

Their memory must always remain alive

Last week the nation and Europe marked the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

There were ceremonies and laudatory comments and editorials. Then the day concluded. The ceremonial bunting, the speeches, the replicas of World War II vehicles were put away and reserved for the closet of history.

Less than a week later, the ceremonies of that fateful day can seem like a year ago.

That should not be so.

Traditionally, Americans reach for the future. We spend vast amounts of time projecting and fashioning a future of prosperity. Collectively, we tend to spend only the necessary amount of time reviewing the past.

We are a nation continually focused on the future. Wars, after all, are difficult and horrible and best left to the fading tentacles of memory. Yet we cannot, and should not, forget the sacrifice made on June 6, 1944. Thousands of Allied soldiers stormed the beaches of Normandy into an unknown future. As a group, they were hopelessly young but impossibly optimistic about what the United States could do.

We as a nation rightly marked D-Day and the sacrifice of our service members last week.

As time goes on, though, and fewer and fewer D-Day

veterans remain with us, there is a real risk their memory will fade.

We can't let that happen.

We also cannot allow the sacrifice made by our service members in any conflict fade into oblivion. A good case in point is the Spanish-American War. A conflict fought more than a 100 years ago, the war impacted small communities across the nation. Oregon soldiers fought in more than 40 battles and fire-fights, and 16 were killed in action. Another 48 were wounded.

Oregon sent its youth to fight in that war, but their memory, what they did for our nation, remains largely forgotten.

When the drums of war begin to beat, the nation should support our service members. When they deploy to foreign shores, we should be behind them. And when they return, we owe those brave men and women support as well.

Yet we also owe them our memory. We owe them more than one day of recognition. Their faces and names and sacrifices should not evaporate with time.

In the end, it is up to us, including those who did not or could not serve, to ensure the memory of those who forfeited safety and security to protect our values.

Their memory must remain alive. Always.

I TWEETED YOU "HAPPY FATHER'S DAY," POSTED IT ON FACEBOOK, SNAPPED A PIC FOR INSTAGRAM, AND SENT YOU A SNAPCHAT.... AND YOU STILL JUST WANT A HUG?

HEY, I'M RETRO LIKE THAT!



GUEST COMMENT

'Unlimited' not part of campaign finance reform

The word "unlimited" has no place in a Campaign Finance Reform bill. Recently the Oregon House passed House Bill 2714, which would set campaign contribution limits in Oregon. The good news is that it keeps the promise Gov. Kate Brown and I made to block billionaires from buying Oregon elections by setting the limit on individuals at \$2,800, which matches the federal limits.

Unfortunately, the House bill leaves some loopholes, which I hope the Oregon Senate will close.

Folks tell me the voters have a short attention span, so I will catch you up from the 2018 election to the present end of the 2019 legislative session.

A year ago in May, I won the nomination for Oregon governor as the Independent Party of Oregon nominee over two well-funded write-in campaigns attempting to steal the IPO primary. Their efforts backfired. Our simple message of getting big money out of politics prevailed. Maybe their efforts were too well funded.

From the primary in May, we continued to take our message of "getting big money out of politics" to all 36 counties in Oregon and to the first televised governors' debate. We heard overwhelming bipartisan support for campaign finance reform across Oregon both rural and urban.

After being blocked from the final two televised debates and other important media events, we knew our third-party candi-



Patrick Starnes

dacy was doomed (even though 38% of voters are neither Democrat nor Republican). Nonetheless, I did not want Oregonians' demand for campaign finance

reform to die.

On Oct. 30 (one week before the election), Gov. Brown and I found common ground on campaign finance reform. We agreed that Oregon needs a constitutional amendment (SJR 18), which at least would allow us to match the federal limits: \$2,800 per person and \$50,000 per PAC (political action committee). In turn, I dropped out of the election and endorsed Gov. Brown, who has made campaign finance reform one of her top priorities this year.

Soon after the election in December, I started driving once a week to the Capitol in Salem (an hour north of Brownsville) in order to meet all 90 members of the legislative branch of Oregon (or at least their staff).

The first on the list was the Senate President's Office, and soon after that meeting he assigned a brand new committee — the first in Oregon history — called the Campaign Finance Committee, which was headed by the new senator from Ashland who also ran on campaign finance and won: Sen. Jeff Golden.

At the end of March, Republican Sen. Tim Knopp's bill (SJR 18) to refer a constitutional amendment to the voters on the

2020 ballot passed and went to the Senate Rules Committee. You can imagine my excitement to have an early success in the first hundred days of the session!

Well, when it got to the Senate Rules Committee, the majority leader wanted to see a campaign limits bill pass through the house before she would forward our constitutional amendment referral bill SJR 18 to the Senate floor.

The campaign limits bill (HB 2714) has passed from the House floor and now will return to the Senate Rules Committee where it can be amended and improved.

The version that passed the House set limits on individuals at \$2,800 per person but failed to set any limits on PAC money, unlike what the governor and I agreed upon.

We cannot have true campaign finance reform if PACs are "unlimited."

The Oregon Senate can remove the word "unlimited" from this campaign contribution limits bill. Otherwise the voters will need to use the referendum process and withdraw the bill and rewrite it with the limits they want in 2020. Hopefully we will not need to gather signatures for this process immediately after the legislative session ends.

Let us completely match the federal limits and get big money out of politics in Oregon!

Patrick Starnes, the Independent Party of Oregon's nominee for governor in 2018, lives in Brownsville with his wife, where they restore old homes for a living.

WITNESS



WHERE TO WRITE

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• **Long Creek** — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.

• **Monument** — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: cityofmonument@centurytel.net.

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• **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: governor.state.or.us/governor.html.

• **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).

• **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.

• **Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** — 900 Court St. NE, S-301, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1730. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/Bentz. Email: Sen.CliffBentz@oregonlegislature.gov.

• **Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale** — 900 Court St. NE, H-475, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/findley. Email: Rep.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

• **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.

In response to 'No wisdom from a position of hate'

To the Editor:

In a letter in the May 29 Eagle, Kay Steele first reacted to my use of the word "hate." It was the purposeful use of hyperbole — exaggeration to amplify a point.

Second, I would argue that I did not "anthropomorphize" wolves (ascribe to them human qualities); rather, I compared and contrasted their predatory behavior to mankind's hunting behavior.

She asserts that, based on my arguments, one could list a whole host of predators "that likewise deserve condemnation."

I actually said, "It is legitimate for man the hunter to largely supplant the role of the predators

when we multiply and fill a geographic area."

We have not done that in Canada or the state of Alaska where there are approximately 70,000 wolves; we have not done that in Africa where over 100 species of prey animals are doing just fine in the face of the five major African predators that are being well managed.

But we have done that in the United States.

Even our extensive wilderness areas are fully used by hunting sportsmen in the fall.

Then she asserts that "Without predators, deer and elk, for example, would over-populate the carrying capacity of the land."

The Western states in general and Oregon in particular had very limited predators all through most of the 20th century.

Our professional wildlife biologists did a very good job using hunters to effectively

keep deer and elk numbers well within the carrying capacity of the land.

Next she suggests that hunting tends to remove the biggest and best bucks and bulls and thereby weakens the gene pool of the herds.

Mature bucks and bulls have already passed along their strong genes for all of their reproductive life before being harvested by a hunter.

In conclusion, she asks, "Is it wise to think man knows better than God, himself?" We are given a glimpse of God's attitude through the prophet Ezekiel (34:25): "I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods."

Reg LeQuieu
Mt. Vernon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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