



the CAPITOL COURIER

US CAPITOL PAGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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FEATURE

Pagedom Kingdom

BY LENORE "LENNY" DONNELLY

Lenny was Chief of the Democratic Pages in the House from 1985-1995, serving with Speakers Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.), Jim Wright (D-Texas), Tom Foley (D-Wash.) and Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.)—not to mention thousands of Pages.



I was Deputy Chief of the U.S. Capitol Guide Service in 1984, when I was approached to be Chief Democratic Page. I knew about the Pages, and was aware of what many of their duties were, and I thought supervising young people would be fun and challenging. And it was perfectly delightful: watching teenagers learn first-hand about the democratic process, learn to behave with decorum and dignity, to deal with the unexpected—in short, learn to function in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Pages weren't the only ones learning. As we worked shoulder to shoulder, I too gained a profound appreciation not only of what hard work law-making was, but that working for lawmakers was

hard, too: The long and unpredictable hours, the hundreds of names to learn, and to recognize the Members of Congress in case they called upon a Page to send or receive a message. This process was complicated by the fact that in the House, unlike the Senate, Members did not have assigned seats.

Fortunately, the Pages were quick learners. I'd say it took about a week for a new class to absorb what "Pagedom" (our code word) was all about. In exchange, the institution took a deep breath of each new group's vitality, enthusiasm and curiosity that only teens can bring.

Pages were assigned to various special duties, such

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FEATURE

My Book With 5,000 Pages

BY PEGGY SAMPSON

Peggy was Chief Republican Page in the House from 1986 to 2011, when the program was suspended. In her tenure after "Lenny" Donnelly left the House Democratic Cloakroom in 1995, Peggy served Speakers "Denny" Hastert (R-Ill.), Nancy Pelosi (D-Cal.) and John Boehner (R-Ohio).



The best comparison to my 25-year career supervising teenage Pages is "Groundhog Day." I lived every day over and got older; they lived every day for the first time and stayed 16. But I loved both the sameness and the prevailing sense that the unexpected was just around the corner. On any given day the surprises could come from the teens or the Members.

Although I was a Capitol Police Officer for eight years, I knew little to nothing about the Pages. A personal crisis -- the loss of my best friend and fellow officer, Karen Nash -- caused me to rethink my life. I didn't realize I was rethinking out loud when I said, "I hate my job," and I was overheard. Mike Johnson,

a staff member for Minority Leader Bob Michel (R-Ill.), asked me if I had a resume; the next thing I knew, Congressman John Myers (R-Ind.) told me he had received it. I had an interview and the rest was a blessing. Rather quickly, I was re-employed. Or better, "re-purposed."

If the leadership hoped a female former Police Officer would have a kind but "no-nonsense" approach to the job, they weren't disappointed. I believed my job was to raise the kids the way I was raised, and to learn the rules I thought were the keys to being a good person: Nothing is free. Hard work is its own reward. Do your work in such a way that you are proud to sign your name to it.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Yearning For Yearbooks

Of all the memorabilia the Association collects, Page School yearbooks are among the most useful. They document who was there and where we came from, what was happening on the Hill that semester and year...the historic record is priceless. Often the yearbook is the only place the names and home towns of our classmates were written down.

Do you have an extra yearbook you'd be willing to share? Or, has it become time to find a good home for your yearbooks (and other Page mementoes) you just couldn't throw away?

We are especially seeking Capitol Page School yearbooks from 1942, '44, '50, '53, '55, '67, '71, '74, '75, and '76.

We also need Senate Page School yearbooks from 1987, '88, '89, '90, '91, Spring '92, Fall '92, Spring '93, Fall '93, Fall '94, Spring '95, Fall '95, Spring '97 and Fall 2003.

Contact Jerry Papazian at alumni@capitolpagealumni.org and we can arrange and pay for shipment to us. Thank you.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

“WEBSITE 101”: Now On Video

BY ALI DAVIS (HOUSE '91)



The Association has developed a video to show all alumni how to use the website, including finding upcoming events, volunteering, updates on classmates, and joining or rejoining the Association. The video also shows members how to easily use the database to find classmates and long-lost friends. Database searchability is limited to Association members who have been assigned a password. The video also provides direction on how to obtain a password if yours has been misplaced.

Find the video on the website www.capitolpagealumni.org homepage > “About Us” > FAQ and scroll down to the question, “How do I search the database?” Click on the red triangle to expand the question. Within the answer is a link to a short video that will walk viewers through each step from joining, to logging in, to search options. The database can find former Pages by name, state, year, college and sponsor.

Ali is the association's webmaster.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Website Provides DC Tourism Information

BY ALI DAVIS, HOUSE '91

Since our Congressional IDs are no longer valid and we have hung up our navy blazers, it is pretty difficult to get around security for an insider's trip down memory lane. While some of the Washington we inhabited as Pages is still open, most of the doors are closed or at least, hidden behind velvet ropes.

Many alumni have reached out to the association to ask about tours, especially to the House or Senate floors. Unfortunately, the association is unable to provide that access. But we have created a page on our website, www.capitolpagealumni.org that consolidates many resources available to tourists. The information is listed on the “Visit Washington” page under the “Events” tab. We have provided information on touring everything from the Capitol Visitors' Center to Library of Congress, Supreme Court and (our partners) the United States Capitol Historical Society. We even include access to a free guide to seasonal exhibits at the Smithsonian, “Newseum” and some other, less publicized events like the “Retiring the Colors” parade at the Marine Barracks.

For Pages who want to walk on the Floor, you will need to contact your Senator or Representative. Some will give tours. Be sure they know you're a former Page AND a constituent (and possibly bringing future voters). Or go to a neighboring district whose representative you know or have supported. All you have to do is to get back into “Page” mode: resourceful, opportunistic and fearless.



1986-87 Class Reunion - Thirty House and Senate Pages from the 1986-1987 school year plus their families assembled on Capitol Hill for their thirty-year reunion from June 28 to July 2, 2017. The reunion was packed with events including group meals, visits to the Supreme Court, Library of Congress (some of us got up to the attic!), and The Capitol. The day at the Capitol was perfect, ending with House and Senate floor tours and a fantastic reception on the Speaker's balcony. It was wonderful to be together, reconnecting once again like no time had passed. Seeing each other is always a delight! We have held well-attended reunions at the 1, 3, and every 5-year mark after. Even with social media helping to keep us connected, we continue to draw people from all over the country to our reunions. In recent years we combined our House and Senate programs and have all become even closer. Photo submitted by Mary Shaheen and David Weiser.



U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association

Founded 2008

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FEATURE

Pagedom Kingdom CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as Cloakroom, Documentarian Page, Overseers, Runners, Floor Pages, daily Flag Page, and the Speaker's Page. This Page would sit with the Speaker and, in my era, accompany him to his various engagements. This sometimes included interrupting the Speaker to keep him on schedule. More than once, the Page had to shut down impromptu press conferences with the Speaker by saying, "Mr. Speaker, it is time for your next appointment, sir." At one point, a reporter was overheard saying to another, "That kid has too much power."

Members were aware of the Pages, and treated them courteously. I do think that seeing the young people in the Chamber, like sons and daughters, reminded them of how their actions would affect future generations. Looking back, I am glad that my Pages saw a Congress that actually worked together for the good of our nation.

Certain Members attracted more attention than others. I remember two Kennedys: Joe II (D-Mass.) and Patrick (D-R.I.) being Representatives at the same time. Sonny Bono (R-Cal.) and Fred Grandy (D-Wis.) made heads turn. Members in prominent positions, such as Speaker Tip O'Neill, Nancy Pelosi (D-Cal.), and Congressman John Dingell (D-Mich.), Dean of the House as the longest-serving member, or those with compelling life stories, like John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sam Johnson (R-Texas), both Vietnam prisoners of war, earned a lot of Page respect as well.

Of course, the excitement of being present in the Chamber while the President delivered his State of the Union address, was

an unforgettable experience.

Over the years, many world leaders made our days memorable. The Queen of England, Nelson Mandela, Boris Yeltsin, among many, many others come to mind. There were also celebrities from the entertainment world (that Pages loved to see), such as Tom Cruise, Robert Redford, Sylvester Stallone, Chuck Norris, and countless others.

A sad part of my job as Chief Page was letting each group go, and saying goodbye. We gathered together one last time on the quiet, empty House floor, remembering the experiences we shared. And I would say, "You have seen many dignitaries, and witnessed history in the making on the House floor. You know what hard work it takes to govern a nation as you have watched the honorable men and women of this hallowed Chamber struggle to make our laws. I have the highest regard for you. I thank you for your outstanding work and devotion to the program. It has been a pleasure and joy to know you and to work with you. I look forward to hearing what you will be doing for the rest of your lives which I know will be responsible and productive. This Chamber, though silent now, speaks to us of the men and women who went before us, and of the history they wrote upon it. You are now part of that history."

Before coming to Capitol Hill, Lenny worked in the Kennedy and Johnson White Houses, and too many political campaigns to count. She is now retired and lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

"May a thousand children write your name across the sands of time" – A Traditional Blessing

FEATURE

My Book CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They weren't my kids, so I didn't have to love them – but I did. Building a sense of family was important, like looking out for each other, and knowing that every behavior, good or bad, reflects on all of us. While I had to teach them to try to be invisible, I also had to remind them that they never would be, that their uniforms, nametags and age screamed that they were part of the Page family.

Each new class of Pages quickly learned my lessons along with how to navigate the office buildings. I also stressed a couple of no-no's, like, never talk to the press, and keep your conversations about legislation and the Members at school or in the dorm. I took pride in being an equal-opportunity enforcer, especially with the press. Once a reporter grabbed a Page by the arm to try to get a quote. I grabbed the reporter right back and warned, "Don't put your hands on my kids."

I was tough at times. Once I had to admonish a Page who called his Member by his first name. Years later, that same Page, Carlos Curbelo, came back to the House as a newly-elected Representative (R-Fla.). We ran into each other and he said, "In 1996 you made me cry." Minority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-Cal.) happened by and commented, "She makes us cry too."

I keep in touch with many of my kids and sometimes stay with them when I travel. Others have come back in official roles: Kristen

Brandon Donahue '95, is now part of the House Parliamentarians; Barry Pump, '01 is the Bill Clerk; and Joe Novotny '92 is the Reading Clerk.

Over 25 years there are too many debates and bills to remember. I do recall that the kids were very aware of the Iran-Contra hearings because they worked the committee session just like they worked the Floor. 9/11 was a day seared in our memories. The Pages acted professionally and followed the rules to the letter. They all reported to the dorm as they had been instructed to do in an emergency. 9/11 not only made us stronger but it connected us on a whole other level.

In the end, I am sure we became family, no matter how different we all were. I learned as much from my kids as they learned from me. Little things, like "soda" versus "pop." Bigger things like cities versus towns with one stoplight – or none. Fortunately, the economic differences didn't loom large. Most important, I saw the kids taking the differences in stride and caring about each other.

I miss it. And I miss all the kids I will never have the chance to meet. If the program were restored, I'd go back tomorrow.

Peggy is now retired and lives in Alexandria, Virginia. She estimates that she supervised more than 5,000 pages.

PAGE MEMOIR

The Pages Who (Almost) Went To Washington With “Mr. Smith”

BY CHARLES RUSSELL (SENATE '43)

Many Americans are fond of the film “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington,” directed by Frank Capra. It established leading man Jimmy Stewart as a major star. Today we find the depiction of the hero and his victory over a bumbling Senate dated, almost quaint, but at the time of its release by Columbia Pictures in 1939 it was considered controversial. It went on to be a big box-office success and received 11 Academy Award nominations.

What most people don't know is that the Senate Page Corps, of which I was a new member, was almost in the movie.

Columbia decided to ask the real Pages, or as many of them could get parental consent, to be in the picture. The studio offered to pay transportation, lodging and food for the trip, which was expected to last about a week. The studio – like the rest of the nation – assumed that Congress would by then have completed its urgent business and adjourned for the year. We Pages were really excited! We had the uniforms – now we could be stars!



Jimmy Stewart with one of the “replacement” pages in Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

Fate decided otherwise. The debates continued and the Pages remained at their posts. Hollywood recruited young “extras” to play our roles and they did a very good job of it. Congress remained in almost continuous session thereafter, with very brief recesses until the war ended. I withdrew from my junior high school in Arlington, Va. and studied at Capitol Page School in the Capitol building until my graduation in 1943. At the ceremony, Mrs. Roosevelt handed us our diplomas.

Mrs. R was very kind and attentive to the Pages. After missing out on the movie opportunity, she invited the Senate Pages over for lunch in the White House Rose Garden. After lunch, we were escorted by two Secret Service officers to the private office FDR used on the second floor. (He used the Oval Office only for official functions because of his physical disability.) Mrs. R had told us not

to shake hands with FDR because it was tiring for him. We crowded into the tiny office and arranged ourselves around the walls. FDR beamed at us, put down his signature cigarette holder and said, “Boys, come over here and sit around my desk so I can

shake hands with you.” We complied gingerly. Then he said, “Boys, I think it's a great pity that you didn't get to be movie actors. The problem is – Congress just won't go home. I think it would be a pious idea if they would just go home and let us run the country. You could run it from up on the Hill, I could run it from here, and between us we would do a very good job of it!”



Movie poster of Mr. Smith Goes to Washington



1943 Capitol Page School Graduation – Charles Russell receives his diploma from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

I'm sure that none of us Pages ever forgot that experience. We may have missed Hollywood stardom. . . but being in the White House that day, so close to FDR's stardom, more than made up for it.

Charlie received undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Virginia. He served active duty in the Navy during the Korean War and then practiced law in Arlington from 1952-1967. In 1967 he was appointed Judge of the Circuit Court of Arlington County. In 1982 he was elected by the legislature as Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia. At age 91, he still serves that court part-time as a Senior Justice. He lives in Richmond, Virginia.

President's Smile Captivates Congressional Page Boys

First Lady Entertains Youths At Luncheon During White House Visit

(Page boys of the Senate, House and Supreme Court met President Roosevelt, Saturday, and were entertained at luncheon at the White House by Mrs. Roosevelt in connection with their graduation from the Capitol Page School. Charles S. Russell, 16, a Senate page for four years, wrote the following account for the Associated Press and Sunday Telegram.)

By Charles S. Russell

We had received news of our luncheon invitation to the

Reprinted from the Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald – Portland, Maine – March 14, 1943

PAGE MEMOIR

Inspiration Leads to Opportunity... Which Inspires Others

BY JOHN STANBERY (SENATE '78)

In the July '78 issue of "EXPLORING," a magazine for Boy Scouts, I was featured as a Senate Page. I was active in Boy Scouts for years before becoming a Page and earned the rank of Eagle Scout at age 14. I stayed active in scouting and the Order of the Arrow until 18. I'm sure my scouting experience was included in a press release announcing my Page sponsorship by Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), and someone at the magazine noticed and contacted him to get to me.

It was cool to be interviewed by the reporter, who spent a good part of the day with me. He also talked to John Hoffman, principal of Capitol Page School

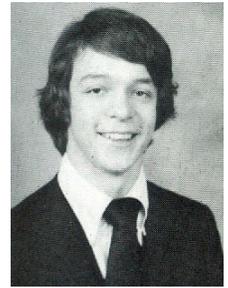


and Sen. Baker as well (a true statesman and an honorable man). Even more cool

was having a professional photographer for the day. He was with us in school, walking to work and running up the Capitol steps. The photographer followed me through the day while he clicked away.

Becoming a Page was a dream I had since age 7 or 8, when I talked to a Page in the tunnels on a family trip to Washington. At 12, I asked my

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PAGE MEMOIR

Just Like That, I'm There

(or "How earning my Eagle Scout badge was my path to the Page program.")

BY ROB SCHULER (HOUSE '81)

The instant I read the story about John Stanbery in "EXPLORING" magazine in 1978, I knew that I wanted to be a Page. As luck would have it, a perfect storm of circumstances came together that allowed me to go to the head of the queue.

At the time, Republicans were the minority in the House, so the party's Members took turns filling the few Page slots they were allotted (generally a Member might get a "turn" every six to eight years). Unexpectedly, a Page got homesick and headed home. My Congressman, Bill Gradison (R-Ohio) had already submitted my application and shared there was a possibility of serving as a Page the following summer. Fortunately, my Aunt Edith worked in Republican Headquarters in Dallas County, Texas and asked Rep. Jim Collins (R-Texas) to write a recommendation that started, "Although I don't know Rob, if he is like his Aunt..." Needing to fill the vacancy, Representative John Rousselot of California, who chaired the Republican Personnel Committee instructed his staff, "get me the kid who has the Aunt in Texas" - likely recognizing to get a twofer.

Being the right age to start immediately, it was only a few months after reading "EXPLORING" that my dad and I went shopping for

blue suits, blue ties and white shirts and traveled from Cincinnati to 625 E. Capitol Street, the "Page house" founded by forward-thinking Republican Head Page Jim Oliver. That began two years of one of the greatest experiences a young citizen can have.

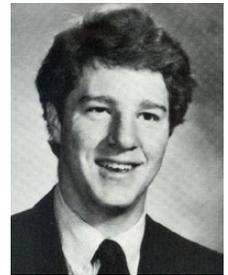
Being in Washington during the last year of the Carter presidency and the national agony over the Iran hostages, we watched the tragic helicopter crash and subsequent failure to rescue the hostages as one of the lowest points of our school year.

Later, though, we Pages did what we could to celebrate the victory of the U.S. hockey team over the Russians while sitting in the Cloak Room phone booths, repeatedly calling the Soviet Embassy and asking who won the hockey match the previous night. Eventually tiring of providing the painful answer, the staff stopped answering the phones and sent all of the calls to a recording.

In the fall, four Pages were granted seats to the Presidential Debate in Baltimore, which included our own Republican Congressman John Anderson (Ill.), running as an Independent. It was a fascinating insight to have the view "behind" the television screen and was spine-tingling to witness history close up.

On Election Night, 1980, when Reagan won the presidency, the "official" party was in California, but the Republican National Committee hosted an election watch at the Washington Hilton. Because as Pages, we could recognize all the Congressmen and Senators, we were allowed to volunteer to assure that the VIP room was limited to Members and Senators. I vividly remember standing next to Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) - John Stanbery's sponsor - as he learned the Republicans were going to take the Senate and he would be Majority Leader. It was the first - and only - time I witnessed the distinguished Senator jump up and down with glee.

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Left to Right: Republican Whip Bob Michel (R-IL), Rob Schuler and Republican Minority Leader John Rhodes (R-AZ) in 1980 photo.

PAGE MEMOIR

Then And Now

BY LOWELL BAIER (HOUSE '56)

The recent shooting at the Congressional baseball practice for a charity game in Alexandria, Va. flooded me with nostalgia from recalling days past when Congressional baseball was frivolous, fun and fraternal. In 1956 I was a Page Boy in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 84th Congress, appointed by former majority leader Charles A. Halleck (R-2nd Indiana). The Congressional baseball games were held in the old Griffith Stadium, home of the Washington Senators, located between Georgia Avenue, and 5th Street where the Howard University Hospital stands today. After WWII, baseball became a national pastime and spectator sport, and it captivated our Congressional Members. The frequent games and practices brought the Congress to the ballpark for a late afternoon or early evening game. Beer, peanuts and popcorn populated both the spectator stands and the dugouts, with beer frequently available at the bases. The partisanship and rancor of today didn't exist back then. The mood was lighthearted, festive and frivolity ruled, not feuding. It was a carnival atmosphere, and a police presence was non-existent. The Senate would play the House Members, with Page Boys as a ruse were



Speaker Sam Rayburn in the stands at the 1956 Congressional Baseball Game at Griffith Stadium

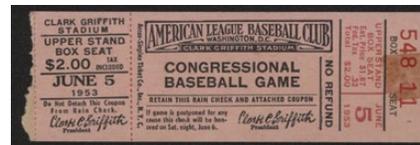
sometime snuck in as substitute players, while in some games they dominated the field. Seldom was it the GOP against the Democrats except for their charity game, an annual event since 1909.

Whether it was Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn at the plate or Minority Leader Joe Martin, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson or National Committee Chair Barry Goldwater, they all took their licks, fouls and foibles during the game with great laughter, hoots and howls. A multitude of players took to the field during the several summer games including Senators John Kennedy, Hubert Humphry, Mike Mansfield, Sam Ervin, Estes Kefauver, Harry F. Byrd, Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, Stewart Udall, and Representatives John Dingell, Wilber Mills, Jerry Ford, etc. Even Senate President and V.P. Richard Nixon would occasionally show up. Oldsters like House Majority

Leader John McCormack, his whip Leverett Saltonstall, Albert Gore, Sr., Les Arends, Hale Boggs, Carl Albert, etc. were prominent in the stands in their seersucker suits, starched shirts, suspenders and straw boater hats.

There was no Republican or Democratic section, they all sat together, including wives and their families, kibitzed and talked.

Off the field and back in Congress, while floor debates were at times heated, there were never personal attacks. The Members addressed the issues, and worked collaboratively to iron out differences late at night before cameras in the gallery



Ticket from the 1953 Congressional Baseball Game

fostered partisanship performances, and jet airplanes whisked members home on weekends for fundraisers. The Members belonged to the same clubs and churches, and their children all went to the same schools and neighborhood parks and pools. The Members and their families socialized and entertained together on weekends, and developed a personal trust and camaraderie that superseded political affiliations, and fostered collegial collaboration to address national issues. The Capitol Hill crowd was a true community unto itself in the company town.

I witnessed this first hand. My Congressman Republican and former Majority Leader Charlie Halleck maintained a three-room suite one floor below the House chamber which was known as the "Halleck Clinic." Here after-hours Halleck would preside over drinks, cards and cigars shared by both Republican and Democrats. This is where compromise was achieved as policy differences and legislation were hammered out collaboratively between the parties. I was posted in the corner to run notes to Members and staff, fetch files, or locate Members to join the session, etc. which is what Page Boys did long before Blackberrys, iPhones, etc. Senators were not absent from these meetings, freely crossing over to the House unseen in the darkened hallways primarily used for storage. Barry Goldwater, Hubert Humphry, Lyndon Johnson, etc. were frequent visitors. "Mr. Sam" as we called Speaker Sam Rayburn was a regular together with majority and minority leaders. These after-hours smoke-filled sessions were often long into the night, but real legislative progress was achieved, and the serious issues of the national agenda addressed and resolved peacefully.

Oh for the good old days where brew, bravado and not bullets ruled!

Lowell E. Baier is an attorney-at-law in Bethesda, Maryland. An edited version of this article appeared in the Washington Post.



EVENTS

Pages Check Out Ronald Reagan Library

BY PETER DARBY (HOUSE '83)

The “largest and most-visited” of all the Presidential libraries was the destination for Pages and their families March 25, 2017. The magnificent structure in Simi Valley, Calif. houses 93 million documents and 1.5 million photographs – not to mention a decommissioned Air Force One jet and Marine One chopper used by Presidents and their entourages.

Pages representing six decades of service were treated to a welcome from R. Duke Blackwood, Director of the Museum. He noted that the museum has hosted four Presidential debates, including one in the 2016 election cycle, when the stage was quite crowded. He recalled fielding a request from Nancy Reagan, who wished to invite Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) to speak at the library. She knew that the Senator and her husband

were frequent opponents and that the invitation would be controversial. But she also knew that the two men had “reached across the aisle” politically to work on common interests. 800 guests attended Kennedy’s speech in which he quoted a statesman’s message that “it is okay to disagree in politics – but not to be disagreeable.”

During the day, Pages self-toured the library, sat for lunch and viewed the new Page television documentary, “Democracy’s Messengers.”

Peter is Chairman of the USCPAA Events Committee.



Kimberly Higgins (H '81) and Rob Schuler (H '81) pointing themselves out on a picture of the Pages with President Reagan at the White House in 1981.



Left to Right: Tracie Tate, Paul Tate (H '69), Jeff Clark (S '69) and Betsy Piscopo



Left to Right: Jason Rae (S '04), Peter Darby (H '83), Reagan Presidential Library Director Duke Blackwood and Chris Cobey (H '67).



Pages and their guests prepare to enter the Situation Room Experience, an interactive display of the actual (former) White House Situation Room



Group shot of all Pages and their guests at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

PAGE MEMOIR

Inspirations CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

mother to buy personalized stationery for me to start writing to my Senators. At 15, Sen. Baker selected me, and I moved to Washington. The husband of the couple that owned the rooming house where I lived, at 5th and East Capitol, impressed upon me how much he disliked Pages and that no reason was too small to throw one out. Fortunately I changed his opinion.

Like most Pages, I regard my term as momentous with the ratification of the Panama Canal treaty topping the list. We also had a state funeral and two filibusters lasting through the night, offering



From the June 1978 issue of Exploring Magazine – John Stanbery and his classmates leaving work at the Capitol.

PAGE MEMOIR

Just Like That, I'm There

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

That January, we were able to volunteer for the Inauguration of President Reagan, were in Statuary Hall when he announced the hostages were safely on their way home, and many were present when he gave his electrifying address to Congress after his near-fatal assassination attempt.

Sometimes, the enthusiasm of being in such proximity to bigger-than-life figures took an amusing turn. One of our fellow Pages nearly worshipped Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) who was a big, tall man with a shock of white hair. One day, nearly bursting, the Page marched up to the iconic leader and said, "Mr. Speaker, you're doing a fine job and I'm proud to be here working for you." The



Rob Schuler with (left to right) Congressmen Phil Crane (R-Ill), Jean Ashbrook (R-Ohio) and Dan Crane (R-Ill) in 1982 photo.



John Stanbery with his sponsor, Senator Howard Baker.

amendment after amendment – often like, "change the semicolon after the word 'and' on page 3, and substitute a comma." Each amendment required a roll-call vote. Those nights, the girls were sent home and cots were set up in the hallway behind the floor and the Marble Room. At one point about 2 a.m. we had to wake the Senators (again) for a vote. One Page woke Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), who was wearing his pajama top. Goldwater walked on the floor, announced, "Aye and aye on the next one too" He returned to his cot and growled to the Page, "Don't wake me up again, son."

I sometimes wonder if that article in "EXPLORING" ever inspired another boy to become a Page.

Upon returning home from Washington, John continued to be active in state Republican organizations and at 18 became Region I State Vice Chairman of the Young Republicans. He has served on the Tennessee Republican State Executive Committee where he remains active today. He earned his B.S. in finance at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and D.D.S. from UT, Memphis. He and his family live in Cleveland, Tenn.

man turned and said, "Thank you, son. But I'm Henry Hyde," (a Republican from Illinois).

While never pursuing a career in elected office, I am blessed to be re-living the excitement of being a young man in our nation's Capitol through my son, Carl, a Senior at the University of Alabama, who is serving as an Intern in the White House this summer (and thanking my lucky stars that we didn't have social media in our day!).

While the Page experience was the most memorable of the many benefits of Scouting, it was only one of many over the years and I am grateful to have been able to remain engaged into adulthood.

Many in Washington these days only get to experience the partisan rancor that seems to permeate our political system. While the political battles during our days in Washington were no less meaningful than those we are experiencing today, our personal friendships were able to rise above the fray. Many are surprised that I remain close friends with Pages whose political opinions and partisan identification are diametrically different than mine. Perhaps those attributes of the Page system is why so many of our classmates have become such successful leaders.

Rob followed Capitol Page School by attending Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is now in the energy business and lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.

EVENTS

Call To Order In The Senate

BY PETER DARBY (HOUSE '83)

The U.S. Senate came to life in Boston June 10, as former Pages and their families visited the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Senate and sat at desks on a replica Senate floor, debated and voted on a bill to legalize marijuana. (It passed.)

“EMK,” adjacent to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, is devoted to “all things Senate,” Lou Rocco, Program Director told the Pages, including the history, traditions, rules and the men and women who have served their country as Senators. Last year, 70,000 high school students experienced the same opportunity as the Pages to re-enact history by becoming “Senators-in-Training” to reconsider some of the great debates over issues like civil rights and treaties—as well as highly relevant questions like whether the school day should be lengthened.

Pages hailing from every decade from the 1960s to 2010 gathered with old and new friends to swap tales of the old days and catch up on current activities. Katherine Orr and Eamonn

Dundon, both Senate 2015, regaled the group with stories about the Page experience today under 24/7 supervision, both human and electronic.

Jeff Jones, Senate '63, who was a Page when Ted Kennedy was a Senator and works closely with the Institute, said that the EMK staff is eager to hear all Page stories about the Senate as well as about Kennedy, and urged Pages to contact him at jdjones17@comcast.net.

President Jerry Papazian, House '72 introduced a short videotape of Charlie Russell, Senate '43, who told of his experience in the earliest days of WWII and how he and the other real Senate Pages almost got the chance to play themselves in the movie, “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.” (See Charlie’s full story on page 4.) The Pages also watched “Democracy’s Messengers,” the documentary about Page history.

Peter is chairman of the Events Committee.



Katherine Orr (S '15), Eamonn Dundon (S '15) and Jeff Jones (S '64)



Pages gather in the Lobby of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate



Pages listening to a presentation on the floor of the replica of the U.S. Senate



Unable to find the steps of the Senate Rostrum on which to sit, pages gather for a group shot at the Rostrum itself.

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PAGE MEMOIRS

Sixth Sense

BY BERT WISSMAN (SENATE '54)

Bert was sponsored by Sen. J. Howard McGrath (D-R.I.) but later was assigned to the Republican side. After his Page term from 1949-1954, he stayed to work another year as #1 phone in the Senate Republican. During his tenure, he recalls that he “met, worked with or ate with six presidents,” and gained a “sense” about politics and the players. He shares a brief synopsis:

One: Harry Truman. Truman assumed the Presidency when FDR passed in 1945. He was re-elected in 1948 but because his first term was FDR's unexpired term, he was eligible to run again in 1952. (He was exempt from the 10-year maximum Presidential term.) He visited the Senate once in 1951, and I was told the purpose of his visit was to assess whether he should run again. The Senate rules prohibited him from stepping foot on the Floor. A very nice man, he shook hands and chatted with the Senators in the cloakroom, but also made a point of shaking all the Pages' hands. I paid close attention to Truman's interactions with the Senators and tried to determine if he was getting encouraging feedback or not. In the end, I could draw no conclusions. At age 14, grown-up behavior didn't make much sense to me.

Two and Three: Eisenhower and Nixon. In 1952, I worked at the Eisenhower/Nixon campaign headquarters in downtown D.C. after school when the Senate had adjourned. It was not uncommon for one or both of the candidates to stop by and I was often sent out to get lunch for all of us to eat. Eisenhower was a man with such a “command presence” (literally I guess) that it was easy to understand his appeal to voters. The ticket was victorious, and Nixon later would be President on his own in 1968.

I remember Nixon's famous TV speech when he was accused of financial improprieties at the end of the 1952 campaign, and he mentioned the family dog, Checkers. What most people don't know is that there was another dog after Checkers. In

1957 while I was working in the office of Sen. Bridges (D-N.H.), the Senator was given a pure-bred white Alaskan Huskie. I was asked to keep the dog at home for a few days until arrangements were made to give him to Vice President Nixon. I delivered the dog to the Nixon home and met Mrs. Nixon and the girls. About a week later I was sent back to pick up the dog. He had apparently chewed the corner leg of a piano, and the baby grand hit the floor. The dog was returned to the



Article about Bert Wissman in the November 1952 issue of Photo Magazine

former owner.

Four: JFK. I lived in Washington and my father was a reporter covering the Senate for the old Washington Times Herald, which was later purchased by the Washington Post. His roving camera/reporter was Jackie Bouvier. There are many stories about how she met Sen. John Kennedy, and of course my father told a version in which he made the introduction. At the time, women rarely went anywhere in Washington unaccompanied by an escort. This posed a problem as Jackie somehow had to get from work to dates with her new boyfriend, Jack, whom I already knew as the junior Senator from Massachusetts. At this point their meetings were all on the QT, before people knew they were an item. My father was well-known in town and couldn't have discreetly driven her to the date. So my father asked me twice to drive her to a restaurant in Georgetown to meet JFK for dinner. I waited until she was inside and drove away. She was very friendly and asked me about school. My sense of Jackie was a lot like when I met the young actress Debbie Reynolds while she was on a Senate tour: “I wished I was older so that I could date them both.” Because of my friendship with JFK and Jackie, I grieved more when JFK was assassinated.

Five: LBJ. I knew Lyndon Johnson first as Senate Minority Leader and then as Majority Leader, long before he replaced JFK as President. I have a personalized signed photograph by him in my collection. He always was nice to the Pages, and knew many of us by name. The book, “Master of the Senate” describes him very well, and in his presence, all my senses registered, “This is a powerful man.” I recall many times witnessing him grabbing a Senator by the lapel to, ah, make an important point (and it usually worked). He was even able to bend the Senate rules to his whim, including having a folding chair right next to his desk on the floor, where his A.A. would sit while in session. Other Senators' staff members weren't even allowed on the floor and were required to wait in the cloakroom.

Six: Ronald Reagan. I met him when he ran for Governor of California. My boss was his campaign manager for the Fresno, Calif. area, and I was his assistant. At a fundraising dinner, I sat at Reagan's table and got to talk with him.

continued on the next page



Capitol's Mr. Big and Little – Pvt. Edward Brown (6' 9") stands on Senate steps with Bert Wissman (S '54) circa 1949

IN MEMORIAM

Douglas McFadden (House '58)



Douglas McFadden

Douglas Bruce McFadden, 77, of New Harmony, Ind., passed away Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at his home. He was born May 30, 1940, in Mt. Vernon, Ind., the son of Goebel and Georgia (Guffey) McFadden.

Doug graduated from the U.S. Capitol Page School in 1958, where he served as a House Page. As an early supporter of the USCPAA, he was responsible for creating the necessary paperwork to assure the association had proper legal standing.

He was a lawyer who was one of the country's leading antitrust litigators and a founding partner of the Washington, D.C. law firm McFadden, Evans & Sill. He was also a leader in communications law.

He grew up on the family farm and attended Mt. Vernon High School where he was an outstanding athlete earning 9 varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball, and track. He attended the University of Cincinnati where he played football and was a member of Beta Theta Pi. He graduated with a B.S. in 1962 and a J.D. in 1965.

He went on to be a Deputy and later Assistant Attorney General of Indiana, heading both the appellate section and the criminal division. He argued several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, the first in 1968, at the age of 27. At this same time, he sought the Democratic nomination for Congress from Indiana's 8th District but was defeated.

Doug spent 13 years with the Bell Telephone System where he successfully defended the first EEOC case brought against the Bell System and then moved to AT&T's Washington office from 1971 to 1976; he represented the company in hearings before the Senate Antitrust Subcommittee. In 1976, he moved to New York and became a part of the AT&T antitrust trial team. He was responsible for the defense of the long-distance part of AT&T in antitrust cases.

In 1981, prior to the breakup of AT&T, he left and joined the Indianapolis law firm of Dutton, Kappes & Overman. He opened a Washington, D.C. office for that firm which became McFadden, Evans & Sill in 1985.

He was a pioneer in cellular communications. He was a founder of the first cellular company in Indianapolis, one of the first in the nation, which was later sold to Bell South. He formed the law firm of McFadden & Shoreman, in 1996, in Washington, D.C. and continued to practice law until 2012.

His wife of 30 years, Dr. Deborah Carran is a professor at Johns Hopkins University.

Robin Bridges



Robin Bridges

Robin Bridges, the long-time Registrar of the House Page School, passed away on Saturday, July 22, 2017. She was an ardent supporter of the House Page program and was very helpful to the alumni association in our early stages. She was a true friend to the many House pages, and stayed in touch with many of them after the end of the House Page program. She served as Registrar from 2004 until the school's closing in 2011.

"The Pages will never forget Robin," said Miles Taylor (H '05). "She was vibrant, kind, and generous. She left her mark on the Program – and us – forever. Hers was the first face we saw in the morning arriving at school, and it was a face so many of us were thrilled to see in the years that followed. In a way, she did a lot to raise us during that formative period. And it's clear she did a heck of a job."

She is survived by her daughter Emily Bridges and son Andy Bridges. A Celebration of Life was held in her honor on August 19. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robin's name to Advocates for Youth (www.advocatesforyouth.org/donate).

PAGE MEMOIRS

Sixth Sense

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

He would later be known as "The Great Communicator" and his sense of humor was apparent to all, but that night it nearly fell flat. He had a small bandage on his forehead close to the hairline. When asked how he hurt himself, with a straight face said, "While taking a shower, I bumped my head on the ceiling." At first, no one got the joke. Hint: Think walking on water. My sense: This guy can recover from any setback.

My 1950's Senate also had a few VP/President wannabe's. Among them was Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Sen. John Sparkman (D-Ala.), Sen. Robert Taft (R-Ohio), and Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass.). The Senate was always lively, and most of the time it made sense.

My son Dale, on graduating from Berkeley with a major in History, said: "Dad, I studied history, and you have lived it."

Bert attended several colleges in California in his career in the moving and storage business. Despite his extensive experience in politics and campaigns, he never actually voted until age 24, in the 1960's election when he lived in California. As a prior resident of the District of Columbia, he and the other residents there were prohibited from voting. The first President Bert voted for was his Senate friend, JFK.



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Capitol Page Alumni Association

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.

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