



the CAPITOL COURIER

U S C A P I T O L P A G E A L U M N I A S S O C I A T I O N

FEATURE

In a Rare Unanimous Agreement for 2020, 100 Senators Stood to Applaud the Pages

Anna Brown was a U.S. Senate Page for first semester 2019-20. Her edited letter recalls serving during the first week of the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, held in the Senate chamber with Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. presiding.

I was a Page during the first week of the impeachment, and it was a time in my life that I will never forget. My fellow Pages and I held our breath all fall wondering if the impeachment would pass in the House and come to the Senate within our semester.

The night of the House vote, my fellow shift of Pages and I sat in the back cloakroom just steps away from the House chamber and anxiously watched on C-SPAN as the votes went up. I clearly remember walking home to Webster that night thinking, "This is history in the making, and I have a front row seat to it."

The trial started in our final week of "Pagedom" and alongside studying for finals during our limited breaks, we all felt a mix of emotions that week. We were exhausted from late nights and early mornings, solemn that our final week was upon us and in just a matter of days we would be leaving Capitol Hill to return to "ordinary life," but utterly excited and fascinated that we were participants in the third impeachment trial in United States history. Six months prior when people asked me what I would be doing as a Page, I never once even considered that working during an impeachment trial would be a part of it.

continued on p. 2

ANNOUNCEMENT

Page Directory To Include Pages Since 1801

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Page Directory project. Though we hoped to have the directory published in May 2020 in connection with our Homecoming weekend, it too has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to report that our vendor, PCI, has reported that the publication has gone to press. It should be delivered in early 2021 to those who purchased a copy. We are very excited about the outcome: Its historical section with a history of the Page programs; an alphabetical

section with the names and contact information of all living alumni; a Page showcase section with pictures and updates from former Pages; a class-year section, which includes the names and chamber served of all Pages going back to 1801; a geographical section; and a career-networking section. We think you'll be very proud with the published edition. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact us at Alumni@CapitolPageAlumni.org. Thank you for your patience.

2021 Homecoming Updates

At press time, we hoped to have new dates for the pandemic-postponed 2020 Homecoming, but the pandemic isn't cooperating. We hope our usual Memorial Day weekend dates will be possible. Labor Day weekend is a possible backup. Information and invitations will be sent as soon as possible. If there's a "silver lining" to the delay, it's that 2021 will allow us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the appointment of the first female Pages. We will celebrate this important milestone in addition to our normal panels and tours of the House, Senate and Supreme Court, updates on our efforts to restore the House's Page program, and celebrating the lives of Cokie Roberts and former Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, Donnal K. Anderson.

For those who registered for 2020 and did not request a refund: Your priorities and pricing are preserved. Our headquarters will remain at the Hyatt Regency-Capitol Hill and reservation information will be shared when available. Please contact us with any questions at Alumni@CapitolPageAlumni.org.

Inside this issue

- 100 SENATORS..... 1
- 2021 HOMECOMING UPDATES..... 1
- KEN SMITH MEMORIAL LUNCHEON..... 2
- HOUSE PAGE RESTORATION..... 3
- IN MEMORIAM: COKIE ROBERTS 3
- IN MEMORIAM: DONNALD K. ANDERSON 4



Directory Cover

U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association
Founded 2008

MICHAEL ESPOSITO (S '84)
COURIER EDITOR

FEATURE

Senators Applaud the Pages

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As far as the trial itself, my fellow Pages and I continued our daily tasks, but at about three times the regular speed. Rather than preparing the chamber for a couple of Senators to speak and maybe a few votes, we had to prepare waters and papers for every single Senator all day long.

What I don't think many Americans know is how little time the average Senator actually spends on the floor in any given day. Having every single Senator on the floor all day long is an extremely rare occurrence. Between running notes for Senators between them and their offices (since they were not allowed to leave their seats), making sure the coffee pot was always full (my personal task), aiding the Parliamentarians and White House Council, running errands for the Cloakroom, and assisting Chief Justice Roberts with anything he needed, our days were busy. There were eight-hour stretches where I didn't stop moving, but as chaotic and fast-paced as that week was, and as much as my feet hurt, I am grateful for every single second.

I was on shift the night the trial went until 2 a.m., and despite being exhausted, I shockingly felt wide awake. I vividly remember one specific moment, when I was sitting on the chamber steps, and I was scanning the chamber to make sure every Senator's water glass was full. Sen. Rick Scott stood in the back of the chamber, so as not to fall asleep, arms crossed and glasses in hand, ears attentively focused towards the House Representative speaking. Sen. Lamar Alexander sat at his desk with his head resting on his hand, eyes tired, writing down notes. Sen. Mitt Romney was flipping through pages of notes, stopping periodically to look at the PowerPoint on the monitor, then returning to flip through his pages. Sen. Ben Sasse and Sen. Rick Scott were sharing sunflower

RECOGNIZING THE PAGES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. Chief Justice, colleagues, we are almost through for the evening. We will convene again at 1 o'clock tomorrow. Before we adjourn, I would like to acknowledge that tomorrow is the official last day for this term's Senate pages. (Applause, Senators rising.)

In addition to witnessing this unusual event that we are all experiencing, they are studying for their final exams as well, and we wish them well, as they head off back to boring, normal high school.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Leader, let me just add my thanks and gratitude from all of us. It is rare, particularly these days, when 100 Senators from both sides of the aisle, of every political persuasion, get up and give someone a standing ovation, but you deserve it.

Thank you for your good work. We hope you have beautiful and successful lives.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Image of [Page S485] from the Congressional Record Online through the Government Publishing Office, www.gpo.gov

seeds (technically against Senate Rules) while they listened at their desks at the back of the chamber. Despite being 2 a.m., every single Senator was still actively focused on every word that came out of the House Representative's mouth. Partisan politics aside, it was that moment, more so than any other, that I recognized what our government truly is—a group of ordinary people, not celebrities or political robots like the media sometimes make them seem, that comes together to do what they think is best for our nation.

This is just a glimpse of the stories I have from my last week on Capitol Hill. Many of my memories from this week are what influenced me to pursue a career in politics (something I was, ironically, not considering before I was a Page).

Sincerely,
Anna Brown

FEATURE

Charles Bush, First African American Supreme Court Page Was the Subject of the Annual Ken Smith Luncheon

BY MICHAEL ESPOSITO ('84)

Ken Smith helped to launch the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association as the lead organizer of the 2008 Page Reunion, and every October would organize a Friday luncheon for Washington, D.C.-area alumni. Since his death, the alumni association has continued this tradition.

October 16, the Annual Ken Smith Memorial Luncheon moved online, because it's 2020 and that's what one does in 2020.

Todd C. Peppers, who holds a doctorate in political



From left, Vance Morrison ('56), Charles Bush ('57), Robert Jacoby ('57) and Stuart Polly ('58) prepare for another day in the Supreme Court. Photo Courtesy 1956 Capitol Page School Yearbook

science from Emory University in Atlanta and is the Henry H. & Trudye H. Fowler Professor of Public Affairs at Roanoke College, was the featured speaker. Much of Peppers' published writing addresses the Supreme Court and especially the evolution of its clerkships. His current research is about the African American Supreme Court Pages, focusing on the appointment in 1954 of the first, Charles Bush.

"I love stories about breaking the glass ceilings," Peppers said in a November telephone interview. "It's a pleasure to discover them."

Supreme Court Pages' experience differed from congressional Pages, Peppers said, because there were only four of them at a time for the nine justices, instead of a hundred senators or hundreds of representatives. He also learned that Supreme Court Page appointments often were a way to help support widows in the District of Columbia, which was true of some congressional Pages

continued on p. 4

FEATURE

Two Updates to House Page Restoration Effort

BY JAMES L.J. NUZZO (H '71) AND KATHERINE ABBOTT (H '02) / HOUSE PAGE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

The McKeon Group, a leading Washington lobbying firm, headed by former Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon, has agreed to work with the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association on a pro bono basis.

McKeon remembers the Pages well, and his family had teenagers serve in the House, before the program was shut down. He said that even he, as someone in leadership, chairman of a House Appropriations Subcommittee, had no idea the shutdown was coming prior to the decision being announced. He said that now is a good opportunity to right a wrong.

The second piece of news is that the election, while not changing party control in the House, resulted in the smallest majority since World War II. Many issues will need consensus across the aisle to move forward, and restoration of the Page program may be something that finds consensus, especially in the 50th anniversary year of the first female pages, McKeon said. McKeon’s long history of working with both sides of the House may offer a unique opportunity to restore the program.

We still need to find a pro bono public relations firm that can join our leadership team. If anyone has contacts that they can use to help us bring such a firm on board, please let us know as soon as possible at Alumni@CapitolPageAlumni.org.

We have worked diligently with the Senate side, especially the leadership of the Senate Page School to provide “best practices” that the House could adopt to restore the program. Once the final makeup of the House is established (at press time several races were outstanding), we will sit down with the McKeon Group to map our strategy.

What is clear is that nothing will be accomplished without your help. We will reach out to you in the months ahead, and will want to use the Homecoming as an occasion to advance our agenda.

In short, the Committee is excited at the prospects of bringing back the House Page program.

IN MEMORIAM: COKIE ROBERTS (1943 - 2019)

A Personal Tribute to a Friend of Pages and the Page Program

BY AUDREY SCAGNELLI (H '09)

In September 2019, the world lost a giant and the Pages lost a friend. Cokie Roberts was a trailblazer in the world of journalism—the recipient of three Emmy Awards, the Edward R. Murrow Award and the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress—she was also a “Founding Mother” at NPR and spent 30 years at ABC News.

Cokie had in her heart a fondness for the Page program and gave generously of her time on many occasions to support the Alumni Association.

We pay tribute to Cokie’s many efforts to support the world of Paging. She beautifully narrated “Democracy’s Messengers: The Never-Before-Told Story of Young Americans on Capitol Hill,” the 2015 documentary about the history of the Page program. As a historian, she wrote of Civil War-era Pages in her New York Times bestseller “Capital Dames.” She appreciated the bipartisan nature of Paging and the grounding impact the presence of young people had on Congress.

Perhaps most importantly, Cokie credited the program to the very existence of her grandchildren—her son Lee met his future



Cokie Roberts, accepting an award for serving as a moderator at the 2016 Homecoming. Photo: Courtesy of Joel Zink.

bride the summer after his junior year of high school and the summer before hers, when they served together as Pages. Many years later, with the help of then-Clerk of the House Donald K. Anderson, a former Page himself, Lee proposed under the Capitol Dome.

Cokie was a tireless advocate for the voiceless and a role model to countless many, myself humbly included. Her beloved husband, professor Steve Roberts, became a mentor to me during my freshman year in college. Our first conversation centered around the lasting impact of the Page program. I treasure the gentle, wise advice Cokie shared with me during a handful of weekend morning phone calls alongside her husband. The scores and scores of tributes to Cokie, from those who knew her well to those who spoke with her once to those who never had the chance, but felt like they had, offer proof that kindness counts. They gave ink to a purposeful life, one lived fully and filled with a bevy of benevolent acts.

In 2017, Cokie said of her career, “It is such a privilege—you have a front seat to history.” We former Pages feel privileged to have briefly held our own front seats, and privileged to have had a friend and supporter like Cokie. The world feels a little smaller ... a little darker ... without the witty and kind and decent Cokie Roberts. But the force for good now has a reverent angel. May Cokie Roberts rest in peace.

Call for Virtual Programming Speakers and Topics

We will continue programming quarterly virtual events. We would like to hear from you about potential speakers on topics of interest to the Page alumni community. Online events provide an opportunity for members to hear a featured speaker on topical programming, and a chance to engage with other alumni. Please send ideas and suggestions to Alumni@CapitolPageAlumni.org.

Charles Bush Featured at Luncheon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

too, but who more often were more likely to be drawn from across the country.

Peppers said that he enjoys doing such presentations, because it can lead to new discoveries, sometimes because an audience member will have more information about that day's topic and call out of the blue to contribute information about the subject.

Hoping that members of the alumni association might be able to help further his research, he's seeking photographs from Supreme Court Pages in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

To view a recording of the Annual Ken Smith Memorial Luncheon, please visit online at www.CapitolPageAlumni.org. Contact Professor Peppers by email at peppers@roanoke.edu.

IN MEMORIAM: DONNALD K. ANDERSON (1942 - 2020)

In Remembrance of a Former Page and 'A Man of the House'

BY GERALD PAPAIZIAN / USCPAA PRESIDENT

The U.S. House of Representatives, and the House Page program, lost one of its own with the passing of the Honorable Donald K. Anderson in August 2020. Anderson served as a House Page during the 86th Congress in 1960, having been appointed by Rep. John E. Moss of California. After attending Sacramento State University and George Washington University, Anderson spent eight years in the U.S. Army Reserve. Donn continued to work in various roles in the House until 1972 when Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma appointed Anderson as House Majority Floor Manager, a position he held for 15 years.



Hon. Donald K. Anderson (H '60) upon his election in 1987 as Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives. Photo courtesy U.S. House of Representatives

Anderson dreamed of become the Clerk of the House of Representatives. In 1960, after a brief conversation with Clerk of the House Ralph R. Roberts, while making a delivery to his office, Anderson decided that "being Clerk of the House has to be the best job in the world, and my fantasy as a 17-year-old high school senior was to be the Clerk of the House—little knowing that 27 years later, I actually would become the Clerk of the House."

Jan. 6, 1987, Anderson realized his lifelong dream, when he was sworn in as the Clerk of the House for the 100th Congress, a position he held for eight years, until retiring in 1995. In all his positions, Anderson served with integrity and dedication, taking immense pride in placing the duties of his office before partisanship or political ideology, which became a cornerstone of his tenure as Clerk. As Anderson noted, he was committed to "ensuring that my office was absolutely nonpartisan, that we treated all Members with the same courtesy, the same expediency, the same confidentiality, so that Members of the Minority ... could unburden themselves with me, even though I was a Democrat, knowing that I would never break their confidence."

As Clerk, he was instrumental in the formation of the House Office of Employee Assistance and the Office of Fair Employment Practices, which continue to serve as vital tools for all House employees to receive the support and resources they need to effectively do their work on behalf of the American people. He also generously shared his deep knowledge of the legislative process and House protocol with new Members during "freshman orientation." One of Clerk Anderson's most lasting effects on the House was his commitment to modernization. In an era before cellphones,

Clerk Anderson's campaign to introduce electronic beepers was a great success, and he constantly sought new tools to ensure Members were kept up-to-date on House proceedings. By harnessing new technologies, Anderson helped the House set the foundation for doing business in the information age and in a world increasingly reliant on technological innovation.

A resident of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento, Calif., he was a member of the House Page Board for many years. He was a regular attendee of House Page luncheons and activities. Anderson loved the institution of the House of Representatives, and the House Page program. He served as a mentor to hundreds of former Pages. One of those former Pages, Doug Geiss (H, '87), shared about Anderson (paraphrasing): "If you are lucky in life, you will have role models beyond your parents. If you are even more blessed, those role models become friends. At 16, I had the best boss in the world—no other has compared. As a boss, you were strict, but with a guiding hand. You also broke the barrier between office decorum and personal connections. Your respect for the institution of our Government, and service to its furtherance over 35 distinguished years, is truly an inspiration. I lost a great friend today. The former Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Donald K. Anderson."

Baptized a Catholic in 1979, his godparents were Reps. Corinne "Lindy" Boggs (D-La.), Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.) and former Speakers of the House, John W. McCormack (D-Mass.) and Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill (D-Mass.). In 1991, he was invested by Pope John Paul II in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a Papal order of knighthood under the protection of the Holy See.

Anderson was buried during a private ceremony in Sacramento on Aug. 13, 2020. Through the leadership of former Pages Doug Geiss and John Crabtree-Ireland (H, '87), the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association sent 1,000 red and yellow roses in a special hand-made arrangement for the ceremony at the cemetery.

Anderson's love for the House and dedication to the institution stands as an enduring example for all those who will follow in his footsteps to serve the Congress and the American people. A public memorial service will be held in 2021 in Washington, D.C.



1000 red and yellow roses honor memory of Hon. Donald K. Anderson. Photo courtesy of Jerry Papazian