



**IF YOU HAVE A
FIRSTHAND "ARMED
CITIZEN" EXPERIENCE,
EMAIL NRA PUBLIC
AFFAIRS TEAM AT
MEDIA@NRAHQ.ORG.**

Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts.

Send clippings via email to armedcitizen@nrahq.org, or by mail to "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. For bonus features, visit "The Armed Citizen Blog" at americanrifleman.org. Share this column online at nrarepublications.org.

A man, his girlfriend and their two children were getting out of their vehicle outside the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on Dec. 31, 2023, when two armed men charged at them. The suspects reportedly grabbed the man and demanded the silver chain around his neck, but then struck him in the back of the head. The man drew his own firearm and pointed it at the suspects, who fired at him, and he fired back. The alleged assailants fled, firing back at the family as they went, fortunately not striking anyone. Later, a car which matched the description of the one the suspects fled in, dropped off a man at the hospital whose clothing matched the security footage from the museum. The man was reported as "medically unresponsive," but faced several charges, including attempted first-degree murder, should he recover. The other person from the vehicle was not apprehended at the time of the report. (denver7.com, Denver, Colo., 1/2/24)

A 31-year-old concealed-carry-permit holder was outside in Chicago, Ill., on Dec. 9, 2023, when two men in a vehicle pulled up near him and allegedly started shooting for unknown reasons. One of the bullets struck the victim in the chest, but the man drew his own firearm and shot back, striking both assailants and killing one. The victim was hospitalized in fair condition. The investigation was still ongoing. (cbsnews.com, Chicago, Ill., 12/10/23)

An armed robber entered a gas station convenience store Dec. 21, 2023, around 1 a.m. in South Bend, Ind., and demanded money from the clerk at gunpoint. When the man then got into an altercation with the clerk, a customer believed the clerk to be in danger of his life, so he drew his firearm and fatally shot the assailant. The would-be robber managed to flee the store but collapsed nearby. The store's security footage quickly confirmed the armed citizen's account of events and the prosecutor was able to tell reporters the same day that the shooting was justified in defense of someone's life and they would not seek to press charges. (wndu.com, South Bend, Ind., 12/21/23)

On New Year's Day, a masked man allegedly entered a Taco Bell in Akron, Ohio, pulled out a gun and fired at an employee behind the counter. Another employee, a 21-year-old man, drew his own gun and fired back at the assailant, striking him in the chest. The would-be robber then fled with some of the money, only to show up at the hospital a short time later. Another man, who drove him to the hospital and who was apparently involved in the incident in some way, was arrested. The wounded suspect was in stable condition and was expected

to face charges upon release. The police chief said, "To some degree, [he] could've saved or prevented someone from being seriously injured or killed—himself or others." (news5cleveland.com, Cleveland, Ohio, 1/2/24)

A store owner and concealed-carry license holder in Chicago, Ill., arrived at her convenience-store business the morning of Jan. 4, only to discover several robbers inside. The intruders reportedly fired shots at her, so she fired back, causing them all to flee. The store's security video shows the robbers breaking the glass front door and taking money from the registers, and the store owner said it was the second robbery in a week. (abc7chicago.com, Chicago, Ill., 1/4/24)

In Houston, Texas, a woman was leaving an apartment complex the morning of Jan. 6 when two armed people allegedly pulled her back out of her pickup truck and held guns to her head. A friend of hers heard the commotion and came out of his apartment. Seeing the situation, he shot one of the assailants, killing him; the other would-be robber fled. (abc13.com, Houston, Texas, 1/7/24)

A woman in Blair, Wis., called 911 to report that a man had kicked in a door of her home around 1:15 a.m. on Jan 1. The woman's husband shot the intruder after he entered the house. The suspect was transported to the hospital by ambulance, but his condition was not otherwise reported. Police discovered that the alleged home invader had also broken into another residence where no one was home; the investigation was still ongoing. (wqow.com, Eau Claire, Wis., 1/1/24) 