

It is a good day for Liberty.

There is a problem with the beard growing contest. One of the judges refuses to use the metric system. He says the metric system came out of the French revolution. He disapproves of the French revolution. I pointed out that the French Revolution was over 200 years ago. He refused to support evil no matter how long ago. Another judge demands that we use a cubit. It appears in the Bible. He could not demonstrate how long a cubit was but it is divinely ordained and we must use it. A third judge refuses to use the English measurements; inch, foot, yard. We rebelled against the English and should not keep their measurements. Also, they were not very nice to his Irish ancestors. Another judge demands that we use an American system of membership, the diameter of the .45 ACP round. When I sort this out I will let you know.

A school District in High Point Missouri is authorizing teachers to carry guns. Missouri law allows for this. It is a complicated process. I think they made it a complicated process to make it difficult. We now know it is possible.

Researchers have found a way to inactivate the prions that cause chronic wasting disease in deer, elk and moose. Prions are "misfolded proteins." I have no idea how a protein is folded but then, I have little experience folding things in general. These prions stick to knives and saws used to butcher the meat. Experts found that soaking in a 40% solution of bleach for five minutes would kill the prions. This may prevent spreading the disease. Soaking deer in bleach does not work. I'm not sure how soaking knives in bleach helps. But, it is the product of an expert study who am I to question? Chronic wasting disease is a serious danger to our deer population. Every little bit helps.

Missouri has an expungement statute. Many non-violent crimes can be expunged. Under this statute eligible persons are restored to the status they were in before the crime was committed. This is as close to being washed in the blood of the lamb as the legislature is likely to get. Yet, since it was passed, I have heard rumors of expunged persons being denied a NICS check. Further investigation found that Missouri expunged persons have been denied on the basis a Federal case out of Wyoming; *Wyoming v United States*, 539 F.3d 1236 (10th Cir. 2008). Wyoming had passed an expungement law which only operated to expunge the firearm disability of a misdemeanor domestic violence conviction but specifically did not prevent the expunged crime from being considered for enhancement of penalties for subsequent conviction. This is much difference than our "washed in the blood of the lamb" statute. Federal law requires an expungement to be complete. Based on this law the federal court ruled that the Wyoming law was ineffective at expunging the conviction. Recent Missouri persons with expungement have received letters from ATF denying them the right to buy or possess firearms because of the (expunged) conviction. The excuse is that the Wyoming case applies. They do not say why it applies or how it applies. They just say that it does, and we have to prove it doesn't. To do so requires spending thousands of dollars to take it up on appeal. There is some thought that the legislature will ride to our rescue. I do not think so. Re-writing the statute will not solve the problem. They will just claim that the Wyoming decision applies to the new statute. We will have to take the case up to one of these new Trump judges who interpret the law does not imagine what it should be. The Attorney General of Missouri might sue to protect Missouri interests. He must be pressured to do so. The Missouri statute is nothing like Wyoming's. Missouri has a complete expungement.

Expunged persons can buy guns privately; but that is another problem. According to the ATF, because they view the expungement as ineffective, possession of guns is possession by a felon, which is another felony. The case probably could not be filed in state court. Missouri courts must respect actions of the legislature and of the court which issued the expungement. The feds, on the other hand, do not have to respect anything the state does. Federal anything trumps state anything. This means that expunged persons in possession of firearms can be arrested and tried in federal court; and convicted waiving their expungement all the way to prison. What to do? I intend to continue filing expungements for clients. There are other reasons to expunge a felony, jobs, public housing; women check such records before a date (sex offenses cannot be expunged). Once there are several expunged persons, there will be a greater demand for the expungement to be a reality. So far everyone I have consulted on expungements has wanted their gun rights back. I shall have to tell them this little story before I take their money.

A killer in California used a “ghost gun.” This is essentially a homemade gun. He may have purchased 80% receiver that is finished by the purchaser or a 3-d plastic printed receiver. The receiver is finished into a pistol with parts purchases on-line or in shops. Expect demands for restrictions on such receivers and parts. Every little bit they can take from us they will. They will never stop taking bits large and small. The killer killed two boys in a school parking lot in the middle of the night. It is not technically a mass killing, and not exactly a school killing. That will not stop the usual suspects.

I saw a comment on some part of the internet. A thief grabbed a \$400 chainsaw and ran. A clerk pulled a sawed-off shotgun and killed him. Legalities of the story were straight-forward. It was the comments that fascinated me. The first comment denounced unconstitutional laws against sawed-off shotguns. Another demanded to know what has become of the legal system that charges a man for shooting a robber. That is the law. It is not even new law. I remember reading Missouri statutes from 1855 which criminalized “excessive” self-defense. Practical comments such as this inspired virulent outrage. One commentator said that part of the owner’s life was spent in earning the money to buy the chainsaw, so it was entirely just to take the thief’s entire life in response. The argument went through variations and side topics. Finally, the culminating argument, “F--- YOU.” This last in caps because it has a more withering effect. How can one respond to such golden argument? Why should one try? Such a commentator is not listening. In reality one could suffer the loss of a \$400 chainsaw, or the \$50,000 cost of defending a murder and some decades in prison. It doesn’t have to be fair; it doesn’t have to be just. It doesn’t have to make sense, it’s just the law.

The governor and attorney general have met with the mayors of Kansas City and St. Louis to discuss gun law. One of their top objectives is to repeal firearms preemption so that they can inflict any fool restrictions they want on their citizens. Write the governor and ask politely that pre-emption remain as it is.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will check.

The US Concealed Carry Association, publishers of Concealed Carry Magazine, will have their annual concealed carry expo in Kansas City Missouri 20-22 March, 2020. It will be held at the KCI expo center where the RK gun show is held. There will be seminars, classes, exhibits of all manner of self-defense equipment and accessories.

Rally Day has been changed to 7 April, 2020 still in the Capital Building in Jefferson City.

We shall overcome.