a disabled veteran used his Smith & Wesson M&P to save his life. The man said he was awakened early in the morning when two men, claiming to be police, tried to break into his mobile home. When he checked a video surveillance device, though, the resident had a good idea that they were not police officers. The two armed thugs allegedly fired at the homeowner first, who fired back. No one was injured, but bullet holes that pock-marked the man's trailer were visible for the real police to see. "My gun saved my life," the man told reporters afterward. (WTOG, Savannah, Ga., 3/30/16)

One of two men charged with murder after a friend of theirs was killed by an armed citizen during a robbery should have been in prison at the time of the alleged murder/robbery. The criminal was free on bond and awaiting a sentencing of up to five

years for a previous assault. Instead of showing up at his February sentencing, he skipped out, and he and some friends allegedly went on a spree of home invasions. One turned deadly for his cohort after a homeowner shot him. The two surviving accomplices face murder charges because someone was killed during a felony. (The Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio, 4/8/16)

A West Virginia man was savvy enough to suspect that a young woman who knocked on his door and asked to use the phone might be up to no good. So before he opened the door, he armed himself. He was right. As soon as the door was ajar, two male suspects also hustled into the home. They threatened the resident and demanded that he hand over his valuables. The elderly homeowner instead pulled out a gun and fired multiple times, hitting each of the male intruders. The female accomplice escaped the fray. One of the shooting victims was pronounced dead at the scene. The other was treated for his wounds. He and the woman face charges. (wvmetronews.com, Fairmont, W.Va., 4/19/16) 

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Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts. Send clippings via e-mail to armedcitizen@nrahq.org, or by mail to "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. For bonus features, visit "The Armed Citizen Blog" at americanrifleman.org. View this column online at nrapublications.org.

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Two armed citizens who witnessed a drug deal gone bad in New Mexico used their guns to hold a shooter captive until the police arrived to take the suspect into custody. Officers were called to respond to a 7-Eleven after dispatchers received reports of a ruckus. Two men apparently had been fighting over drugs near the parking lot of the convenience store. One of the bad guys pulled a gun and fired several rounds, hitting the other man involved in the drug deal in the leg and nearly shooting some bystanders. Two armed citizens, seeing passersby endangered, tackled the shooter. After they took him down, each pulled a handgun and made sure neither bad guy could flee the area. The shooter faces charges of aggravated assault and other local charges, and the Albuquerque, N.M., police said federal charges are possible because he was a convicted felon who was illegally in possession of a firearm. (*Albuquerque Journal*, Albuquerque, N.M., 5/19/16)

Being confined to a wheelchair doesn't mean you can't protect yourself, as a case in Georgia indicates. A disabled Vietnam veteran used a gun to fend off a home intruder after the interloper had forced his way into the veteran's home, Georgia Bureau of Investigation authorities said. The homeowner shot when the outsider lunged toward him after gaining entry to the residence. The bullet hit the suspect in the chest. The bad guy ran away after being shot, but he collapsed outside the home and was pronounced dead after being taken to a nearby hospital. (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Atlanta, Ga., 5/21/16)

When a serial armed robber was on the loose in Indiana, just the threat of being shot by a targeted victim was enough to bring his spree to an end. The robbery suspect accosted a woman and flashed a gun at her. Instead of cowering in fear, she pulled out her own concealed handgun, and he turned and ran away. Police caught the fleeing suspect and ended up linking him to a string of break-ins and robberies in the area. The suspect was arrested and charged in connection with possession of a stolen handgun, possession of stolen property and other related crimes. (*Fox59*, Kokomo, Ind., 5/17/16)

An order to keep her former boyfriend away wasn't enough to deter him from harassing her, but a handgun was. Police say a woman

in Lexington, Ky., shot a man who failed to comply with a court order to stay away from her. The man, who was shot multiple times, was taken to the University of Kentucky Hospital for treatment. (WKYT, Lexington, Ky., 5/10/16)

Amid-afternoon attempted armed robbery backfired for the criminal, who ended up being shot to death by an armed citizen at the Tennessee clothing store he was trying to rob. Officials did not confirm whether the shooter was a store employee. Few of the Extreme Gear customers had much sympathy for the bad guy. "The young people don't believe in nothing but to take, and that's it," one customer told a TV reporter. The suspect was taken to the hospital, where he was listed in critical condition. He died later that night. (WMC Action News 5, Memphis, Tenn., 5/3/16)

Fear for his family's safety was the reason a man in Shoreline, Wash., used a handgun to thwart an early-morning break-in at the family home. The homeowner was awakened around 3 a.m. by the sound of someone yelling and kicking at the door. The resident

ushered his wife and two children to one room of the home for safety. Then he grabbed his gun, a 9 mm Luger, and his older daughter called 911. While the daughter was talking to dispatchers, the family heard the sound of shattering glass. The head of the household went to see what was going on and saw that the intruder had used a piece of lawn furniture to break a window. The suspect saw the homeowner and started moving toward him. The armed citizen shot in response. Police said no charges were expected to be filed against the resident. (KOMOnews.com, Seattle, Wash., 5/5/16)

Home schooling taught an 11-year-old Alabama boy the value of self-defense. The boy was in his home alone when someone broke in. The boy grabbed a handgun and hid while the intruder went upstairs. When the bad guy came down the stairs carrying a hamper full of stuff, he told the boy he was going to kill him and hurled obscenities at the youth. At that point, the boy started firing. The youth credited his stepfather with teaching him how to use a gun for protection. (WVTM-TV, Talladega, Ala., 4/28/16) ★

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A Detroit-area man used a gun to save himself and his wife from two armed intruders. The criminals accosted the couple outside of their home, then ordered them inside the house and into the basement. With a gun pointed at his head, all Daniel McNamara could think about was how to get to his firearm that he kept in the basement. After the intruders took the couple's wedding rings, cell phones and wallets, one of the miscreants turned to head out of the basement. That's when McNamara found his opportunity. He grabbed his gun and fired two shots, hitting one bad guy before both fled. "Of course I was scared. Who wouldn't be?" McNamara told reporters. "Some goon has a gun to your head and tells you he's going to shoot you because you've seen his face." The injured suspect was arrested at the hospital. There was no report of his accomplice being caught. (WXYZ-TV, Detroit, Mich., 5/24/16)

When a burglar gets a verbal warning to stop what he's doing, it might serve him well to take heed. But someone who was trying to break into a Wilson, N.C., home didn't—and he paid the price. North Carolina law enforcement officials said no charges will be filed against the homeowner, who shot through the door and killed a would-be intruder. "I didn't have no choice but to stop him," the resident told a local TV news reporter. "I didn't want him to come in and hurt me." Police said the homeowner had yelled at the man before firing. (WRAL, Raleigh, N.C., 5/24/16)

Florida prosecutors have ruled that a woman was within her rights to shoot and kill her estranged husband when he was physically assaulting her son. During a birthday party for the boy, the teen and his former stepfather got into a dispute outside near the grill. People inside the house heard a loud thump and the boy's mother went outside to see what was going on. Official reports say the woman saw the two brawling. When she tried to intervene, her estranged husband grabbed her and threw her to the ground. He also verbally threatened to kill the boy. The mother got off the ground and went in to get her handgun. She fired two shots, and the man later died at the hospital. (Ocala.com, Ocala, Fla., 5/26/16)

Memorial Day shoppers, including one armed citizen, chased down a suspected thief in Wichita, Kan. Several people in the

parking lot of the shopping center witnessed a purse-snatching while a woman was loading shopping bags into her car. A couple responded by running after the man. Once they cornered him, one armed bystander held the troublemaker at gunpoint until the police arrived. (KWCH-TV, Wichita, Kan., 5/30/16)

Marriage is about teamwork, and an Indianapolis couple illustrated that by pairing up to shoot a home invader. All three family members were sleeping early one morning, when sounds of an intrusion awakened them. The husband confronted the bad guy with a shotgun, but the stranger tried to wrest the gun from the husband's control. The wife, seeing the struggle, grabbed another firearm and told the suspect to back off. He did not comply. Both homeowners ended up firing their guns at some point, fatally wounding the criminal. They cooperated with police and were not charged. (*Indianapolis Star*, Indianapolis, Ind., 5/31/16)

A district attorney in Pennsylvania praised a pharmacy owner who shot and killed a robber, calling the shooting a "public service." Police

said an armed man donned a Halloween mask, got out of a vehicle and went into the Bucks County pharmacy. The businessman caught a glimpse of something suspicious on security monitors and saw that the suspect was trying to conceal a shotgun in an umbrella. The pharmacy owner warned the man several times, but the interloper kept coming toward him and jumped a counter. Investigators said the businessman fired nearly a dozen shots, hitting the bad guy several times. The accomplice, who had stayed in the vehicle, was arrested when police arrived. (WPVI-TV, Philadelphia, Pa., 6/3/16)

In South Carolina, a woman who was assaulted by her husband in front of their child shot the man in the leg to protect herself and their child. Police had a hard time sorting out the details because the husband and wife gave conflicting accounts of the dispute, but at some point the man allegedly had his hands around the woman's neck in front of their 12-year-old daughter. The husband was charged in connection with domestic violence and unlawful conduct toward a child; the woman was not charged because she acted in self-defense, police said. (*The Aiken Standard*, Aiken, S.C., 6/1/16) 

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Sneaking into someone's home overnight turned out to be a poor decision for a bad guy in Snellville, Ga. Shortly before 4 a.m. one day in July, a husband and wife were awakened by the sound of someone attempting to break into their home. The male homeowner retrieved his gun and went to investigate. He discovered a man had put a ladder up against the house and was attempting to climb through the window of the master bathroom. The resident fired at the would-be burglar, and one of the homeowners called 911. While the police were interviewing him, the armed citizen said he was unsure whether the shot had hit the man who was breaking in. A subsequent search found the bad guy lying dead on the roof. Officers determined that the homeowners were within their rights to defend themselves, and they were not charged. (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Atlanta, Ga., 7/29/16)

A good guy with a gun kept a multiple-victim shooting near a Lyman, S.C., nightclub from becoming worse. One man got into an argument with another outside the club. He pulled out a gun and fired multiple times into a crowd, injuring three people. One bystander, who was carrying legally, returned fire, striking the shooter in the leg and ending the gunplay. (FoxCarolina.com, Charlotte, N.C., 6/26/16)

You've heard of being in someone's doghouse? Well, criminal behavior put one suspect on top of someone's doghouse in Lady Lake, Fla. A homeowner was pulling into his driveway, with his wife and mother-in-law in the car, when he noticed that the door of a client's car he was repairing was open. A moment later, he saw a trespasser—dressed only in a tank top and underwear—running away from the car and into the backyard, busting open a gate in his attempt to flee. The armed citizen pulled his gun and directed the thief to freeze. The suspect, who had climbed on top of a doghouse to try to get away, stayed on that perch until the police arrived and took him into custody. (*Sun Sentinel*, Palm Beach, Fla., 7/21/16)

Ohio officials recently awarded armed citizen Dylan DeBoard with a Citizens Award of Valor for his role in saving a police officer who was struggling to arrest a drug suspect. Cpl. Michael Wheeler, of the Mount Vernon Police Department, was trying to apprehend a man in June.

The suspect became aggressive and, during the ensuing altercation, tried to grab the policeman's firearm. DeBoard, who carries legally, approached with his handgun at the ready and ordered the bad guy to stop what he was doing. The alleged criminal raised his hands and Wheeler completed the arrest without further incident. (*Mount Vernon News*, Mount Vernon, Ohio, 7/26/16)

Maternal love knows no bounds, as a defensive shooting in Oregon shows. A mother and her two children returned home one weekend and stumbled upon a stranger in her 10-year-old daughter's bedroom. The woman drew her gun and fired one shot, killing the intruder. Portland police investigated and said that the man apparently entered the home by climbing in through a back window. The mother and her children had only recently moved into the home, and neighbors said some squatters had been there off and on while the house was vacant. (KOIN.com, Portland, Ore., 6/26/16)

Police said they won't charge a New Mexico man who shot someone to protect his daughter. Albuquerque

law officers responded to a "shots fired" call and found a 40-year-old man with multiple gunshot wounds to his legs. The investigation revealed that the wounded man, an ex-boyfriend of the daughter, was armed and was trying to gain entry to the residence. The man had a history of allegedly making threats against the woman, and police said the father will not be charged. (KRQE.com, Albuquerque, N.M., 6/24/16)

Detroit carjacking suspects got a surprise when they picked an armed citizen as their target. Two men in a vehicle drove up near a man in his car late one evening. One of the criminals then got out, walked toward his target, pulled a gun and ordered the driver to exit his car. The motorist acted like he was complying, but he held a surprise for his attackers—he had a license to carry and was armed. After he got out of his automobile, the assailant and the driver exchanged gunfire, with the attacker taking a shot to the body. The injured bad guy climbed back into his car and his accomplice took him to a hospital. Police later arrested the suspects. (*The Detroit News*, Detroit, Mich., 7/26/16) ★

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You're never really too old to defend yourself. In Eastpointe, Mich., a 91-year-old man was getting out of his car outside of a pharmacy when he noticed a man approaching him in a threatening manner. The armed citizen declared that he was a permit holder. He waited in his car until the stranger disappeared. But when he got out a little while later to enter the store, the assailant came toward him and raised a weapon over his head at the older man. Warning the miscreant that he was armed, the 91-year-old pulled his .38 Spl.-chambered revolver from his side and opened fire, striking the attacker in the neck. "It doesn't have to be a gun or a knife," said Eric Keiser, Eastpointe deputy police chief. "The suspect had a piece of metal fashioned as a weapon. [The armed citizen] felt his life was in danger." The suspect was transported to an area hospital and was later charged. (MacombDaily.com, Eastpointe, Mich., 8/23/16)

An assailant in West Philadelphia, Pa., lost his life after attacking his ex-girlfriend. The man tried to enter the residence through a downstairs kitchen window. Not one to stand idly by, the woman's new boyfriend pushed the attacker back through the window and temporarily kept him at bay. Undeterred, the assailant made his way up to a second-floor bedroom window and successfully entered the home that way. The woman attempted to defend the home and got into an altercation with him. Her current boyfriend came to her defense, pulling a gun and firing a single shot at the intruder. Officers arrived, and the injured attacker was transported to a local hospital, where he later died. (ABC 6, West Philadelphia, Pa., 8/25/16)


Sleeping on the job gave a store manager the element of surprise so he could take down a bad guy. As closing time was approaching, a manager at a local supermarket in Waterloo, Iowa, decided to take a short nap behind a counter in his store while another employee worked with customers. The manager was awakened by loud talking and heard repeated demands of "Give me money." Looking up, the manager saw a male intruder who was pointing a gun at the store clerk. "He didn't see me before. When he saw me, he pointed the gun to me and said, 'Don't move,'" the manager recalled in a news interview. As the gunman turned his attention back to the clerk, the manager reached for a 9 mm Luger semi-automatic

he had stowed. The bad guy and the manager exchanged fire, with a bullet striking the troublemaker. The intruder then fled. Police later found and arrested the suspect. (WCCourier.com, Waterloo, Iowa, 8/29/16)

In Oregon, a 15-year-old boy taught a home intruder a lesson. The boy was home alone when he heard someone enter the abode. The teen retrieved a shotgun. When he saw the intruder, he fired and shot the man in the leg. "The juvenile was in fear of his safety, my initial conclusion is that the shooting ... was a justifiable use of force," said District Attorney Paul Frasier. (*The World*, Myrtle Point, Ore., 8/6/16)

One criminal paid the price for messing with a mother's son after a recent attempted robbery in Augusta, Ga. One Sunday, two men with crowbars entered a Subway restaurant. When the two men began to act suspiciously, the employee behind the counter went to retrieve a firearm from her purse. After one of the alleged robbers struck her 14-year-old son, who was standing behind the counter, in the back

of the head, the armed citizen opened fire and put two rounds into one of the assailants. The owner of the franchise said he supported his employee's right to carry a firearm for defensive purposes. The suspect who was shot died, and police later apprehended his alleged accomplice. (WRDW 12, Augusta, Ga., 8/25/16)

A good Samaritan came to the aid of a neighbor during a domestic dispute that ended in the death of the aggressor. In Gonzales, La., a man in his home heard people arguing outside. He went to investigate. The neighbor approached the two people—a man and a woman—who were arguing and was accosted by the male. The instigator pointed a handgun at the good Samaritan, who in turn drew his own firearm and shot. When police officers arrived, they determined that the man who had been arguing with the woman was dead. The police said that charges would not be filed against the armed citizen, saying that he ended a dispute that might have led to the death of the woman. (ABC 2, Gonzales, La., 8/20/16) 

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Three Philadelphia residents survived an attack by an armed assailant, thanks to a woman who relied upon a gun for self-defense. A pastor, his wife and his son were on their way home from a concert at a local church. As the man and his son were walking to their house, the father saw a stranger who was hunched over and holding a rifle. That man approached the father and son as they were stepping onto their porch. The bad guy demanded the pastor's wallet. After the outsider lunged toward the pastor, the two men tussled for control of the rifle. During the struggle the father yelled at his son to run away, and the assailant struck the pastor on the head. The pastor's wife, who had stayed in the car gathering her belongings, then came to her husband's defense, pulling a handgun from her purse and demanding that the bad guy drop his rifle. The troublemaker then pointed his firearm at her, and she shot him. The attacker limped away. Police later apprehended the man, who had sustained a gunshot wound to the leg. (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia, Pa., 9/17/16)

Bank robbery doesn't pay when an armed citizen steps up to stop the crime. In Homewood, Ala., a man walked into a local bank and held it up. The hooligan, with a piece of cloth wrapped around his hand as if to hide a gun, ordered the people inside to huddle into a corner and hand over their cell phones. As he got ready to leave the bank, the robber pointed the cloth-covered hand at the bank patrons. An armed citizen saw that as an opportunity, pulling out his concealed firearm and firing at the would-be robber. "I was thinking a lot of people's lives were in danger and my life was in danger, too. He pointed whatever he had at us, so I fired a shot at him," said the citizen. The shot missed, but the police arrived and arrested the bad guy as he was fleeing. (AL.com, Homewood, Ala., 9/21/16)

A recent carjacking in Lubbock, Texas, resulted in a robber facing several charges after threatening a couple. A man and woman were pulling into their driveway when the criminal approached and pointed a handgun at them. As he ordered the male driver to get out of the vehicle and to hand over cash, the woman in the passenger seat retrieved her firearm and handed it off to her companion. The armed citizen then fired several rounds at the robber, striking him in the leg. Officers found the criminal and booked him. (LubbockOnline.com, Lubbock, Texas, 9/24/16)

Looking for love in Las Vegas could have spelled trouble had the seeker not been armed. A man headed out one night to meet a woman he met online. Upon arriving at the designated location, the would-be suitor discovered that the woman had an accomplice. The pair attempted to rob the man, who retrieved his firearm and opened fire on the male assailant. The criminal was taken to a local hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening. Both suspects were charged. (KVVU-TV, Las Vegas, Nev., 9/22/16)

Sounds of a break-in woke up a woman at her residence in Gwinnett County, Ga., one night. The woman retrieved her handgun and went to check out the disturbance. She saw at least three men coming in through her front door. "At that point she began firing rounds from her handgun and struck at least one suspect in the torso killing him," explained Cpl. Deon Washington, a public information officer for the Gwinnett County Police Department. Another foe fired back at that the woman before he and his accomplice fled the scene. No charges were filed

against the armed citizen. (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Atlanta, Ga., 9/17/16)

In Chicago, a concealed-carry permit holder ward off an attack late one night. As the armed citizen was sitting with another man in his car, two aggressors with guns approached and attempted to rob the two men. The quick-thinking armed citizen thwarted the attack, firing at the bad guys and hitting one of them. The assailant who was shot was later declared dead at the scene, while the second bad guy got away. (DNAInfo.com, Chicago, Ill., 9/29/16)

Hearing the sound of breaking glass from somewhere inside his home, an Amarillo, Texas, homeowner armed himself and decided to investigate. During his reconnaissance, the man saw a gloved hand with a gun in it reaching through the back door. The homeowner then fired his weapon at the person. The assailant fled the residence without getting inside the home. The homeowner was uninjured. (*Amarillo Globe News*, Amarillo, Texas, 9/15/16)

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For those who think that a restraining order can protect a person, remember this: A restraining order is just a piece of paper, and sometimes people don't abide by it; in fact, sometimes people react with violence to the very idea of one. That's one takeaway from a defensive shooting that involved parties from two states. A woman called the police to report a stalker was outside the Los Altos Hills, Calif., home where she was staying. She was on the phone with 911 dispatchers when the suspect forced his way into the home and started shooting at her and others inside the residence. Fortunately, a male resident of the home had grabbed a gun before the intruder entered the house. He shot the bad guy several times. The alleged stalker fled but was later hospitalized and charged with attempted murder. He was then identified as someone the woman had known in Georgia. She had asked for a restraining order against him, though it was unclear if one was issued. (*The Mercury News*, San Jose, Calif., 10/17/16)

Sometimes words are enough when an armed citizen is confronting a troublemaker. In Salt Lake City, Utah, a homeowner said the magic words—I have a gun—and scared off two burglary suspects. A man and his wife were awakened by the sound of their garage alarm going off around 3:30 a.m. one morning. The male resident got his gun and went to see what was happening. He saw a stranger inside the car in the garage and he asked what the man was doing. The suspect's accomplice, who had been waiting in a getaway car, noticed that his buddy was being confronted and approached on foot. At that point, the homeowner said he was armed and both suspects scampered off. (*Salt Lake Tribune*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 10/14/16)

One hunter saved the life of another who was being mauled by a bear. The two were scouting for deer on Chicagof Island, Alaska. "They heard a 'whoof' and then a brown bear emerged from the brush, charging at them," troopers wrote in a media release about the shooting. The bear—a sow that was with two cubs—pinned one hunter on the ground and was clawing him before the other hunter sighted in and shot the bear. The man who was mauled was airlifted to a hospital where he was treated for his injuries. (adn.com, Juneau, Alaska, 10/2/16)

Robbery just doesn't pay when the intended victim is armed. A 26-year-old man who thought that

two people in a parked car would be easy marks paid for that misjudgment with his life. The bad guy approached the car and started to rob its two passengers at gunpoint. But during the event, one of the people in the car pulled his legally owned handgun and shot the perpetrator. The bad guy's accomplice, a 27-year-old woman who was later charged, drove the wounded man to a hospital, but he was pronounced dead on arrival. (*The News Tribune*, Tacoma, Wash., 10/9/16)

Home invaders: If you're asked to leave, save yourself a heap of trouble and just do it—or you might end up dead. That's what happened to an intruder in Wyoming recently. A stranger entered a Sheridan, Wyo., home in the overnight hours one day. The adult male resident told the intruder to turn around and leave. The miscreant refused. The resident then armed himself with a shotgun and again asked the stranger to leave. When the interloper again refused, the armed citizen fired, fatally hitting the trespasser in the chest. (KTVQ, Sheridan, Wyo., 10/16/16)

When a suspect pulled out a note demanding money, the store manager pulled out a gun. The manager of Belmont Market held the alleged robber at gunpoint until the police arrived and arrested the man. He told a news reporter afterward that he was glad he didn't have to shoot. "The people who come here are excellent, so we don't want to see anything ... happening in our neighborhood," the manager said. (WHIO, Dayton, Ohio, 10/13/16)

Keeping guns bedside paid off for an Akron, Ohio, couple. The husband and wife were awakened by noise one morning, but they figured it was just the sound of another family member returning home. A little while later, however, a stranger entered their bedroom. Both residents reached for their guns and held the intruder at gunpoint. When the police arrived and searched the home, they found the man's jacket—with a loaded handgun in the pocket—on the couch in the living room. The man faces multiple charges. (WKYC, Akron, Ohio, 10/17/16) 

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While it's normal for a deputy to protect the public, it's less normal for an everyday citizen to get a chance to return the favor. But that's what happened in Estero, Fla., recently when an armed citizen shot and killed someone who was attacking a law enforcement officer. The deputy and the assailant had been involved in a high-speed car chase on the interstate. After the vehicles came to a stop, the suspect and Deputy Dean Bardes got out of their respective cars. The suspect, who was armed, then started assaulting the law officer. A passerby, who had a license to carry a concealed handgun, stopped and told the attacker to stop beating up the deputy or he'd shoot. The attacker didn't listen, so the armed citizen fired three times, killing the assailant. Bardes was treated and released for his injuries; he was not shot by the armed suspect. (WINK News, Fort Myers, Fla., 11/14/16)

The road can be a dangerous place for anyone—even a carjacker, if he picks a victim who is armed. A woman driving through a Cleveland suburb was cut off in traffic by an SUV. A man exited that vehicle—gun drawn—and approached her car. Fortunately, the woman's 23-year-old son, who is a concealed-carry permit holder, was with her. The young man pulled his firearm in defense and the bad guy fled to his SUV and drove off. Officers later arrested the suspected carjacker. (*Sun Messenger*, Cleveland, Ohio, 11/10/16)

Some burglars just won't quit until they find a place they can break into. But such determination came back to haunt a bad guy in North Carolina. In the town of Benson, police were called before sunrise one November morning and were told that a stranger was "beating on doors in the area" and possibly checking for one that was unlocked. Before the police arrived, the bad guy gained entry to one abode, where the resident had a gun and shot him. The suspect was taken to a medical facility and charges were expected. (WNCN.com, Raleigh, N.C., 11/27/16)

Getting physically removed from a store after causing trouble there apparently bruised a malcontent's ego enough that he sought revenge. After a clerk forcibly escorted an unruly customer from a Sherman, Texas, grocery store, the man threatened to return later. He came back as promised,

accosting the clerk as he made his way to a car after locking up the store. When the troublemaker pulled something out of his waistband, the clerk ran toward an alley, drawing his handgun as a precaution. The suspect, now with a machete in hand, pursued the store worker, who fired in self-defense then went back into the store to call the police. The wounded perpetrator ran off, but he was caught a few minutes later after a nearby resident called for an ambulance because a man had collapsed and needed medical aid. (HeraldDemocrat.com, Sherman, Texas, 11/17/16)

An Idaho teen woke up after hearing a sharp banging noise early one morning. He went to investigate, and he saw his father coming into the kitchen and asked about the noise. The older man had pulled into the driveway a minute earlier and noticed that the garage door was partially open, so he went outside to check and saw a stranger crawling out of a window to a spare bedroom. When the intruder noticed he had been seen, he withdrew back into the spare room. The father and son walked through

the house toward the room, with the boy grabbing a shotgun from the gun cabinet for protection. Seconds later, the burglar opened fire on the pair, who took cover. In a pause after the shots, the boy stepped forward and fired once into the intruder's abdomen. The bad guy was taken to a hospital; both father and son were unharmed. (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise, Idaho, 11/1/16)

Being home alone can leave one vulnerable, but a gun can turn the tables. An Indiana woman, whose spouse was away, was letting her dog out one evening. As she did, a man in a ski mask approached. She told the man to leave, but he didn't heed her warning. The woman ran inside the house, with the attacker on her heels. He threw the woman against a wall. The woman pushed him away, got up and retreated to a bedroom. The intruder pursued her and climbed on top of her on the bed as she fought against him. She struggled to grab her husband's gun, kept near the bed, and fired two shots at the assailant. The aggressor fled and the woman escaped serious injury. (*Daily Journal*, Bargserville, Ind., 10/23/16) 

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Crime doesn't pay in Chile—especially when the victim is an American ex-pat who keeps a gun under her pillow. A 61-year-old yoga instructor was alone in her Batuco, Chile, home when four men broke into her residence. Two of the assailants entered her bedroom, hit her on the head with a gun and prepared to tie her up. But the Texas native, a legal concealed-carry holder in Chile, put up a struggle and grabbed her gun, fatally shooting both men who had tried to bind her. Their two accomplices fled before she could exit the bedroom and shoot them. The local prosecutor said the woman will not face any charges because she acted in self-defense. The nature of the attack was such that the authorities were concerned that the woman might be in further danger, so they arranged security for her temporarily. (*The Dallas Morning News*, Dallas, Texas, 11/25/16)

When two armed thugs kicked in the back door of a home in Worthington, Ky., the female resident showed them they picked the wrong victim. The armed citizen fired at both men, shooting one in the chest. The attackers retreated and jumped off the deck before the one who was shot collapsed and died. No charges were filed against the resident; the surviving alleged intruder was charged with murder because his accomplice died during the commission of a felony. (*The Courier Journal*, Louisville, Ky., 11/21/16)

Trouble sometimes comes knocking at the door, and when it happened recently in Miami, the troublemaker ended up paying for it. Early one morning, a stranger parked in front of the home and started banging heavily on the front door. The homeowner grabbed his gun, yelled that he was armed, then shot when the would-be intruder tried to gain entry. The suspect was taken to the hospital and was listed in critical condition. (*Miami Herald*, Miami, Fla., 11/30/16)

Family ties run deep in Rosharon, Texas, where a man defended his mother-in-law during an armed robbery. While the woman was chatting on the phone with her daughter one day, two armed intruders kicked in the door of her home. The woman's daughter, who lives across the street, told her husband of the commotion on the other end of the line. He then grabbed a shotgun and bolted across the street. There he found his mother-in-law had been forced into a back room and had a gun pointed at


her. He exchanged gunfire with the two bad guys, striking one fatally in the chest. The other fled. The armed citizen faces no charges. (*The Alvin Advertiser*, Alvin, Texas, 11/30/16)

Just the threat of being shot is enough to scare off some intruders, and that resolution was good enough for an Arizona man in his 80s. The elderly armed citizen was awakened one night by the sound of someone rifling through his cabinet drawers. The resident grabbed his handgun and confronted the suspect in the other room, ordering the alleged burglar to lie down and saying, "If you move, I'll blow your head off." The homeowner left that room to call 911, and by the time he returned, the interloper had fled. (*Camp Verde Journal*, Camp Verde, Ariz., 10/19/16)

Emergency dispatchers heard gunshots during a 911 call as a Florida man who was reporting an intrusion had to defend himself. The homeowner saw a vehicle enter the driveway of his Welleby Isles home. Three men exited the car, and two of the assailants hopped a fence leading to the caller's backyard. The resident grabbed and loaded his shotgun and called 911.

He told dispatchers that the bad guys had a brick and were trying to break a window, then he fired several times as one of the intruders entered the home. The wounded man died, and his accomplices fled. The armed citizen will not face charges. (*South Florida Sun Sentinel*, Sunrise, Fla., 12/1/16)

A Philadelphia auto repair shop owner learned the value of being prepared. One evening, a suspect attempted to rob the store. The owner responded by pulling his firearm and shooting the assailant in the shoulder, chest and buttocks. The alleged robber fled and was later arrested and taken to a hospital. (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia, Pa., 12/18/16)

In Chicago, a worker protected his employer's place of business from being knocked off in an attempted robbery. Around 9:45 p.m., two men entered the establishment, announcing to everyone inside that they were going to rob it. The employee pulled his concealed firearm and fired, striking one assailant in the shoulder and the other in the forearm. Both were later arrested, as was a third suspect. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, Chicago, Ill., 11/29/16) 

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Early one morning in March, a family in Fresno, Calif., noticed a man carrying a soda bottle and pouring liquid outside the perimeter of their home. The homeowner grabbed his firearm and went outside to investigate. When he confronted the intruder, the stranger attempted to set the homeowner on fire by tossing what turned out to be gasoline from the bottle onto the armed citizen and flicking a lighter at him. The resident fired a shot at the assailant, who grabbed a board as a weapon. The homeowner fired a second shot, after which the troublemaker dropped the board and acquiesced to the resident, who held the man at gunpoint until police arrived. The suspect was arrested and charged with attempted arson, assault with a deadly weapon and trespassing. Apparently, this was not the first time that the mischief-maker had allegedly damaged the home; two previous incidents in February were what prompted the citizen to buy a gun for protection. (Fresnobee.com, Fresno, Calif., 3/1/17)

In Indiana, a state conservation officer owes his life to an armed citizen. After receiving a call about a suspicious person, the officer approached a vehicle parked on the roadside. The vehicle's owner began to resist and fight the officer as he tried to arrest the loiterer. Noticing the disturbance, a nearby resident came to the officer's aid. She fired one shot, and hit the assailant in the torso. The officer, who suffered assault injuries, and the attacker were taken to the hospital, where the bad guy later died. The woman will not be charged. (*The Enquirer*, Rising Sun, Ind., 2/22/17)

Two people were sitting in a car in Venice, Ill., one morning after a Vietnam veteran had driven his friend home. Two thugs approached, one of whom pulled a gun in an attempted robbery. The veteran drew his own firearm and fired at both men, killing one. "Not only did he save himself, his friend and protect everyone around them, he may have saved another individual's life if these people had continued to do this," said Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons. (*Belleville News-Democrat*, Venice, Ill., 2/4/17)

A lover's spat could have turned lethal if not for the efforts of an armed citizen. The ex-boyfriend of an employee came into the 39-year-old's workplace and began to harass the woman. The offender punched the woman several times before throwing her to the ground. A customer saw the commotion and helped. His intervention made

the woman's ex angry, and he attacked the armed citizen, trying to grab the man's gun. The good Samaritan fired twice at the suspect, who was taken to a hospital, where he was listed in critical condition. (*Holland Sentinel*, Holland, Mich., 2/24/17)

A store manager got the drop on two alleged criminals in Dublin, Ga. While the manager was going to his vehicle to retrieve something, two men in their early 20s approached from behind. Brandishing a gun, one of the men demanded that the manager give over his valuables and made him sit in the car. The armed citizen played along before retrieving a revolver and firing three shots in their direction, hitting one while the other ran away. Both men were eventually caught and charged with armed robbery and aggravated assault. (*The Courier Herald*, Dublin, Ga., 2/7/17)

Sometimes, a warning is enough to deter a criminal attack. A taxi driver in Gates, N.Y., used that tactic to defend against an irate passenger. After picking up a female passenger, the driver took the woman to four different locations before realizing the individual

would not be able to pay. The driver threatened to call 911 when he noticed she had a weapon in her hands. "She had the ice pick and was coming toward me, so I started backing up and she kept coming," the driver told media. The woman attacked the car, damaging it, then came toward him. The driver warned her to stay away before drawing his concealed firearm. The woman paused and the driver hopped into his vehicle and drove away. The alleged assailant was later caught and charged by the police. (13WHAM.com, Gates, N.Y., 1/9/17)

"Iwould do whatever it takes to protect my business, my family and my customers," said one store owner who did just that against two armed men. The small-business owner was working one night when two men with bandanas over their faces entered the shop, flashing firearms and demanding money. The store owner, who had seen their approach on the security camera, responded by pulling out his own pistol. He refused to hand over his money and instead fired two shots in their direction, causing both intruders to flee. (*Yakima Herald-Republic*, Yakima, Wash., 2/22/17) 

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A driver passing through Tonopah, Ariz., saved a state trooper's life after a harrowing incident. Just before sunrise, the trooper had stopped to investigate an accident. After discovering a flipped vehicle, the officer went to set out flares to warn other motorists. The driver of the overturned car opened fire on the officer and struck him, prompting the officer to attempt to subdue the man. A passing motorist and concealed-carry holder saw the attack and stopped, asking the officer if he needed help. After the officer said, "yes," the armed citizen went to his vehicle and retrieved his firearm, warning the trooper's attacker to stop. The man did not, so the good Samaritan shot him once, wounding him. While the passerby was tending to the trooper's injuries, the assailant attacked a second time. The armed citizen shot the man again, this time killing him. Arizona Department of Public Safety spokesman Capt. Damon Cecil said the motorist saved the trooper's life. (*The Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, Ariz., 1/17/17)

Two Montana miscreants were no match for an armed homeowner during an attempted burglary. Although the intruders targeted an empty cabin in Wolf Creek, Mont., the residents came back while the bad guys were ransacking the home. The couple thought something might be amiss when they spotted an unfamiliar SUV parked outside their cabin. As the couple approached the abode, the two burglars exited the cabin and accosted the homeowners. One of the two mischief-makers pulled a firearm and attempted to shoot it, but the gun misfired. While he attempted to chamber another round, his accomplice approached the homeowner in a threatening manner with a firearm, but the armed citizen drew his concealed handgun and shot the approaching scoundrel in the leg. The residents were unharmed, and police later arrested the two suspects. (*Independent Record*, Helena, Mont., 12/30/16)

Uber has a policy barring firearms, but a Florida driver and his fare are alive today because the driver didn't follow the rules. The ride-sharing employee was taking a client to the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport when a minivan suddenly cut him off in traffic on a busy street. A man then exited the driver's side of the van with two handguns drawn and attempted to rob those in the car. Instead of getting any money, the gunman got shot. The Uber driver drew his concealed firearm and exchanged fire with the assailant. The

attacker, who was shot multiple times, died on the scene, and his accomplice drove the van away. (*Miami Herald*, Miami, Fla., 12/19/17)

Would-be thieves picked the wrong victim when they targeted a gun store for a robbery in Mableton, Ga. The owner was minding the shop when two armed thugs burst through the doors in broad daylight and held the man at gunpoint. One of the robbers shouted at him, "Get down on the floor or I'll kill you," the merchant recalled, adding that they then shot at him. With the lives of himself, his employee and two customers in danger, the business owner pulled out a firearm and fatally shot one of the reprobates. He then fired at the second man, who fled the store. Authorities said the business owner lawfully acted in self-defense. (11alive.com, Atlanta, Ga., 1/10/17)

Paternal love knows no bounds. Even after being shot twice himself, a Frankford, Pa., father of four defended his family during a home invasion. After hearing a knock on the door to his home late one night, the

homeowner answered only to have the person on the porch force his way inside. The resident's wife barricaded herself and the couple's four daughters in an upstairs room during the altercation. The intruder shot, hitting the victim twice, but the armed citizen retrieved a firearm and fired back, with the bullet fatally striking his attacker in the head. The robber was declared dead at the scene. The injured protector was taken to the hospital where he was listed in serious condition. (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia, Pa. 1/4/17)

Attackers come in all forms, both human and animal. A 17-year-old boy in Lignum, Va., was at home looking after his nieces and nephews when he heard noises outside that alarmed him. Concerned for the safety of the children in his care, the boy grabbed his rifle and went to investigate. He saw what turned out to be a 545-pound feral boar tearing up the front yard. The boar saw the boy and charged at him. The boy fired in response. "When he came up to me the way he did, I had no choice but to shoot him," the teen told local media. (Richmond.com, Richmond, Va., 1/27/17)

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

1. This amicus brief complies with the length limits permitted by Ninth Circuit Rule 32-1 because the amicus brief contains 3243 words, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(f).
2. This brief complies with the typeface requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(5), and the type style requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(6), because it has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word in 14-point Times New Roman type.

Dated: 21 May 2021

/s/ John Cutonilli

John Cutonilli
P.O. Box 372
Garrett Park, MD 20896
(410) 675-9444
jcutonilli@gmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on 21 May 2021, I electronically filed this document with the Clerk of the Court by using the CM/ECF system. I certify that the participants of this case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the appellate CM/ECF system.

/s/ John Cutonilli

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P.O. Box 372
Garrett Park, MD 20896
(410) 675-9444
jcutonilli@gmail.com