

FIREARMS – Why Some People Carry **by Howard Wand**

The reason many people have opted to carry a firearm is so they won't get shot by a criminal trying to enforce his or her will on them.

If someone comes in with a gun and threatens people's lives, we don't want to just sit there and be powerless. We don't want to have to live with the knowledge that we could have done something but didn't because we lacked the appropriate tools to do so.

We also know what will happen if we're forced to shoot. There are those who will claim that we shouldn't have. Someone will try and claim we didn't do things right. There are many cases that can be sited. The criminal's parents will be angry that their son was shot and killed by a protective citizen, employee, or police officer. They rarely believe the story has been released to the public. Some kind of conspiracy will be claimed regarding the fact that someone carries a concealed gun while working or walking home late at night

As in one case where a person was shot in the head instead of the chest, the claim was made that the shooting was personal, because all head shots are personal. Experts will tell you that simply is not true. Sometimes the shooter will miss or the criminal moves and a shot to the head results. They will claim that people can't use deadly force to defend themselves or another innocent person during the commission of a crime. The police will be there to defend the innocent is another claim. We know that police cannot always be at the scene when they're needed most.

Rather than accepting the reality that the criminal, (be it a son or daughter), placed themselves in harm's way by committing a crime while armed, they lash out and blame the shooter. When a criminal breaks into your home it is reasonable to use your weapon or any other force to defend yourself and your family.

Everyone understands that people are upset if their loved one is shot dead, even if it happened while they were committing a crime. They cannot be satisfied unless the shooter is punished. There is a simple but important reason why the shooter won't be punished. In this country, self-defense is a basic human right. People will not accept being hurt or killed by criminals, which means they will fight back. We can only hope that the good guys who defend themselves and others are quicker and smarter than the bad guys.

We must be grateful to those who choose to carry and who might be available and willing to come to our defense when our life is in jeopardy. Statistics clearly show that those who are licensed to carry a weapon rarely commit crimes themselves, and are often responsible for saving others. Parents of the criminal should not be looking for someone to blame other than their child who was committing a crime. Perhaps they should blame themselves for poor parenting that is often the real reason for the tragedy.