

The Armed Citizen®



Karen Duncan is a petite woman, but a firearm allowed her to save her neighbor's life even though a much larger assailant was attacking him with a knife. One day in December, Duncan heard a neighbor's distressed cry of, "Help, he is trying to kill me. Help me! Help me!" She grabbed her purse, with her legally owned handgun inside, and went to investigate. She first tried using words to persuade the assailant to stop. When that didn't work, she pulled out her gun and told him she was ready to shoot. At that, the attacker tossed down his knife. Duncan wasn't the only armed citizen who came to help. Ron Childress, a neighbor and former law enforcement officer, also heard the cries for help. After he arrived to back up Duncan, Childress told the suspect to spread his arms and legs and to not move. Duncan called 911 while Childress held the assailant at bay. (Fox5 News, Atlanta, Ga., 12/8/15)

Criminals who think they can get off the hook by hiding the evidence after committing an armed assault, take note. A man who allegedly brandished a knife and got shot in the face apparently thought it would be a good idea to try to hide the knife and tell police a story about how he got shot. Instead, he is facing an additional charge of tampering with evidence. The suspect apparently pulled a knife and charged a man during an altercation in the victim's home. The bad guy allegedly had been threatening the homeowner in the days before the assault. The resident responded by shooting the intruder in the face with a .22-cal. rifle. With his face bleeding, the alleged assailant fled and went to a nearby home for help. While he was tending to his wounds in that man's bathroom, he placed the knife in that homeowner's shaving kit. He was charged after receiving medical treatment. (*The Missoulian*, Missoula, Mont., 12/9/15)


Pennsylvania authorities have ruled that a Reading man was justified in the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old who was assaulting him. The man had no choice, Berks County District Attorney John T. Adams said in reports. "He was literally laying [sic] on the ground being beaten up when he fired his gun." Adams said that the robbery/assault victim was jumped by three teens, who knocked him to the ground and started kicking and punching him. While one assailant held the victim down, the other

two rummaged through the man's pockets. The Reading man reached his own gun and fired one shot into the air. That scared two of the teens away, but the armed one who held him down stayed there. The armed citizen then fired multiple shots at that teen, killing him. (*Reading Eagle*, Reading, Pa., 12/8/15)

If you're thinking about conducting business through an online ad, be aware that not all "sellers" are good people. A pair of Aiken, S.C., residents thought they would buy a car by responding to a private online ad. When they met the "sellers" to check out the car, the two strangers pulled out guns and demanded that the car shoppers hand over all their money. While the would-be robbers pointed their guns at the male buyer, his girlfriend pulled out her legally owned handgun and fired, killing one bad guy. Police are seeking his accomplice. (*The Post and Courier*, Charleston, S.C., 11/27/15)

Two New Mexico burglary victims used a rifle and a handgun to keep a thief under wraps until the

police arrived. One of the Albuquerque residents came home and noticed a stranger loading items—including a generator the homeowner recognized as his—into a vehicle. He approached the alleged thief and asked him to stop, but the bad guy scoffed at him. The man went into his house, armed himself and his wife, and the two confronted the suspect, holding him at gunpoint until the police arrived. (*Albuquerque Journal*, Albuquerque, N.M., 11/21/15)

A young boy in Pennsylvania used a shotgun to scare off an armed intruder. The boy was awakened around 3:30 a.m. when he heard a noise inside the house. He grabbed the shotgun and went to check out the noise. The intruder apparently approached the boy with a knife pulled, Columbia Borough police said, and the boy responded by shooting. The shot pellets hit furnishings in the home, but police found no evidence that the home invader was hit. The boy suffered a minor slash wound to his arm but did not need to be taken to the hospital. (LancasterOnline, Lancaster, Pa., 12/10/15) 

If you have a firsthand "Armed Citizen" experience, call NRA-ILA PR/Communications at (703) 267-1193.

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 e-mail 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. **View this column online at nrpublications.org.**