

7-3-2012

Butte Silver Bow Courthouse Centennial Celebration

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Recommended Citation

Baucus, Max S., "Butte Silver Bow Courthouse Centennial Celebration" (July 3, 2012). *Max S. Baucus Speeches*. 920.
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Butte Silver Bow Courthouse Centennial Celebration

Date: July 3, 2012

Location: Butte

Number of Expected Attendees: 100

Podium: Yes

Order of Speakers: Jeff Amerman/MC, Senator Baucus,
Pam Cote/Tester's office

Objective of Statement: To celebrate the milestone,
remind folks of your work on Citizens United.

It's great to be with you today to celebrate the rich history of the Butte Silver Bow County Court House.

Thanks to everyone who made this celebration possible, especially the Butte Centennial Committee – you've worked so hard.

Pat Holland is a humble guy - but he's sure done a lot and deserves recognition.

Let's hear it for Pat!

And how about Jeff Hockaday who did so much of the painting?

Jeff – this is a masterpiece!

There are also a couple dozen of you on the centennial committee who also worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

We all owe you our gratitude.

I also want to recognize someone who you might call the “face of the courthouse.”

Helen Walsh worked here for 45 years and retired two years ago.

She greeted visitors and welcomed them for many of the years we’re celebrating today.

Her grandfather, Daniel Boone Reed, worked for the Western Iron Works.

He also left his mark on the courthouse by pouring the bronze bow and arrows on the floor in the center of the building.

It's not just the building that we are honoring today.

It's people like Helen and the entire community we're celebrating.

100 years ago, the court house was the center of a community fighting for freedom from the "copper collar."

**It was a time when the copper kings buying influence,
buying judges and buying elections.**

**The year this courthouse was built, Montanans were
fed up.**

**Montanans stood up and said elections belong to us –
not to the copper kings.**

**This past week, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned
Montana's law.**

**This is a step backward in time for Montanans –
especially folks in Butte – because we learned from
history that unlimited corporate influence hurts
democracy.**

Our elections should not be for sale.

I'm working to pass a constitutional amendment that would allow Montana to regulate corporate campaign spending as we see fit.

As we celebrate the courthouse centennial and Independence Day this week – let us also remember the legacy of democracy born here in Butte.

Thanks again to everyone who made this ceremony possible.