

Second Amendment Sisters

Self-Defense is a Basic Human Right

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING

By Genie Jennings

Unless you are a gun-activist, either pro- or con*, you are probably only dimly aware that in March a landmark decision was made by the appellate court for the Washington, D.C. area. Unless you are a pro-gun activist, you are unlikely to be aware of exactly what that decision involved.

There was a brief flurry of news about the decision, including denunciations by the Mayor of the city and the usual suspects in the con-gun movement, which led most of the non-involved to conclude that there would soon be massive numbers of firearms on the streets of the nation's capitol with the accompanying increase in violent crime that is always predicted by the uninformed.

The average gun-owner disbelieved the second part of the prediction, but accepted the first. The average gun-owner to whom I explained the reality of the court decision was dumbfounded.

All but one of the appellants was asking to have the ability to be licensed by the city of Washington to own a pistol; all appellants were asking to be allowed to have a workable firearm in his home. One woman owned a shotgun, and wanted to have it assembled and ready to be loaded should the need arise.

That is all this case addressed. It was only about the right of an individual to keep and bear a firearm *in his domicile*. It was not about carrying a firearm either concealed or openly in the streets of the city. It was not questioning the right of the city to regulate the ownership of firearms. It was simply asking to have the right to keep and bear a firearm in one's home.

As I said, when this was explained, people were incredulous.

“Why is that even a question?” asked one man. Why, indeed.

It seems ridiculous that men and women would need a court to uphold their ability to defend themselves and their families *from intruders in their homes*. This premise of the intruder into a domicile is the centuries old basis of self defense. Someone who entered one's home without permission during the night was considered to be a murderer, because it would be expected that the homeowner would be in residence during the night. If someone broke into a home during the day, he might be there only to steal because it would be possible that the house would be empty, but at night he would be assumed to be there to do harm to the resident.

People have a right to life; therefore, they have the right to defend that life and the lives of others. That seems straightforward and simple.

Yet, it is not so. For, while we were sleeping, Washington, D.C. enacted a law that prohibits a non-licensed person to move a usable firearm from room to room in his home. Then the city refused to license individuals.

Again, please note that this is not licensing to carry the firearm outside one's house or apartment. This is licensing to carry the firearm within the boundaries of one's residence.

All the appellants asked for was this license. ‘Please,’ they said, ‘let me have a firearm in working order in my home. Give me the means to protect myself and my family.’

It seems little to ask.

It seems so little to ask, that we should be outraged. Yet, few of us are concerned. Most of us give little thought to the need for defending ourselves, although most of us expect to be able to do so if necessary. It is the necessity that seems remote.

The majority of gun-owners are sportsmen. Our politicians reassure us during every election cycle that they are committed to protecting our rights to hunt and participate in other shooting sports.

Read your Constitution. There is not one word in the Constitution about hunting or traditional or sporting uses of firearms. We have no right to hunt guaranteed in any useful document.

We do have politicians who have sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitutions of the various states. Still, these politicians enact laws that deny rights that are spelled out in those Constitutions. What reasonable person would expect them to uphold promises that they have *not* sworn to keep?

A just government derives its power from the consent of the governed. A just government, therefore, has nothing to fear from its citizens. If a citizen can be trusted at all, he can be trusted completely.

If you are a gun-owner, if you are a hunter or a marksman or a collector, wake up. Self-defense is a basic human right. You cannot allow the right to keep and bear arms to be denied to any American and expect that your rights will be intact.

*Pro-gun activists believe that law-abiding individuals have the right to keep and bear arms. Con-gun activists believe that all citizens who wish to keep and bear arms are criminals, and fight to create laws that will ensure that only law-breakers will have firearms.

For more information and to find out what is happening in your state contact: Second Amendment Sisters at: 877-271-6216 or on the web at: 2asisters.org.