

It is a good day for Liberty.

In the medieval epic *Beowulf*, Grendel is a monster who terrorizes the countryside. He is killed by the hero Beowulf. But Grendel has a mother who loves him and is a monster in her own right. There are consequences. Even monsters have families and friends. They may not have talons and fangs but they can tell monstrous lies.

There has been rash of shootings in Kansas City. A leader of one of our local anti-violence groups blames the new law allowing concealed carry. She claims that everyone went out and bought a gun. This is contrary to the experience of retailers who have seen a slump in sales since the election. I suspect that she is assuming facts and then claiming that they are evidence.

A cure for sickle cell anemia has been reported. Sickle cell anemia, as I understand it, is a genetic linked illness and is a side effect of a resistance to malaria. In life one takes the bad with the good.

The last GI killed in WW I was a German-American. He was killed by a German shell. Family fights are the worst.

I spoke to a man who was in a store when he heard a shot. At first he thought that a pallet had fallen; but then there were more. He had left his gun in the car so took his wife's gun. I can see this leading to a struggle over a purse but she went with it. He took cover and waited. His wife was on the phone to 911. It was resolved without him. Taking the gun from his wife was legal, but should have been unnecessary and the fodder for a family dispute. If he had seen someone coming down the aisle he could not legally fire until he identified the bad guy and the bad guy was doing very bad things at the time the good guy fired.

Ruger Mk IV Pistol Recall: Ruger recently discovered that all Mark IV pistols (including 22/45 models) manufactured prior to June 1, 2017 have the potential to discharge unintentionally if the safety is not utilized correctly. In particular, if the trigger is pulled while the safety lever is midway between the "safe" and "fire" positions (that is, the safety is not fully engaged or fully disengaged), then the pistol may not fire when the trigger is pulled. However, if the trigger is released and the safety lever is then moved from the mid position to the "fire" position, the pistol may fire at that time... All Mark IV pistols produced prior to June 1, 2017 are potentially affected and therefore are being recalled. This includes Mark IV Target, Hunter, Competition, 22/45, 22/45 Lite and 22/45 Tactical models. These models bear serial numbers beginning with "401" (2017 models) or "WBR" (2016 models)... Anyone with such a pistol should contact Ruger for warranty work.

Update on the VCDL-Katie Couric Lawsuit. Katie Couric did a "documentary" on guns. In the course of this she interviewed members of the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) a grassroots gun owner organization. She asked member why they opposed background checks. The members responded with a number of objections. That is not what appeared in the documentary. Ms. Couric spliced in a segment of tape taken before interview began in which the members were silent. The implication being that they could articulate no opposition to background checks. VCDL sued but the judge granted summary judgement. The judge reviewed the taped answers given and decided they were not different than complete silence and dismissed the lawsuit. I believe that silence is quite different from a verbal answer. In an arson case I subpoenaed a witness and asked if he had set the fire. The witness invoked his right to remain silent. This was all the jury needed to know. If he had articulated a denial, no matter how implausible, it might have gone the other way. The VCDL Board of Directors has decided that "the recent ruling dismissing the VCDL case against Katie Couric, et al, CANNOT STAND! The lawsuit has far reaching implications for all Americans. If the media can be allowed to change a person's words to suit the media's own needs or beliefs, then a grievous blow will have been struck against the very core of the freedom that the United States stands for! NO! We are going to fight this because too much is at stake. Today, I [Philip Van Cleave] have directed VCDL's attorneys to move forward with the appeal to the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, where it will be heard by a three-judge panel "de novo" (which means the merits of the case will be heard anew with no consideration of the judge's ruling that recently dismissed the case). Unfortunately fighting this kind of battle in court is not cheap, including the appeals process, for which we now have to budget. But the nature of the ruling is so dangerous to our liberty that VCDL must stay in the fight and prevail!" I agree with them. They are taking donations to fund the appeal.

James Yeager, a tactical firearms instructor was asked when a citizen can shoot someone. He had no answer. I am concerned that an instructor cannot give some kind of answer to

shooting in self-defense. In all fairness he may have been talking about when to shoot back when it comes to revolution. That is a much different question and requires considerable thought.

A woman in Massachusetts has been convicted of involuntary manslaughter. The trial judge ruled that she is responsible for her high school boyfriend's suicide. It appears that she sent repeated text messages suggesting that he commit suicide. So sticks and stone may break your bones and it seems that words can hurt you.

I heard the term "Gaslighted" being used. I sort of understood the meaning but it is not in common use. After a little investigation I found that it means causing someone to doubt their own perceptions or sanity. This is what I thought. It comes from a play and two movies set in the 1880's all called "Gaslight." In the movies a husband tries to make his wife appear insane and even doubt her own sanity. In this way no one would believe her when she heard him searching the house for jewelry owned by the prior occupant. Whenever he lit the gaslight the gaslight in the wife's room would flicker. The plot seems unlikely to me. But the movies are very well done. As for "gaslighting" we have seen that it works. The media tells us that self-defense is impossible. People act in self-defense but we are emphatically told that it is not possible. We are told that the mere presence of a gun causes murder. If that was true, we would all be dead; some of us would be dead dozens of times. We are told not to believe the evidence of our own eyes, but only the claims of people who know what is good for us. It is called "fake news" today, but I like the term "gaslighting."

A crazed leftist opened fire on Republican congressmen practicing for a baseball game. He asked if they were Republicans. He was told that they were. Shortly thereafter he opened fire with a rifle. The type of rifle is not disclosed nearly a week after the attack. It is said to be 7.62 x 39 mm. There was also a pistol, said to be 9mm. These are easy things to determine yet they are not disclosed. Perhaps the usual suspects want to blame it on all guns. The leftist, and we do know that, had a hit list of Republicans in his pocket. The media seemed to compete to mention Gabby Giffords, the last serving congressperson shot. They also mentioned that this was the anniversary of the Democratic sit down strike in congress demanding gun control. They did not give much attention to the fact that the only thing preventing this from becoming a massacre was the presence of two capital policemen (one a woman). A massacre was prevented by good guys with a gun. One of the congressmen who were targeted has declared that he never will be without his pistol in future.

We shall overcome.