



the CAPITOL COURIER

US CAPITOL PAGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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HOMECOMING RECAP

PAGES FIND COMMON EXPERIENCES OVER DECADES

Stories from the '60s through '00s.

Bob Dylan wrote that “the times, they are a-changing,” but while Pages from five decades reflected on their experiences, they agreed that change was met in equal measure with history and tradition. The Pages gathered to share their experiences at a panel discussion May 26 at USCPAA Homecoming and the event was filmed by CSPAN.

The panel was emceed by author and journalist Cokie Roberts, whose son, Lee, and daughter-in-law met as Pages. Lee, she noted, proposed to his bride-to-be at the top of the Capitol Dome. “And thanks to the Page program,” she said, “I am a grandmother.”

The panel included former Rep. Thomas “Tom” Davis III (Senate '67), Nancy Ambrose (Senate '73), John McConnell (Senate '81), Camilla

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Spanning eight decades of Page Services: Myles Garrigan (House '43) and Cameron Knecht (Senate '16) pose together in front of the Capitol.

HOMECOMING RECAP

SUPREME COURT PANEL DISCUSSES BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Capitol Page School the First to Desegregate after '54 Decision

Four former Court Pages who witnessed the historic decision to desegregate schools and its immediate aftermath assembled May 27 at USCPAA Homecoming to share their personal memories of the time, 1953 to 1967.

Panelists included George Hutchinson ('40), Frederick Saunders ('57), Samuel Isaiah Williams ('60), and Ernest J. Wilson ('66). Vance Morrison ('56), who organized the tours and panels with the Court, also participated in the discussions.

Hutchinson, who at the time was Marshall of the Court, told how the Court first considered the case in the spring of 1953 but was unable to make a decision. Court supporters of

desegregation felt it was important that a decision of this magnitude should be unanimous, he explained, and the votes simply weren't there.

In October 1953, Earl Warren was appointed Chief Justice and the case was re-heard, argued by Thurgood Marshall -- later appointed to the Court in 1967. “The Court was packed,” Hutchinson recalled, “but Marshall never requested more than his allotted ten spectator tickets. A unanimous decision was made in May 1954, kept absolutely secret until it was handed to the press.”

Warren felt strongly that the Court should

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50 Years Celebrated: "Cause we ain't getting any younger"

BY FRANK QUINN (SENATE '55)

The 1954 and 1955 classes of Capital Page School marked their "Golden-Plus" anniversaries recently in Cambridge, Maryland, thanks to classmate Donnie "Mike" Pokrinchak. One of the excursions was a trip to Smith Island in the Chesapeake Bay.

The celebrants include, from top left: Browne Greene, in from Santa Monica, Cal., via Las Vegas, where he represented his law firm at their national convention. Browne is one of the premiere basketball players of that area in the 50's. Next is Mrs. Jane Goodwin, who is a practicing field instructor in the art of firearms, then Bill Goodwin in from Michigan. Bill is the sole survivor of the photo in Life Magazine of the Pages rescuing victims from the shooting by Puerto Rican protesters in the House of Representatives in 1954. Continuing, John Barrison and his wife Virginia traveled in from California. John and Virginia operate several businesses including a farm. Mike Revell and his wife Jessica operate a land development company in Virginia. Mrs. Carol Easley and



Rex Easley joined us from Austin Texas, which explains the hat on Rex. Continuing, Mrs. June Quinn -- who keeps Frank Quinn at the grindstone of their Mom-and-Pop auto electrical shop -- Frank shown down front. (Frank takes credit for

arranging the trip to Smith Island to show the out-of-towners some of the history of the Chesapeake Bay.) Donnie (Mike) Pokrinchak, the organizer of the event and the "real organizer," his wife Mrs. Jean Pokrinchak appear next. Don and Jean own and operate a land custom business in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Mary Cameron has a full time job keeping Art in line, that would be Art Cameron, still practicing law and involved with the Hill. Art served as Treasurer and one of the five originators of the first

CPS reunion in 2004, along with charter members George Trumpore (CPS-54 deceased) and his wife Sharon, Alan Smith (CPS-54), Jack Allen (CPS-54) and Mike Revell (CPS-55), The success of the 2004 Reunion inspired the future events picked up by Ken Smith and Vance Morrison.

Class Whips: We Want You!

A special corps of Pages designated as "Class Whips" is reaching out to former classmates and colleagues to re-establish contact and compile the most up-to-date lists of phone numbers, addresses and emails. The goal is to find Pages of all vintages who may have lost touch with their D.C. friends.

Many classes are not yet represented by Class Whips; if you'd like to join this group, please contact us at alumni@capitolpagealumni.org. We can provide a list of classmates and tips on how to find them. If you aren't sure that we have your most recent contact information and want to be certain you receive all upcoming association news, write us at alumni@capitolpagealumni.org.

We need Class Whips for the following Class Years:

1956	1963	1977	1994	2000-Senate	2008
1957	1968	1980	1995-Senate	2001-Senate	2009
1959	1974	1985	1996-Senate	2002-House	2012
1960	1975	1986	1997	2003	2013-Spring
1961	1976	1988	1999	2005-Senate	2014-Spring
		1989		2007-Senate	



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 PETER DARBY '83 MILES TAYLOR '05
 ALI DAVIS '91 SHELLEY THOMAS '90
 BILL PEARD '02 SEAN E. TUCKER '84

Common Experiences

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Messing Bosanquet (House '91) and Joseph Kippley (Senate '01).

Asked how he became a Page, Tom Davis (appointed by Carl Curtis, R-Neb.) said matter-of-factly, "I knew somebody who knew somebody."

"I was a political junky as a kid," he continued. "At a young age, I memorized the names of every House and Senate member. I know it sounds pathetic, but it just clicked for me." He recalls being on the Floor when Kennedy was shot and reading the news on the big tickers just behind the floor.

Nancy Ambrose, appointed by Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.), said her experience solidified her interest in political news and goal to be a foreign journalist. "I vividly remember starting in TV journalism when Tip O'Neill is the House Speaker and Bob Michel was Minority Whip. The advantage I felt I had was that I not only could talk about politics, I had experienced it."

John McConnell also cites a keen interest in politics at a young age, and mentions Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.) and Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.) as key influencers – and recalls meeting not-yet-President Ronald Reagan in 1976.

"When I got to Washington" – he was appointed by Sen. Proxmire (D-Wis.) – "I was told I would have to memorize the Senators' names," John said. "I already knew them."

Camilla Bosanquet, now a Coast Guard Commander, is quick to say she was Charlie Wilson's (D-Texas) Page. "Yes, *that* Charlie Wilson," she adds. "He was absolutely larger than life and a big reason I also went into the military. He was one of the first Congressmen to have an all-female staff and he gave them total latitude to run the office. He also knew how to count votes."

Significant legislation during her term, Bosanquet said, included the budget crisis ("our Civil Rights Act") and the first intervention in Iraq – and that having teenagers on the Floor most certainly influenced Members' decisions on that vote.

Sept. 11, 2001 was Joe Kippley's second week on the job after being nominated by Tom Daschle (D-S.D.). "We were evacuated after the Pentagon attack. During my term we often wondered if and when the program would be shut down. Would it be 9/11? Anthrax? What's next?"

However fraught with uncertainty Kippley's term was, however, he remembers time for teenage pranks, mostly involving that precious commodity for Pages: sleep. "Once we blew up a Page's ID photo and pasted it on his shirt while he was sleeping on the job. Another time a Page was let off early while we stayed in session until the early morning hours. Back at the dorm we set his alarm to go off right away. He awoke and saw us all in our uniforms. 'Get to school right now,' we shouted. 'Hurry!'"

HOMECOMING RECAP

Don Peebles Links Page Success with Business Success

How the House became more than a House

Don Peebles, House '78, told a crowd of 250 former pages and their guests how he felt his experience as a Page instilled the life lessons necessary to become one of the most successful real estate entrepreneurs in the nation.

Peebles was keynote speaker at the USCPAA Homecoming banquet May 28 in Washington, D.C., and was introduced by classmate Dr. Duane Taylor.

"Real estate is highly regulated and is deeply rooted in politics," he stated. "The skills I learned on Capitol Hill and the relationships I fostered there – including former Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Cal.), Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-NY) and Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) have been applied in every expansion of my company into nine major U.S. cities." Peebles noted with pride his ongoing professional relationships with all three men and that he chairs the Foundation Board of the Congressional Black Caucus, of which Rangel and Conyers are members.

His company focuses on public/private partnerships with state and local governments, he emphasized. "The fundamental premise of my company is, 'We don't just build

buildings. We build symbols and environments of equal opportunity.'"

Brick by Brick

Peebles related how he came to Capitol Hill from a D.C. public high school, the son of a single mother who was a secretary and a father who was a low-level government worker and part-time auto mechanic.

"I was given an opportunity to serve as a House Page for six months. I found myself attending school not in a D.C. neighborhood but on the top floor of the Library of Congress with a view of the Capitol and the Supreme Court. THAT was one heck of a journey. Suddenly, the perceived barriers and limitations I had previously faced were gone. I approached my 'new' life with a sense of limitless goals!" Peebles said he was driven to find a way to stay on Capitol Hill and secured two internships and another full-time position to keep him at Capitol Page School through his senior year.



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HOMECOMING GALLERY



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1. USCPAA President with Panel Moderator Cokie Roberts
2. 2016 Homecoming Chair Peter Darby, with Board Member Ali Davis and Jerry Papazian
3. Jerry Papazian, Board Member Ellen McConnell Blakeman and Peter Darby
4. Myles Garrigan (House '43) – most senior former page
5. Don Peebles, Keynote Speaker at the Homecoming Gala
6. Page T-shirts, hats, buttons and books
7. Gregory King, with former Members of Congress Jim Kolbe and Bob Bauman
8. Welcome Reception in US Capitol Visitors Center
9. Homecoming Panelists: John McConnell, Nancy Ambrose, Tom Davis, Cokie Roberts, Camilla Bosanquet and Joe Kippley
10. Homecoming Panelists Historians: Kate Scott, Farar Elliott and Matt Wasniewski
11. Tour of Library of Congress
12. Former Court pages Ernest Wilson, Walt Michael and Lowell Muse at the Supreme Court
13. House Tour – Speaker's Lobby
14. Waiting to enter the Supreme Court tour



11



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HOME COMING GALLERY



- 1. Homecoming Chair Peter Darby, Timothy Hill, Trina Hay Oshman and Photographer Joel Zink
- 2. Supreme Court Panel
- 3. Happy Hour at the Hyatt Hotel
- 4. Court Panelists Frederick Saunders, Samuel Williams and George Hutchinson

- 5. Jack Spain, Jerald Watts, Mary Spain and Joe Stewart
- 6. Browne Greene, Joe Hillings, Yvonne Hillings and Jerry Papazian at the Metropolitan Club Class of 1950s dinner
- 7. 1970s Class Dinner at the Old Ebbitt Grill

- 8. Former Member of Congress Jim Kolbe and Thomas Hildebrandt
- 9. House Tour – Statutory Hall
- 10. 1980s Class Dinner at the Hamilton

ALL HOMECOMING PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEL ZINK

Page Success

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The lengthy, demanding and often unpredictable Page schedule, Peebles says, trained him in time management, discipline, responsibility, integrity, building long-term relationships and honor. At CPS he was so focused that when he later enrolled at Rutgers, he was bored and left within a year to start his real estate career.

A Call to Action

Peebles challenged the former Pages and their families to help bring back the House Page program.

“I look forward to working with all of you to make the reinstatement of the House Page program a reality, so that other young Americans of all backgrounds can receive the opportunity we had.”

C-SPAN

You can view the two Page panels from 2016 Homecoming at www.c-span.org

Brown v. Board of Education

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

follow the law and immediately appointed the first Black Page, Charles Bush, effectively desegregating the Page School in 1954 – the first in the nation as a direct result of *Brown*.

Frederick Saunders, like Bush a junior high school student when *Brown* was announced, said there was tremendous excitement about the decision at his Washington, D.C. school. Saunders was the second Black Page appointed to the Court in 1955, and he and Bush were the first Black graduates of CPS in 1957.

“I was invited to an interview to be a Page but I declined because it would have conflicted with my paper route,” Saunders said. “Rather than detracting from my chances, the interviewers thought that reflected a good work ethic!”

About the Page work requirements, Hutchinson noted, “Being a Page was hard work, with a very demanding schedule. I think anyone over 21 confronted with a workday like we had as teenagers would have said, ‘Nope, not for me.’”

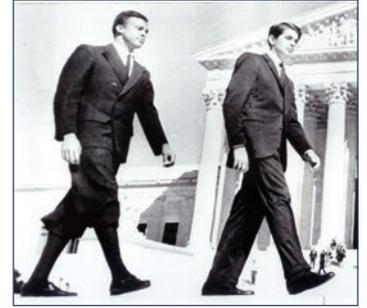
“My parents and I were shocked when I was appointed,” said Samuel Williams of being selected as the third Black Page in 1957. In 1958 he gained some visibility during arguments in favor of continued segregation of schools in Little Rock, Ark., when a newspaper article noted that he, “a colored youth,” served water to a white attorney arguing for segregation. “It was my job,” Williams shrugged.

“The Court and my classmates at CPS became an extended family,” Williams attested, “and in particular the Chief Justice showed a great interest in all of us. I still have close relationships with my classmates.”

POST BROWN

By 1963, *Brown* was less top-of-mind but Black Pages at the Court and at CPS were still the exception, recalls Ernest Wilson, who served from then until 1966. “There were only one or two Black students at school and we were conscious

of that. There was a lot going on in terms of Civil Rights and remember this was the beginning of JFK’s term as President.” When Kennedy was assassinated later that year, Wilson remembers delivering the note informing the Justices of the shooting to their private conference that day.



In 1964 when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in the Capitol Rotunda, Wilson describes how he and some buddies conspired to attend the ceremony. “We put a black thumbtack in our lapel to imply we were Secret Service agents with microphones. We eluded the security agents, guards and Capitol police, snuck upstairs in a “Senators Only” elevator and managed to disappear into the crowd, where we watched the ceremony. Then we actually followed LBJ down to the Speaker’s Office. Luci Baines Johnson was there and we hugged her.”

Luci, Wilson was quick to point out, was a friend of the Pages and often attended their parties. “But going to parties at Luci’s house was always more fun,” Wilson noted.

THE END OF KNICKERS

Even after knickers were abandoned as uniforms for House and Senate Pages, they persisted in the Court.

“Young people our age visiting the Court often snickered at the knickers,” admits Williams. Back in the day, Williams said, Pages had to be 5’4” or shorter so as to not tower over the Justices’ chairs.

Then a 6’1” Wilson arrived. The Chief Justice took one look at him in knickers, and banned them.

HOMECOMING RECAP

Webster Hall

BY JASON RAE (SENATE '04)

I was fortunate to be selected as the Association’s “host” to lead 40 former Pages and family members for a rare look inside of Webster Hall, where today’s Senate Pages live and go to school. A few former Pages, like me, were revisiting old stomping grounds, while others worked as Pages before the dorm/school was opened.

The tour was made available to attendees of the 2016 Homecoming weekend by the leadership of Senate Page School Principal Kathryn Weeden.

As both dorm and school, Webster Hall – just blocks from the Capitol – is an all-inclusive Page “headquarters” for its teenage residents. The first floor houses 15 girls and the second floor, 15 boys. The four-classroom school is located in the basement, with rooms dedicated to high-school Junior level English, Math, Science and Social Studies. School starts

promptly at 6:15 a.m. and dismisses in time for the Pages to go to work in the Senate. The basement also has a communal kitchen and a laundry room. The building is attended by adult supervisors 24/7.

Webster Hall is designed to provide a secure community that teenagers need when living on their own – for most, the first time. Ms. Weeden also described in detail the protocols and procedures in place to help assure the young Senate Pages have a safe and positive life experience in our Nation’s Capitol.

It was a great opportunity to see what a day in the life of a Page is like today.



FEATURE

From Term Paper to Page Term

BY RON ROBERTSON (HOUSE '62)

In the fall of 1961, I was a senior in high school in Bell, Calif., newly transplanted from Kansas. I read an article about Pages in the House of Representatives in my government class textbook. My instructor challenged me to make the Page system a topic of a required term paper due that semester.

Being a relatively recent California resident and not from a family that followed politics, I first had to find out who my Congressman was. I sent a letter to him, Clyde Doyle, 23rd District, inquiring about Pages. His staff sent me a packet of information, including the Capitol Page School. Much to my surprise – because I hadn't asked for it -- the packet also included an actual application for a Page appointment.

I decided to submit the application because I thought being able to describe the Page selection process would enhance my chance for a good grade. I assumed nothing would come of it as the position was probably already filled. So imagine my further surprise at being contacted by Rep. Doyle's office for a phone interview, a home interview and finally, an interview with the Congressman (whom I had never met) and his staff.

Over the next few weeks, I heard nothing from Rep. Doyle, but finished the paper and turned it in. On Friday, December 15, the last day of school before Christmas vacation, I received a telegram at school. The telegram announced my Page appointment. I was instructed to report to the House Chief Page on January 4, 1962. I don't know if there is any connection, but I did receive an "A" on the paper.

1962 was a busy and interesting year in the nation's capitol. It began for me with President Kennedy's "State of the Union" and installation of new House Speaker John McCormack of Massachusetts. During the year, joint sessions were held with astronaut John Glenn, the Shah of Iran and the President of Brazil. Along the way, I had the opportunity to meet President and Mrs. Kennedy, Vice President Lyndon Johnson, past Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, future President Gerald Ford and too many Congressmen and Senators to count. Actors Jim Backus, Johnnie Crawford and Charlton Heston also visited Congress.

At CPS, I was co-editor of the Capitol Courier newspaper, reporter for the yearbook, and a member of the Journalism club. I was inducted into the National Honor Society and received athletic and academic letters. I had been a Boy Scout in California, and while in Washington was a founding member of a new U.S. House Explorer Scout Post, which was recognized by President Kennedy. On June 12, 1962, my class and I received presidential high school graduation certificates from the President at a ceremony in the White House West

Wing (pictured below). Kennedy had incredible charisma and it was a lifetime experience beyond compare.

While in Washington, I gained a little extra notoriety back in California. One of the reporters for the Huntington Signal regularly published my "Letters from Washington" recounting my experiences on the Hill and working with the political elite.



POLITICS AT HOME

Rep. Doyle instilled in me the importance of getting involved in local politics as a way to really have a positive impact. Back in California, I made presentations at area high schools, describing my Page experience and encouraging young people to get involved in government. Since that was before the voting age was 18, I don't know if I had an immediate impact on young people, but it sure was fun to talk about being a Page.

Personally, I worked on Rep. Doyle's re-election campaign in the fall of 1962 and continued to stay involved in local politics. In fact, one of my first dates with my wife-to-be, Linda, was working our precinct the evening before Election Day. Although it proved to be a successful effort and virtually all of our candidates won, I sensed that Linda wasn't enjoying the experience. Later over pie and coffee, she asked if I worked the precincts "all the time." She was relieved to learn that I didn't do it regularly!

Rep. Doyle closed every letter to a constituent with the following words: "Our beloved nation deserves the best of whatever we are." He always gave his best and truly lived by those words.

I have tried to as well.



After Washington, Ron earned a degree in Business Management at Fullerton College in California. He went on to a successful 45-year sales and management career in the paint and coatings industry, and retired as the National Sales Manager of a regional paint company in southern California. He was also Vice President of Industry Activities at the National Decorating Products Association in St. Louis, Mo., and represented the association before state and federal government agencies. He and his wife Linda live in Escondido, Calif., and he is thrilled to see his byline in the Capitol Courier once again.



US Capitol Page Alumni Association

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 The Association has been hard at work growing our presence on Facebook. Have you had a chance to check us out yet? Be sure to "like" our official page – Capitol Page Alumni Association – to stay up to date on all the happenings of the Association. You can see upcoming events, learn about opportunities to help the Association grow, and see stories from past Pages. This Facebook page is a terrific way to connect and interact with alumni from around the country – and even the world.

Join the discussion today!

Click on the Facebook icon on our website or go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Capitol-Page-Alumni-Association/193020031458>