

and earned the Bronze Star Medal. When he was discharged, he returned to Kentucky and received his bachelor's degree from Pikeville College before studying law at the University of Miami in Florida.

After spending a few years as a trial attorney, Will T. found a way to employ his skills for the good of his neighbors and became an assistant Commonwealth's attorney for Pike County in 1981. A few years later, he was elected as a circuit court judge in Kentucky, beginning what would be his long and distinguished career serving on the bench.

When his portrait joins those of other jurists from Kentucky's past, Justice Scott's legacy will be enshrined for future generations to study, interpret, and appreciate. So as Justice Scott's friends, family, and colleagues gather to honor his career, I would like to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service to our Nation and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID BECK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today it is my privilege to recognize a prominent member of Kentucky's agricultural community, David Beck. During his four decades with the Kentucky Farm Bureau, KFB, David has been an effective advocate for our farm families and rural communities. Now, after great success with KFB, he has decided to leave the bureau for a new challenge. David has accepted the role of president and CEO of Kentucky Venues, an organization responsible for many of the Commonwealth's most beloved traditions like the annual State fair.

Graduating from Murray State University in Calloway County with a degree in agriculture, David set out to dedicate his career to promoting farm communities in Kentucky. Since joining KFB in 1977 as a field service director in Central Kentucky, David has worn a lot of hats within the organization. Advocating in Frankfort and in Washington and working to implement KFB programs at all levels, he has also done a lot of good.

In my work on the Senate Agriculture Committee, David has provided me with many valuable insights helping me better represent Kentucky farm families. Through multiple fly-ins and Farm Bills, we worked closely to develop policy to help support our agriculture communities. I would like to note one important project in particular we collaborated on: the 2004 Tobacco buyout. This landmark legislation not only reoriented our Depression-era Federal tobacco program toward the free market, but it also provided much-needed relief to some of the hardest hit farming communities in our State. With David's assistance, I championed this major legislation and worked with my colleagues in Congress to bring it to the President's desk.

In his role as KFB executive vice president, David has time and again proven his leadership to benefit the organization's members and farmers throughout the country. Through seminars, conferences, and workshops he led with the American Farm Bureau Federation, AFBF, David helped build the farm economy nationwide. One clear measure of his success is the growth in our Nation's farm communities during David's time advocating for American agriculture. The AFBF cites a growth of more than 3 million member families across the Nation in the last four decades. He has led a remarkable career and has so much to be proud of.

David's dedication to the Commonwealth has extended beyond the farm, helping families throughout Kentucky thrive. His work with our State's council on postsecondary education has helped students gain the skills they need to succeed in the workforce. By serving in leadership roles for the Kentuckians for Better Transportation, David helped encourage economic development with a safe and reliable infrastructure network. His passion for service runs deep, and David's experience continues to be an asset to the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the many men and women from our home State who have benefited from his leadership, I would like to express our gratitude to David for his career at the KFB. As he leaves the bureau to take the next steps in his career, I wish him the best and look forward to his great accomplishments to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE COLCHESTER CAUSEWAY BIKE FERRY CREW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is special in large part because of the dedication and kindness that Vermonters show to neighbors and strangers alike. I would like to recognize a few Vermonters in particular who went out of their way to do what needed to be done to save the lives of others. On July 6, a number of boaters became stranded on the water near the Colchester Causeway Bike Ferry while enjoying themselves on Lake Champlain. Luckily for those in distress, the crew of the Bike Ferry was nearby, and sprang into action.

After quickly rescuing four people, Captain Brian Costello, deckhand and former coastguardsman Frank Malaki, and captain-in-training Richard Schattman were told that there were more people who needed assistance. Before long, all those who had been stranded were safe and sound, with warm clothes, water, and shelter, thanks to the ferry's crew.

Anyone who has enjoyed the beauty of our great Lake Champlain knows that, in bad weather, its calm, rolling waves can quickly turn treacherous. We have always been lucky to have the protection of the Coast Guard on the water in times of emergency, but it

should hearten many to hear that there are also professional, courageous, and selfless Vermonters like Captain Costello, Mr. Malaki, and captain-in-training Schattman nearby to lend a hand.

I share the pride of the Coast Guard in this lifesaving effort. I ask unanimous consent that the July 19, 2018, article from "My Champlain Valley" entitled "Bike-ferry crew recognized by Coast Guard for heroic rescue," which commemorates the bravery of these men, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From My Champlain Valley, July 19, 2018]

BIKE FERRY CREW RECOGNIZED BY COAST GUARD FOR HEROIC RESCUE

(By Devin Bates)

SOUTH HERO, VT.—A crew from the Colchester Causeway Bike Ferry got some special recognition from the U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday for rescuing seven people in Lake Champlain earlier this month.

Coast Guard officials were so impressed with the crew's work that they came down to the causeway to express their gratitude and thank them for their heroic act.

The rescue happened the afternoon of July 6. Winds were gusty, reaching 25-30 mph. The ferry crew—Cpt. Brian Costello, former Coast Guardsman and deckhand Frank Malaki and Captain-in-training Richard Schattman—tracked down and rescued four people. Three kayakers—including one in the water—were rescued a short time later.

All seven of the boaters were wearing life jackets and were unharmed. The crew gave them warm clothes, shelter from the wind and bottled water.

The rescue occurred just days after 41 year-old Eric Plett of Weehawken, New Jersey, went missing after falling out of his kayak near Shelburne Point. Plett's body was recovered several days later after a search by the Coast Guard and state police.

"Any good Vermonter would respond to people in distress, whether it's on the water or on land, and we happened to be the closest," Costello said. "We also happen to have an experienced and trained crew."

While the crew members were modest about their efforts, Sector Commander Brian LeFebvre of the U.S. Coast Guard made sure to give them the recognition they deserved.

"I applaud the crew, their dedication and selfless service to the boating public, and I am truly thankful for the professional seamanship that you exercised in response to these potentially grave situations," LeFebvre said. "Bravo Zulu for a job extremely well-done, and thank you very much."

LeFebvre urged boaters to be safe out on the lake.

"Anything can happen at any given time when you're on the water, even when you least expect it," LeFebvre said. "It's always important to be wearing your life jacket, especially if you're on a paddle-craft or in a kayak."

#### DISCLOSURE OF CORPORATE POLITICAL SPENDING

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today because Senate Republicans have blocked a vote on my amendment, No. 3532. My amendment is really quite simple. It would have struck language in the underlying bill that prohibits

the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring corporations to tell their investors and the public how they spend money in politics.

It has been 8 years since the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, a decision which gave corporations the right to spend unlimited, unchecked, and—more often than not—undisclosed money on our elections.

For 8 long years, more and more money has flowed from corporate coffers into campaign ads and political expenditures, and Republicans have defended the dark money poisoning our politics every step of the way.

In the 2016 elections alone, outside groups spent more than \$1.4 billion, much of it funneled through trade associations and nonprofits, and much of it undisclosed to the public.

This is elementary; shareholders don't invest in political agendas or candidates. They invest in companies, and they deserve to know whether the corporate executives of those companies are using their money to grow their businesses or to advance political outcomes that are contrary to investors' values.

With no requirement to disclose how this money is being spent, shareholders and the public are left in the dark with no way to know if corporations are spending their money to defund Social Security and Medicare, keep the cost of prescription drugs high, dismantle environmental protections, undermine education programs, or eviscerate rules on Wall Street.

This information is material to how shareholders decide to invest their money and vote in corporate elections. Even setting aside the case for this disclosure as a matter of corporate governance and investor protection, this issue gets to the very core of our democracy.

Corporations can secretly funnel money to organizations that have no requirement to report on their contributions, and then the American public is left with no way of knowing who is advancing what causes.

All of this secret cash and dark money undermines the ability of the American people to hold their government accountable.

Disclosing corporate spending in our elections is the least we can do to help ensure that voters and not dollars set the agenda in Washington.

That is what Americans want. The Securities and Exchange Commission has received a record 1.2 million comments from investors and members of the public in support of requiring corporations to disclose how they spend money in politics.

Moreover, a May 2018 University of Maryland study found that Americans, both liberal and conservative, overwhelmingly support a constitutional amendment that would overturn Citizens United. Seventy-five percent of those surveyed support such an amendment. Even more, 88 percent of those surveyed want to reduce the outsized

influence of corporations in our politics.

But Republicans in the Senate wouldn't even let us have a vote on this amendment. What was behind their refusal? After passing trillion-dollar tax cuts for big corporations, Republicans are hoping some of that money trickles down into their reelection efforts. The Republican Congress and this President depend upon this influence being kept in the shadows. It makes you wonder, what are they hiding? What would happen if the American people knew who was really funding their agenda?

That is why they slipped this language into a must-pass spending bill a few years ago, and why they are holding on to it with all of their might today. As long as the American people are kept in the dark, Republicans are better able to hold onto power.

That is why just 2 weeks ago, President Trump's Treasury Department announced that it would no longer certify nonprofit organizations that engage in political activity to disclose their donors to the IRS.

They want to make it easier for big corporations, billionaires, special interests—and even illegal foreign money—to influence our elections.

They don't want the American people to know that behind every bill, amendment, and Executive order is a corporate benefactor. A corporate benefactor that knows so long as the money keeps flowing, there is someone in Congress to do their bidding.

They are so afraid of what these disclosures will reveal that they would not even allow the Senate to vote on my amendment, which does not nothing more than restore the status quo allowing the SEC to move forward with a rule-making requiring corporations to disclose how they spend money in politics.

The fight is not over. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to shining a light on dark money in our politics. I will continue pushing to end Republicans' toxic prohibition on the SEC, which only serves to silence the voices of hard-working American families in favor of amplifying the speech and magnifying the influence of corporations.

In our democracy, the size of your wallet should not determine the power of your voice. I urge my colleagues to listen to the American people who have been loud and clear: They want disclosure, they want to reduce corporate influence in our politics, and they want this government to work for them.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, a short while ago the Senate passed the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. Here is why I opposed that legislation: It is a national security bill that weakens our national security. This afternoon I want to discuss why.

The Chinese tech company ZTE was revealed not long ago to be a serial sanctions violator. They violated U.S. sanctions against Iran and North Korea, knowingly selling American technology to those countries. For their violations, the Commerce Department dropped the hammer and hit them with crippling penalties, including a fine of \$1.2 billion.

That is until Donald Trump stepped in to save ZTE.

With a speed and a focus this administration seems incapable of bringing to any other issue, the President ordered his team to spring into action to rescue ZTE. He fired off tweets. He made the eyebrow-raising comment that it was a problem that U.S. sanctions were hurting jobs in China. His Treasury Secretary virtually apologized for the U.S. having taken action against a serial sanctions violator. This all comes from an administration putting on a show—constantly tough talking—and from a President pretending that he puts America first. He sure didn't in this case.

Now there are a few sides of this issue for everybody at home to remember—the national security aspect, as well as the trade and economic aspect.

First, I sit on the Senate Intelligence Committee, and a few months ago, the committee held an open hearing with Bill Evanina, the Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center. He is the point-man for the Trump administration when it comes to questions of counterespionage and counterterrorism. In response to my question, he told me that ZTE poses a national security risk to the United States.

That was not some outside individual providing testimony. He is not a hearing witness chosen by Democrats. Again, that is the person who has led the National Counterintelligence and Security Center since 2014. He says ZTE poses a threat to America, but his boss, the President of the United States, let ZTE off the hook.

Here is the second issue: the Trump administration loves to tout what it calls new trade deals, but as far as I can tell, just about the only deal they have cooked up with any teeth, the only one that is actually finished, is this ZTE deal that saved jobs—in China.

Colleagues, the President and I don't agree on much, but one of his favorite talking points that I do agree with is that our country has to do a lot more to stop China from stealing our technology and our jobs, but when you look at this ZTE case, he seems to be giving away our jobs and our security.

It is an absolute head-scratcher to me and to a whole lot of other people including Senators on both sides of the aisle. It raised the question are the President's decisions being guided by something else, something other than American interests? That is because the ZTE deal came right after the Trump family secured valuable trademarks in China and a Trump project in