

recent Federal elections, including 2016 races. About half of the total outside spending since Citizens United went toward the 2012 Presidential election. More than 93 percent of all Super PAC donations in 2012 came in contributions of at least \$10,000 from only 3,318 donors, who make up 0.0011 percent of the U.S. population. Of that group, an elite class of 159 people each contributed at least \$1 million—which was nearly 60 percent of all Super PAC donations that year.

In the lead-up to the 2016 Presidential primaries, we are once again witnessing an immense amount of spending. A New York Times investigation in October found that of approximately 120 million households in the United States, a mere 158 families, along with businesses they own or control, had already contributed \$176 million—nearly half of all funds raised to support the 2016 Presidential campaigns before a single primary vote has been cast.

Congressional races have been similarly flooded with outside spending. For example, in the 2014 midterm elections, outside groups spent more than \$560 million to influence congressional races—eight times the approximately \$70 million spent in 2006, the last midterm election cycle before Citizens United. And more than 30 percent of that spending came from tax-exempt, “dark money” groups that conceal their donors from the public.

The impact of this incredible spending stretches from races for the White House and Congress to Governors’ mansions, State capitols, and city halls throughout the country. As in Federal campaigns, Citizens United has led to an explosion of outside spending at the State and local levels, with corporations and wealthy single spenders looking to play kingmaker, pouring cash into races for positions ranging from district attorney to school board members. One of the most startling examples occurred in 2014 in Richmond, CA, a city with a population of 107,000. Chevron—an energy company with more than \$200 billion in annual revenue—spent approximately \$3 million through campaign committees aimed at influencing the mayoral and city council races. That means Chevron spent at least \$33 per voting-age resident in Richmond.

The long-term damage to our political process from Citizens United is just beginning to reveal itself. Some scandals have already surfaced, and there will undoubtedly be more stories of corruption and corrosive influence ahead, further eroding public confidence in our government. I have worked with my colleagues on a number of solutions to stem this tidal wave of secret unlimited spending, including improving disclosure and creating a more transparent campaign finance system. I will continue my efforts to establish a public financing system for congressional elections through the Fair Elections Now Act, which I re-introduced last year.

We also must continue to push for a constitutional amendment that would protect and restore the First Amendment by overturning Citizens United and empowering Congress and State legislatures to set reasonable, content neutral limitations on campaign spending. In 2014, Justice John Paul Stevens discussed his support for an amendment to overturn Citizens United in testimony before the Senate Rules Committee. Here is what he said: “Unlimited campaign expenditures impair the process of democratic self-government. They create a risk that successful candidates will pay more attention to the interests of non-voters who provided them with money than to the interests of the voters who elected them. That risk is unacceptable.”

As we approach the sixth anniversary of the Citizens United decision, we should heed Justice Stevens’ words. It is unacceptable for politicians to feel more beholden to wealthy donors than their constituents. We must work to fix America’s campaign finance system and overturn Citizens United so that elected officials listen to the everyday Americans who voted them into office—not just those who bankrolled their success.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I regret missing the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the veto message on S.J. Res. 22, a bill that would block implementation of the Waters of the United States rule and prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers from reissuing a regulation that is substantially similar in the future. I voted against S.J. Res. 22 last fall and, had I been present, I would have voted to uphold the President’s veto. While this rule is not perfect, it provides important environmental protection efforts. •

TRIBUTE TO MARGOT ALLEN

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate my longtime staffer Margot Allen on her retirement. Margot has been an essential part of my team since I became a U.S. Senator in 2011, and I am thankful for all of her hard work on behalf of the people of Nevada.

For the past 5 years, Margot has gone above and beyond not only working hard to help achieve my goals for Nevada’s military community, but also to bring southern Nevada’s active military members, veterans, and their families an unwavering ally in fighting bureaucratic red tape and various issues that often occur when working with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

From helping Nevadans receive the benefits they deserve, to personally meeting many serving at both Nellis Air Force Base and Creech Air Force

Base, to welcoming a variety of veterans living throughout the southern Nevada community, Margot has been there to support those that have given so much for our freedoms. I extend my deepest gratitude to Margot for working with Nevada’s military community and representing my office with such a genuine concern for Nevada’s brave men and women. Not only has she gained my respect, but the respect of the military community across southern Nevada through her tireless resolve to bring these men and women the support they deserve.

Margot also served as my statewide coordinator for Nevada’s U.S. service academies. It was through her efforts in working with Nevada’s youth who were interested in attending these important institutions that many achieved this goal and were accepted into the academies.

Along with helping Nevada’s veterans and active military members, Margot also served as a point of contact to seniors across southern Nevada struggling with Social Security, Medicare, and other programs available to help our aging population. Throughout the last 5 years, Margot worked diligently to help seniors in need receive the help necessary to remain healthy and happy. This community is fortunate that Margot led the way to help southern Nevada’s seniors.

Margot also contributed greatly to my team by utilizing a completely different skill set—a love of grammar and writing. Prior to working on behalf of the people of Nevada in my office, she served as a professor at the University of Alabama, as well as taught English-language skills in Panama while her husband, Leonard, worked abroad for the Department of Defense. To say I was privileged to have her in my office would be an understatement.

Above all else, I want to thank Margot for all of her hard work and devotion to the people of our great State. She wore many hats, working with veterans, seniors, and a variety of other Nevadans struggling to work with Federal agencies—we are very fortunate to have had someone willing to put forth such effort and compassion to help those in need. Her legacy of resilience and determination will never be forgotten.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating Margot on her retirement and in thanking her for all she has done for the people of our State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MORGAN WALLACE

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Morgan Wallace for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Morgan is a native of Teton Village, WY, and she currently attends the Madeira School. Morgan is involved with soccer, lacrosse, and basketball at school. She has also volunteered with the Special Olympics and the World Wildlife Fund. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several weeks.

I want to thank Morgan Wallace for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

REMEMBERING GLEN EDWARD MARTIN

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today we honor the life and service of Glen Edward Martin, whose passing signifies a great loss to Nevada. I send my condolences and prayers to his wife and all of Mr. Martin's family in this difficult time. Mr. Martin was a man truly committed to his family, country, State, and community. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Martin was born in May 1918 in Council Bluffs, IA, where he remained until after graduation from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1937. He later received his bachelor's degree in economics from Colorado College in 1941 and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California in 1984. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Martin had four careers, all working in support of his country and local community.

Mr. Martin first served as a U.S. Marine Corps officer from 1938 to 1968. During this time, he served in World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war, receiving numerous Silver and Bronze Stars for his efforts. He was also decorated with a Navy Cross in 1944 at the Battle of Eniwetok. His bravery and service to our country are invaluable. After retiring from the military, Mr. Martin turned his attention to serving the people of Nevada by working as a Nevada State employee. In 1968, Mr. Martin accepted his first role working for the State in comprehensive health planning and later focused on the extension service in civil defense. I am grateful that Mr. Martin dedicated more than a decade of service toward bettering the State of Nevada.

In his final career, beginning in 1983, Mr. Martin served Nevada's seniors, working as an advocate, teacher, and trainer for exercise and resistance training. In 2002, he received the Governor's Point of Lights Award for his unwavering dedication to seniors in Nevada who he helped keep strong and healthy. He also led a 40-participant resistance exercise class 3 days a week at the Carson City Senior Center to help

those in need. Mr. Martin was a true role model, demonstrating genuine care for those around him.

No words can adequately thank Mr. Martin, who served not for recognition but because it was the right thing to do for both his country and community. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals protecting our freedoms, but to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. Mr. Martin's service to his country and dedication to his family and community earned him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

I am honored to commend all of Mr. Martin's hard work. His patriotism and drive will never be forgotten. Today I join the Carson City community and citizens of the Silver State to celebrate the life of an upstanding Nevadan, Mr. Glen Edward Martin.●

BICENTENNIAL OF WELD, MAINE

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Weld, ME, a small town set along Webb Lake in Franklin County. The town, with 419 inhabitants, has a long and proud history dating back to the 19th century, and I am pleased to join the people of Weld in celebrating their bicentennial and recognizing the town's cherished place in the State of Maine. The yearlong bicentennial celebration will kick off with an event on Saturday, February 6, at the newly renovated townhall.

First settled in 1800, Weld was incorporated in 1816 and named for its proprietor Benjamin Weld, of the well-known Boston family. Incidentally, the year of Weld's incorporation also marked the notorious Year Without A Summer in New England, with 6 inches of snow blanketing the land in June. Widespread crop failures and other hardships pushed many westward, but the town of Weld prevailed, establishing itself as the small but strong community it remains today.

Nestled in a valley created by Mount Blue and the Tumbledown Mountains, Weld has long been noted for its striking natural beauty. The area is rich with wildlife and home to many fish species, loons, moose, and even the occasional bald eagle. At the core of Weld's identity is Webb Lake, where many go to enjoy Maine's beloved outdoor traditions.

The historic Kawanee Inn, a rustic log inn that dates back to the 1920's, has gained wide recognition for staying true to its origins and character. Along with Mount Blue State Park, Camp Kawanee for Boys, and family cottages with deep historical roots, the inn attracts many visitors to Weld. In the summer months, the town's popu-

lation swells to the thousands as people from Maine and all around the country flock to Weld to enjoy fishing, boating, hiking, and a respite from fast-paced lifestyles.

When the temperatures drop and campers and summer residents pack up to leave, there remains a close-knit and engaged year-round population. The Congregational Church, Masonic Lodge, and the Weld Historical Society are bolstered by active community involvement. Additionally, the Webb Lake Association is a nonprofit organization that spearheads conservation efforts and raises awareness about water pollutants in the lake. The Webb Lake Association is but one example of the townspeople's commitment to preserving the area's unsurpassed beauty.

I commend all that the people of Weld have done to make their town such a special place to live and experience nature. Their shared love for their hometown has made them one of Maine's most cohesive and dedicated communities. This has been especially illustrated by the members of the Weld Bicentennial Committee, whose efforts have made this special celebration possible, and I am proud to recognize this milestone.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 29. Joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and its associated forces.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2464. A bill to implement equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4173. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VNT1 Protein in Potato; Amendment to a Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9939-49-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4174. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Propyzamide; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9940-90-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2016;