

It is a Good Day for Liberty.

Rally Day was a success. It must be considered a great success considering it was brought off on such a short fuse. There were about 150 people in attendance. Fifteen political leaders spoke.

I am going to shoot my mask. Not right away, but I will do so. I will shoot it with 45 ACP and 12 gauge and 30-06. I'll put up with it so long as doctors I know and trust say they are helpful but when they no longer do so there will a mask firing squad.

There was a shootout in Swope Park. Kansas City Police founds hundreds of empty shell casings. One person was injured. Bad guys are bad shots. They use guns with enthusiasm but rarely with training or practice. Those of us who have had training and do practice have a certain advantage. Our disadvantage is the criminal has thought about this in advance. He is without conscience, remorse or hesitation. The more training and practice we have the better our chance or emerge victorious. They do not expect resistance. Surprise is our advantage.

Next year the Missouri Department of Conservation will issue five permits for a bull elk archery season 16-24 October of 2021 and a firearms season 11-19 December. One permit will be reserved for persons owning 20 acres in Carter, Reynolds, or Shannon counties. The other four will be in a drawing available to Missouri residents. Applicants must be at least 11 years old by the first day of the hunt. They must have their hunter-education certificate or exempt by being born before 1 January, 1967. Apply online at MDC.mo.gov/buypermits or by calling 1-800-392-4115.

An editorial in the local tabloid recounts what it considers a fortunate result to a misunderstanding. A driver saw a man following him. Alarmed, he continued to his destination only to find his stalker in the same parking lot. He drew his gun and confronted the stalker. The two men soon realized that they knew each other from a music video. They then found that they were headed for the same destination and the entire matter was simply chance. My reaction was that no competent self-defense instructor would ever counsel going *to* the danger. This is a legally and tactically stupid move. Moving away from a threat prevents misunderstandings and gunfights. A gunfight raises your chances of jail or injury from zero to something. Avoiding a gunfight, *that* is a fortunate result.

I've read "Blood Gun Money" by Ioan Grillo. The subtitle is "How America Arms Gangs and Cartels" and his argument continues that whatever is wrong in the world, be it Covid 19, global warming or tight underwear, we did it. He focuses on violence in Mexico which he blames on Texas gun shops. He makes a strong case that a great number of American guns end up in Mexico, but glances over that the US government provides aide to Mexican military and police. Many of these weapons end up in criminal hands. He does mention that guns from the German firm H & K have been diverted to criminal hands. He has spoken to a number of criminal gunmen. He recounts of the stories of many victims. This is an emotional hook to cause readers to accept the rest of his story. He occasionally mentions rocket propelled grenades in criminal hands. These are not sold in Texas gunshops. This indicates that the cartels have other sources of guns. He suggests that planes fly drugs north and return with guns. He mentions the enormous amount of money controlled by the cartels. The cartels did not become a 30 billion dollar a year business by buying \$800 semi-automatic AK 47s in Texas when it can get full auto AK 47s on the international market for \$100 a copy. He does mention leakage from official sources. The book Sicario was written by a cartel assassin who said that they could get as many guns as they wanted from official sources. He also pointed out that guns coming from Texas must come through Mexican customs, which the cartels control. Still he says that if we restrict our rights, violence in Mexico will decline. The cartels can buy whatever and whomever they please. He is dreaming. He denies that firearms are commonly used in self-defense claiming that 35 murders are committed for every criminal killed. This may be true, it is also irrelevant. The purpose of self-defense is not to kill the criminal, it is to stop him. Pointing a gun at a criminal usually causes him to surrender or run. They are bullies not gunfighters. It is necessary to fire only in a minority of cases and that does not always kill; they survive to go to prison. Criminals are killed in about one of every 10,000 defensive gun uses. When I ran a liquor store a suspicious character walked in, looked at the bulge under my vest, my NRA pin and my bright red "Fight Crime Shoot Back" button. He robbed a different store. These incidents are hard to work into statistics, but they count.

I may bayonet my mask. I have a bayonet collection and can do so repeatedly without repeating myself. I have a British spike bayonet which fits on the handle of a British entrenching tool. I can both bayonet my mask and bury it.

The Missouri Valley Arms Collector gunshow will be 24-25 July, 2021 at KCI. This is the largest show in our area and always has unusual items for display and sale.

A senator mentioned that one of the reasons we have guns is to rise up against a tyrannical government. An editorialist challenged him to mention such a rebellion other than the Whiskey Rebellion.

I can mention a number of uprisings against tyrannical local government. The 1842 Dorr War in Rhode Island forced the state government to extend the vote beyond the wealthy class. In the early 20th century miners attempted to unionize and the state sent the National Guard to arrest the leaders. A federal court ordered the prisoners released. The commander laughed and marched them back to prison. Someone commented “I guess we’re not going by the Constitution anymore.” That is a stupid thing to tell men who make a living with dynamite. The miners gathered weapons and the state government decided that the rule of law was not such a bad idea after all. The Battle of Athens in 1947 Tennessee famously pitted a veteran’s reform party against the local political machine. The machine stole the ballot boxes and tried to intimidate the reformers. Men back from WW II were hard to intimidate. They lay siege to the courthouse and the machine considered flight to be the better course of action and the reformers prevailed. Condoleezza Rice writes that in her youth the KKK would ride through her neighborhood shooting to intimidate the Black community. Local government was in league with the kluckers. The NRA helped community leaders form a rifle club which entitled them to buy guns from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (now CMP). The next time the kluckers rode people shot back and suddenly it was not fun anymore. These skim the surface. A review of the constitutional period shows that the Founders thought that the intimidation value of an armed citizenry would suffice.

I have a new machete. I can hack that mask to pieces, burn the pieces and bury the ashes. I would shoot them from a cannon, but I have no cannon.

The number of “sanctuary counties” continues to rise; as do the number of “stand your ground” states.

President Biden proclaimed a national day of prayer. If the government comes around to check make sure you have your story straight. Prayer is never a bad idea. I’m reminded that the Bible asks us to pray for political leaders. We should do so. We should pray that they gets their minds right. This may seem unlikely but I am reliably informed that the age of miracles is not over.

In the words of two great time travelers, “Be excellent to each other!”

We shall overcome.