



**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](mailto: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](http://americanrifleman.org). Share this column online at [nrarepublications.org](http://nrarepublications.org).

**T**he owner of a store named Cash4Gold in Mesquite, Texas, was in the back of his shop on Nov. 2, 2023, when two men entered, both with their hoods up and one wearing a mask. The store owner saw one of the men draw a gun and point it at him, but he quickly drew his own gun and fired at the assailants while moving to concealment. Security video shows them exchanging shots until the two would-be robbers flee the store. The armed citizen told reporters he had faced several attempted robberies before and has always managed to deter the aggressors: "Part luck, part awareness, part prep. It all adds up." ([fox4news.com](http://fox4news.com), Dallas, Texas, 11/7/23)

**O**n Nov. 1, 2023, two men reportedly entered a liquor store in Chicago, Ill., around 10:30 p.m., pointed guns at the cashier and demanded money from the register. It seems the cashier did not comply quickly enough for the assailants because a struggle ensued and one of them struck him on the head with a glass bottle, seriously injuring him. Nonetheless, the cashier was able to pull out a gun and fire at his attackers, who then fled. Police were still seeking the suspects at the time of the reporting. ([cwbchicago.com](http://cwbchicago.com), Chicago, Ill., 11/7/23)

**T**wo men in Shelby, N.C., got into a public argument on Nov. 7, 2023, and then went their separate ways. However, one of the men reportedly returned with a gun and shot the other man in the face and shoulder. A woman witnessed the attack, drew her own firearm and shot the assailant five times in defense of the victim. At the time of the report, the assailant was in critical condition, the victim was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries and no charges were expected against the armed defender. ([shelbystar.com](http://shelbystar.com), Shelby, N.C., 11/7/23)

**O**n Nov. 28, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn., three men entered a Dollar General store and held it up at gunpoint. A bystander witnessing the alleged assailants threatening the people in the store drew their own gun and fired at the suspects, killing one. Police quickly arrested another suspect, but the third got away. A nearby business owner who was not involved in the incident confirmed the area has suffered from crime, claiming her business had already been broken into twice in the three months it had been open. ([fox13memphis.com](http://fox13memphis.com), Memphis, Tenn., 11/28/23)

**A**round 5 a.m. on Dec. 2, 2023, three men allegedly broke into a home in Granada Hills, Calif. One of them pointed a gun at the homeowner inside, who responded by firing his own gun at them, killing one and likely injuring at least one other (as indicated by a blood trail), thus defending himself, his grandmother and his child, who were in the home at the time of the intrusion. The two suspects who fled left without getting back into the black BMW sedan they'd arrived in. ([foxla.com](http://foxla.com), Los Angeles, Calif., 12/2/24)

**O**n the morning of Nov. 5, 2023, a property owner in Brazos County, Texas, was forced to defend himself against an armed trespasser. The suspect allegedly first fired gunshots onto the property, then trespassed onto it and, with a gun in each hand, advanced on the property owner. As he advanced, the suspect allegedly threatened to shoot the homeowner and claimed he had shot his mother, which never happened. The property owner shot the suspect in self-defense. The man was rushed to the hospital and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The arrest report noted the suspect was behaving erratically and may have been under the influence of drugs. ([kbtv.com](http://kbtv.com), Bryan, Texas, 11/23/23)

**T**wo men wearing hooded sweatshirts, masks and surgical gloves entered a Philadelphia, Pa., pizza shop around 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 4, 2023. One of the men fired a handgun into the ceiling and then began to move to where an employee was standing behind the counter. The employee was a concealed carrier, however, and responded by firing at the assailant, killing him; the other suspect fled. No other injuries were reported. ([inquirer.com](http://inquirer.com), Philadelphia, Pa., 11/5/23) 