

It is a good day for Liberty.

A survey has found that officer-involved shootings have dropped 90% in New York City since the 1970's. Increased media coverage of shootings does not mean increased shootings.

A study of accidental shootings among police officers finds that it is usually a result of keeping their finger on the trigger. This is something that must be practiced (with an unloaded gun). The impulse is always to put the finger in the hole. It belongs on the frame above the trigger. Motion studies have found that the time involved from moving from the frame to firing is insignificant.

The September, 2017 issue of Guns Magazine has an article on preventing gun theft. The article emphasized locking guns up in cars or at home. On 15 October, 2017 the Kansas City Star had an article on gun theft. It focused on why gun thefts are up and where they happen. The parking lot of the stadium is a prime target, as is the KCI Expo Center during gun shows. Thieves go through cars in these lots on the chance there is a gun under the seat or in the glove box. The theme of the Star article was that guns are being stolen and it is our fault. If we do not lock up our guns it is our fault. If we do not lock up our guns a paternal government will step in to make our decisions for us.

My President's column goes on and on about bump stocks. The board has not voted on this subject but this piece expresses some of my concerns.

Dana Loesch, spokesperson for the NRA, is from St. Louis. She is even more *from* St. Louis now that she has been forced to move. Her home address and cell phone number have been publicized and the death threats have increased. When the death threats included her children she decided to move.

Today I witnessed the citizenship ceremony for 37 people from 24 countries. They all stood up. I urged my client to register to vote. He was astonished to find that voting was optional. He recognized that it was important. Many who were born here do not.

Some have speculated, or outright claimed, that the Las Vegas killer was a convert to Islam. This seems unlikely. He was a heavy drinker and gambler; both are forbidden in Islam. If he had suddenly given up these pursuits someone would have noticed. Converts do not keep their new belief a secret. The casinos keep track of gamblers and still treated him as a major player. Some have said that he "snapped." He did not. He spent months buying guns and ammunition, and was in the hotel room for a week before he opened fire. He had bomb-making materials in his car and there is some belief that he expected to escape the hotel. This massacre was going to happen with or without guns. The incident reminds me of the "Texas Tower" sniper of 51 years ago. The sniper hauled a footlocker full of guns and ammunition to the top of the tower in Austin Texas. He killed people with a 6 mm bolt-action hunting rifle until Texans, being Texans, shot back. A civilian and two officers entered the tower and killed him. He also left no written motivation. He had a brain tumor which many have assumed triggered his killings. I do not possess the medical background to have an opinion.

People keep saying that "Timing is everything." They never specify standard or daylight savings time.

There is a book, *Stranger in the Woods*, a true story. This is an interesting book for the fact that it teaches us nothing. The "Stranger" of the title drove his car as far into the Maine wood as it would go. He left the car and walked until he lucked onto a crevasse which gave him a hidden camp. He would not speak to anyone for 27 years. I thought the book would teach us something about survival, evasion and escape. It does not. From his camp he could hear people boating on the lake, but he never fished. He did not set traps or live off the land. He broke into isolated summer cabins and stole. He cannot even be said to have stolen only what he needed. He stole food, clothing, bedding, books and video games. Legends grew about the hermit in the woods. One of his favorite targets was a camp for disabled children. In Maine winters he never lit a fire. He cooked over stolen propane. Searches were conducted. He was never found, seeming out of luck. He must have had some skill at countertracking. Or it could have been that the searchers had no skill at tracking. Local police set a trap with a motion alarm at the children's camp and caught him. The author explores the hermit traditions of the world, religious and secular because the Stranger came out of the woods with no insights. The Stranger's brother had co-signed the loan on the car and got stuck with the payments. People projected their own expectations on the Stranger. There were offers of marriage and a home in the woods. He didn't want any of them. He wanted to be alone and live off of other persons. For some reason he

spilled his guts to the author, at least up to a point, the point where he refused to see the author. However, nothing in his gut is of use.

A public defender in Columbia was overwhelmed with work and consequently gave a client bad advice. As a consequence he lost his license for a year. Public defenders are refusing to take new cases. This leaves indigent defendants hanging. Judges order public defenders to take these cases. This leaves public defenders with the choice of working themselves to death and risking their license or refusing new clients and going to jail for contempt. This may not affect working people until they are arrested. If a high bond is imposed they stay in jail and lose their jobs. Savings are quickly exhausted and they are thrown on a public defender system that is already overburdened. There is a web site www.legalfeefinancing.org which loans money for legal services. I have never had a client use it. I am concerned about high-risk loan services, especially if they are used in an emergency. I frequently get paid by grandparents who empty their retirement fund. This is a good reason to have a self-defense insurance policy. Some of these policies are not underwritten by insurance. They are self-financed group benefits. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. I spend a week trying to convince an insurance adjuster that a shooting was self-defense and not an accident. If the worst thing happens, there is money. A group benefit is limited by the amount in the treasury. Like any contract it is essential to read the fine print. Such a contract must provide three things: 1) Bail money. Visit one of our jails and you will see how important bail is. 2) Immediate money for the lawyer of your choice. 3) Money for expert witnesses and incidental costs. Policies which are being aggressively marketed in Missouri do not provide all of these benefits. Some pay lawyers only **after** the person is found not guilty. Lawyers will not wait that long for payment, which makes the policy of little or no use. Getting paid only on victory is very much like a contingency fee; which is forbidden in criminal cases. I have settled many felony cases with a plea to a trivial misdemeanor. I don't know if such a plea would prevent me from getting paid. This is a conflict of interest in advising the client. Many policies promote themselves by criticizing other policies. This is a bad sign. My Dad was a great salesman and told me that you don't sell by running down the other guy's product; you make sales by promoting your own product. Read the fine print

We shall overcome.