



the CAPITOL COURIER

US CAPITOL PAGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND: MAY 26-30

2016 ALL-ALUMNI HOMECOMING APPROACHES

The next USCPAA Homecoming weekend in Washington, D.C. is just a few months away, with plans taking shape for numerous tours, special presentations and social events Memorial Day weekend, May 26-30, 2016. Discounted fees are available to USCPAA members and their guests.



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“This will not be the typical tourists’ trip to Capitol Hill,” promises Peter Darby (House ’83), Events Chairman. “We are using every bit of the ‘insider’ knowledge and contacts Pages have to gain access to people and places on the Hill that are usually off-limits to visitors. Pages and their families will have the chance to experience – or revisit – Washington in an unusual way.”

The weekend opens Thursday May 26 with an afternoon panel discussion (topic and participants to be announced) and cocktail reception at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in the Capitol building. Friday and Saturday will feature multiple exclusive tours for our Homecoming participants of the House floor, Library of Congress and other points of interest to former Pages.

Also on Friday, a private symposium at the Supreme Court will be presented, followed by a complimentary social reception at the Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency, our host hotel, just a few short blocks from the Capitol. Many individual Page classes will host their own dinners Friday evening. *(Pages who wish to host or co-host a class dinner are encouraged to contact Peter at alumni@capitolpagealumni.org.)*

Photos of Pages on the U.S. Capitol steps – group photo and classes by decade -- will be taken Saturday afternoon. (Photos available free by download.) Saturday night, all attendees are invited to a reception and banquet at the Hyatt,

which will feature a keynote speaker. Sunday mid-day will be a picnic on the National Mall. Individual tours of D.C. sites can be planned for Monday. (Visit our website at www.capitolpagealumni.org for ideas and contact information.)

Fees for USCPAA members and their guests are \$50 per person for registration and tours and \$125 per person for the Saturday banquet until May 7, 2016. Non-members and members registering after May 7 will pay \$100 per person for registration and tours and \$150 per person for the Saturday banquet. Attendance at some exclusive events may be limited to USCPAA members and their guests only. To register and join, visit www.capitolpagealumni.org.

Hotel registration information is posted on the website and a limited number of rooms can be booked now at favorable rates. Specific news about tours and speakers will also be posted and will be updated as plans are finalized.

Watch for a complete Homecoming packet in the mail around March 1st. If you are interested in volunteering to help with Homecoming or can assist in organizing your Friday night Class Dinner, please contact us at alumni@capitolpagealumni.org.

Reserve your room now at the
Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency
www.CapitolPageAlumni.org

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, in time to disseminate information about the all-class Page Homecoming event during Memorial Day weekend 2016.



The Class Whip concept is modeled after the leadership position we learned about as Pages. They will serve as a personal point of contact for Pages who served together and also keep classmates informed of association and class-specific activities.

As they scour lists of classmates, Class Whips will help verify the accuracy of the contact information the association has (which in some cases is very dated) and find “lost” Pages for whom we have no information at all.

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	

Volunteers Needed!

Please consider volunteering to help us with Homecoming activities

- Be a Class Whip for your page class
- Help organize your Friday Night Class Dinner
- Help with Homecoming Registration
- Become a Homecoming Sponsor

If you can assist us, please contact us at alumni@capitolpagealumni.org. Thank You.

US Capitol Page 2015 Board of Directors

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 ALI DAVIS '91 SHELLEY THOMAS '90
 BILL PEARD '02 SEAN E. TUCKER '84

LIFETIME CERTIFICATES

Lifetime Member Certificates Unveiled

Lifetime members of the USCPAA are being presented with certificates recognizing their support of the association.

The certificates feature the former Page's name, years of service and position in the Supreme Court, House of Representatives or Senate, encircled by an image of the inside of the Capitol dome as viewed from below. The certificates were designed exclusively for the USCPAA, and are suitable for framing and display in a home or office.

To become a Lifetime member, visit our website at www.capitolpagealumni.org.



Hooked by 'Fishbait' At The '49 Inauguration

BY ALBERT R. ANNESS (HOUSE '49)

(Excerpted from the July 23, 2013 Congressional Record.)

Franklin D. Roosevelt died unexpectedly April 12, 1945, and his Vice President Harry S. Truman succeeded him to the Presidency. Three years later, on January 20, 1949, Truman again took the Oath of Office as the 33rd President of the United States.



It is historically significant that the Inauguration was attended by four members of the 81st Congress who would later become President: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford; and one M.C. who would become Vice President: Hubert Humphrey. Like Truman, Johnson, Nixon and Ford would first serve as Vice President. Ford would ultimately become both Vice President and President without ever being elected to either office!

Fellow House Page Jim Richardson and I briefly occupied what would arguably have been considered among the best seats at Truman's Inauguration. The key word is BRIEFLY as our presence at this milestone in our country's glorious history was soon, very soon, cut short by our boss "Fishbait" Miller, Doorkeeper of the House.

That Thursday morning was a cloudy, cold day. The boarding



The Inauguration of Harry S. Truman (Photo courtesy of Truman Library)

house where Senate Page Bob Hansel and I lived was on New Jersey Avenue, literally a stone's throw from the entrance of the Old House Office Building. Leaving our lodgings early that morning, we encountered an almost surreal scene. With soldiers and military vehicles everywhere, it appeared as though Capitol Hill was in a state of siege.

After a brief session, the House adjourned, and as a body proceeded to President Truman's Inauguration. Our services no longer needed, my fellow House Pages and I scattered like the four winds.

It is a mystery how I found myself in the Capitol Rotunda standing beside the Secret Service man guarding the entrance

to the Inaugural platform. An even bigger mystery is how Jim came to be standing next to me. But there we were, and as luck would have it, the last Congressman about to pass through the door and onto the platform was my Congressman, Edward G. Breen of Ohio.

Rep. Breen invited me and Jim to come with him and watch the Inauguration. I explained that our passes did not extend to the platform. Rep. Breen casually turned to the Secret Service man and informed him that we were official House Pages. Not hesitating, and without uttering a syllable, the Secret Service man, with a mere wave of his hand, gave permission for us to join the House members on the Inaugural platform – making us the only Pages from the House, Senate or Supreme Court who were there that day.



Fishbait Miller

Jim and I were in the "nose bleed" seats, our backs resting against the stone wall of the Capitol. In front of us sat the House of Representatives. Across the wide center aisle was the Senate. The Supreme Court justices were in attendance, including Chief Justice Fred Vinson, who delivered the oaths of office, members of the President's Cabinet and invited VIPs. Seated immediately in front of the Inaugural platform was the United States Marine Band; in front of them, members of the Washington Diplomatic Corps.

We stood when the Marine Band struck up "Ruffles and Flourishes" to announce the arrival of Vice President-Elect Alben W. Barkley and his daughter. We stood again to "Hail to the Chief" for the arrival of President Truman, his wife Bess and daughter Margaret.

Thrilled to be participating in the Inaugural ceremonies, Jim and I were thunderstruck when out into the middle aisle stepped "Fishbait" Miller, looking straight up at us. He gestured with great emphasis that Jim and I were to leave the Inaugural Platform. Immediately!

We looked at each other in utter disbelief! How could "Fishbait" possibly have spotted us in this huge throng of people? Rep. Breen, who had been watching the scene, suddenly

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PAGE MEMOIR

Hooked by 'Fishbait'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

realized the limits of even his authority, turned to me and said, "Al, I guess you two will have to go." With the sounds of "Hail to the Chief" ringing in our ears, we quickly departed.

Disappointed but not done for the day, Jim and I scurried up to the roof of the Capitol and shared that lofty vantage point with the Marines who were standing guard. But, it was not the same. After a while we came back down and with several other House Pages, watched the rest of the Inauguration from one of the House windows. To mark the occasion, we opened the window panel and inscribed our names.

LINCOLN COTTAGE HOSTS TOUR



The "Lincoln Cottage at the Soldier's Home" was the destination for a tour by Pages last October 17 in Washington, DC. President Lincoln and the First Family often fled the heat and humidity of summertime Washington to a "getaway home" on a tranquil hill just three miles from the White House. It was here that Lincoln wrote the "Emancipation Proclamation."

Several days later I asked Turner Robertson, the Chief Democratic Page, why "Fishbait" had ordered Jim and me off the platform. He told me that "Fishbait" deemed Jim "inappropriately dressed" because he was wearing a surplus WWII Navy pea coat. But sixty years later, I still cannot figure how he spotted us in the first place.

You might think that my relationship with "Fishbait" was ruined, but in fact, he continued to be cordial. Not long after the Inauguration, he invited me to be his guest at his church's Father & Son Banquet as a representative of all the House Pages. He also awarded me a plum assignment, operating the sound system during the House Ways and Means Committee hearings on Amending the Social Security Act of 1935. I kept that job for the entire hearings, and was later recalled for hearings on other legislative matters. To this day, I treasure a personal letter from the Committee Chairman, Rep. Robert L. Doughton (North Carolina), thanking me for my service.

Al left Washington in late 1949. He entered Indiana University in 1952 and later enjoyed a 35-year career in sales and marketing. In 2001, Al published a book entitled "Growing up in Liberty" – the story of his widowed grandmother raising four sons at the beginning of the 20th century. Al and Sharon, his wife of 58 years, now live in Franklin, Indiana. 25 years after leaving Washington, Al and his wife returned to visit the House and see "Fishbait" again. Al's story continues on the USCPAA website, www.capitolpagealumni.com.

MEMORABLE EVENTS

USCPAA Visits Springfield, Illinois

HISTORIC CELEBRATION... "LOOKING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK"

A packed room of former Pages, friends and families gathered at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum on August 15, 2015 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the appointment of Frank Mitchell as the first African-American Page in the U.S. House. At the time of his selection in 1965 -- the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination -- by Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill.), Frank was a 15-year-old high school student in Springfield. Frank's story, "Famous at Fifteen" is published on the USCPAA website, www.capitolpagealumni.org.

Frank and Rep. Findley, who still lives in his home town of Jacksonville, Ill., headlined a panel discussion moderated by Chicago Tribune journalist and former Page Michael Esposito (Senate '84). On



From left, Michael Esposito, Rep. Paul Findley, Frank Mitchell and Jerry Papazian

hand to record the program were CSPAN, two Springfield TV stations and newspapers in Springfield and Jacksonville. The program can be found on CSPAN at www.c-span.org and typing in Frank Mitchell.

En route to Springfield, Frank visited a well-known Chicago charter high school, Urban Prep, to meet with students now taught by former Page Lamont Holifield (House '89).

The event was coordinated by Events Chairman Peter Darby (House '83), association President Jerry Papazian (House '71-'72), Billy Peard (House '02); and hosted by Springfield resident Kevin Conner (House '72) and Ellen McConnell Blakeman (Senate '72).

Notes For History

BY JEFF JONES (SENATE '64)

JEFF WAS A PAGE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS SHOT. HE DESCRIBES THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY:

The Senate was debating the Library Services Act, and I was seated on the steps leading to the rostrum in the Senate Chamber. It was about 1:30 PM. The private line from the Democratic Cloakroom rang and I answered. There was an urgent phone call for Senate Mansfield, the Majority Leader, from Bill Tyson in the Senate Press Gallery in booth number 2. I found the



Senator
Mike Mansfield

Leader and took him to the phone. He listened for a few seconds and a look of horror covered his face as he moaned, "Oh, no." He looked up at me and ordered, "Get Dirksen in here, quick." I rushed from the Cloakroom unto the Floor in search of the Minority Leader just in time to see Senator Kennedy (D-Mass.), who had been presiding, hurriedly leave the Chamber. I knew then that something had happened to the President. I thought, "He's in Texas. What could have happened? Probably an airplane accident."

I continued to look for Senator Dirksen – the Republican Cloakroom, his Capitol office – but he was no place to be found, so I returned to the Chamber. Then I was told the shocking truth – President Kennedy had been shot. "The President of the United States, the most civilized nation in the world – shot. Things like that don't happen anymore. It's impossible." As the news spread around the Capitol, Senators began to come to the Floor. Senator Wayne Morse (R-Oregon) suggested the absence of a quorum and everyone stood there in amazement and disbelief.

After the first shock had passed, the quorum call was rescinded and Senator Mansfield moved that the Senate



Jeff Jones holding recently donated EMK "doodle"

recess subject to the call of the chair. After a brief recess the session reconvened, and the Chaplain of the Senate, the Reverend Fredrick Brown Harris, offered a prayer. Following the prayer the Senate adjourned until noon the following Monday.

We then went to the Cloakroom to listen to the radio reports of the shooting and the condition of the President. At that time we knew that he was either dead or dying in the emergency room of Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. As the reports came over the radio the Cloakroom became more and more a lifeless room. No one talked. Few moved. Finally the words we had been expecting but praying would not come were uttered by the radio announcer: "The President is dead . . ."

When the Senate adjourned that day, I was cleaning up the presiding officer's desk and noticed a pad on which Senator Kennedy had been doodling and writing notes just prior to receiving the news that his brother had been shot. I picked up the paper and kept it in a scrapbook until August 2015, when I donated it to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

Jeff was sponsored by Sen. John Pastore (D-R.I.). After his Page service he went to Brown University, followed by seminary at Andover Newton Theological School. He served local churches and on the national staff of the American Baptist Churches. He retired in July 2015, following 10 years on the faculty of Andover Newton. He lives in Plymouth, Mass.



Senator
Everett Dirksen

New Partnership with the EMK Institute Volunteer Opportunities for former Senate Pages

The newly-opened Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, located adjacent to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, Massachusetts, is developing ways to involve former Senate Pages to enhance the Institute's exhibits. The two primary areas in which the content from former pages will be incorporated are in the Institute's reproduction of Senator Kennedy's private office in the Russell S.O.B. and its full-scale reproduction of the U.S. Senate Chamber. Members of the USCPAA are encouraged to contact Institute staff with any ideas or insights by email or to visit the Institute and share their thoughts in person.

The Institute utilizes cutting-edge museum technology, including digital tablets and interactive displays, to create a one-of-a-kind experience. Visitors "become" Senators for a day, representing their chosen states and parties as they engage with the Institute's digital exhibits and, notably, as they debate

and vote on legislation currently pending before the U.S. Senate. The objective of the Institute is to encourage and facilitate civic engagement on the part of its visitors. To do so, the Institute utilizes the legacy of Senator Kennedy, his legislative accomplishments over a nearly 47-year career in public service, and his willingness to "reach across the aisle" to get things done.

The collective experiences and insights of former Senate Pages have the potential to add an invaluable - and heretofore untapped - layer of context to the visitor experience at the Kennedy Institute. The Institute is exploring ways in which to involve those with hands-on experience in and around the U.S. Senate in both its visitor experience and in the professional development of Institute staff. Any and all ideas are welcome. USCPAA's liaison with the Institute is former Senate Page Jeff Jones ('64), who may be reached via email at jdjones17@comcast.net.

PAGE MEMOIR

My Court-side Seat To A Changing Society

BY SAMUEL ISAAH WILLIAMS, PH.D., MBPA, BSEE (SUPREME COURT '60)

In 1957, Samuel was the third African-American Page appointed to the Supreme Court. In September, 1958, he witnessed the arguments in favor of continued segregation in the Little Rock, Ark. public schools. An article in a Maryland newspaper at the time wryly noted that the white attorney advocating segregation was served water by a Supreme Court Page who was “a colored youth.” Samuel reflects on his experience half a century ago, when profound changes were occurring in the area of civil rights.

When I was appointed at the age of 14, I only knew that it was an honor to be selected as a Page at the highest court in the land. At the time, serving as a Page for the Chief Justice and Associate Justices, working with the Marshall and Clerk of the Court, was something I could never have contemplated. The Supreme Court building, with its Corinthian style architecture, magnificent white marble and bronze spiral staircases, was in itself humbling.



Williams (left) with Stuart Wolfrey (Court '61) equip the Justices' bench

The era of civil rights litigation and the Little Rock case were certainly historic and memorable. I was conscious of being the only “colored” Page among four – perhaps self-conscious is better, as I didn’t want to have attention focused on me. My parents and friends never mentioned to me anything about my race or the case itself, stressing only that my job was to work hard and work well. I didn’t think twice about serving water to the Little Rock attorney. It was simply part of the job, like preparing the courtroom for the sessions; taking correspondence between the justices, law clerks, and other recipients; retrieving law books and other references; and serving as a messenger for the Justices during closed conferences.

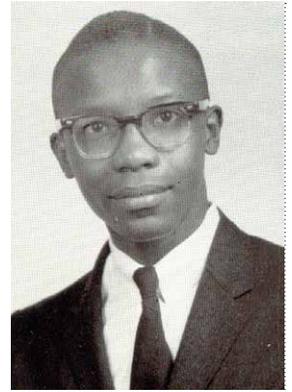
The Little Rock case was just one high-profile case I witnessed, and they all contributed to my growing interest in public policy. I knew I was one beneficiary of the deliberate decision in 1954 to integrate the Supreme Court Pages, and I began to pay attention to the issues of integration in all aspects of society, from public

schools to housing, healthcare and job opportunities. Watching the behavior and focus of the Justices, as well as the highly professional presentations by the lawyers appearing before the Court was not only moving, but very instructive. I subsequently have spent a great deal of my career in public policy at the federal and state levels.

Sometimes Pages were asked to conduct tours of the Supreme Court for dignitaries, special guests, and others in the general public. Actor Edward G. Robinson is one memorable VIP. We prepared to be tour guides by reading documents and learning from each other and our adult supervisors. We knew as tour guides we represented the Court, and it was an honor to be asked. Sometimes we even gave tours to students visiting the Court, young people our own ages, who must have wondered about the knickers, stockings and double-breasted jackets that constituted our uniform – not exactly stylish.

Chief Justice Earl Warren himself took special interest in the Court Pages. He met with us periodically as individuals and as a group, always stressing the importance of education at the high school and preparing for college. He pledged to do all he could to support our future development.

Before attending CPS, I had only gone to school with classmates who were African-Americans. Suddenly I was interacting with young men who were Pages in the Court, House and Senate, from all across the country and from various social and cultural backgrounds. I value the meaningful relationships built by working together in various school clubs and class projects, and many Pages from high school are still close friends.



After his Page service, Samuel earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Howard University, an MBPA from Southeastern University and a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration. His professional experience includes the White House Executive Office of the President, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Commerce. Samuel was a Captain in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star for Service. He thanks his parents Laura and Simmie Williams, who came from very modest backgrounds, for their steadfast support and commitment to education and learning. He currently lives in Bowie, Maryland, located near the state capitol of Annapolis.

FEATURE

Page-inspired Charter School Approved

BY MILES TAYLOR (HOUSE '04)

Two former Pages have been given the green light to open a D.C.-based high school modeled in part on the Capitol Page programs.



Seth Andrew (House '95)

democratic process through service-learning placements on Capitol Hill and in D.C.

"We want young people to be inspired by democracy and

Co-founders Seth Andrew (House '95) and Miles Taylor (House '04) received the nod to proceed with the "Washington Leadership Academy" (WLA) from the DC Public Charter School Board in May. The four-year high school is scheduled to open in September 2016 with 100 freshmen and will eventually scale up to 400 "citizen-scholars."

WLA aims to be one of the leading "civic education" programs in the nation. Like Pages, WLA students will get hands-on exposure to the

American values to become strong leaders," Taylor explained. "After

the House Page program was suspended, we were adamant that it not be the end of teens having direct involvement with government in real life. WLA will help fill that void."

The charter school will be open to all D.C. residents. A long-term goal is to beam WLA's curriculum to high school students nationwide in the form of top-tier online courses (Massive Open Online Content, or MOOC).

Last year, Andrew and Taylor won a nearly \$500,000 grant from Next Generation Learning Challenge in recognition of the school's potential to motivate and educate new generation of young Americans.

Andrew is the founder of the nationally renowned Democracy Prep Public Schools, a network of high-performing charter high schools in New York City. Taylor currently works on Capitol Hill.



WASHINGTON
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

EVENTS



From left, Chris Cobey (House '67), Tom Davis and Gary Butts (House '68)

13th ANNUAL KEN SMITH LUNCH

Seven decades of Pages gathered in D.C. in October to mingle and reminisce at a lunch gathering first started by Ken Smith (House '58) in 2003. Attendees pored over memorabilia from the '60s and '70s, including yearbooks, editions of the "Capitol Courier" school newspaper and even an invitation to a reception hosted at the White House by President Nixon.

Former Page AND former Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.) (Senate '67) addressed the group about the current state of affairs in Washington and proudly noted that he left Washington in 2008 "undefeated and unindicted."



NORTH CAROLINA

Over a dozen page alumni attended an after-work social event in downtown Durham event co-hosted by Melissa Eddy (House, 2004) and Michael Dennis (House, 2004) with USCPAA Director and Chair of Events, Peter Darby (House, 1983). Page classes from 1962 to 2011 were represented and shared many stories throughout the evening.



DALLAS-TEXAS RANGERS GAME

USCPAA Directors Jeff Clark (Senate, 1969) and Peter Darby cohosted the third annual gathering of Page alumni in Dallas at the Texas Rangers game at GlobeLife Park. Many alumni came with their families to enjoy an evening of baseball and socializing. Over four decades of alumni were represented and, in some cases, spent more time sharing Page experiences than watching the game!



US Capitol Page Alumni Association

PO BOX 15112
WASHINGTON, DC 20003

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 over 11,000 former Pages. You will want to use this contact information to find former colleagues, network with Pages who live in your state or city. A feature soon to be added is the ability to find Pages in your current (or new) profession or who attended the same school. (We do not share our database with anyone other than members.)

Other member benefits include discounted rates for regional and national events, including Homecoming 2016 in Washington, D.C.

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>