

Wednesday, July 5, 2006 | Current Weather for NWA: SUNNY 74 F (more conditions and forecast)

[Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Obits](#) | [Business Directory](#) |

Search Search Browse by date Wed, Jul 5, 2006 in ADG-NW

- Homepage**
- Replica Edition
- News**
- Northwest Arkansas
- NWA Crime Report
- US & World News
- Gridlock Guru
- Sports**
- ADG Sports
- WholeHogSports
- Northwest Outdoors
- Business**
- Business
- Business Matters
- Opinion**
- Opinion
- Sunday Perspective
- Style**
- Style
- Family
- HomeStyle
- Food
- MovieStyle
- What's Up!
- MORE**
- Northwest Profiles
- Religion
- Travel
- Books
- Wal-Mart Coverage
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- Obituaries
- Weddings, Engagements, Anniversaries
- Births
- Tools & Information

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS EDITION

Lobbyists pile it on for state interests

BY PAUL BARTON
 Posted on Tuesday, July 4, 2006
[Email this story](#) | [Printer-friendly version](#)

WASHINGTON — A lobbyist with strong connections to former House Republican Majority Leader Tom DeLay has been a major contributor to two Democratic members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.



Since 1997, Tim Rupli and his wife, Linda, have given Rep. Mike Ross \$ 22, 270 and Sen. Mark Pryor \$ 20, 000. The figures are based on research the Center for Responsive Politics did for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Rupli, a former DeLay staff member, is listed annually by various Washington publications as one of Capitol Hill's most formidable lobbyists.

He and nine other lobbyists, or their spouses, have personally given \$ 529, 400 to members of the Arkansas delegation over the past decade. In their professional lives, they represent a plethora of interests, from the Chicago Public Schools to Dillard's Inc. to the U. S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

They have favored Pryor, elected to the Senate in 2002, the most, giving him \$ 176, 470. Sen. Blanche Lincoln, who sits on the

EM
OPI
PR
NW
Dem
M

Oza
FOCUSSEE

FIRS
FR
ATM
Member FDIC
banks. A fee per
bank's charge.

CC
Credit C
DE

Dr
Imagi
Bar
Head

TOOLS & INFORMATION

- [Contact Us](#)
 - [Place a Classified Ad](#)
 - [Subscribe to the Print Edition](#)
 - [Web \(RSS\) Feeds !\[\]\(31b03e46ee8a80a1f1467b8c03bd76e8_img.jpg\)](#)
 - [Print and Web Advertising Rates](#)
 - [Newspapers in Education \(NIE\)](#)
- Special Sections**
- [Wal-Mart Coverage](#)
 - [NWA Churches](#)
 - [Visit Eureka Springs](#)
 - [Real Estate](#)
 - [Hungry?](#)

ADVERTISING



Senate Finance Committee, is close behind with \$ 175, 750. The \$ 104, 680 in contributions to Ross puts him far ahead of the other House members in the delegation.

Rupli recently formed Timothy R. Rupli and Associates. He had worked for the Federalist Group, a largely Republican shop whose managing director is James J. Baker, a longtime lobbyist for the National Rifle Association.

In its most recent ranking of lobbyists, The Hill, a Capitol Hill newspaper, called Rupli a DeLay insider "known for his ability to kill legislation and his prodigious fundraising power." The Center for Media and Democracy, which describes itself as a media-monitoring group, identifies him as a member of "Team DeLay."

A recent study by the advocacy group Public Citizen listed Rupli as one of the 20 most prolific givers to congressional candidates among lobbyists. It listed Ross as one of his top five targets.

Ross and Pryor said their relationships with Rupli have nothing to do with DeLay, who has resigned from Congress.

Ross said he got to know Rupli because of his work in staving off attempts to close the Red River Army Depot near Texarkana. Lobbying on behalf of the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, Rupli has helped save about 6, 000 jobs, Ross said.

Of his thousands of contributors, Ross said, "I don't know what their relationships are to other people. It would be impossible for me to know that."

Pryor said his friendship with Rupli stems from a shared interest in gun owner's rights. "I don't see any inconsistency in that," Pryor said. "I never had any idea that he even knew Tom DeLay."

Rupli is also known for his work for United to Secure America, a group that argues for strict immigration controls as a matter of national security.

According to the Senate Office of Public Records, Rupli's other clients include the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, the Coalition for Fair & Affordable Lending, Independent Community Bankers of America, the Community Financial Services Association of America and Advance America, a leading payday-loan company.

TOP CONTRIBUTORS The lobbyists who have given the most to Arkansans, \$ 110, 750, are Steve Glaze and his wife, Terri. They are the only members of the top 10 to have contributed to every member of the delegation. Glaze is a principal in the Palmetto Group. Its clients include AT&T, United Airlines, the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, Comcast, Pfizer, Miller Brewing Company, the Norfolk Southern Railroad, Dillard's and the Stephens Group Inc. Together, lobbyists for another of Washington's biggest firms, the Van Scoyoc Associates, are not far behind. Jeffrey Trince and Kevin and Catherine Kelly have given



berina. Jeffrey Trinca and Kevin and Catherine Kelly have given the delegation a total of \$ 90, 250.

The Hill describes Van Scoyoc as the largest "lobbying only" firm in town and one that pays particular attention to appropriations issues and to education issues. Its client list includes such names as the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, the University of Akron and the Chicago Public Schools.

Van Scoyoc is also the lobbying firm for Bechtel, Fannie Mae and the Space and Rocket Center.

Public Citizen says the firm's members rank No. 1 in campaign contributions by lobbyists, with its top two recipients being Republicans, Sens. Richard Shelby of Alabama and Conrad Burns of Montana. EX-ARKANSAN BIG DONOR

A former Arkansan, Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty, is fourth on the list of givers. He and his wife, Donna, have given the delegation's Democrats a total of \$ 49, 000.

McLarty, a chief of staff to former President Clinton, teamed with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in 1999 to form Kissinger McLarty Associates, an international strategic advisory firm.

The McLartys also have given to the campaigns of 2004 presidential hopefuls John Kerry and John Edwards and to 2008 presidential contenders Hillary Rodham Clinton and Evan Bayh, among other Democratic candidates.

Each of the 10 lobbyists has given to Lincoln, Pryor and Ross. One couple, James and Camille Massie, have given more to Lincoln over the last decade, \$ 27, 500, than to any other member of Congress, according to Public Citizen.

James Massie is a co-founder and partner in the Alpine Group, which specializes in energy, environmental, healthcare and tax policy, all pertinent to Lincoln's seat on the Finance Committee.

Other studies have shown Lincoln is by far the delegation's largest recipient of money from Washington's overall lobbying community. She received \$ 439, 270 from 1998-2006, according to Public Citizen.

FEEDBACK:

Something to say about this topic? [Submit a Letter to the Editor online](#)

Copyright © 2001-2006 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc. All rights reserved.
[Contact Us](#)