

It is a good day for Liberty.

Virginia elected Democrat Danica Roem to its legislature. She is the first transgendered state legislator. She ran against Robert Marshall who once declared himself Virginia's chief homophobe. Ms. Roem's victory was due to out of state money and a lack of limits on donations. Some would say a lack of limits is a good thing because the "right" person won. Some say it is a good thing because it is an expression of free speech. The rules are what they are and we must work with them. In general heavily regulated election donations, like a complex tax code, work to the benefit of incumbents, insiders, existing organization and campaigns with the assets to manipulate the system.

The MVACA Gun Show will be at the KCI Expo Center on 28-29 July, 2018. I've decided to move my birthday to coincide with the Show. It is easier than moving the show.

I've seen camouflage paint. It is apparently one type of paint suspended in another type that goes on with the appropriate spots and streaks. I've asked for pens with camouflage ink. No one seems to have any and they give me funny looks. If I wanted to be liked I wouldn't be a lawyer.

A mass killer in Tehama County, California made two AR-15s used in the murders. He also was subject to a restraining order which prohibited him from possessing guns. The killer killed four and wounded ten before being killed by deputy sheriffs.

I was reading a woman's account of service at Pearl Harbor during the attack. She was visiting her sister, a Navy wife. When the bombs fell they just naturally reported to assist survivors. Some of the sailors swam ashore and demanded pen and paper. They had been on watch and that required logging every significant act during their tour. They often couldn't get past the date. One started off "My ship, the USS Arizona . . ." He could not do more no matter how hard he tried. They called it shock in those days. We call it PTSD now. This was our greatest generation. They were not our last great generation. I have met young people carrying on their grandfather's standards.

A 5/15/01 Starbeams in the Kansas City Star suggests that guns be legal and ammunition outlawed. There have been some efforts in that direction. In some states one cannot buy ammunition without a firearm owners ID card.

The Gabby Gifford group has noticed that muzzle loading guns are not regulated under federal law. They want this "loophole" closed immediately. Some states already treat muzzle loaders the same as cartridge firearms. Missouri does not treat them like firearms. Not yet.

The US House has passed the concealed carry reciprocity bill. The Senate must now do the same. A columnist worries that congress does not have the authority to pass this law; he does not see how it affects interstate commerce. This is not a concern when they try to restrict guns. In general, congress can legislate on any matter if something somewhere is crossing state lines. With concealed carry reciprocity people are crossing state lines. People feel safe crossing state lines because they can bring their guns. Twenty years ago I spoke to a few Kansas police officers. They were afraid to visit Missouri because they could not bring their guns. We were assured that it would be the end of civilization as we knew it if police officers could carry their guns across state

lines. The law changed and police officers have been carrying guns across state lines for many years and civilization has not ended.

The suppressor bill appears to have stalled. Appearances can be deceiving. We can only hope.

Kansas City has passed an ordinance to privatize sidewalks in Westport. The purpose is to reduce “gun violence” no other violence may apply. The plan is that weekends at 11 PM they chase everyone out of Westport, and then allow them back in through metal detectors. I see some problems. The plan assumes that Westport can be fenced off. It further assumes that they can chase everyone out, no one will hide a gun for retrieval and everyone will joyfully stand in line for the metal detectors and return. Perhaps all of these things will happen. I believe the criminals will retreat to the parking areas and ambush celebrants on the way home.

It has been a year since SB656 gave us permitless carry and other reforms. There are still claims that it allows adult abusers to carry concealed weapons, an obvious lie for anyone who read the bill. A contributor to the paper makes this claim. I wrote the paper to the effect that if she makes such a basically wrong claim then all of her allegations are in question. My letter was not printed. There is a continuing legal education class coming up on the bill. I smell a propaganda campaign.

In 2007 Missouri abolished the requirement for a sheriff’s permission slip to buy a handgun. We are told that this reduced background checks and caused Missouri’s murder rate to go up. I purchased handguns ten years ago. Most people did not know the requirement existed for private sales. I know of only two cases involving the old law. I defended one. On hearing the charge a potential juror blurted out, “That’s not illegal.” He started to speak about his own purchase but I asked that he be read his rights first. The defendant had left his handgun with a friend for safekeeping. He was convicted because he really did it and that was a crime. It did not help that the defendant refused to speak to me throughout the case. I never understood what he thought he accomplished by this. Other states abolished similar laws at the same time and did not have a spike in murders. They saw that NICS did a more extensive background check and there was no reason to have the sheriff waste his time.

A letter to the editor referred to a murder with a living witness. Articles in the paper described the crime and the feelings of all concerned. The writer thought that it might be helpful to print a description of the killer instead of feelings. I tend to agree with practical solutions.

President Trump has appointed a great many federal judges. Nearly all are trial judges but this is where justice begins. Appellate judges are appointed from trial judges and Supreme Court justices from appellate judges. There can be exceptions but the President has left a lasting stamp on the judiciary. Now if he can just appoint another Supreme Court justice.

We seem to have a government of investigations. One party investigates the other for any reason or no reason. God save you if you mentioned anything Russian in an e-mail.

New York insurance regulators are investigating the NRA self-defense insurance program; mostly because it is the NRA. Self-defense insurance is

derogatorily referred to as “murder” insurance by the usual suspects. The prerequisite for the policy to apply is that the insured has not committed a crime. The usual suspects will not be distracted by facts.

We shall overcome.