

The background of the cover is a photograph of the Virginia State Capitol building, a large white neoclassical structure with a prominent pediment and columns. In the foreground, there is a lush garden of yellow and orange flowers. Bare tree branches are visible against a clear blue sky.

VIRGINIA CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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Spring 2016

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VIRGINIA CAPITOL CONNECTIONS QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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Cover photo by
Wanda Judd

The State of Virginia Politics in 2016

By QUENTIN KIDD

Virginia may be for lovers, but with significant elections every autumn and its increasingly important place in national politics, Virginia is certainly also for those who study elections and politics.

And right now, the Commonwealth finds itself in an interesting counter-intuitive electoral cycle.

On the one hand, since 2008, Democrats have a won-loss record in statewide races of 7-3, with the 2009 races being their one bad year. The presidential elections of 2008 were historic in that it was the first time a Democratic presidential candidate won Virginia in 40 years, but it was also a watershed election in that it marked the emergence of a new coalition of Democratic voters.

On the other hand, since 2008 Republicans have consolidated their hold on the General Assembly, taking the House of Delegates from a 55-43 majority to a 66-34 majority, and taking the Senate from a 19-21 minority to a 21-19 majority.

How do we understand these countervailing trends in Virginia electoral politics?

There are at least three broad explanations. The first is what we might call the Northern Virginia effect, that is the massive growth of Northern Virginia, and how different Northern Virginia is politically from the rest of the Commonwealth. In this way of understanding things, the rest of Virginia has largely remained the same, while Northern Virginia has grown and come to dominate all political change in the Commonwealth.

Another explanation is what we might call the differential turnout effect, that is, the much higher turnout in presidential election years and other statewide elections than during “off” or “off-off” year elections.

There are several ways to calculate voter turnout, but the State Board of Elections uses the formula *total voting/total registered*. Using State Board of Election data since 1976, we can see the highest turnout is during presidential elections, followed by U.S. Senate and Gubernatorial elections (off years), and then trailing badly are General Assembly elections (off-off years).

Average turnout from 1976 to present during presidential elections years has been 77.5%, dropping to an average of 54.5% during non-presidential U.S. Senate years and Gubernatorial years, and dropping further during General Assembly elections to 42%.

However, while turnout has been trending up for presidential election years, it has been trending down for General Assembly-only elections from a high of 59% in 1987 (the year the lottery question was on the ballot) to lows of 28% in the 2011 and 29% in 2015.

Overall, over the last 40 years or so there is an average 35.5% difference in turnout between presidential elections and General Assembly elections, and an average difference of 11-12% between U.S. Senate and Gubernatorial elections and General Assembly elections.



Everyone recognizes that there is also a structural effect as well. Virginia has a very unique cycle of elections resulting in some years where federal elections for president, U.S. Senate, and congressional seats attract maximum voter attention, and elections in other years where only House of Delegates seats are up.

But, there are things that exaggerate the effects of this unique cycle of elections.

For one, electoral districts at the state senate and House of Delegates level are heavily gerrymandered, resulting in a dichotomy where most of the state has little electoral activity and a smaller part of the state has almost manic electoral activity. For instance, in the 2015 election cycle, two-thirds of Virginia geographically did not have a competitive race, so if you lived in two-thirds of Virginia there were really no incentives to go vote. On the other hand, a few select districts, including the 10th senate district in suburban Richmond, the 29th senate district in suburban Northern Virginia, the 7th senate district in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, had hyper-competitive races.

Going forward, the big question relates to how the two parties respond to this electoral environment. While the parties have different theories of the electorate, Democrats appear to be unified around a basic theory while Republicans appear to be debating the merits of two different theories.

The Democratic theory of the Virginia electorate is conceptually easy to understand, if not difficult to consistently put into practice. It is that Democrats need to effectively mobilize the coalition of voters that then candidate Barack Obama created during his 2008 run to the White House. This coalition includes blacks, urban and inner-suburban whites (especially white women), voters under 40 (the bulk of which are the elusive Millennials), and ethnic minorities (including the increasingly important Hispanic vote).

This modern Democratic coalition is built upon the coalition that emerged out of the political transformation of the 1960s and early 1970s, which included blacks, labor voters, and urban whites. The problem is, the new Democratic coalition contains elements that are very difficult to mobilize, including Millennials and ethnic minorities.

Republicans have conflicting theories of the Virginia electorate. On the one hand, the social conservative base argues that Republican voters show up in big numbers when the party runs sufficiently conservative candidates. All the party needs to do is run the right kind of candidate and the “silent majority” of conservative voters will show up in big numbers and win elections.

On the other hand, moderates say that Republicans need to move beyond the social conservative base and attract voters drawn to the fiscal conservative policies of Republicans, and to do so Republicans need to back off the focus on social issues.

The difficulty for Republicans has been that both sides can see their theories being demonstrated at times, with moderates pointing to the McDonnell/Cuccinelli/Bolling sweep in 2009 and social conservatives pointing to the strengthened General Assembly majorities and the very narrow losses of Cuccinelli and Gillespie in 2013 and 2014.

The 2016 election cycle will give Democrats another opportunity to better learn how to mobilize its diverse coalition of voters, but if Donald Trump is the eventual Republican nominee for president it is not clear that 2016 will do much to help settle the Republican debate.

Dr. Quentin Kidd, Vice Provost and director of the Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy <http://cnu.edu/cpp/index.asp>

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Emily Couric: *What might have been?*

By BONNIE ATWOOD

Her exit stunned the political world. Emily Couric was a rising star in the Democratic Party of Virginia. She was admired—loved—for her intelligence, her compassion, her spirit. She was more than a star. She was a glittering promise of a new Commonwealth of Virginia. She was positioned to become the first woman lieutenant governor, and there was serious talk that she would solidify her place in the history books as the first female governor. It was like nothing could slow her down. She seemed unstoppable.

Those who knew her remember the televised press conference. She was calm and pretty. It was almost like she was announcing a new legislative initiative, instead of what she said: *"I am ending my campaign due to my diagnosis of pancreatic cancer."*

Is that what she said? we asked ourselves. *Did I hear that right?* I think we all had the same reaction: *There's some mistake. It's not true.* We didn't think we heard her. And then she said it again.



Emily Couric brings pep to her high school class.



Emily Couric,
Yorktown High School
Class of 1965.



The Teenager

In full disclosure, this writer has known Emily Couric since we were 15 years old, or maybe as young as 12. We were classmates at Yorktown Senior High, Arlington, Virginia, Class of 1965. To my class, she was not a would-be governor. She was not a senator. She was not Katie's sister. She was Emily, the cheerleader, and very nice and smart girl. She was all ours.

Yorktown was Arlington's smallest public high school, known for its high standards, and its political cache. The daughter of Virginia Delegate Mary Marshall was one of our classmates, as was the son of Delegate Dorothy McDiarmid. Everybody knew Emily. She shows up many times in *"Grenadier,"* the yearbook: National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Latin Honor Society, Student Council, Pep Club, Cheerleader, the list goes on. And there's her photo: a dark, shiny Sixties bangs and flip, swished to one side, and that million-dollar smile. She's even in an advertisement for Raibourn Opticians, our "Optical Fashion Center." She is pictured

with two other cheerleaders and the caption *"Guys will make passes at girls who wear glasses."* She shows up again and again in the Girls' Athletic Association, the honor societies, the cheerleading squad, and more.

She is remembered as very smart and popular but, in the words of our day, not "stuck up." She may well have been the most liked girl in the class. Her impact was deep:

"Emily Couric was the best cheerleader and captain of the team," said Mimi Lodge. *"She had long legs and she could jump higher and do mid air splits better than any of the other cheerleaders. She smiled the whole time she was cheering, and in spite of a mouthful of braces, it was a beautiful smile."*

After one of the tryouts, Lodge didn't make the team. She remembers it this way:

"The locker room was full of laughter and hugging until the girls saw me and quieted down. They knew I would never cheer. I was trying to hurry and get out of there so they could resume their celebration, but I was a little shaken that not one of the adult judges or the girls came over and said anything to me, and then, one person did, and that one person was Emily Couric....Emily Couric had taught me a lesson about compassion."

And this, from Mike Gleason: *"You know, the nicest girl I ever knew in my life was Emily Couric. I never dated her. I never went out with her. But she was always pleasant."*

"I remember Emily as being always very soft-spoken and polite," said Jim Loughman.

Shirley Costley listed phrases that come to her mind when thinking of Emily: *"mature, quiet, smart, she seemed to always have her act together, not a gossip, stable and dependable."*

College, Career, Reunions

We knew she was the *crème de la crème* when she was accepted to Smith College. There she majored in botany, but she became a writer, first for an agency, and then freelancing, specializing in books about the legal profession. She wrote *"The Trial Lawyers"* and *"The Divorce Lawyers."* Couric relocated to Charlottesville with her husband, cardiologist George Beller.

Couric was treasured at the high school reunions. The class photo at the twentieth shows her in a dazzling strapless dress, and with "big hair," and gorgeous. She had two sons from a first marriage, had been divorced, and now she was married to Beller. She was happy.

Politics

It was about this time that Emily Couric, now 47, became a name on the ballot in Charlottesville. She held a seat on the City School Board from 1985 to 1991. By the fall of 1995, she was running a campaign for the 25th District of the Virginia Senate and labeling herself as a moderate Democrat. At the time, Republican George Allen was governor, and the Democrats had the edge in the legislature.

The election was an upset: she defeated incumbent Republican Ed Robb. It was also significant because it prevented an historic Republican takeover of the Senate. Who was this rising star? Even *The Wall Street Journal* was beginning to take notice. Major interests were education, health care, and environmentalism. She initiated the neuro-trauma legislation, and payment for screening for colon cancer. Even as a newcomer, she began to be touted as a candidate for lieutenant governor (literally, the next day) as a running mate for Don Beyer. Her campaign was described as "juggernaut," and her victory was attributed to more than two years of her own efforts to build a contingent of 600 volunteers.

At that point, she was hesitant to talk about statewide office, but that changed later when she made it known she was interested. She started appearing on national television. Her friend, Delegate Barnie Day, was quoted in the Richmond Times-Dispatch as saying that *"her ambition was off the scale."*

Mary Broz Vaughan was her legislative aide and had this to

say: "I was only 20 when I began working for Emily, so naturally I was cursed with all the certainty of youth. When my confidence called for a dose of curiosity and humility, she would gently redirect me by saying, 'just because someone doesn't do something exactly the way you would, doesn't necessarily make it wrong.'

Even in mentoring me then (and I still repeat that as a mantra, probably twice a week on average) Emily rejected the idea that leadership is just telling others what to do. Her effectiveness came from recognizing no one person (or party) has all the answers, and working together is the best way to reach—if not the perfect solution—at least practical ones."

Couric's personal skills are described again, by her GA Session roommate, Ken Plum's Legislative Aide, Barbara Shearer:

"Emily had a unique talent for listening. Her eyes never left yours, her concentration never wandered, and there was an empathetic warmth on her face as she listened to your story. You knew you had her full attention. At the end of the day, people just want to be heard, so it is no wonder her constituents and friends loved her."

Senator Couric won the respect of her colleagues, on both sides of the aisle. Senator Richard L. Saslaw was a close friend.

"She had a lot of ability," he said, "She was extraordinarily bright....Super bright. She got up one time and said she wasn't going to vote for a certain license plate. We disagreed, but in retrospect, it was the right thing to do."

Couric was re-elected in 1999. Excitement of a run for lieutenant governor was quickening. It was early in the process, but even the thought of Couric as governor was being entertained. For a while, she was virtually unchallenged.

"She would have had a good shot at being governor," said Saslaw. "People met her and liked her."

Illness

And then it happened. Pancreatic cancer is one of the meanest cancers. According to the Mayo Clinic, it often has a poor prognosis, even when diagnosed early. This type of cancer spreads rapidly, and at advanced stages, surgical removal is not possible.

And still, we hoped. For some of us, the denial was almost palpable.

"Emily Couric was a special person in the early days of my career," said lobbyist Ken Jessup. "One of my favorite memories took place during legislative receptions. My job was to keep her wine glass filled! I bought her a get-well card. I never gave it to her. Doing so would be admitting that she was ill, and I just wasn't prepared for that."

Couric started treatment and carried on her duties as Senator. Her beautiful hair thinned and she started wearing a wig. Senator Toddy Puller remembered it well, and how Couric turned a hardship into a blessing and a quip. Said Puller: "She said, 'I always wanted a chin-length pageboy. This is always the way I wanted my hair to look.'

"It was kind of auburn, and it looked lovely on her."

But the wig did not stay in her life. She just ripped it off one day and went back to natural. In the same way, her illness did not define her. She lived another year and a half and became a hardworking, and they say uncomplaining, co-chair of the Virginia

Emily Couric

714 Rugby Road
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
(804) 296-3962

May 9, 1994

Dear Bonnie,

Thank you for your nice letter. I admire you for your new endeavors and urge you to continue. Confidence is always a big issue for women moving into new career paths, but your letter — and the fact that you've been thinking about this — indicates that you have exactly what it takes. You can't be courageous without first being afraid!

Democratic Party.

Ellen Otto is an oncology nurse.

She administered Couric's first chemotherapy treatment, in 2000, and most of the subsequent treatments, and was one of her last caregivers. Otto is another person whose life was changed by knowing Couric. She got to know Couric on a deeper level. Here are some of her memories:

"She had such an inquisitive nature and a remarkable ability to digest facts and information...We spent much time together during her long treatments...Emily was always so grateful for the excellent care she received from her oncologist, Dr. Mike Williams. She was a wonderful patient...cheerful, kind to and supportive of nurses. She faced her treatments, her cancer with fortitude and determination. Her intelligence was evident and she had a lovely sense of humor, and such a beautiful smile. Her laugh was infectious—sometimes we would get a case of the giggles! Emily was also very thoughtful and generous..."

Couric Passes Away

Couric died on October 18, 2001, at age 54. One of our high school classmates, who prefers not to give his name, described the funeral. "The Episcopal funeral in Charlottesville was so crowded that I had trouble finding a place to park. I arrive late on that day. The service for her overflowed, and many of us had to sit down on the lawn benches. Loud speakers were set up outdoors, so we were able to follow the service."

"Emily's death was tragic to those in the community who knew her, as well as to everyone in the state who could have gotten to know her," said Delegate

See *Emily Couric*, continued on page 9

Says observer Robert Holsworth, a retired political science professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, "Her untimely death certainly was central to what was probably going to be a nomination for lieutenant governor and she would have been a strong candidate for the governorship."

Public Safety Poll

By ROBYN MCDUGGLE, PHD

During the General Assembly's recent biannual budget session, many policymakers focused on public safety reforms as an avenue to not only enhance the equity of the criminal justice system but also to ensure its fiscal efficiency and responsiveness to the needs of Virginia's citizens.

The recent 2016 Commonwealth Poll: Public Safety—conducted by the Office of Public Policy Outreach in the Center for Public Policy at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University—found strong support for reforming the juvenile justice system, parole practices, firearms ownership and marijuana policies.

More specifically, more than eight out of 10 (84 percent) support juvenile justice reforms that would reduce the use of large, adult-style incarceration facilities and instead use smaller, community-based therapeutic centers for juvenile offenders.

The poll was conducted in a first-ever partnership with the office of the Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

"The poll confirms our belief that a strong, bipartisan majority of Virginians understand that we must treat juvenile offenders differently than adults in order to improve public safety, reduce recidivism and provide the best opportunity for these young people to become productive citizens," said Brian Moran, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Along with juvenile justice, reforming the parole system in Virginia has also been the focus of recent debate. This past summer, the governor's parole review commission examined the current policies and practices in an attempt to reform the state's current process. Over three-quarters of Virginians (76 percent) polled agreed



that parole should be reinstated in the state.

"However, the fact that more than 75 percent of those supporting reinstating parole limited it to nonviolent offenders, and the impact of 'truth in sentencing' highlights the complexities surrounding this policy debate," said Robyn McDouggle, Ph.D., faculty director of the Office of Public Policy Outreach and associate professor of criminal justice at the Wilder School.

Lawmakers in Virginia and around the country regularly debate firearms ownership, and this year is no different. Poll responses indicated strong support for certain aspects (those focused on domestic violence) of firearms purchase reforms that were included in the bipartisan firearms bill passed by both chambers this year.

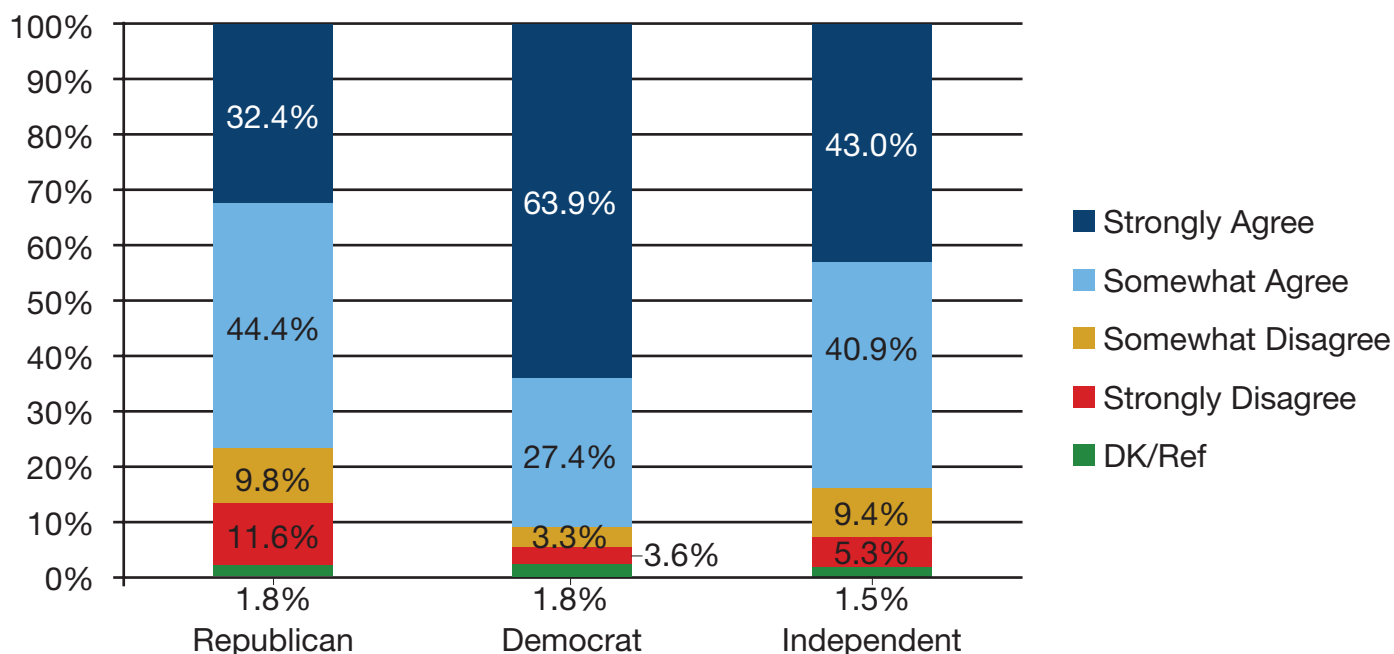
Most people (64 percent) support denying firearms purchases to people with outstanding restraining orders. Eighty-eight percent support current Virginia law denying firearms purchases to anyone with a domestic violence conviction.

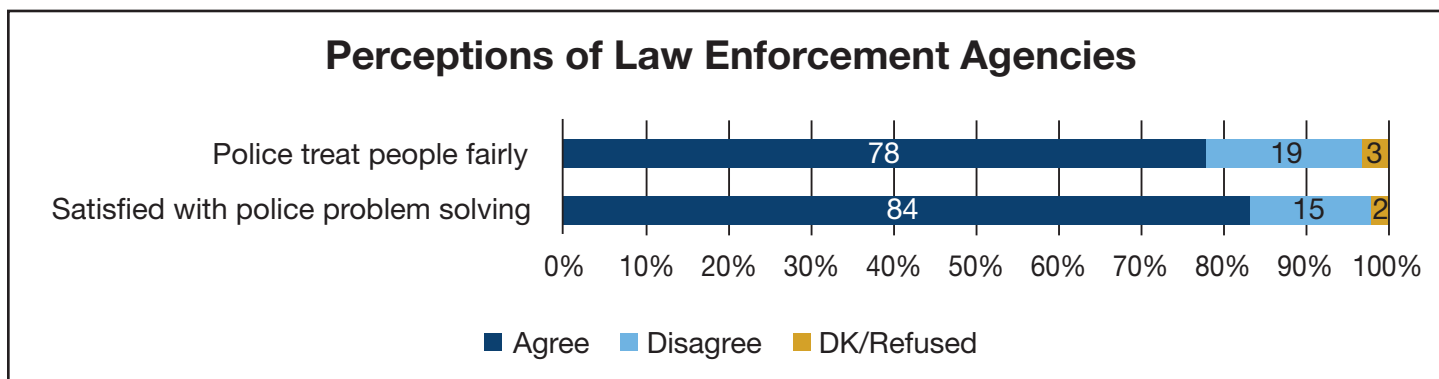
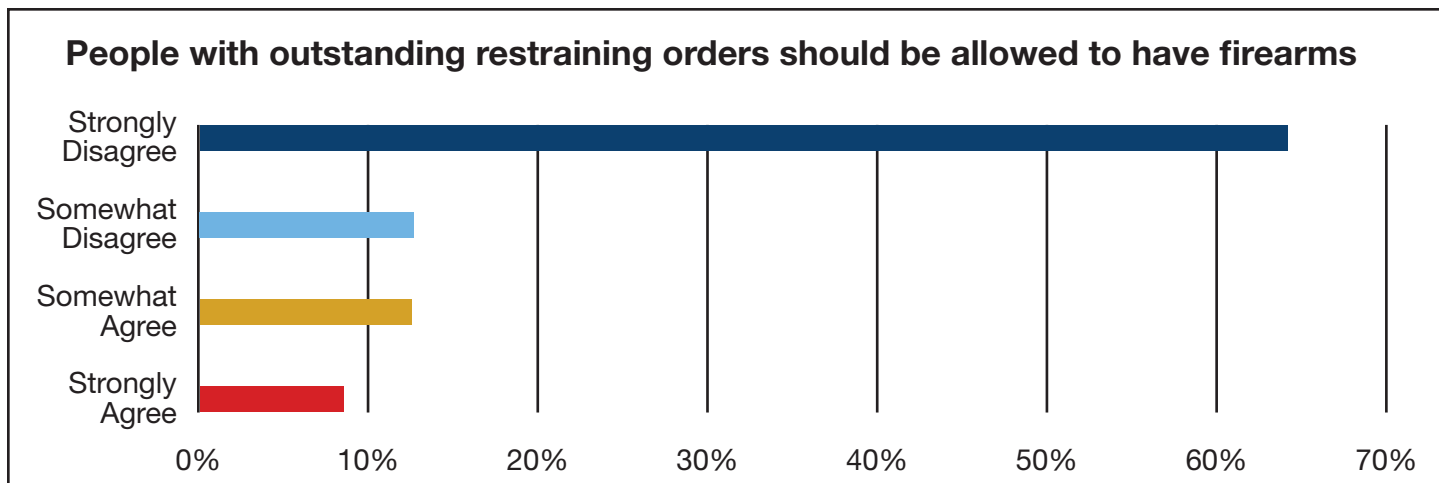
Along with supporting several public safety reforms, the 2016 Commonwealth Poll: Public Safety also highlighted areas of strength for Virginia. More specifically, in recent months law enforcement agencies in many states have taken center stage for their positive and negative actions and the commonwealth has been no different. As a result, many believe that citizens' trust in law enforcement agencies has significantly decreased.

The 2016 Commonwealth Poll: Public Safety found strong support for law enforcement in Virginia. More than seven out of 10 (78 percent) respondents felt that people in their local community receive fair treatment from law enforcement. Further, 83 percent were satisfied with how law enforcement in their communities solves problems and handles those who call police for help.

Though a majority of all respondents were supportive of law enforcement across all demographic and regional groups, white respondents (81 percent), those who were identified as Republican

"Virginia should reduce the use of large, adult-style correctional facilities and instead use small community-based therapeutic centers for juvenile offenders."





(87 percent) and those who live in the Western (81 percent) and Northern (87 percent) regions of the state were most supportive.

“Police legitimacy and public support are extremely important to maintain order and safety in our communities,” McDougale said. “Consequently, public perceptions of police have implications for effective policing. Virginians’ perceptions of police are very favorable, which is impressive considering many states are facing

citizen outrage toward law enforcement.”

The poll also showed significant citizen confidence (85 percent) in the ability of public safety agencies to prepare for and respond to a crisis and natural disasters across the state. Virginia has weathered many storms, tornadoes and hurricanes — most recently Winter Storm Jonas — and respondents across all regions were very supportive of public safety agencies’ ability to respond effectively.

Continued on page 11

Emily Couric from page 7

David Toscano. “I watched her career unfold, from her days on the Charlottesville School Board to her campaign for Senate to her consideration of a bid for statewide office. She was never without her characteristic smile and had a very positive approach to getting things done. She was an effective legislator...”

What Would Have Happened?

When Couric passed, Tim Kaine was known locally. He was the mayor of the City of Richmond. He was also a Democrat, with a family that was very tuned in to the political world. His wife, Anne Holton, was Governor Linwood Holton’s daughter.

So it was no longer going to be “Couric for Lieutenant Governor,” and that may be why Kaine decided to run for lieutenant governor, which he won, and then succeeded in becoming Virginia’s governor, going on to the U.S. Senate.

“I have no doubt that Emily would have been elected Governor of Virginia,” said Tim Kaine. “She would have served with an upbeat and engaged spirit and energized Virginians in a unique way. And by breaking the glass ceiling for a woman to serve as governor, she would have inspired countless women in Virginia and elsewhere to seek elected office. Not since the death of J. Sargeant Reynolds has the passing of a young leader so affected the history of our Commonwealth.”

Couric’s Legacy

Couric leaves both concrete and ideological legacies. She is commemorated by the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center in Charlottesville. The Center offers a full range of state-of-the-art cancer treatments. She is also honored by The Emily Couric Leadership Forum, which encourages all women to adopt an active role in government, public issues, and policy debates affecting their communities, and to inspire young women to pursue activities which will enable them to become effective leaders.

We missed Emily at our 40th and 50th high school reunions. We danced and laughed the night away, but she, and all our other lost classmates, were never out of our minds. It is almost 15 years since her death and in that time, Virginia has seen alleged corruption, party wars, and some would say arrogant posturing by politicians of all stripes. Would it be that way if we still had Emily Couric?

“She was serious and down to earth,” said former Delegate *Barnie Day*. “a principled advocate for her constituents, certainly, but she had that sheer exuberance and joy of living that made her irreplaceable. What would the Commonwealth be like today, had she lived? I don’t know, but just thinking about it makes me smile.”

Bonnie Atwood, a freelance writer with Tall Poppies Freelance Writing LLC, is the winner of 30 national and state writing awards, and represents legislative clients with David Bailey Associates. She can be reached at BonAtwood@verizon.net. All rights reserved by Bonnie Atwood.

MAY 2016: BUSINESS APPRECIATION MONTH Celebrating Virginia Companies

By MAURICE A. JONES, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND TRADE

Governor McAuliffe will recognize May 2016 as Business Appreciation Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia businesses provide more than 3.1 million jobs, and we are proud to be home to more than 35 Fortune 1,000 firms and more than 70 firms with annual revenues in excess of \$500 million. As a result of the work of these businesses, Virginia is enjoying historically low unemployment rates, with January's 4.1% unemployment rate being the lowest since July 2008. Counting January, we enjoyed 22 consecutive months of year over year job growth. Since January of 2014, we have added almost 135,000 net new jobs to our payrolls. And, Virginians' wages are rising.



Large, medium and small enterprises across the Commonwealth have contributed to this vibrancy and growth. In addition to the role that these businesses play in our economy, they are also providing talent for our school systems and our non-profit and other civic organizations that help keep our communities great places to live, work and raise a family.

As we kick off a month long celebration of Virginia's businesses, it is important to highlight the unique role that our companies play in building the new Virginia economy. We celebrate the innovative spirit in many different industries in every corner of Virginia.

You can get involved in celebrating 2016 Business Appreciation Month in your own community. There are many ways you can honor your businesses. As we plan to celebrate our businesses across the Commonwealth throughout the month of May, you too, can plan appreciation events in your locality.

There are businesses in every community that should be recognized for all they do to make the community great. Please consider highlighting businesses in your community each week of Business Appreciation Month through social media and your website.

We are proud of the amazing work that our businesses are doing, not only here, but across the nation and throughout the world. Take time to thank your local businesses, and continue to support them as they support you.

As you plan your 2016 Business Appreciation Month activities, you may download the official 2016 Business Appreciation Month logos by visiting <https://commerce.virginia.gov/>. Be sure to use the hashtag #VABiz, so we can all share in what makes our Virginia businesses great!

Please join me in celebrating Business Appreciation Month. 



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President

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Quality Education and Training for Virginia's Veterans

By MARTINA MURRAY

Veterans Education in Virginia

Education and training plays a vital role in preparing veterans to succeed after they leave the military, and Virginia's post-secondary educational institutions have answered the call to help. The numbers tell the story: as of March 2016, there were 1,063 institutions approved to provide education and training to Virginia veterans under the GI Bill. These range from licensure, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training programs to four-year undergraduate programs and beyond. Virginia's 62,991 GI Bill students brought in \$884 million in tuition and fees last year, significantly contributing to the Virginia economy and its well-educated and well-trained workforce.



Promotes and safeguards veteran education

Ensuring that Virginia veterans and eligible family members have access to a wide variety of qualified education and training programs is the job of the Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA) for Veterans Education and Training, part of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS). Only Virginia SAA-approved institutions may collect GI Bill tuition and fees. Operating under a contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (the VA), the Virginia SAA manages a comprehensive review and approval process to ensure that only those education and training institutions that meet strict federal and state criteria may offer GI Bill-approved programs. The Virginia SAA also engages in outreach to encourage wider use of the GI Bill, by veterans, schools, and employers.

The History of the GI Bill & Evolution of State Approving Agencies

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act into law on June 22, 1944. This law, better known as the GI Bill, provided World War II veterans with a range of benefits from medical care to education. The GI Bill has been heralded as

Public Safety Poll from page 9

Citizens were not, however, as confident in public safety agencies' abilities to respond to acts of terrorism in the commonwealth. Three-quarters of respondents (76 percent) indicated they were concerned with terrorist attacks occurring in Virginia, with 73 percent concerned about public safety agencies being unable to protect residents from such attacks.

"The most recent terrorist attacks in Paris and California have kept the thoughts of attacks in the commonwealth at the forefront of most Virginians' minds. Recent poll responses highlight the need for conversations," McDougale said.

The 2016 Commonwealth Poll: Public Safety obtained telephone interviews with a representative sample of 931 adults living in Virginia. The interviews were administered from January 4 to 12, 2016. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 3.7 percentage points.

Robyn McDougale, PhD is Director, Commonwealth Education Policy Institute, Adviser for Training and Research, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Virginia Commonwealth University.

one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever produced by the federal government due to its economic, social, and political impact. By the time the original GI Bill ended on July 25, 1956, 7.8 million of 16 million World War II Veterans had participated in an education or training program.

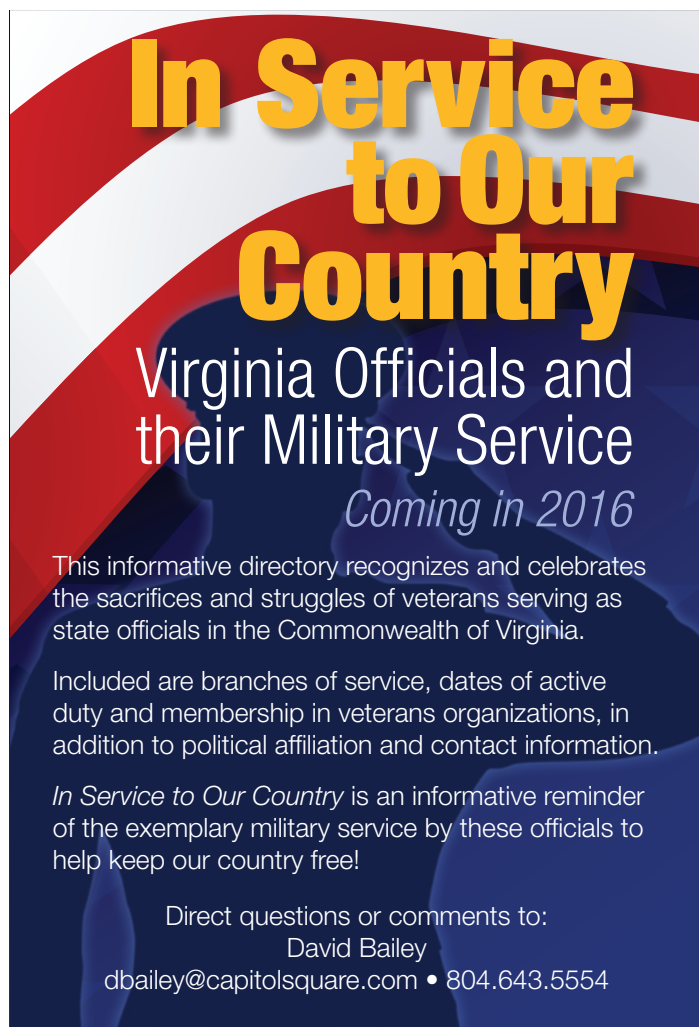
The GI Bill has had many incarnations throughout the years. In 1984, former Mississippi Congressman Gillespie V. "Sonny" Montgomery revamped the GI Bill, which has been known as the "Montgomery GI Bill" ever since. In 2008, thanks to Virginia's own Senator Jim Webb, the GI Bill was updated once again. The new law, referred to as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, provides enhanced educational benefits that cover more educational expenses than its predecessor.

A unique collaboration between the VA and the states began on January 1, 1947. To ensure that our nation's veterans had access to high-quality education, each state was required by Congress to create or designate a state agency (known as a State Approving Agency) to determine which education and training programs met federal standards for GI Bill use. For many years, the Virginia SAA was part of the Virginia Department of Education, before becoming part of the Virginia DVS in 2004 to better align its role with other state veterans services and programs.

Conclusion

The Virginia SAA plays a critical role in ensuring our veterans have access to the education benefits they have earned through service and sacrifice. To learn more about the Virginia SAA and other veterans programs, visit the Virginia Department of Veterans Services' website at www.dvs.virginia.gov.

Martina Murray is Assistant Director, State Approving Agency, Virginia Department of Veterans Services.



In Service to Our Country

Virginia Officials and their Military Service

Coming in 2016

This informative directory recognizes and celebrates the sacrifices and struggles of veterans serving as state officials in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Included are branches of service, dates of active duty and membership in veterans organizations, in addition to political affiliation and contact information.

In Service to Our Country is an informative reminder of the exemplary military service by these officials to help keep our country free!

Direct questions or comments to:
David Bailey
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There's a new Sheriff's Association president in town By BONNIE ATWOOD

We were leaving the Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast, and Richard Vaughan picked up an extra copy of the program.

"I'm going to give this to my pastor," he said. That small gesture gives a glimpse of who this man is, and how he can cope with the challenges of his chosen life.

What challenges? His career sounds like something out of NBC's Dateline. Vaughan, a gentle man of 46, is the sheriff of Grayson County, Virginia, and had to work a triple homicide right out of the gate. After careful investigation, Freddie Hammer was convicted of not only this crime—but many more.

Killers don't come much colder than Freddie Hammer, who is serving eight life sentences in Wallens Ridge State Prison in Big Stone Gap. He has admitted to more than a dozen murders, and may have committed up to 17.

But before all that, soon after the emergency call was dispatched, Vaughan, the new sheriff in town, was sitting at the suspect's kitchen table, staring at this alleged serial killer dressed in an undershirt and boxer shorts. Known as a "mind-gamer," Hammer was smart, and at this moment, pleasant and jovial. Just like any self-respecting con man, he was calmly detailing his alibi.

Unlucky for Hammer, Vaughan had completed excellent training at two community colleges, earned a degree at Bluefield College, and trained at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Academy. He knew how to conduct an effective investigation, collect evidence, and follow it all the way to conviction. Or, should we say, in this case, multiple convictions. Hammer's eventual total was seven counts of capital murder.

After an initiation like that, one would expect to meet a sheriff who is gruff and jaded. Not so. One could describe him as cheerful and grounded—and also possessing the confidence that is expected from one in law enforcement.

"I always try to treat people like I want to be treated," said Vaughan. And there you have it. A short course for a survivor, in law enforcement and in life.


Vaughan is inspired by author Dave Grossman, who specializes in the study of the psychology of killing. He is a retired Army

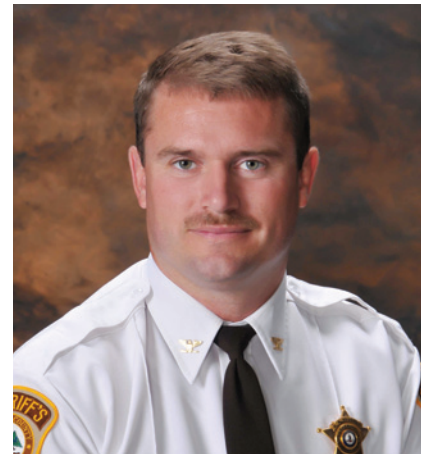
lieutenant colonel and has written three books advising soldiers and law enforcement officers how to make themselves psychologically "bulletproof." Vaughan is also a religious man. He and his family are very active in his church, the Fries Pentecostal Holiness Church. Vaughan and his wife, Amy, have two children.

Now in his second term as Sheriff, Vaughan has reached another professional milestone. He has been elected President of the Virginia Sheriff's Association (VSA), an organization of 8,900 members who are sheriffs and deputy sheriffs. The VSA advocates for state legislation that will help those in this profession, including support staff. One of the priorities is raising the salaries for deputies. Vaughan said that the current salaries are so low that "a lot of them get food stamps."

Other issues include: creation of police forces, drug forfeiture funding, minimum qualifications, legal defense, staffing standards, courtroom security, and retirement.

Eddie Hammer was proven to be a very dangerous criminal, and he wasn't the last that Vaughan would encounter. If there is a silver lining to the story, it is that Sheriff Vaughan and his colleagues are up to the challenge of keeping Virginians safe, bringing the guilty to justice, watching the backs of their own, and keeping their life in balance as they do it.

Bonnie Atwood, a freelance writer with Tall Poppies Freelance Writing LLC, is the winner of 30 national and state writing awards, and represents legislative clients with David Bailey Associates. She can be reached at BonAtwood@verizon.net. 



VEC Plans Public Service Recognition Week Event

As part of the national and statewide observance of Public Service Recognition Week during the first week of May, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) will present its second annual Employee Educational and Informational Fair. This event brings to our employees representatives from many and varied state agencies, businesses, and other organizations that provide important information that impacts daily living. The purpose of our fair is to provide access to education and information in an interactive, fun format.

Among this year's 15 participants are the Virginia Credit Union, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Virginia Department of Vital Records. The Virginia Tourism Authority will again provide free promotional items from their "Virginia Is for Lovers" campaign.

VEC's theme for this year is "Thanks for Your Commitment to Our Customers." The theme expresses appreciation of our employees while acknowledging their dedication to serving our customers with efficiency and compassion. Last year, more than 400 VEC central office employees participated and received first-hand information about topics such as preparing for

natural disasters, becoming more conscious of conserving energy, and planning outdoor adventures in our beautiful state parks.

The employees of the VEC exemplify the ideals of the Commonwealth in providing stellar service to its citizens. Hosting the fair is a simple measure of extending our gratitude for their hard work and public service.

Submitted by Ellen Marie Hess, Commissioner 

Legislative Counsel

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NRV Passenger Rail may come back to the New River Valley

By MICHAEL ABRAHAM

"You can't get there from here," is a largely outdated notion, as these days you can be almost anywhere in the world by tomorrow. But how we get where we want to go evolves constantly and trends in engineering, economics, and the environment will drive changes in how we in Virginia travel to and from the New River Valley in the next generation or two. For some visionaries in the area, the new answer may be an update of an old answer: trains.

The New River Valley has the highest concentration of higher education in the state; and cost, access, and traffic concerns have kept many students car-free. But while the area's towns and city (principally Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Radford) are increasing options for local buses, bicycling, and pedestrian movement, trips out of the area are still limited. Interstate 81 is effectively the area's sole surface link to the rest of the world; the nearest train is in Lynchburg or Clifton Forge, both 90 minutes away.

The last passenger railroads chugged through the New River Valley in the late 1970s (in its later years with sporadic Amtrak service), and for many it is time to bring them back. NRV Rail 2020, composed of local governments, universities, and economic development agencies, is leading the way.

Diane Akers, president of Blacksburg Partnership says, "We want to keep the idea of passenger rail coming to the New River Valley in front of legislators, business people and people of influence. 2020 is our target date for return of service." (The Blacksburg Partnership is the economic development organization of the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, and the business community.)

Consider these trends. In 1983, more than 91 percent of 20-to-24-year-olds had a drivers' license. Twenty years later, the number had dropped to 77 percent. A Pew Research Survey found that 48 percent of Americans prefer walkable urban areas over suburbs. And our cities are growing faster than our suburban and rural areas.

For much of our nation's history, especially prior to World War II, development was tightly magnetized towards city centers. Automobiles were rare and expensive, and transportation was a mix of busses, trollies, trains, bicycles, and walking. The emergence of the automobile de-magnetized communities, spreading outward our housing, schools, shopping, and workplaces. This became a self-accelerating feedback system, in that the new suburban communities required cars for essentially every trip. Now, with concerns about cost, sustainability, and



safety, the trend appears to have peaked, as more people rode public transportation last year than in any year since the 1950s.

Raymond Smoot, co-chair of NRV Rail 2020, said movers and shakers in the New River Valley are actively pursuing the extension of rail service that now stops in Lynchburg and will by next year stop in Roanoke to continue to Christiansburg along the existing Norfolk Southern line. Smoot notes that, "We want to give the impression, and this is accurate, that this is a broad-based effort. We have bipartisan support. Why do we want it? To enhance mobility within the state to and from the New River Valley. Between [Virginia] Tech and Radford [University], there are 15,000 to 20,000 students who are from the northeast corridor from Northern Virginia to Boston. We need safer transportation. We need alternatives. When the students are leaving on break or coming back, Interstate 81 is almost a parking lot.

"Rail gives another option, a safer, more environmentally friendly way to make this trip. And it's more relaxing and fun. Passenger rail gets to Roanoke in 2017, so it seems reasonable to get it through the next phase [to Christiansburg] in three years."

Right now, there is a bus that will take passengers from Roanoke to Lynchburg to catch the train. They can take it from Blacksburg to Lynchburg on the weekends.

"We're looking for awareness at the state level," Smoot said. "It's only another 32 miles from Christiansburg to Roanoke, so it makes sense to do that extension, and the current railroad is double-track all the way. When you look at travel patterns, you see that when people travel from the New River Valley, most are going up

New River Valley RAIL 2020 Putting Passengers On Track

the northeast corridor. There are a number of tenants at the Corporate Research Center [in Blacksburg] that have relationships with companies in Northern Virginia. Tech has a center in Arlington and there are more relationships there. The truth is that now you drive or you don't go. You can fly from Roanoke to Dulles, but nowhere else in the state, and those flights are limited. Train service will enhance mobility. Life in the future will be dictated by mobility. People don't want to live in places you can't get to or from."

"We're trying to raise awareness of the rationale of doing it," Akers agreed. "Our studies show that we can support [passenger] rail here. The only roadblocks are funding and planning. The General Assembly, the state, will pay most of it. The localities will contribute."

Even in the heyday of passenger service in the area, the Norfolk and Western, predecessor of the Norfolk Southern, never got more than 5% of their revenue from passengers. Everything else came from freight, principally coal. They have augmented their income during a period where coal is diminishing with intermodal freight and oil.

"The extension of service from Washington down to Lynchburg which occurred about eight years ago has far exceeded the utilization that was forecast," Smoot said. "It's been profitable and has returned money to Amtrak. We expect the extension of the line to the New River Valley will do so as well. For a long time, we've been willing to subsidize our highways in a way that we haven't been willing to subsidize our rail and our airports. Show me an airport that's making money. Transportation is a subsidized service. We're not building many more interstate highways. Few of us will live to see anything other than spot improvements on our Interstate highways. Rail has an infrastructure that is already in place, and it's easily scalable, safer, and more environmentally friendly."

Michael Abraham is a businessman and author. He was raised in Christiansburg and lives in Blacksburg. He is currently working on his eighth book, a travelogue following the old Norfolk and Western passenger rail service from Norfolk to Cincinnati, the Powhatan Arrow.



Game Changer 2.0

By JOE W. DILLARD JR.

Thank you for allowing me to speak. And I make this promise to be with you no longer than 15 minutes. My father is a Baptist minister and obviously you all don't want to be here all day or you would have selected him to speak. So come along with me on this short trip.

During the start of my role as interim president of the NAACP for Norfolk, I was asked several important questions. Among the most important question was, "what is my goal for the organization." My response was quoted in a local African American paper called the *New Journal and Guide* as wanting to bring Black Organizations together. My mission was for The Church, NAACP, Unions, Freemasons, Civic Leagues and political organizations to come together for one purpose: the betterment of our people.

Many of our predecessors realized the importance of joining together over a century ago with the formation of different organizations; the NAACP being one of them started by Caucasians. Organizations like the NAACP were critical in establishing the voice of those whom were oppressed by a cruel system. This past summer, I completed a program called "Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership" at the University of Virginia. During one of the weekends when all attendees came together, we were afforded the opportunity to travel to James Madison Montpelier and tour his estate. Quick disclaimer, I am a history buff, I could sit for hours and hear this stuff. But shortly into our tour, we began to quickly debunk the life of who people referred to as "the father of politics." Madison owned over 300 slaves and it was barely mentioned in the history of our fourth president. We went on to learn of his wife Mrs. Madison, who was just as political as her husband. One opponent of Madison said he believed he stood a better chance of defeating Mr. Madison if it were not for Mrs. Madison who is famously known for saving the painting of George Washington when the British burned down the White House. What peaked my interest was that a slave named Paul Jennings, assisted her. That means.... Paul Jennings saved this painting as well. We went on to discover that James Madison didn't die by himself but with Paul Jennings at his bedside. That struck gold, Paul Jennings was the real MVP. Sports fans in the room understand the term MVP but for qualification, the term MVP is used by the millennial generation as endearment for being invaluable.



We went on to tour the Madison home and discovered at the end there was a cellar that had a post of Paul Jennings and his contributions for the Madison family. I am certain hundreds of stories like Paul Jennings went unnoticed based on the relationship America had with its Black/African American community. Our organizations recognized this and began to work together to combat these disparities.

I was with my youngest brother, Jake, this past weekend; Jake graduated from Granby High School and is now a sophomore at Chowan. In his room you'll see a poster of a Navy officer on his door and a JROTC uniform in his closet. Now he doesn't have a poster of Asa Philip Randolph or Bayard Rustin, but it's leaders like the men on his wall and the NAACP, that made it possible for Jake to enroll in JROTC, and possible for him to become a marine.

Then there's Josh, Josh is my other younger brother, and he graduated from Howard University in the spring with a degree in economics. If you go in his home right now you probably will not find the same posters that are in hanging in Jake's room. However, it's officers like General Oliver Howard, who founded Howard University, whom made it possible for some of our disadvantaged black youth to attend college—also made it possible for Josh to become an attorney.

There are countless stories of lives that have been affected by leaders in our U.S Armed Forces, and leaders in the NAACP. Most of us here, wouldn't stand where we are today if it weren't for the sacrifices of our predecessors, and that's what this month is all about.

I want to derive my message today from the subject of Economic Development. When I was a little boy growing up in Richmond Virginia, my father started a black owned business that sought to connect other black owned businesses. It was called "Dillard Ministries," it trained churches to thrive, it included leadership training, and the whole gambit. I will go on to say, my father then knew the value of working together and I suppose it was instilled in me.

As the Economic Development chairman before becoming President, I was attempting to recreate this effort that my father made when I came across some alarming facts that I will share with you all now; I am a fan of the Tulsa, OK black Wall Street and my vision is for this to be created again.

Explanation of the dollar circulation

The Asian Community keeps the dollar for 18 days and it trades nine times in the Asian community.

The Jewish Community keeps the dollar for 12 days and has an unlimited amount of times within the white community.

How many times does the dollar circulate in the black community? The dollar only circulates zero to one time within the black community according to the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth.

Define buying power

Black American buying power has increased from \$957.3 billion in 2010 to an expected \$1.1 trillion by 2015. If blacks were a geographical-fiscal entity with a buying power of nearly \$1 trillion annually, they'd be the 16th largest country in the world.

Black-expected buying power exceeds that of Asians, \$775.1 billion, but falls below that of Hispanics, \$1.3 trillion, and whites, \$11.8 trillion.

So I ask this question, "when will we realize our buying power as a united front?" "When will we join together in our efforts to achieve what many believe today is unachievable?" "Will it be today?" "Will it be tomorrow?" We need organizations to put simple disagreements aside for the efforts of protecting our mankind. I am positive you are looking around wondering where did we find this radical man because, I am usually the soft-spoken gentleman whose answers are politically-driven, but today I am in rare form because it is time we start calling spades, spades.

Navy Keynote address, February 2016 by Joe W. Dillard Jr., President, Norfolk Branch NAACP & Vice- President, Virginia State Conference NAACP. ▣

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Capitol Semester Interns

By JULIA CARNEY

In truth, there have been a few moments when the 60-day session felt even longer. That bill is going by until *when*? The weather is doing *what*? Meriwether's Café is out of spoons?! But there is no denying that by and large, session been a whirlwind from start to finish. It's almost hard to believe that the end of the 2016 Virginia legislative session is already upon us. Now that we're in the final stretch, I'm finally catching my breath and getting the chance to reflect.

When I think of myself before this internship I can't help but smile. How little I knew! I was thrilled to be at the General Assembly, but was pretty oblivious to what that actually entailed. Very quickly, I learned a few things. Be nice to everyone. Take the stairs. Read the news every morning. If someone is a constituent they get priority. ...Also if someone has doughnuts they get priority.

Occasionally my General Assembly inexperience is embarrassing. This morning I forgot the name of a delegate in leadership, and, yes, I've been caught taking a selfie... more than once. But truthfully, being a new kid on the block is pure fun. To her unending credit, my legislative aide never rolls her eyes or gets short when I ask a stupid question, which, let's be honest happens with conspicuous regularity. From my very first day I was surprised at her patience and sincere effort to get me acclimatized. And I certainly needed acclimatization. For those who have been here for years, it may be hard to perceive it as such, but to me the General Assembly was a whole new world, one with its own language, its own rules, and a lot, a lot, of coffee. But this world doesn't exist in a vacuum, the opposite in fact. What happens within this old building, and in the capitol just a few feet away, is only important because of what it means for the rest of the year, and to the rest of Virginians. For me to observe and even contribute to this process has made a lasting impression, to say the least.

From legislators, people around the G.A., and even my Mom and Dad, I consistently hear the phrase "sausage factory". This refers to the idea that seeing behind the scenes, and witnessing the imperfect process of how something gets made is not always pretty. As the saying goes, you don't want to see the making of sausage or legislation. Everyone is made aware of the laws that get passed, but not everyone knows about the compromises, those who travel for hours to speak for minutes in front of committees, the debates, the research, the heartbreak when something doesn't pan out, and so on. Having seen it, it's hard to deny that the whole convoluted, meandering journey is a weirdly beautiful thing. The process allows for a lot of public involvement. Now don't get me wrong, my naiveté has led to some shocking revelations. Why did that bill fail? Why did that vote go that way? What is happening in some of these committees?? Sometimes in response my legislative aide can only tell me 'sometimes it just happens that way', which I guess is an important lesson too.

I'm walking away from this 2016 session with a lot of new knowledge. I know that I have to take the stairs slow or otherwise by the 5th floor I'm too winded to say good morning. I know all the worst times to ride the bus from downtown Richmond to VCU, and I know the best coffee shops within a six-block radius of the G.A.B.. But even more salient than my coffee expertise, is my completely new understanding of Virginia government. Virginia legislators disagree with each other. A lot. Sometimes loudly. But after being here for two and a half months, I sincerely believe that they are just trying in the best way they can think of, to affect positive change; to make Virginia a better place to live, and work, and learn. Being a part of that has been an honor.

Julia Carney is a VCU student who interned with Delegate Vivian Watts. [V]

Interns from around Capitol Square were featured on the March 4th episode of *This Week in Richmond*. The episode can be viewed on blueridgepbs.org archived under This Week in Richmond. All captions below read Left to Right.



Omer Kounga, Hayley Allison, Jessica Sinclair



Robyn McDougle, Melvin Johnson, Mo Alie-Cox



Robyn McDougle, Brian Bailey, Julia Carney



Women of Virginia Make History—Again

By SARAH ALDERSON



When historian and author Laurel Hatcher Ulrich originally coined the phrase, “Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History,” she was referring to the many ways that women have helped shape history over the years. She had no idea at the time how that simple group of words would take on a life of its own for years to come.

The word behave is defined as conducting oneself in accordance with the accepted norms of a society or group. The basic premise of Ulrich’s statement is that those who simply uphold the status quo are not going to stand out or move society forward.

In the interest of moving Virginia forward in February of 1915, a group of suffragists—both men and women—took a stand to shape history by gathering on the Capitol steps in Richmond to ask the General Assembly to take action.

The women’s suffrage movement, which sought voting rights for women, had begun in Virginia as early as 1870. In 1909, the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia joined with national organizations in an effort to pass an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

One of the main leaders and strategists of that national campaign was a woman named Alice Paul. Because of her efforts and those of groups like the Equal Suffrage League, the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote was passed in Congress in 1919 and ratified by most states a year later. It would be over thirty years,

however, before Virginia would ratify it in 1952.

From 1920 on, Paul spent another half century fighting for an amendment to secure total constitutional equality for women. In fact, she was the original author of a proposed Equal Rights Amendment in 1923. She died in 1977, living long enough to see the ERA passed in Congress, but not ratified.

The purpose of the ERA is to guarantee equal rights for both women and men. It specifically states “Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” The amendment cleared both the U.S. House and Senate in 1972 and was submitted to all state legislatures for ratification. Final adoption required approval by 38 states, but only 35 did so within the original 10 year deadline.

This past February another group of dedicated men and women began to gather on the steps of Mr. Jefferson’s Capitol to honor those who stood there over a hundred years before. The day brought with it inclement weather that prevented a large number of participants around Virginia from making the trek to the Richmond. Those who did make it had to move inside the nearby Patrick Henry building to continue the rally, where the attendance was standing room only.

This Centennial Rally for Equal Rights was originally inspired by a photo that League of Women Voters member, Pat Fishback, had discovered of the suffragists from 1915. Fishback began to coordinate a commemorative event with representatives from equal rights groups around Virginia, but planning a gathering at the Capitol is not as simple as one might think. Candace Graham, Co-Founder of the group Women Matter, says, “Pat pursued a permit for the Capitol steps, which was NOT easy. Only four years ago, women were arrested by Capitol (and State) Police in riot gear for being on those same Capitol steps.”

This rally was not only organized to honor Women’s Suffrage in Virginia, but also to call attention to the fact that the Commonwealth had yet to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Graham points out, “It also happened to be crossover day in the General Assembly.” The added significance of that day was that the Senate’s ERA joint resolution, SJ1, was heading to the House for consideration.

Part of the difficulty in emphasizing the importance of the ERA today is that many people don’t realize that it was never ratified. Others mistakenly believe that the 14th



Amendment, which addresses citizenship rights, also covers gender equality. Some claim that the deadline that was later imposed on the amendment has since passed and therefore makes the whole effort useless.

Proponents argue that the deadline is not a valid reason to dismiss the amendment. Eileen Davis, the other Co-Founder of Women Matter notes that constitutional amendments have already been ratified after a deadline. "The Virginia General Assembly itself ratified the 24th Amendment in 1977, seven years after Congress' deadline," she says. "There have also been challenges to the constitutionality of any ratification deadline."

"In *NOW vs. Idaho*, the Supreme Court declared the statutory deadline moot because, as of the date of the ruling, no state had ratified post-deadline and thus did not provide "actionable reason" to consider the argument," Davis adds. "This is currently the position of many in Congress, who are waiting for a freshly ratified state to give cause to remove the deadline and restart the process."

In fact, there are those in Congress who are looking to the Commonwealth to lead with a decision that would provide a reason to remove the deadline. "The Virginia Senate passed the Equal Rights Amendment, we are waiting on the House," Congresswoman Jackie Speiers announced on the floor of Congress on March 2nd as members watched to see what Virginia would do.

"The Equal Rights Amendment has passed with bipartisan support in the Virginia Senate FIVE times in recent years only to die in the House of Delegates Privileges and Elections Committee," explains Davis. In other words, it has never reached a debate on the House floor. During this past session, the resolution passed the Senate 21-19, but the same House committee once again decided to shelve it for another year.

The late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia opined that women are not equal under the Constitution. "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't," he explained. Scalia maintained

that if citizens wanted to change the Constitution, the Founders had provided a way. His fellow Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, has said, "If I could choose an amendment to add to the Constitution, it would be the Equal Rights Amendment."


"The ERA is necessary because gender has not been granted the same level of protection under the 14th Amendment as race, religion, or national origin. Without these protections, governments have more freedom to take actions that have an unfair impact on women," says Senator Scott Surovell, who co-patroned this year's resolution with Senator Jennifer Wexton.

For Surovell, the matter is personal. He has introduced similar bills in the past as a member of the House of Delegates, and his first action as a Freshman Senator was to introduce the significantly titled

SJI. When asked why he was passionate about the issue, he explained, "Women's equality was a frequent discussion topic at my family dinner table. My mother was a founder of Fairfax County's Women's Commission and testified in favor of ERA at the 1972 General Assembly Session while pregnant with my little brother when I was one year-old." He adds, "I will introduce the ERA until the General Assembly ratifies it. General discrimination is a real problem in Virginia and the United States and ERA is a tool to that will combat this problem and help level the playing field for all women."

So much history has been made at Virginia's Capitol since it was built in 1788, and

it is certain to bear witness to a whole lot more. Those women AND men who are continuing to stand up for the Equal Rights Amendment today are determined to move Virginia forward again in the hopes that the Commonwealth will play an important part in finishing what Alice Paul started over a hundred years ago.

Sarah Alderson is an award-winning freelance writer who also works in the General Assembly broadcast control rooms during sessions and the Capitol Studio throughout the year. She can be reached at aldersonproductions@gmail.com 





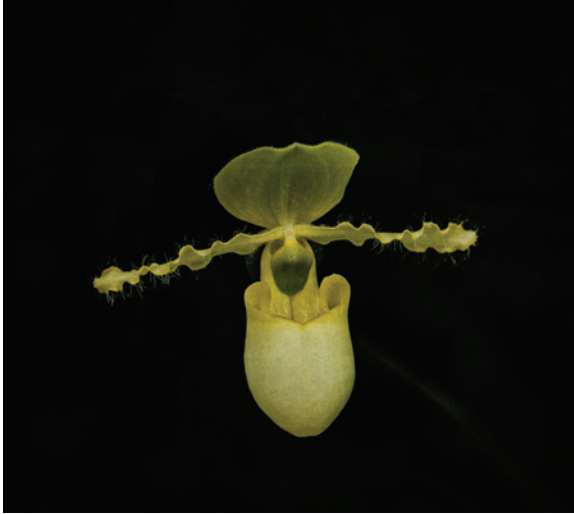
Taken on the day the terrorists
bombed Brussels and
the flags were performing
magnificently. –Virginia Capitol,
Richmond Va.



Flags honoring
the people
of Brussels...
photographed
on the day of
the attacks



Maymont Gardens—Richmond Va.



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden—Richmond Va.

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF Wanda Judd

Old City Hall—Richmond Va.



Black-eyed Susan's...or Susan's Black Eyes..?





Girl Scouts Visit Capitol Square

Girl Scouts once again gathered this year on Capitol Square to meet, greet, learn, and be recognized for their many accomplishments. Virginia Girl Scout councils which include Colonial Coast, Nation's Capital, Skyline, Commonwealth and Chesapeake hosted a reception for legislators at the Virginia General Assembly Building on February 22. The Girl Scout delegation represented the nearly 100,000 girls and more than 40,000 volunteers are Girl Scout members in the Commonwealth.

This year, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts highest award—the Gold Award, an exhibit was placed in the GAB throughout the legislative session. It was on view on the 5th floor where the reception was held. Gold Awardees from each council were on hand at the reception to talk to legislators about their Gold Award projects which require nearly 100 hours dedicated towards a community service effort.

The Girl Scout delegation also took action as advocates and visited legislators to discuss House Bill 942. The bill, which was introduced by patrons Delegate Tony Wilt who serves the 26th District and co-patron Delegate Brenda Pogge who serves the 96th District, was drafted to help youth serving organizations such as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts gain access to schools during the school day for the purpose of making students and families aware of programs offered by these groups.

Other issues discussed with legislators included supporting girls' exploration of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); strengthening girls' financial literacy skills; reducing bullying/relational aggression, and supporting a thriving nonprofit community.

After mingling with legislators, the Girl Scouts were introduced in the House by Girl Scout alumnae Delegate Daun Hester from Norfolk and in the Senate by Senator Janet Howell from Reston. In the afternoon, they toured the Governor's Mansion and attended a tea hosted by Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and his wife, Pam Northam. Some prestigious Girl Scout alumnae who serve on the Governor's cabinet joined them—Secretary of Education Anne Holton; Secretary of Administration Nancy Rodrigues; Secretary of Technology Karen Jackson and honorary Girl Scout Secretary of Natural Resources and former Hampton City Mayor Molly Ward.

The day was a learning experience for all involved—Girl Scouts and legislators!



Virginia Legislative Staff



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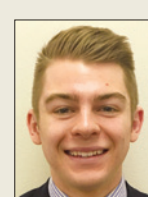
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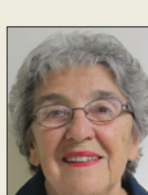
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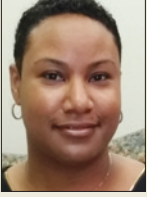


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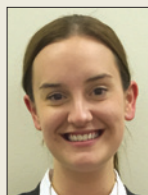
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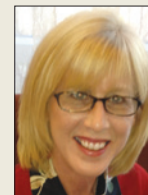
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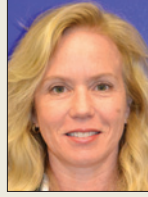


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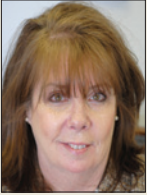
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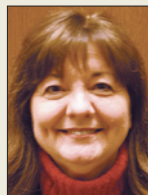
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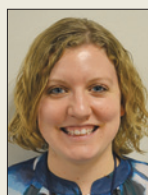
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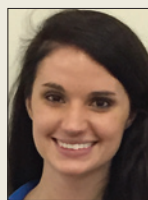
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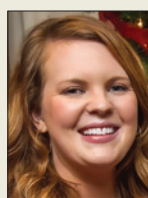
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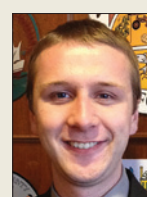
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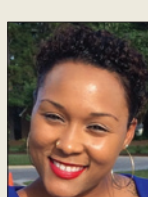
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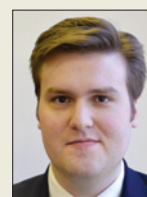
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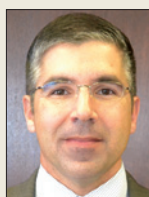
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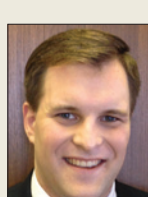
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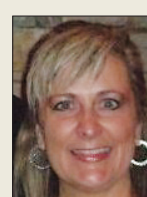
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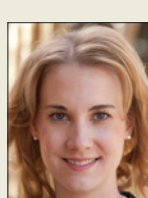
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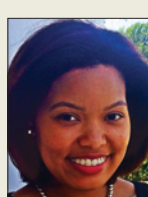
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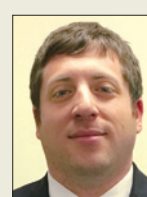
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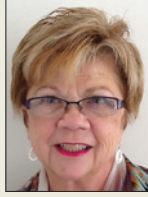


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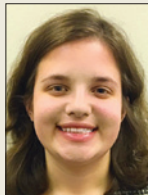
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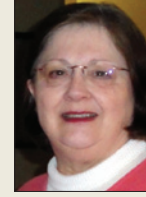
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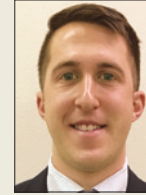
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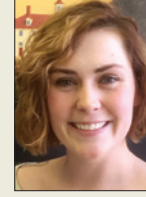
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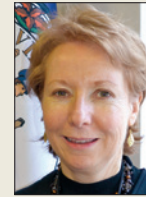
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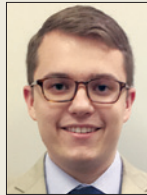
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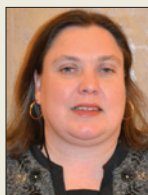
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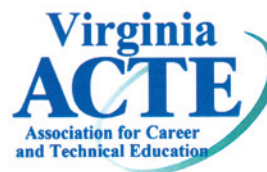
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Clancey Holland: Page and Senator

By HAYLEY ALLISON

When you hear the name Clancey Holland the first title that may come to mind might be Senator or even Doctor. One you might not expect is Senate Page. Clancey Holland the former Senator of the seventh senatorial district, which covers part of Norfolk and Virginia Beach, got his start in the Senate as a Page. Clancey Holland was a Page in 1944, and later held the role of Senator from 1984 through 1996. Holland credits the Page program for much of his success in life, it put him on the right path, he said. Holland, who also practiced family medicine for a number of years, said it was his time in the Senate Page Program that inspired him to run for Senate.

I'm sure Holland never imagined 70 years ago that he would be speaking to his granddaughter Hannah's 2016 Senate Page class about his experience as a Senate Page back in the forties. Holland's youngest granddaughter Hannah had never really heard much from her grandfather on his time as a Senate Page until she was about the same age as he was when he applied for the Page Program. Holland encouraged Hannah to apply to the Senate Page Program, he told her what a great experience it was for him and how much it changed his life. Hannah who had never before been away from home for a long period of time decided to take her grandfathers advice and apply for the program. Hannah was one of about forty 13 and 14 year olds selected to be a Senate Page during the 2016 session. In 1944 when the former Senator was a page he was one of eight.

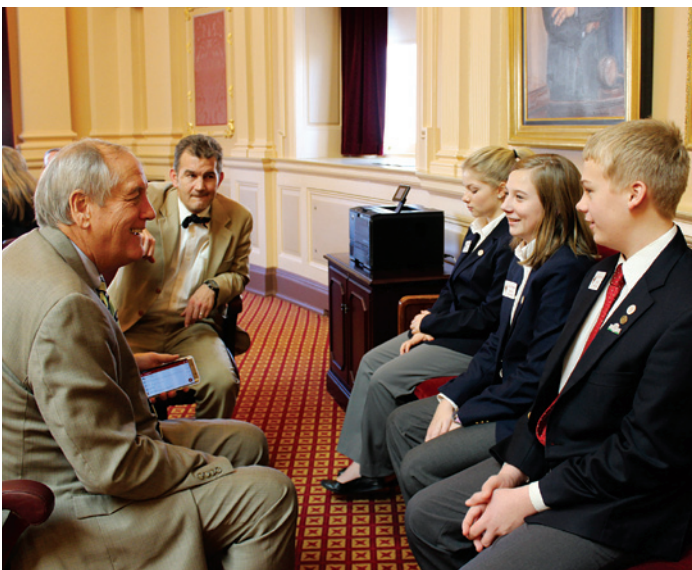
The differences do not stop at the number selected to partake in the program, as I am sure one can imagine. The Virginia General Assembly today and in 1944 have very few things in common. The General Assembly Building did not exist in 1944. The Legislators did not have offices but did all their work from their desks on the floor in the Capitol. With that being the case the tasks Senate Pages performed in the forties were somewhat different than tasks Senate Pages perform today. Ask any Senate Page from the 2016 class what their favorite task was and their answer very well might be working on the Senate Floor. They would all be very happy as Senate Pages in the forties when according to Senator Holland all the Pages were always on the floor since there was really no where else for them to go other than the Capitol. Much like in every other aspect of the world, technology has also modernized the Page Program. Pages no longer have to run down to the Bill Room to retrieve a bill for a Senator since they can now pull it up right on the floor on either their laptop, tablet or even phone.



Catch the former Senator and his granddaughter Hannah on the March 11th episode of *This Week in Richmond* archived under This Week in Richmond on blueridgepbs.org.

Accommodations were not provided for the Pages in the forties. They had to find their own place to stay and often times rode the streetcar to the Capitol every morning. While the Pages today are left with many responsibilities and a lot of freedom, the Page Program does have a lot more structure. Each Senate Page has to spend time every evening with tutors doing school work, where as in the forties school work was not something they had to do while at the Capitol participating in the program. Pages today are paid weekly and have to learn money management, which was not the case in the forties. Today's Pages are provided with accommodations in a hotel downtown so they are responsible for getting up on their own, getting ready and getting to work on time. They are also allowed to venture out on their own in groups for dinner. When former Senator Holland was a Page he stayed with his aunt and uncle so these were not personal responsibilities.

Both of Hannah's parents commented on how much responsibility the Senate Page Program has taught Hannah, and said had their other children not been so busy, the Senate Page Program is something they definitely would have encouraged them to do. Hannah has her grandfather to thank for encouraging her to do the Senate Page Program. Hannah said she would definitely encourage others to apply for the Senate Page Program. She, like I am sure all past Pages, said she will miss her friends the most and said the Senate Page Program has been the greatest experience of her life thus far. ▮



Three Senate Pages talk with Senator Dave Marsden and Senator Chap Petersen on the Senate floor.

The Senate Page Experience

When I was nine years old there was a girl who was in the Virginia Senate Page Program and was in the newspaper. That was when my interest for the program started, then last year I started preparing my application for the program. So the whole summer before eighth grade year started I was writing my application essay speaking with people who could write a letter of recommendation and doing community service. And then when school started I spoke with my guidance counselor and she was excited that I was applying, because her son was a Senate Page in 2006. So all of my teachers were on board with the program, my friends were so-so with me leaving and my father said "you can stay longer if you get a check." So on Halloween night my parents and I completed the online application with my letters, essay and paperwork from the school! And the moment that we clicked the button to send in my application, my future, I prayed that I would be successful. And all of the month of November and December I waited, and waited, and waited for the decisions to be sent out. And around the beginning of December every time the mail truck would drop off mail, I'd run out to the mailbox. And by December 20th, I lost hope. Then on Christmas Eve, when I was in

Continued on page 30



The Senate Pages unload a shopping cart of food that they were able to purchase with the money they raised for Feedmore.

the kitchen with my brother, my dad came in and had an envelope. He gave me the envelope and I held it scared and excited for what could be in it. And I opened it and read the first two sentences and was dumbstruck. "Congratulations on being nominated to serve as a Senate Page during the 2016 session of the General Assembly. This is an outstanding honor, and I know you are excited about participating in Virginia's legislative process!" Can you say, Best Christmas Gift Ever! And now on the final few days before session ends I am honored and truly blessed to be apart of this amazing program. Meeting all kinds of people in the legislative process and being apart of something much bigger than myself. It has been amazing working here and is an experience I will never, ever forget.

Simone Tapp, Stafford

When I first arrived at the Senate I was expecting to become a new person by the end of session. That is exactly what this program has done for me. The Senate Page experience is a great learning opportunity and a once in a lifetime experience. You get to see the legislative process up close and see all the hard work put into these 60 days. One great thing about being a Senate Page is that we have a different job assignment each day. We get to see each aspect behind the process. Events are also an important part of being a Senate Page.

Since I have been here I have gained character traits in leadership and etiquette. Since obtaining these qualities we have been able to attend multiple professional events. Our class has also given back to the community. We have raised over 15,000 dollars for Feedmore and over 700 pounds of food. We realize how important this is and we worked extremely hard to raise food and money for Feedmore. Being a Senate Page is an amazing experience and I will never forget it.

Jack DeVore, Williamsburg

There are many different things that you learn in the Senate Page Program. The three main skills the Page Program focuses on are manners, learning about government process at the state level and our main focus is learning leadership skills. Manners include etiquette, proper uniforms and saying things such as "yes ma'am", "no ma'am", "yes sir" and "no sir." Learning about the government process is very important for the future when we turn 18 and it is time to vote. The most important skill when being a page is leadership. This is very critical for your whole life for many reasons. One being college, when you get to college some recruiters look for outstanding leadership skills. These are the main three skills the Senate Page Program works on.

Tyler Garrett, Lynchburg



A Senate Page talking on the Senate floor with Senator John Cosgrove.

This Blue Ridge PBS Week

IN RICHMOND

VIEWING SCHEDULE

Blue Ridge PBS -WBRA (Roanoke, Lynchburg)—Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m. • Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Southwest Virginia PTV

Monday at 6:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m. • Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. • Friday at Noon

WCVE 23.1 (Richmond)—Sunday at 9 a.m.

WHTJ 41.1 (Charlottesville)—Sunday at 9 a.m.

WVPT (Harrisonburg)—Tuesday at 5 p.m.

WHRO-World (Norfolk)—Tuesday at 5 p.m. • Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Norfolk's Neighborhood Network, TV-48—Sunday through Tuesday, 12 noon • Wednesday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m.

Weekly show information is on Facebook—**THIS WEEK IN RICHMOND**

All shows are archived here:

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The Senate Page Program is truly an amazing experience that I will remember my entire life. Not only do we learn about the legislative branch of our state government first-hand, but we also have lots of fun with experiences outside our work. We have attended the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for a legislative reception, where many of us had the chance to meet Governor McAuliffe among many others. We have also been to the executive mansion for a dinner as well as bowling with Lieutenant Governor Northam. And we don't only learn about our government. For example, we went on field trips that include the Virginia Holocaust Museum, Tredegar Ironworks, The Supreme Court of Virginia, and The Virginia War Memorial. We also learn many other things such as manners and professionalism in a workplace environment. In all, the Senate Page Program of Virginia is a wonderful program that I am so happy I got involved in.

Amina Ghassab, *Virginia Beach*

When I was applying to be in the Senate Page Program, I thought all we were going to do is just get lunch a coffee for the Senators. When I got here, it was way more than that. Along the way, we had to learn the responsibilities on many different jobs. Some of the jobs included public speaking, and interacting with many different people. One of my favorite jobs is working on the floor because I get to interact with the Senators. Also with working on the floor, I get to learn about the legislative process. Learning the legislative process helps me prepare for the page mock session



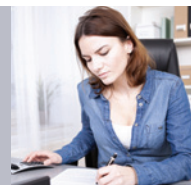
Senate Pages with Page Director, Bladen Finch and other staff.

and it has gotten me more interested in politics. The first job I had was in Senate Information Systems, I got to answer the phone and do work on the computer. When we have many different jobs we get all angles of the process. It is a once in a lifetime experience that I wouldn't trade for the world. I would definitely recommend the Senate Page Program to the younger people of Virginia. I am very glad I got the opportunity.

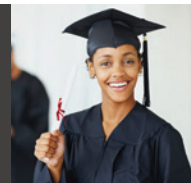
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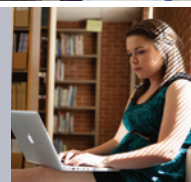
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Senator or Mayor Alexander

I have been a member of the Virginia General Assembly since 2002—as a delegate for 10 years and currently as a senator since 2012. As many already know, I am now running for mayor of Norfolk, the city where I was born and raised.

My aim in public service has always been to help my community and fellow citizens. Serving as mayor of Norfolk would be another such opportunity—but from a position where I can provide direct action. Should I be elected, I will also be returning to some of my roots. Before I came to the General Assembly, I served on Norfolk's Human Services Commission, Planning Commission and Economic Development Authority. I got my start in public service more than 20 years ago as president of the Beacon Light Civic League, which represents Norfolk's Berkley neighborhood, where I grew up.

Norfolk faces several critical challenges, especially in job creation, workforce development, education and the rising sea level. My hometown also is blessed with great opportunities and resources, including the civic spirit and determination of its residents, business sector, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, and academic and medical institutions. So it is an exciting time to be working directly on Norfolk's issues.

I have learned much by working with fellow legislators and the administrations of several governors. I will always be grateful for those experiences. The combination of my General Assembly service and my previous work on several Norfolk boards and commissions has given me a unique set of skills, insights and resources that Norfolk needs in its leadership. The timing is right for me—and for Norfolk. ▣



In Memoriam

Madison Ellis Marye

December 3, 1925 – February 23, 2016

By BERNIE HENDERSON

The trajectory of history tells us that Madison E. Marye should not have been a member of the Senate of Virginia. At least as far back as the early 1940s, Radford and neighboring counties had been habitually and overwhelmingly sending Republicans to the Virginia Senate. When there were just two Republicans in the Virginia Senate, they were both from the Radford area. This is the district that improved Virginia by electing Ted Dalton, Jim Turk and John Dalton to the Senate (and I say that as a Democrat).

The 1973 statewide election, Senator John Dalton became Lieutenant Governor. A special election would fill his vacated Senate seat in the safest Republican district in Virginia. This special election resulted in a special surprise. Somehow, a Democrat, farmer and army veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam who had just been defeated for a House of Delegates seat, managed to become Dalton's successor by a whopping landslide of 9 votes. He would go on to be re-elected in this otherwise Republican area seven times.

Madison Marye was quite different from most other Senators, Democrat and Republican. He drove a pick-up truck back and forth to the Capitol before it was fashionable. There were many more Levi Strauss than Brooks Brothers labels in his closet. On Saturday mornings, he could be found at the country store rather than the country club. At a time when the Virginia Senate was a bastion of the traditional establishment, Madison Marye was an unabashed populist, and perhaps even a confessed progressive.

The highest compliment Senator Marie could give to a piece of legislation was to say, "I think this is a good 'little people' bill." And he never minded being poignantly plain spoken, as when he rose in the Senate Chamber and said, "Mr. President, today I am sending to the Clerk's desk a bill to change the name of the Department of Corrections to the Department of Punishments, because that's what it is."

Senator Marye demonstrated a consistently profound grasp of the real, including the ability to never think too highly of himself. It is doubtful that any other Senator, past or present, has ever said, "I don't want this committee to think that I know everything about what I am talking about." And he could be counted on to cut through pomposity and political gimmickry, as when the Senate was considering limiting the pieces of legislation a Senator could introduce, he asked, "Mr. President, I would like to have all Senators that have introduced worthless and frivolous legislation to stand."

After 28 years, Madison Marye's service in the Senate of Virginia ended under unique circumstances; his constituents did not replace him, but his constituents were literally taken away from him by moving his district to Northern Virginia.

In supporting Governor Baliles' transportation initiative, Senator Marye said in his characteristic way that conveyed a message deeper than mere words, "A lot of Virginians don't have roads to get them from where they are to where they want to be." The whole point of Madison Marye's public service was to work to provide overlooked and neglected Virginians with greater opportunities to get them from where they were to where they want to be; to make Virginia a place of uncommon wealth of opportunities for all citizens.

Future generations of Virginians may not recognize the name and works of Madison Marye, but public servants could do no better than to emulate his example.

Bernie Henderson is the President and Funeral Celebrant at Woody Funeral Home. ▣

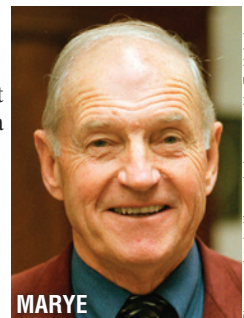


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Charlie Todd touched the future

By BONNIE ATWOOD

"I touch the future. I teach." I will always remember that quote from the late Christa McAuliffe, the teacher-astronaut who died in the tragic Challenger disaster of 1986. The concept of touching the future was never more evident than in the Chester Presbyterian Church when Charles C. Todd, Jr., was celebrated after his recent passing. John Todd, one of Charlie Todd's sons, told a beautiful story about how his father taught him to tie his shoes.

"I can't do it," exclaimed the angry five-year-old, after being shown the steps.

Todd, always calm, told him, "Okay, show me that you can't do it." The next thing they knew, just a moment later, little John was pulling off the perfect bow.

Todd was a teacher by profession, but he was many things, as his friends and family testified at the service. The Rev. Dr. Gordon Mapes, pastor of Chester Presbyterian, told about Todd's life with his wife, Alice, and their sons and grandchildren. Other speakers were John Todd's wife, The Reverend Mary Harris Todd, and two of the grandchildren, Scott and Amy Todd. Their remarks were written in part by their brother, Troy.

The list of stories that this writer could add is long. I am especially grateful that he coached my son on how to be a volunteer reader for the blind. Todd did that work for the *Virginia Voice* for many years. You can read other views of Todd's life in the *Virginia Capitol Connections Quarterly Magazine*, summer, 2015. Or better, yet, read Todd's own many stories. He was an excellent writer and published a wonderful book, *The Timber Room*.

I had the privilege of knowing Charlie. He was one in a million. Nobody who has ever met him will ever forget him. And his legacy goes even farther than that. He touched the future. He taught. ▮



TODD



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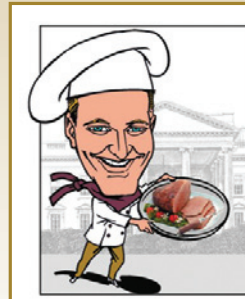
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