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We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty, though it never was. Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause.

Ronald Reagan, at the Vietnam Memorial on Veterans Day, 1988

Victory for Marriage in Sixth Circuit Court

The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals [ruled](#) last week to uphold the marriage laws in four states, making it the first federal appeals court to issue a ruling in favor of traditional marriage. The 2-1 decision overturned rulings from lower courts in Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky which had declared that the laws in these states prohibiting same-sex marriage were unconstitutional. An appeal to the Supreme Court is likely. Court watchers expect that this appeal to be the catalyst which causes the High Court to take up the issue of same-sex marriage as there is now a split in the decisions of the appeals courts on this issue. In the majority opinion for the court, Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton explained that the decision regarding same-sex marriage should rest with the people, not the courts. He stated, “When the courts do not let the people resolve new social issues like this one, they perpetuate the idea that the heroes in these change events are judges and lawyers.” He further stated, “Better in this instance, we think, to allow change through the customary political processes, in which the people, gay and straight alike, become the heroes of their own stories by meeting each other not as adversaries in a court system but as fellow citizens seeking to resolve a new social issue in a fair-minded way.” Earlier this fall, the Supreme Court declined to take up any of the marriage cases which had been sent to them by the 4th, 7th, and 10th Circuit Courts as these decisions were all in agreement in favor of same-sex marriage. However, with the 6th Circuit decision in contradiction to the others, it is likely the Supreme Court will [weigh](#) in on this issue, possibly as early as the spring term. People on both sides of this issue appear eager for the Supreme Court to make a decision. Supporters of same-sex marriage are looking for the Supreme Court to uphold their arguments that denying same-sex marriage violates the due process and equal protection clause of the 14th amendment. However, supporters of traditional marriage are also eager to present their case before the High Court and hope for a decision that will respect will of the people and the laws already established in states.

Marriage Battle Continues to Wage in the States

The courts continue to question the will of the people in several states where marriage amendments and laws were put in place through the legislative process. In [Kansas](#), a federal judge decided last week that the state marriage law was unconstitutional. In response to his ruling, state officials appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court for a stay in the decision. The Supreme Court of Kansas had already begun to hold hearings on the state’s response to marriage licensing after the 10th Circuit Court decision earlier this year. State officials claim that this new decision by the federal judge interferes with the Kansas Supreme Court’s review and cite the ruling of the 6th Circuit Court and the importance of utilizing the political process to determine social matters of this kind. Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor [granted](#) the stay, which will remain in effect until further notice by herself or the full court. In [Missouri](#), a St. Louis judge struck down the marriage law, calling it

unconstitutional; but several Missouri counties have [refused](#) to follow the ruling and will not grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The Recorders Association of Missouri has encouraged this action, claiming the judge's decision applies only to the one county under the jurisdiction of the St. Louis judge. In [West Virginia](#), a federal judge has ruled the state amendment is unconstitutional; however, this decision seems to be a mere formality as West Virginia state officials have been issuing same-sex marriage licenses since the 4th Circuit Court decision earlier this year. In [South Carolina](#), a state also in the region of the 4th Circuit, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Gergel struck down the marriage amendment which was passed in 2006 by a 78-22 percent majority. After the decision by the 4th Circuit, the state supreme court blocked the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples at the request of state Attorney General Alan Wilson and issued an order that a U.S. district judge in South Carolina had to rule against the marriage law before the law could be overturned. After the decision this week, Wilson says he is examining the ruling and [plans](#) to appeal the decision. To be sure, despite the many court rulings across the country which are overturning state marriage laws, supporters of traditional marriage are not conceding battle but rather are fighting back through the court system and legislative process.

Two More States Work to Replace Common Core

State legislatures in Ohio and Wisconsin are working on [plans](#) to replace the Common Core Standards (CCS). The day after the November 4 elections, the Ohio House Rules and Reference Committee passed a bill which would replace the CCS with the Massachusetts standards until new standards can be developed by the state. While it is unlikely the bill will become law before the end of the year, supporters hope the bill gains enough support to be considered again in the 2015 legislative session. In Wisconsin, both the re-elected Governor Scott Walker and the state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald have voiced opposition to the CCS, and Fitzgerald has indicated that withdrawing from the CCS is on next year's legislative agenda. To date, four states (IN, OK, SC, and LA) have officially withdrawn from the CCS and related assessments.

School Choice Gets Strong Support in WI

A recent poll conducted by the Marquette University Law School shows that the majority of voters in Wisconsin [favor](#) an expansion of the state's school choice program. A strong 49% of those polled supported the idea of growing the program statewide, while only 41% opposed. Started in 1989, the Milwaukee voucher program is one of the oldest voucher programs in the country. Last year the number of seats available in the program doubled from 500 to 1000. Re-elected Governor Scott Walker is a strong proponent of the school choice program, having stated repeatedly that he believes parents should have many educational options available from which to choose for their children.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Religious Liberty and Sexual Liberty Can Coexist](#)

[Outspoken Navy Chaplain is Newly Elected Colorado House Representative](#)

[UK Bans Sex-Selective Abortion](#)