



“... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

EXERCISING THE RIGHT

Four-year-old Injured in Home Invasion

The *New Orleans Advocate* reported on December 10 that a deadly home invasion in a New Orleans suburb could have been a whole lot worse. The spokesman for the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office stated that four armed men forced their way into a home at gunpoint. Sheriff's Office spokesman Scott Lee said that the homeowner engaged in a shootout with the suspects shortly after they entered the home. In the flurry of bullets, a four-year-old in the house was injured by the crossfire. The homeowner must have been a good shot because two of the four suspects were fatally wounded. The incident is still being investigated by authorities, but police say the four-year-old has received medical treatment and is expected to make a full recovery.

Fox8.com reported on December 9 that neighbors in the normally quiet community where the crime occurred were shocked by the events. A neighbor told Fox8.com that the homeowner might have been pistol-whipped before he was able to retrieve his own firearm and shoot at the suspects.

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office explained that the two surviving suspects are going to be charged with first-degree murder for the deaths of the deceased suspects. The Louisiana criminal code has a felony murder law that makes a suspect criminally liable for any deaths that occur during the commission of a violent felony. The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office said that the homeowner is not going to face any charges.

Anti-gun Zealots Demand Firing of Department of Justice Advisor

Frank Minter, writing for America's First Freedom on the National Rifle Association website, reported on December 9 about the latest witch hunt being perpetrated by the anti-gun Left. Academic and gun-rights proponent John Lott was recently appointed to a position in the U.S. Department of Justice as a senior advisor for research and statistics at the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

As Minter explained, this “DOJ division has given millions of dollars to academics — some who have a clear bias against your right to keep and bear arms. In his new role as an adviser, it is unclear whether Lott has yet been able to bring some balance to these massive grant allocations — DOJ-funded studies that, when they come out, often feed the mainstream news with ‘research’ arguing that good, old-fashioned American freedom is not such a good thing after all. If Lott, who is well-known for digging deep into the details about gun ownership and crime rates, is able to influence how this money is allocated, he could affect the left's ideological quest to ban and confiscate the citizenry's guns.... So, when word got out that Lott is working at the DOJ, the left demanded his job.”

Minter then explained that anti-gun groups came out loaded for bear and, in a united effort, called for Lott to be fired. Shortly after their coordinated social-media campaign, nine Democratic U.S. senators joined in the pile-on and wrote to Attorney General William Barr insisting that they be given all the details on how Lott was hired. The letter in question criticized Lott as “a pro-gun advocate who claims that widespread gun ownership can reduce crime.”

Minter shot down this criticism by dismissing it as “nothing more than an ideologically motivated slur. Lott is a researcher and an academic who has taught at many universities. His peer-reviewed research has clearly shown that gun ownership tends to reduce crime.” Minter also explained how it was clear from the letter that the senators were snooping around about how many other individuals in the OJP were political appointees during Trump's presidency. “The intent of this is clear: They want to know how easy it will be to fire him, so they can thereby protect money going to anti-Second Amendment research, if Joe Biden is sworn in as president on January 20.... These senators clearly want a list from the DOJ so they can target and remove people who came in during the Trump administration. As with Lott, they want to cancel these people, too,” Minter wrote.

Minter further explained that the anti-gun Left has harassed Lott in this manner in the past, have repeatedly targeted any sites

or publications that featured his work, and even got *The Hill* to stop publishing him in 2017. There's a reason why they keep going after Lott, according to Minter: It's because “gun-control groups find Lott's well-researched studies to be inconvenient to their desire for more gun control — inconvenient because, as the facts continually show, freedom does work. These gun-control groups can't win debates about the data, so they are doing everything in their power to cancel Lott.” As we have repeatedly seen, the Left does not believe in free speech and instead seeks to censor and silence all dissenting opinions. As Minter concluded, “They want control. To get control, as they can't win fact-based discussions, they're opting to attempt to cancel Lott, to cancel the NRA and, yes, they'll try to cancel you too, if, that is, you get in their way.”

Pacifist Santa?

The *New York Post* reported on December 7 about a mall Santa who went viral on social media when he was caught explaining to a child that Santa doesn't give children toy guns. The mother of the boy who got the bad news posted video of the incident to Facebook, which showed Santa responding to the boy's request for a gun as his Christmas present with the words “No, no guns.” The mother clarified that her son wanted a Nerf gun, but the anti-gun Santa reacted negatively to this as well. The Santa again replied that “nope, not even a Nerf gun.... If your dad wants to get it for you, that's fine, but I can't bring it to you.... What else would you like? Lots of other toys. Legos. There's bicycles. There's cars and trucks. What do you think?” The boy was clearly overwhelmed and began crying.

The backlash online was quick, and the mall Santa was sacked. *The Hill* reported on December 8 that the Harlem Irving Plaza Mall in Northridge, Illinois, where the Santa worked, posted a video to their social media of a new Santa delivering a nerf gun to the boy's home and apologizing for the earlier incident. The mother of the boy expressed gratitude for all of the people who reacted so positively. ■

— PATRICK KREY