

It is a good day for Liberty.

A police officer returned to her apartment complex after a 15 hour shift. She parked on the wrong floor of the attached garage, entered the wrong floor of her building and walked to what she thought was her apartment door, but was not. Putting her key in the lock she was alarmed to find the door ajar. Entering she saw a figure in the darkness. Thinking the figure was a burglar she drew her gun and commanded him to kiss the carpet. The figure, the real owner of the apartment, did not obey her command. He may have thought that he was the victim of a home invasion. Home invaders often claim to be police to gain the upper hand. He did nothing wrong. Now he's dead. Facts are not complete. The officer did not set out to do anything wrong, yet she killed an innocent man. A flashlight may have prevented the worst.

At www.LawofSelfDefense.com Andrew Branca plays the video of a confrontation. These videos never show what started the problem. Despite that it is worth looking at. It begins with a white guy abusing, cursing and threatening a Black pregnant woman. This never turns into money. A Black man steps in to defend the pregnant woman. He also begins cursing and insulting and threatening. He draws a gun but does not aim or brandish it. This never turns into money. Eventually the White guy slugs the Black man in the stomach; a man he knows is holding a gun. The Black man hits him with his fist. The White guy is outraged that he has been hit and threatens to call the police. He also denies hitting the Black man first. The video does not show the outcome, but I think I know what happens. Whenever there is a dispute, and there will be, screaming at the other person will do no good. When coming to the rescue, do so like John Wayne. No shouting, no insults, no cursing. Like the Duke said, "Talk low, talk slow and don't talk too much." Once the monkey dance starts it ends with police and charges and bail bondsmen and court and probation with all its indignities. Sometimes there are personal injuries. The guy with the gun gets extra attention because that is a sexier charge than disturbing the peace.

A gun in the hand is worth two in the bush. Two guns in the hand are worth a gang at the door.

Plastic guns have the usual suspects in a tizzy. This time it is the code for a 3-d printer to print out a single shot .380 pistol. Sometimes these guns blow up when fired. It is legal for a person to make a gun for personal use. It is already illegal, however, to make or possess a plastic pistol. It is not illegal to possess the computer code to make such a pistol. It is not illegal to possess the machinery and blueprints to make steel guns.

Plastic pistols are insignificant. Bump stocks are insignificant. So why fight to preserve them? If we give them up what do we get? We get opponents who are encouraged to take things that are not insignificant.

Dicks Sporting Goods refuses to sell AR's and will not sell guns to anyone under the age of 21. Dicks hired lobbyists to work against the gun community. Dicks is losing money hand over fist. Could anyone have seen that coming?

As I write this Hurricane Florence is destroying North Carolina. There are already reports of looters. We will see if anyone had to protect themselves against looters.

WMSA vice president Carl Smart and I attended a project by Time Magazine. The October, 2018 edition will have a cover composed of hundreds of people who find guns important. Some of these people find guns important because they hate guns and gun owners. Time wisely had the gun owners and gun haters in on separate days. Carl brought a .22 rifle he uses in 4H youth gun training. He trains them so well that little girls beat him. I brought an antique flintlock pocket pistol. I had read some propaganda to the effect that pocket pistols did not exist until recently (the writer seems to have never heard the word 'Deringer'). I saw my gun at a gunshow and thought, "Aha, this is evidence." The gun went over well, perhaps because it is unusual. We were videoed and had an opportunity to make statements as to why guns were important. The concept of the operation is that we will all be on the cover of Time. The cover will be an exhibit which will tour the country. People can go to the Time website and click on each photo and hear what we had to say. I hope that it works out.

Then there was the panel "discussion." The group "American Public Square" put on a panel discussion on guns. There was a representative from Moms Demand Action, a psychiatrist from Children's Mercy Hospital, and two gun nuts. The group puts on panel discussions on subjects of public interest. Their goal is polite discussion. It did not work out that way. They tried to keep order with little bells. The Liberty Bell would have been more appropriate. I work with hostile crowds for a living. I have seen worse. The Moms Demand representative and psychiatrist began

by demanding that Missouri pass a law prohibiting people convicted of adult abuse from having guns. Of course there has been a federal law to that effect for over 25 years. They then explained that such a law must include misdemeanor convictions. Of course the federal law specifically includes misdemeanors. They then said that the federal law does not include dating relationships. Of course, a dating relationship can be the basis for a conviction in Missouri. The interesting thing is that in the space of less than five minutes they went from knowing nothing about the federal law to knowing this very specific and somewhat obscure fact. The use of guns by bad guys obviously came up. The psychiatrist complained that she was hearing too much about bad guys; she was worried about good guys. I can go for years without worrying about good guys. They want to stress children getting an unattended gun, sometimes from good guys, and causing a tragedy. They want a law requiring guns to be unloaded and locked up separate from the ammunition. This was the Washington D.C. law found to be unconstitutional in the Heller case. It was pointed out that the gun community has been teaching safe storage since 1871. They might require guns to be locked up; we can teach people how to do it. They demand biometric safes be used on penalty of law. They demand that teachers not be allowed to have guns because children will get hold of them. So, safes work at home but not in school. I did not expect the event to be fair. We cannot avoid them waiting for fairness; that only abandons the field to the usual suspects. They had fact checkers in the audience. The opposition demanded background checks. I explained that background checks by gunshops had been required for over 25 years; even at gunshows. Sales between individuals do not require background checks. Individuals do not have access to the background check system. A fact checker complained that I was not correct, then said exactly what I had just told them. I said that I had just said that. The fact checker and opposition said that I had not. Fortunately, the entire event was recorded. It is available at the Kansas City Star's facebook page.

I've listened to the audiobook of *Lincoln's Last Trial*. It was a murder trial and the defense was self-defense. There was local animosity against the defendant and in favor of the dead man. Defendants were not allowed to testify in those days. It was thought that they would be prejudiced. Victory relied on careful cross-examination. The dead man and friends entered a store to collect some money. They encountered the defendant. Examination showed they were not there to collect money. It showed that they knew the defendant would be there. There were much larger than the defendant. One small lie broke another and then another. A good book.

We shall overcome.