



**IF YOU HAVE A
FIRSTHAND "ARMED
CITIZEN" EXPERIENCE,
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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.

Late on March 1, in Albuquerque, N.M., a woman was sharing an evening dancing and singing with her 4-year-old granddaughter, when an unknown man burst into the home and demanded her keys. He stated he didn't want to be arrested and threatened to hurt the woman and her granddaughter. The woman dialed 911 as the man looked for the keys, but she also was complying and trying to calm the man down. "I told him not to hurt us, that I would do whatever he wanted. I would give him keys, money, whatever it took," the woman told reporters later. The man finally departed with the vehicle's key fob, and the woman took her granddaughter into the bedroom and retrieved her firearm. The 911 recording then picks up sirens and the man banging on the door, then kicking it in. The woman repeatedly warned the man to get back, then shot him when he did not comply. She then assisted the man with his injuries until police arrived and removed him from the residence. The man had been fleeing officers on foot after spike strips had disabled a car he reportedly stole. He had a lengthy criminal history, including five felony convictions, but was released last September pending a charge for vehicle theft. The armed citizen told reporters her granddaughter has been struggling to feel safe since that night, but she still feels "God was watching over us." (krqe.com, Albuquerque, N.M., 4/25/24)

A 60-year-old man was withdrawing cash from an ATM at 5:30 a.m. on March 8 in Chicago, Ill., when an unknown man rode up on a bicycle. The cyclist threw his bike to the ground, pulled out a firearm and demanded the man's valuables. The man drew his own firearm and defended himself, striking the would-be robber several times, but unfortunately was shot twice himself. Both men were transported to the hospital, where the assailant was pronounced dead; the armed citizen was stabilized and is expected to recover. (cbsnews.com, Chicago, Ill., 3/8/24)

A man driving his vehicle in Fruitville Pike, Pa., on March 13, honked his horn at a cyclist who was centered in the lane and backing up traffic behind him. This apparently enraged the cyclist, who reportedly responded by completely stopping in the road. Eventually, he did move over and let traffic pass, but then pedaled quickly in pursuit of the vehicle whose driver had beeped his horn. Reaching this vehicle, he threw open the passenger-side door and entered, whereupon the driver fired one shot from a handgun, striking the assailant once in the abdomen/chest area. The county's district attorney determined the shooting was legally justified and no charges would be filed against the armed citizen. The cyclist faces a disorderly conduct charge. (fox43.com, Harrisburg, Pa., 4/12/24)

In Beaver Falls, Pa., around 5 a.m. on April 17, a woman heard noises from her basement. She went to investigate and discovered an unknown 49-year-old man. The homeowner shot the intruder, killing him. "Thankfully, she had a firearm in the house," the county's

district attorney told reporters. "We don't know what was going through the intruder's mind, whether he was there potentially just to rob her or to harm her in other ways." He also said the woman legally owned the gun and that no charges were expected against her. (wpxi.com, Pittsburgh, Pa., 4/21/24)

A family in Nashville, Tenn., woke around 6 a.m. on April 20 because someone was banging on their front door and windows. The homeowner—an armed citizen—saw a stranger causing the commotion and repeatedly ordered the man to leave or be fired upon, but the man broke the kitchen window and crawled in. The homeowner shot him in the arm, causing the man to drop a revolver near the kitchen sink and flee. Police responded and quickly located the alleged intruder, who became combative. The home intruder was transported to an area hospital and charged with aggravated burglary, felony vandalism and possession of a firearm while intoxicated, among other charges. No charges were expected against the homeowner. (charlotteobserver.com, Charlotte, N.C., 4/22/24)

In Jackson, Miss., three young men approached a woman's home on May 1, rang the doorbell and asked if she wanted her grass cut. She declined the offer and the men moved on, but they next went to her daughter's home in the same neighborhood. She was not home and the men allegedly broke in. The daughter returned home, however, and the suspects fired shots at her. The daughter was not injured and returned fire, causing the suspects to flee. At the time of reporting, only one man had been apprehended. (wjtv.com, Jackson, Miss., 5/1/24) 