



Extreme Exigency

Where faith, family and a commitment to service come together

TUCKED AWAY AT THE end of a country road in Southern Illinois, Extreme Exigency is more than a firearms training facility. It's a place where education, personal safety, faith and community come together, all built around one man's commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

For founder Ray Minor, that commitment began with a personal tragedy that forever changed the direction of his life.

While pursuing a career in mining technology and working in the mining industry in college, Minor lost his nine-month-old son, Frankie, after he was abused by a babysitter. The experience inspired him to pursue a career in criminal justice, dedicating nearly 30 years to law enforcement, including more than two decades with the Illinois State Police.

"I wanted to help protect people, especially children and families," Minor explained.

As retirement approached, Minor saw an opportunity to continue that mission through education. In 2013, he founded Extreme Exigency, offering firearms and concealed-carry training designed to go beyond the fundamentals of handling a firearm.

"Our message is that the conflict you avoid is the conflict you win," Minor said.

That philosophy remains central to the business today. Courses emphasize responsible firearm ownership, understanding the law, recognizing potential threats and avoiding dangerous situations whenever possible.

In 2016, Minor began developing a training facility on property that had been in his family for four generations. What started as a firearms training operation soon grew into something much more.

Inspired by his grandfather, who had been a barber, Minor returned to barber school and opened The Armed Barbers. His vision was to create an old-fashioned gathering place where men could enjoy a haircut, conversation and fellowship.

"I wanted to create a Christian-based place where men could gather and talk, a place that wasn't a bar," Minor shared.

Today, the barbershop welcomes customers from throughout Southern Illinois, including fathers, sons and grandfathers who make their visits a family tradition. The operation has also expanded to include The Armed Barber College, providing aspiring barbers with hands-on education and flexible training opportunities.

Despite their different services, Minor believes each part of the business serves the same purpose: helping people leave more confident than when they arrived.

That commitment extends well beyond the property through the Extreme Exigency Educational Foundation, a nonprofit supporting scholarships, youth programs and community initiatives.

Among its efforts is the Frankie Allan Minor Legacy of Protection scholarship at Rend Lake College, established in memory of Minor's son. The foundation also supports local 4-H shooting sports programs, while Extreme Exigency provides complimentary training opportunities for qualifying veterans and church security team members.

Looking ahead, Minor hopes to expand the training facility, grow the barbershop and continue developing new opportunities for the surrounding community, including the nearby Lakehouse Resort and Event Center.

For Minor and his wife Stacy, however, success is measured by more than business growth.

"What I'm most proud of is that Extreme Exigency is a business dedicated to the glory of God," Minor said.

Nearly 13 years after its founding, Extreme Exigency continues to reflect the values that inspired its beginning: faith, family, education and service.

And for Minor, every person who travels down that country road represents another opportunity to make a positive difference.

To learn more about Extreme Exigency, visit extremeexigency.com or give them a call at 618-629-3422. 📞

