



the CAPITOL COURIER

US CAPITOL PAGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HOME COMING 2023

All-Alumni Page Homecoming Returns in 2023!

After several postponements, the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Homecoming in Washington, DC, is finally taking place, with plans shaping up for tours, special presentations, and social events around the Memorial Day weekend, May 25-29, 2023. Discounted registration fees and merchandise will be available to USCPAA members and their guests.

"Homecoming draws a full range of Page alumni across multiple decades and is a chance to bring families and friends to show where we once served," encourages Peter Darby (House '83), Events and Homecoming Chair and 2nd Vice-President for the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association.

The Homecoming weekend opens Thursday, May 25, with an afternoon panel discussion (topic and participants to be announced) and an opening reception. Friday and Saturday will feature multiple exclusive tours and programs, and other points of interest.

On Friday afternoon, a social cocktail reception for all our alumni will take place at the Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency, our host hotel, just a few short blocks from the Capitol. Many Page classes will host their own dinner Friday

evening, and there will be opportunities for Pages in smaller groups to join dinners by decades. Pages who wish to host or co-host a class or by-decade dinner are encouraged to contact Peter at alumni@capitolpagealumni.org.

Photos of Pages on the U.S. Capitol steps will be taken Saturday afternoon, including group photos by classes and decades. Photos will be made available for free following Homecoming weekend. Saturday evening, all attendees are invited to a reception and banquet at the Hyatt, which will feature a keynote speaker. The remainder of the weekend is free for Pages, their family, and guests to visit Washington and enjoy time together.

Registration will open around March 1, 2023, and be announced by email. You will also receive a complete

Homecoming Registration packet in the mail. Be sure to update your email and other contact information, so you are in the know! Hotel registration information, including the availability of a limited number of rooms, will be posted on the website and announced by email. Specific news about tours and speakers will also be posted and will be updated as plans are finalized.



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U.S. Capitol Page
Alumni Association
Founded 2008

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FEATURE

Alumni Association Donates Rare Senate Riding Page Badge To U.S. Senate

Rarely does one find a unique Senate Page item on eBay anymore, but that's what happened back in June of 2020 when former USCPAA Board Member Patrick Green (S '12) came upon what appeared to be a Senate Riding Page badge from the 1880s for

sale on eBay. Patrick contacted us, and after a quick verification from our Historical Advisor Jim Oliver (H '68), who said "buy it now," the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association became the owner of the Senate Riding Page pin of French Eugene Helm, who served as a Senate Page from 1881 to 1882. Further research determined that French Helm was born in 1868 and died in Frederick County, Maryland in 1916. We verified his Senate Page service in the Secretary of the Senate report from 1882 (Page 12).

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Badge donation with (from L to R): Richard Doerner (S '81), Jerry Papazian (H '72) and US Senate Associate Curator Alexander "Sasha" Lourie

SAVE THE DATES
2023 HOME COMING
May 25 – 28, 2023

FEATURE

Alumni Association Donates

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We contacted the Senate Curator's office and asked if they would be interested in a donation of this badge to their collection, which resulted in a presentation of the badge at our annual Ken Smith luncheon on Friday, September 23, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Associate Curator Alexander "Sasha" Lourie accepted the donation and gave an interesting talk about the Senate Art and History office, including items of interest they seek.



Senate Page Eugene Helm's (S'1882) Badge

(See accompanying Page Memorabilia article). We encourage all former Pages to consider donating their Page Memorabilia to us (when and if they are ready to part with it). We anticipate future unique "finds" like the Page badge in the future.

FEATURE

Page Memorabilia Sought

Knick-ers, NICK-erz. 1. An uncommon noun, singular at the top and plural at the bottom. 2. Dark blue trousers worn by Pages as late as 1965 as part of their uniforms.

A vocabulary lesson? No, a serious request for memorabilia and other artifacts acquired by former Pages in the course of their service.

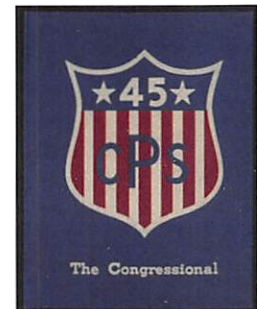


Fall 1995 Yearbook:
The Quorum Call

We join our partners, the House, Senate and Supreme Court History offices, in asking for significant items Pages have saved from their days on Capitol Hill. Signs, knick-knacks, photos, yearbooks, scrapbooks, trophies, letterman sweaters, rings, anything representing the large and small sweep of history experienced by Pages will be curated, catalogued and kept by our organizations working together. Every item helps enhance the historic, 200-plus year legacy of Pages on Capitol

Hill. Until now, we haven't aggressively pursued it because we simply didn't have a place to store the stuff ...and now we do.

We'll gladly accept all of your old yearbooks, whether from the Capitol Page School or the House or Senate Page Schools. In particular, we are looking for Senate Page yearbooks from 1987 to 1993, Fall of 1994 and the Fall of 2002.



1945 Yearbook:
The Congressional

And *knickers* are on the wish list, particularly Senate knickers. As well as physical items (not pictures or articles) from the appointment of the early female pages.

So, commence pawing through those shoeboxes, albums and storage boxes in your closet or garage, and think about sharing your memories with history. To submit items, contact Jerry Papazian at alumni@capitolpagealumni.org. Thank you.

IN MEMORIAM

Ron W. Lasch (House 1960)

Ronald W. Lasch (H '60), a 42-year employee of the House of Representatives, passed away November 14, 2022, in Alexandria, Virginia of natural causes. As manager of the Republican Cloakroom and Floor Assistant to the Republican leadership, he served as a friend, advisor and mentor to generations of former Pages and professional colleagues. He touched the lives of many people in a positive way over the years who had the privilege of knowing him.

In 1958 at the age of fifteen, Lasch went to Washington, D.C. to serve as a Page in the U.S. House of Representatives. Upon graduation in 1960 from the Capitol Page School, he continued working in the House while attending George Washington University, earning his business degree.



In his positions, Lasch played an essential role in the party's day-to-day operations. In the cloakroom, he served as a trusted resource on the House Rules, distributing information to Members on the voting schedule and parliamentary procedure. He

was a valued mentor to many young men and women who served as Congressional pages. As floor assistant, Lasch was involved in the daily battles waged between Democrats and Republicans in the 1980s and 1990s. His recollections, documented in "History, Art, & Archives," convey a firsthand account of the Republican Party's 40-year struggle as the minority and its ascension to the majority in 1994.



Ron W. Lasch (H '60)

Lasch provided insight into significant developments in the institutional history of the House, including the impact of new technology, changes in parliamentary procedure, and the dramatic transformation of the political culture of Washington, D.C., during the final decades of the 20th century. He was known as an honest broker who served both sides of the aisle in a professional and forthright manner.

His final years were made easier by his dedicated and loving friends, especially Peggy Sampson and Susan Zagame Reardon. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring of 2023.

PAGE SPOTLIGHT

Page Member Spotlight: Jessica Queener (House 1996)

BY PETER DARBY (HOUSE, '83)

Jessica Queener served as a House Page during the 1995-1996 school year, sponsored by Congressman John Duncan, Jr., representing the second district from Tennessee. During her introduction at the annual Ken Smith Memorial Luncheon this past fall, Jessica shared some of her experience as a Page and, more importantly, the impact her service had on her. Peter Darby, House Page, 1983 and Second Vice President of the U. S. Capitol Page Alumni Association, recently interviewed Jessica. We are pleased to feature an excerpt from her interview with Peter in our Page Member Spotlight for this issue. The complete interview can be viewed on our website at www.capitolpagealumni.org.

Peter: One of the things that you and I have in common is that we are both profoundly hard of hearing. Yet, we both were appointed and successfully served as Pages. Can you share with us about your hearing loss?

Jessica: My parents suspected but did not know until I was three that I had a hearing loss, and they fitted me with hearing aids. I used to wear two hearing aids while growing up but lost full hearing in my left ear while in middle school. So I just had one hearing aid when I was a Page. Then, I eventually lost my residual hearing on the right side at the end of my graduate studies and ended up getting a cochlear implant in my later-20s and still use the implants to this day. It took a while to get used to, but I finally did and heard better and tested stronger with the cochlear than I did with my hearing aids. And it increased my capabilities of hearing people now than when I was younger.

Peter: I know I matured quickly during my time as a Page,

and it built up my confidence, especially with my hearing disability. Did the page experience, in terms of independence and integration, help you with the opportunity to go to college and where you are today?

Jessica: I would not have had a different pathway, but I would have had a harder time getting my foot in the door. The Page program helped me know how to network better. I learned a lot of soft skills that are not taught, and they are skills that are often observed. I learned a lot while being a Page: how to dress, manners, etiquette, talk with people and be influential. So, when I went to college, I knew how to get in and apply for different organizations. I learned how to interview, contributing to my adult life by applying for jobs and interviewing for careers. It taught me that it's not so much that you have these concrete skills - you may know how to do something well - but it is about your ability to relate to people. And that's how Congress is, and it's how Congress should operate. And so it taught me how to do that because you have to work with many different people in your life, and I think it would have been a lot harder had I not been a Page.

Peter: You mentioned you wanted to run for President even before you got the notion of becoming a Page. It sounds like you were already engaged in political science.

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Jessica Queener (H '96)

IN MEMORIAM

Hon. James Kolbe (Senate 1960)

Former Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), a former Senate Page and member of the Class of 1960, passed away unexpectedly on December 3, at the age of 80. Kolbe was a long-time member of the House Page Board and a strong supporter of the Capitol Page program.

Kolbe ran for Congress in 1984, and was re-elected 10 times, prior to his retirement in 2007. After leaving Congress, Kolbe was a fellow at the German Marshall Fund, a nonpartisan think tank focused on trans-Atlantic trade, and a consultant for Kissinger McLarty Associates. He taught a trade-related class at the University of Arizona's law school.

Kolbe was born in Evanston, Illinois, but raised in Patagonia. His family cared about politics and it became a passion for Jim and for his older brother, John Kolbe, who became a high-profile political columnist for the Phoenix Gazette and The Arizona Republic until his death from cancer in 1998.



Jim Kolbe began working around politics and government at an early age. Kolbe was a page in Washington for then-Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., from 1958 until 1960. Two other members of his Page Class of 1960 became long-time employees of the House - Clerk of the House Donald K. Anderson and Republican Floor Assistant Ronald W. Lasch (see adjacent article).

He received a bachelor's degree in political science from Northwestern University in 1965 and a master's in business administration from Stanford University two years later.

He had two years of active combat duty with the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and remained in the Naval Reserves until 1977. After his active duty ended in 1969, Kolbe worked as a special assistant to the Illinois governor and the Illinois Building Authority.



James Kolbe (S '60)

He returned to Arizona and worked in real estate, but also set his sights on elected office. In 1976, he was elected to the first of three terms in the Arizona Senate. In 1982, Kolbe, known to some as the "Happy Warrior," quit the Legislature to run for the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was the start of a 22-year run in Washington in which Kolbe saw the GOP move from decades in the minority in the House to taking control after the 1994 elections.

"Jim had a way to listen to somebody even if he disagreed. He paid attention like you're important to me. He's a wonderful man and such a decent guy. He was a typical congressman you could work with no matter what side of the aisle he was on," said Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ). A memorial service is planned for Kolbe in Arizona in January as well as one in Washington in 2023.

Jessica Queener

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Jessica: I was involved with the student council at my high school and was involved in several campaigns for candidates in local and state races, and it taught me how important it was to have a resume to get a head start. I did not want to wait until college to build my resume. I wanted to start building it early on in high school, so I called my congressman's office. My parents did not even know that I called. But I just thought there would be no other way I was going to get more experience unless I called and tried to get a position in their office.

My parents were on board with me applying to the Page program when I learned about it. I submitted my application. Three weeks later, my congressman's office called the house, but I was not there. My mom answered the phone and they told her that I had been accepted into the Page program and to write down the phone number. When I got home, my mom gave me the number, and I was like – what is this? Area code 202 what? What does this mean? And she was crying when she told me my application to become a Page was accepted! I was jumping up and down, running around, and could not contain the excitement that I had been accepted. My parents were so surprised. They were not expecting this to happen. Then realized I had less than a month to get ready.

Peter: Coming to Washington as a Page would not be just a dream come true for you in terms of the resume experience but the whole big picture, right?

Jessica: Right, and the opportunity to be in the same room with many of the same people I read about was mind-blowing. It was a dream come true to have that opportunity and that kind of access at a young age.

Peter: What was it like to be around Members of Congress in person compared to how you perceived them before you came to Washington?

Jessica: It showed me that they are people like anyone else, but it also showed me that they also considered having a status as a congressional member. So it taught me the importance of understanding how to communicate with people with different power dynamics and how all of that plays out. That was a beneficial lesson, and it served me well when I went to college, at the University of Tennessee, and in the workplace.

Peter: You are now in a very different field, but you didn't lose your passion for political science. And you found your niche where you can be an advocate within a field of disability services. You didn't become a lawyer but, instead, pursued a master's degree and a doctorate in special education.

Jessica: I was looking to go to law school, but it never even entered my mind to do graduate school and a doctorate in special education. When I got into the Center on Disability and Employment at UT, it finally connected. Special education, education policy, disability policy, all of these things, and I thought, this speaks to me. So I went into that field because I just saw how many schools were struggling to provide the services that were so critical for students with disabilities. I had and still have a passion for seeing people with disabilities be employed and fully committed workers in the community. So it's been a long-time passion of mine.



Jessica Queener

CONTRIBUTE

Support the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association

Are you a member of the United States Capitol Page Alumni Association? If not, it's easy to join and offers benefits you will enjoy.

As a member you gain full advantage of benefits the association offers, including exclusive access to our database of 12,000 former Pages. You will want to use this contact information to find former colleagues and network with former Pages who live in your state or city. A feature soon to be added is the ability to find Pages in your profession or who attended the same school. The database is not shared with anyone other than members of the association.

Other member benefits include discounted rates for regional and national events, including upcoming signature and regional events.

The USCPAA offers these tiers of membership:

- Annual member, **\$50**
- Young alumni member (under age 30), **\$25**
- Joint membership with USCPAA and the Capitol Historical Society, **\$75**
- Lifetime membership, **\$500**

To learn more about membership options, visit our website at www.CapitolPageAlumni.org/Join

SHARE YOUR NEWS

The association depends on you for news about you! Do you have a new job, new promotion, new political victory? Do you have memories from your Page service you'd like to share – memorable legislation or funny or inspirational encounters with Members?

Send us your news and memories to www.CapitolPageAlumni.org and we will see that it is shared with our broader Page community.

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK

 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>