

It is a Good Day for Liberty.

I hate these masks. After a year dealing with them I still forget to put one on when I leave the car and have to go back for one. They fog my glasses and interfere with breathing. People who are supposed to know such things say they are good for me. If they provide some remote chance of avoiding death by covid I will play along. When it is over we should have a mask burning party. Public burning is illegal in the city. Perhaps we should take them to the range and shoot them; that would be fun. Of course, there may be another plague coming just behind this one and we shall need them again.

Let us pencil in a mask shooting party for September. They keep moving the date this virus will be over. That gives us time to amass ammunition.

As of this writing the Supreme Court of the US has not taken a Second Amendment case. There are some possibilities before it. Recently the Court has refused to take a case involving life-time gun bans for non-violent crimes. There remains the New York City case involving the right to carry. The Court has neither accepted nor rejected it. It may be waiting for a "better" case or companion cases on the same issue.

An elderly Asian-American woman was attacked on a New York City street in broad daylight before witnesses. The thug, twice the woman's size was shouting that she did not belong here. The witnesses did nothing. Two witnesses were doormen. They have been fired. The Mayor has implored his citizens to go to the aid of persons who are attacked. He has no intention of allowing them to have guns in order to do so.

I remember in 1964 Kitty Genovese was repeatedly stabbed over 35 minutes. Her killer walked away from the scene, then returned and continued the assault. Thirty-eight witnesses heard her screams and saw the stabbings. No one called the police for 35 minutes. The police found her still alive, but she died at the hospital. If someone had called earlier, if someone had intervened, she might have lived. It was a great scandal at the time. There were TV shows on the case. No one learned. I remember reading a study that gun owners are more willing to go to a stranger's aid. Of course, in some cases we have the means to do so. Good for us. It would be helpful if the usual suspects did not keep denouncing us as inbred, hillbilly psychopathic killers.

I end these notes with a quote from the "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" movies. The title characters travel through time telling various figures to "Be excellent to each other." Some of these figures react badly to this advice. I still think it is excellent advice.

I had a firefighter in one of my classes. He advised keeping interior doors shut. He had seen many fires that had been stopped at a closed door long enough for the professionals to put it out. This could work for self-defense as well. If the home invader defeats the locked front door, bypasses the alarm, gets past the dog, and navigates the stairs, avoiding the toys the kids leave scattered about no matter how often you tell them not to, the creak of the bedroom door may provide just enough warning to get your master-blasters into play. I'm told that throwing a cat at the intruder has some value; how much I do not know.

Many persons used their stimulus check to buy guns and ammunition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my grandchildren and great-grandchildren for my stimulus check. They will be paying for it.

A man on the radio said that he would not get a covid shot because there is a 99% survival rate for covid. I take a different view. If I can get a 1% chance of NOT dying, I will take it. I've had my second covid shot and am now marginally more socially acceptable. I was given a card that shows I've had my shots. This got me thinking about proposed "covid passports." If it helps me get on a plane to attend the NRA convention, or into some mass gathering I see where this might be helpful. When they start talking about denying the right to travel without such a card I draw the line.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters told demonstrators to get "more confrontational" with police if the officer is not convicted of first degree murder in the death of George Floyd. The officer is not charged with first degree murder, but that is only the first problem. The congresswoman demanded police protection to speak to the demonstrators. Whatever her skills might be a keen grasp of irony is not one of them. She gave this advice the same weekend that National Guardsmen tasked with keeping order were shot at. The trial judge rebuked her for her comment, but she is unapologetic. The jury cannot be oblivious to the security preparations and vocal threat of riots. Nearly seventy years ago Dr. Sam Sheppard was convicted of killing his wife in a trial that was so notorious as a media circus that the Supreme Court ruled that he had not received a fair trial. On re-trial he was found not guilty. After the congresswoman put her knee on the scales of justice, Mr. Chauvin was found guilty. She is joined in placing her knee on the scales of justice by President Biden and Black Lives Matter leadership who threatened violence. The BLM leadership continues to threaten that African Americans are not heard and will not get their way unless they commit violence on

persons who have done nothing to them. I fear that it will be harder to get a fair trial for people in the future.

It is suggested that we post “No Covid” signs to prohibit the virus from entry.

Video of the shooting of Daunte Wright by a police officer has drawn some attention. The officer went to assist another officer who was having trouble handcuffing Mr. Wright. She told Mr. Wright she would taser him, then said “taser, taser taser.” However she was holding her pistol and shot him. Some have examined the video and posted suspicions. They find it impossible to believe that an experienced officer could mistake a Glock for her taser. They are different weight and color and worn on opposite sides of the body. This can be explained. Under stress subtle differences are not noticed. The officer was not looking at the weapon in her hand; she was looking at Mr. Wright and trying to avoid aiming at her partner. When the brain tells the hand “draw” it does what it has done thousands of times, it draws a pistol. The Force Science Institute has done a study and found this has happened about twelve times in the last twenty years. Of some concern is what the video does not show. The officer says “taser” three times, but the sound is muffled. This could be accounted for by the microphone being covered but smaller sounds are clearly heard. What is not heard is a gunshot. A 9mm shot at close range should have been heard even if the microphone was covered. The video does not show recoil and does not show the slide coming back. At least one commentator finds this as evidence of a fake video and therefore a conspiracy. I cannot visualize a reason to fake the video but it clearly calls for answers. Mr. Wright is dead and I assume that an autopsy will find that a bullet killed him. How all this happened remains to be seen. I’m a lawyer. I like to see evidence. Criminal charges have been filed. Since it is a cross racial shooting it will be a struggle to get the officer a fair trial.

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.

President Biden says that no part of the Bill of Rights is absolute. That part of the Constitution being the supreme law of the land escapes him.

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

We shall overcome.