



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

## EXERCISING THE RIGHT

### Memorable Quotes

The world of American politics lost an iconic figure on March 30 when G. Gordon Liddy, the chief operative for Richard Nixon’s Watergate break-in, passed away at 90 years old. The *New York Times* ran an obituary for him that did a good job capturing the eccentricity that made him such a memorable figure, but it was a few of his quotes on the Second Amendment that readers of this column would appreciate. The *Times* reported that when Liddy was asked about restrictions on firearms, he replied, “I believe in gun control. Hold the gun steadily and hit what you aim at.” Liddy also admitted to interviewers that he could no longer own a gun due to his conviction for conspiracy, burglary, and illegal wiretapping, but also explained, “Mrs. Liddy owns 27 [guns], some of which she keeps on my side of the bed.” Regardless of your thoughts on Liddy and his role in American history, something has to be said about his ability to leave a lasting impression.

### Constitutional Carry

Fox News reported on February 12 that Utah Governor Spencer Cox signed a bill into law that allows what is popularly referred to as “constitutional carry.” The law, which goes into effect in May, makes Utah the 18th state to allow residents to carry concealed without a permit. The National Rifle Association praised the law in a press release. Jason Ouimet, the executive director of the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action, wrote, “There is no reason a law-abiding person should have to ask for permission to carry a firearm for self-defense.... The passage of this bill demonstrates Utah’s commitment to protecting the Second Amendment rights of its citizens.”

Utah wasn’t alone. The *Tennessean* reported on April 1 that a similar constitutional-carry type bill was passed by both chambers of the Tennessee state legislature and just about to be signed into law by Governor Bill Lee. Governor Lee was a proponent of the measure, which he described as part of his public-safety agenda. The *Tennessean* reported on March 22 that

Lee explained his support for the law by saying, “It is very simple what the founders had in mind, and it was to allow the citizenry to be protected against a tyrannical government.... What’s most important here is we allow the rights of law-abiding citizens to be protected.”

### Court of Appeals Goes After Concealed Carry

In a Second Amendment corollary to Newton’s law that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction, the last story’s good news about concealed carry being expanded in Utah and Tennessee is offset by an alarming decision from the San Francisco-based Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The *Washington Examiner* reported on March 25 about a controversial gun-control decision in *Young v. State of Hawaii*, which narrowly interpreted the Second Amendment to mean that it only protects gun ownership within one’s home, not outside of it. This ruling restricts gun owners’ right to carry their firearms, but it is already being appealed to the Supreme Court. Dissenting in the decision, Judge Diarmuid O’Scannlain wrote, “A majority of our court has decided that the Second Amendment does not mean what it says. Instead, the majority holds that while the Second Amendment may guarantee the right to keep a firearm for self-defense within one’s home, it provides no right whatsoever to bear — i.e., to carry — that same firearm for self-defense in any other place.”

The decision was immediately denounced by Second Amendment proponents across the country. NRA spokesman Lars Dalseide told the *Washington Examiner* that “the ability to defend yourself and your loved ones is one of the most basic of fundamental rights.... With today’s ruling, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has basically eliminated that right once you step outside your home. This ruling affects the safety of seven states, tens of millions of people, and the very principles upon which this country was founded.”

Court observers say that the Ninth Circuit is one of the most liberal appeals

courts in the nation, but the issue might be heard by the Supreme Court and lead to a precedent-setting decision involving concealed-carry laws across the country.

### Turncoat Republicans

Breitbart News reported on March 11 that eight Republicans voted to support the Democrat-controlled House measure pushing universal background checks, and two of those Republicans were actually co-sponsors of the anti-gun legislation! The proposed gun-control law has already been criticized as potentially paving the way for a national gun registry, as explained by Virginia Republican Bob Good. Breitbart published a quote by Good that explained that “this bill creates a de facto gun registry by involving the federal government in every gun transfer, including private transfers and gifts, or else how will we enforce these requirements?”

Reading such news about the Grand Ole Party reminds one of the quote, “With [Second Amendment] friends like this, who needs enemies?”

### Old but Not Obsolete

Speaking of concealed carry, the *Chicago Tribune* reported on March 10 about a 69-year-old man who was surrounded by three younger thugs who demanded his personal belongings. The older man acted like he was complying but instead pulled out a loaded pistol, which he fired at the suspects, hitting one of the suspects in the knee. As do most criminals who intentionally target those they view as vulnerable and easy victims, the thugs quickly fled the scene when they realized they were dealing with someone willing to use deadly force in self-defense. Police say the three suspects sped away in a vehicle, which they later crashed, and were soon apprehended by law enforcement. The investigation is ongoing, but police say the vehicle they crashed was reported stolen a couple nights earlier, and some of the apprehended suspects were teenagers. Police did say the elderly man was lawfully licensed to carry concealed. ■

— PATRICK KREY