

THE LITIGATOR

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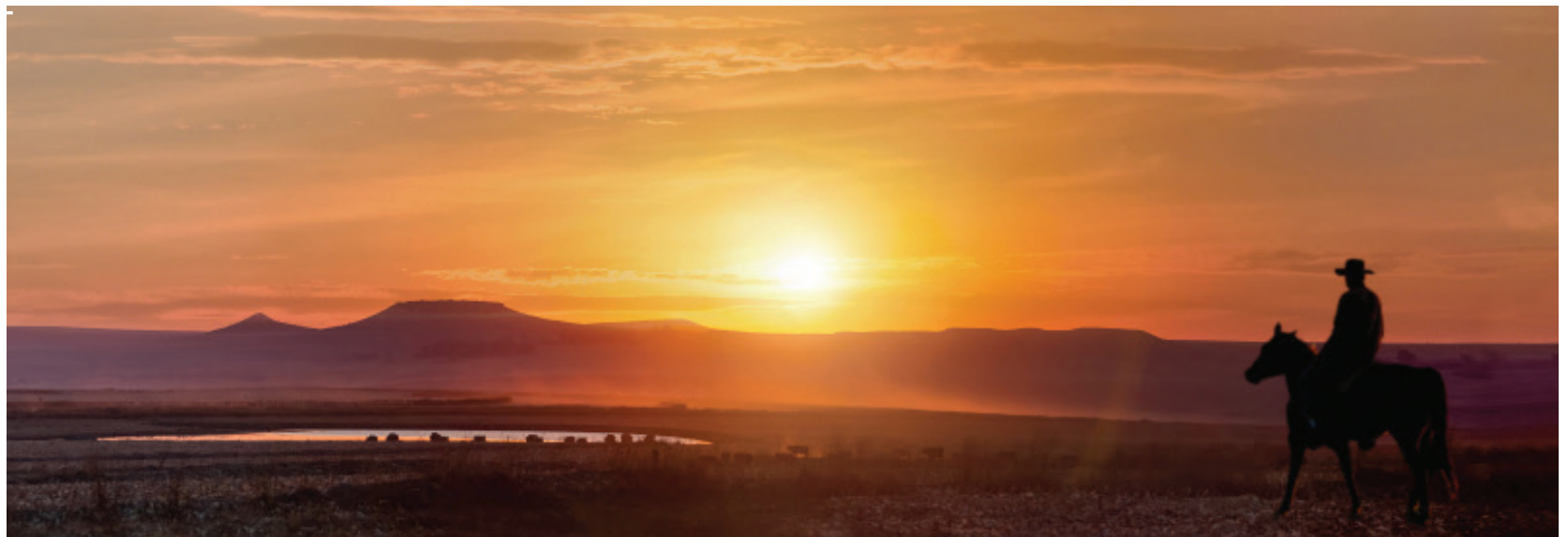


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A Quiet Hero

Remembering Freedom's Advocate H.A. 'Dave' True, Jr.

Julia A. Seymour

In the lobby of True Companies in Casper, Wyoming hangs a plaque: The Code of the West. The 10 principles listed include courage, fairness and keeping your word.

Those are all values True Companies' founder "Dave" True, Jr., 1915-1994, lived out. The legendary Wyoming wildcatter, is also known to many as an entrepreneur and a philanthropist. He's known to Mountain States Legal Foundation as a "hero" and former Chairman of the Board.

Although his given name was Henry Alphonso True, Jr., the brilliant oil man went by Dave. It was a fitting moniker for a modest man who spurned attention even as he built a network of businesses, supported nonprofits and business groups, and earned accolades including "Citizen of the Century" from University of Wyoming.

"He was a very quiet supporter," said his son David L. "Not only did he not want the limelight, he ran from it. He didn't want his name in lights or up on the marquee or anything else. But if you took a minute and looked around, you'd see: 'Oh, there's his fingerprint over there, and there's his fingerprint over there.' But you never heard him say it."

Family members who knew him best described him fondly as a quiet, family man and the hardest worker you could imagine.

His son Diemer recalled that his dad would go to work seven days a week, come home for family dinner each night, then return to work.

The Early Years and Family Life

Dave True was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming but soon the Great Depression forced his father's business to close. They relocated to Florida but still struggled.

"Family lore has it they were about to send the kids away when The Texas Companies, which became Texaco, called to ask grandfather to be a landman" in Montana, said Diemer.

His father's work in the oil industry would have a profound influence on Dave.

He met Jean, the woman who became his wife, while he was earning an engineering degree from Montana State. Their son Dave said his parents had the best relationship and were "partners in every way." Over the years the couple had four children: Tamma True-Hatten, H.A. "Hank" True III, Diemer True and David L. True.

Mother was a significant reason he was the man he was, David L. said. "She was so supportive of him." Diemer agreed, describing them as "partners and friends and man and wife."

After graduating, Dave pursued a career in oil.

"He was so impressed by his dad's friends in the oil field, he thought this is the best industry in the world," said Diemer. "So he took a job ... an entry-level roustabout job," in spite of his engineering degree, and moved to Wilson Creek, Colorado.

Texaco later promoted him and moved the family to Cody, Wyoming. But following the war the company offered him two options: New York or Venezuela. He chose a different path, staying in Wyoming to work on a one-rig drilling operation.

From a “shoestring” operation, he built a successful oil business and, always the entrepreneur, he started related businesses in transportation, agriculture and financial services. Many of them still exist today as part of the True Companies.

Brent Hathaway, a former dean of the University of Wyoming College of Business, told the *Casper Star Tribune* in 2013, Dave True was the consummate entrepreneur.

“He had an incredible legacy of creating dozens of companies” still in operation, because “he was a big-picture leader. He was able to anticipate needs.”

Taking the Long View

Contrary to modern liberal stereotypes of businesspeople, Dave True cared about how he did it. He “had real character,” which “dictated how he did business.”

“He always wanted to make a deal [so that the other party] wanted to come back and make another deal with him,” Diemer explained. He always said, “A good deal is not a good deal unless it’s good for both parties.”

His brilliance, character and patience brought success.

David L. recalled his dad, “always took the long view. I can’t think of an example where he was in it for a quick buck.”

Gratitude over that success led Dave to give back in his own community and to be active in national organizations in his own quiet way.

“We’ve probably never needed Mountain States Legal Foundation more than we do now with the excess of government reach and just the smothering rules and regulations.”

“He felt very blessed with the industries that he was involved with, with the country, and with the state and the region. He really had a sense of obligation to give back of his time and talent,” said Dave.

Hank said their father “was a tremendous advocate of being able to take his favorite partner [the government] to task.”

Although Dave started off as a Democrat, he quickly realized he didn’t share their principles. Diemer said his father became a conservative who



H.A. “Dave” True, Jr. with beloved wife Jean True.

“put money where his mouth was” and became very active behind the scenes with business and trade groups.

He was an early supporter and board member of Mountain State Legal Foundation and served as Board Chairman from 1988-1990. “Dave True was a real hero to MSLF,” said one founding board of litigation member. Dave helped the foundation survive a difficult financial period early in its history.

Why MSLF? Government accountability was likely one motivator, but his son David L. thought it was also about fairness. He felt “government shouldn’t be there to tilt the playing field.” It should allow people to take risks and fail or succeed.

“I just think he felt regulations and burdensome laws were contrary to the overall improvement of, not just the country, but mankind and society. And that people should be allowed to venture and fail,” David L. explained.

Wisdom for Today

If Dave True were still here, his son Diemer thinks he’d have this advice for fellow conservatives.

First, “never give up.” Second, “we’ve probably never needed Mountain States Legal Foundation more than we do now with the excess of government reach and just the smothering rules and regulations.”

Diemer said that if political winds shift and “we get back to the Obama craze of regulating everything, the need for Mountain States Legal Foundation will be greater and greater.”

“But he’d say it in fewer words,” Diemer added with a laugh.

Julia A. Seymour is the Director of Communications for Mountain States Legal Foundation.



Ranchers Fight to Survive

Brian Gregg

You shall not remove your neighbor's boundary stone, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance. – Deuteronomy 19:14

In ancient Hebrew culture, stones were often used to mark the boundary between two neighboring properties. Moving a boundary stone meant you were stealing part of your neighbors' field. It was a serious crime in that time, and for good reason.

Ancient Israel was an agrarian society. They grew crops and raised livestock. To steal part of someone's field was to steal part of his livelihood, his ability to provide for his family. Hebrew families were required by law to keep land in the family. In fact, if folks fell on hard times and had to sell the family land, they would have the land returned to them in the fiftieth year, the year of "Jubilee."

Keeping land in the family was vitally important, because it was the only way to ensure that your descendants would survive. The ability to pass your land down to your children as an inheritance was a sacred right.

The world has changed a lot since those days. But here in the American West, there's one thing that hasn't changed, and that's the vital importance of land for families who make a living raising livestock. With every drop of sweat that you pour into the land, you earn the right to pass that land on to those who come after you.

But what happens when the government casts aside that legal right and no longer values the history and tradition of western ranching? In that case, a ranching family's livelihood and legacy can be stolen. They can lose everything overnight.

That's what happened to John and Martha Corrigan. The fifth-generation cattle ranchers in the "three corners" region of southwest Idaho, are direct descendants of the families who homesteaded the area. When it came time for Martha's parents to pass down the family ranch, the Corrigans were in for a rude awakening.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) illegally cancelled the Corrigan's grazing preference on nearby federal grazing lands.

Grazing preferences are a special kind of property right — they guarantee landowners the right to be issued a permit to graze their livestock on federal lands that owners of that piece of land have historically used.

Based on new (and arguably illegal) regulations implemented during the Clinton administration, the BLM now claimed that the Corrigans' grazing preference for their historical tract of federal grazing land was no longer attached to their nearby ranch. Because the agency did not renew their parents' grazing permit, the BLM claimed — years after the fact — that this also automatically destroyed the Corrigans' underlying preference, which was part of the family's private ranch lands.



A fifth-generation Idaho ranch hangs in the balance.

A way of life devastated overnight

Such a thing had never been heard of in the history of American ranching. The BLM simply invented an entirely new legal theory. And even worse, the BLM somehow "forgot" to tell the family that it had cancelled their grazing preference until the Corrigans tried to make use of it years later.

It was akin to moving an ancient boundary stone. The BLM destroyed their family legacy and their right to make a living. It took something sacred from them.

If we don't stop them, the BLM will be able to do this to countless other ranching families. That's why Mountain States Legal Foundation is representing area cattle associations also threatened by the BLM's action in the case, *Corrigan v. Bernhardt*.

At MLSF, we believe federal bureaucrats must be held accountable when they break the law and harm ranching families. We are standing up in court to tell the BLM: *No, you cannot simply ignore the law and revoke this family's property rights and decimate their ranch.*

We are standing up to tell the BLM: *This is one boundary stone you shall not move.*

Brian Gregg is an attorney with Mountain States Legal Foundation, specializing in grazing rights and property law.



Free Country. Free People.

Freedom isn't free. Champions of liberty like you make every legal victory possible.

Your support empowers MSLF attorneys to defend constitutional liberty in courtrooms across the American West and around the nation — all the way to the Supreme Court when necessary.

Join the battle to preserve American freedom and defend limited, constitutional government. Make your gift today.

Defend the Corrigan Family!



After Mike Hanley (L) passed the family ranch to his daughter Martha Corrigan and her husband, the family learned the government revoked their grazing preference years earlier without notice. This illegal act not only robbed the family of its legacy, it puts all ranchers at risk. (Pictured with MSLF attorney Brian Gregg)



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Women of the West

Pioneering Westerners Led the Way on Women's Vote

Cristen Wohlgemuth

March is Women's History Month and in 2020 America will celebrate 100 years since the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote. Many Western states can proudly say they did it first. A full 20 states or territories granted women the vote ahead of 1920, led by the West.

Although states had many different reasons for granting women the right to vote it's an undisputed fact of history that they did. And far sooner than Congress was willing to.

Wyoming Territory made history as the first to grant women voting rights in 1869, a remarkable 51 years ahead of the nation and earning the nickname "The Equality State." Women were an integral part of frontier life and some territory lawmakers believed women should have a say in how it was run. Others felt it would attract more women to the territory.

Wyoming women are still integral to Western life today, including MSLF client Mickey Thoman and her daughters, who ranch sheep near Yellowstone National Park. Thoman and others in the region are threatened by the growing grizzly population and the environmentalists litigating to keep the species listed as "endangered" despite the threat the bears pose to locals.

In 1870, Utah Territory also gave women the vote, although an act of Congress later revoked the right. Suffragists had to fight to return the right to vote to women when Utah became a state. In Utah's case, the federal government prevented equality and human liberty, much as they do today. The federal government's habit of trampling rights is the reason MSLF is litigating multiple cases against federal agencies over infringements of property rights and other individual liberties.



Jeannette Rankin (pictured right), was a Republican from Montana. In 1916 she became the first woman ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

In Colorado, where MSLF is based, women worked for many years to their secure voting rights and succeeded in 1893. That was still decades ahead of the 19th Amendment. Spurred on by that victory for equality, Colorado then elected the first three female state legislators in U.S. history!

That kind of plucky, pioneering Western spirit is one we celebrate and defend here at Mountain States Legal Foundation. It's the reason we continue to fight for individual liberty, property rights, and the Second Amendment. We know you share these Western values with us and we're grateful for your support.

Cristen Wohlgemuth is Executive Vice President of Mountain States Legal Foundation.

Training Constitutional Warriors

MSLF Fellowships Empower My Generation to Defend Liberty

Austin C. Vincent

Growing up as a seventh-generation cowboy on the family cattle ranch in Northeastern New Mexico, I had a love for the land and appreciation for private property rights long before I realized it. As I grew up, I realized that these rights and the agricultural lifestyle are constantly under attack.

I vividly remember, as a 12-year old boy, how confused I was when my father and I first discussed the fact that the federal government has the ultimate say over how we may use the water that flows through the Corrupa Creek traversing our ranch. As I grew older, confusion turned to understanding, as well as an aspiration to fight for the traditional American way of life, and against further government overreach.



DID YOU KNOW?

- 98% of Harvard Law School faculty donations went to Democrats.
- Law schools across the U.S. are overwhelmingly partisan and do not faithfully teach the Constitution.
- MSLF's Fellowship Program trains law students in constitutional rights, property rights, and limited government.
- Fellows work directly with MSLF attorneys, becoming the next generation of conservative liberty defenders.

Seeing news stories of the government revoking grazing leases, farmers being slammed with millions of dollars in fines for violating arbitrary regulations, and oil and gas companies struggling to operate under red-tape regulations that plague their industry, has affirmed my convictions to fight against a growing "big brother" government.

I carried this passion with me to Texas Tech University, where I earned two undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration in Energy Commerce and Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness.

While in school I was a student athlete on Texas Tech's Rodeo team while also being involved in the Rawls College Business School and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

After graduation, I decided to stay at Texas Tech for law school, where I will graduate in May 2020.

The opportunity to work as a fellow at Mountain States Legal Foundation taught me that it is imperative we hold our government accountable and keep it in check.

It also helped me take a step forward into fighting for liberty and private property rights by empowering me with the confidence and knowledge needed to help protect individual liberties and play a part in limiting the government.

Most importantly, the knowledge and skills I acquired over a summer at MSLF are integral components to reaching my goal of one day being an effective legal advocate for ranchers and farmers, as well as oil and gas entrepreneurs.

Thanks to this great opportunity with Mountain States Legal Foundation, I am empowered to keep fighting for traditional, constitutional values and individual liberties.

Austin C. Vincent is a third year law student at Texas Tech University. He was a 2019 MSLF Legal Fellow.

Want to inspire a new generation of attorneys to defend freedom? Contact MSLF to learn how you can support the fellowship program.



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CASE UPDATE MSLF Defends Small Business Victory in DC

In 1982, MSLF client Sidney Longwell purchased a federal oil and gas lease in order to drill in Montana. His company, Solenex, spent years investing, doing all the government agencies asked, to ensure it was environmentally safe and would not harm Native American cultural sites.

Thirty-seven years later, Longwell is only leaseholder still fighting for rights to drill in that area. The rest surrendered. In January, MSLF attorney David McDonald argued before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals for Solenex. Federal agencies refused to accept MSLF's 2018 District Court victory. In that ruling, Judge Richard J. Leon criticized the agencies "unreasonable" delay, calling it "Kafkaesque."

Although Sidney could not be present due to poor health, his daughter Kelly Longwell and business partner Sonny Cranch attended.

"We have a drill site and approved permit. It's just beyond Sidney's and all of our understanding. Why should this be denied?" said Sonny.



(L-R) Kelly Longwell, MSLF attorney David McDonald, and Sidney Longwell's business partner, Sonny Cranch.

Kelly and Sonny said Sidney will keep fighting for the right to use his mineral lease and petitioning the government to do the right thing.

"We are still of the opinion that we'll be able to drill at some point," said Kelly Longwell.

MSLF awaits the Circuit Court ruling in the case, *Solenex, LLC v. Bernhardt*, prepared to celebrate or continue fighting for Sidney as long as it takes.

Visit mslegal.org for new video about the case.