

It is a good day for Liberty.

I am not crazy. The voices in my head say so. Of course, there is that invisible guy in the corner who is, I think, unnecessarily critical. I'd say "off with his head" if he had one.

WMSA has a member who throws a quarter in a coffee can every time he hears gun rights reviled, insulted or lied about. It appears to add up quickly. At the July meeting he donated a ziplock bag containing over \$110 to WMSA. I neglected to ask how long he had been collecting quarters. The next donation can be measured from the evening of 25 July, 2017.

Mexico had an 8.1 earthquake. Houston and Louisiana share a hurricane and the Caribbean and Florida share another, a new one is headed for Puerto Rico; and Hillary Clinton put out a book. It is as if God is reminding us that we are not in as much control as we thought.

The Governor of the US Virgin Islands greeted the hurricane with an order authorizing the National Guard to seize weapons and other supplies. It looked very much like an order to confiscate weapons. The Governor insists that he never meant anything of the kind. The Governor says that it only authorized seizing such supplies as the Guard needed. I'd like to believe that but if that is what the order meant it was poorly worded. The NRA filed a restraining order and the Governor backed off.

In Missouri we have tornadoes, Joplin saw a savage one. There is also the possibility of earthquakes. A year ago there was one in Oklahoma that was felt in the Kansas City area. In 1808 the New Madrid fault shifted so badly that the Mississippi River ran backwards. The land was so badly twisted that property lines could not be determined and people were given land to the west in exchange. Many of the deeds in this area can be traced to New Madrid land grants. Today this is the sort of thing that would disrupt local services and government. My geology professor was very clear; fault lines do not heal and if the pressure is not periodically released with small earthquakes it means they are saving up for a great one. Missouri law prohibits the government at any level from confiscating guns during a disaster. However, (there is always a however) I can see a FEMA camp offering us food and water if we disarm.

When the hurricanes hit the government responded. More importantly Americans responded; or a certain type of American. Rednecks showed up with their bass boats to ferry supplies and rescue survivors. Churches and businesses organized relief supplies. No one asked; they just did. A volunteer group calling itself the "Cajun Navy" was fired on while conducting rescue efforts. It is believed that looters wanted their boats. I am sure that we shall hear of local people defending themselves as we did after Katrina devastated New Orleans.

Due to the disasters there was a critical need for blood donations. Americans responded. In a month or two the donated blood will be exhausted and the need will continue. Make a point of donating blood. Some blood goes to cancer patients. I remember my brother getting transfusions and it making a new man of him right up until the end. When you donate be sure and wear one of our "Guns Save Lives" buttons or read a gun magazine. We want them to know who the Americans are.

September 5 of this year is the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of WMSA. September 17 of this year is the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the US Constitution. It is also the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my admission to the Bar. December 15 will be the 226<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights. We should have more National Holidays.

Reverend Jeff Booth has written, *The Cost of Carelessness*. The Reverend went to Okinawa on a religious mission. When he was leaving, Japanese customs found a single 9mm cartridge in his suitcase. He was arrested and thrown in jail with a man who appeared to be a member of the Japanese Mafia. The prosecutor told him that she did not know if he was a terrorist or a mobster but she would find out. He was constantly reminded that Japan has a 98% conviction rate and he was facing five years in prison. Being a member of the clergy meant nothing. Being on his way out of the county meant nothing. He says that he "humbled himself" to the prosecutor and court and apologized for breaking their law. He says that humbling oneself is a hard thing for an American and he is right. Rights, as we know them, do not exist in other countries. Even in this country I have taken plea offers to a client under which he would plead guilty to something he did not do, but was too good a deal to pass up. Sometimes he would get out of jail immediately, but if he maintained his innocence he would remain in jail for months pending trial. Justice is a hard thing to catch, and expensive. Even if some part of justice is caught the expense and time dims its glow. Still, we have to struggle on or we get nothing.

It is reported that a serial rapist is preying on college women in Lawrence. The rapes occurred off campus and it is possible that he is not specifically targeting college women but the number of college women in Lawrence makes it more likely a student will be attacked. I do think it statistically interesting that this rapist was revealed to the public only after the Kansas legislature compromised on campus carry to exclude hospitals.

A reporter from "The Trace" had a guest editorial in the local paper on 17 September, 2017. The Trace is a newspaper which declares itself to be nonprofit as if that is synonymous with neutral. It is a front for former New York Mayor Bloomberg's anti-gun efforts. It is a propaganda organ pretending to be news. The author advocated "gun violence restraining orders. These, he gleefully says are civil orders and therefore not bothered by that pesky "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard of criminal courts. In civil courts a preponderance of the evidence is all that is required to ever so slightly tilt the scales. Under such orders, anyone can bring a petition claiming a person is unfit to possess guns. The person does not have to possess any credentials to support such a diagnosis. It is an easy law to abuse. That is why they want it. If one reasonably fears an individual the probate courts exist to find them incompetent after hearing expert testimony. A finding of incompetency removes the person's right to own or buy guns. I remember a woman who took out an adult abuse order. The respondent of such orders is disarmed by federal law. The judge took the additional step of disarming both sides. The Trace may rejoice that no gun violence ensued. The woman was stabbed to death.

On a regular basis a deer appears in the yard behind my office. This would be more impressive if it was Bigfoot. There are so many deer, and the occasional report of Bigfoot, because of sportsmen. We demanded game laws, insisted on an ammunition tax devoted to the Department of Conservation and established the Department of Conservation as part of the Missouri Constitution. There would be far fewer trees to hug if it were not for us. If the anti-hunting crowd really wants to preserve wildlife, they should all buy a hunting license; every penny goes to the Department of Conservation.

Pamela Anderson, an actress and spokesperson for the animal rights group PETA, tells us that a dog is just like a boy. That woman is not babysitting my grandchildren.

We shall overcome.