



VIRGINIA
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QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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On the Cover

In the southwestern corner of Capitol Square, at the intersection of Ninth and Franklin Streets, the red brick Bell Tower has stood since 1824. It was once used for a guard house and the bell warned of fires. During the Civil War, the bell sounded when Federal troops approached the city. More recently, it was an office for Lt. Gov. Charles S. Robb (1978-82), and the Capitol Square Preservation Council. It now serves as a Visitor Center for Virginia Tourism www.virginia.org/listings/VisitorInformationCenters/BellTower/, www.vacapitol.org/belltower.htm

Cover photo by **Wanda Judd**

Possible Republican Renaissance? By STEPHEN J. FARNSWORTH AND STEPHEN HANNA

Within Democrat Hillary Clinton's victory in swing-state Virginia last month lies the opportunity for a possible Republican renaissance in statewide elections next November.

Turning first to the bad news for Virginia Republicans, the party's deepest troubles lie in the state's two biggest electoral jurisdictions, which are getting more Democratic every election cycle. More than 550,000 votes were cast in November in Fairfax County, the state's most populous jurisdiction, and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump only received 29 percent of them. Four years earlier, Mitt Romney received 39.5 percent of the vote in Fairfax.

Clinton also won Loudoun County by a larger margin than Barack Obama did four years ago. Loudoun, which ranked second among Virginia jurisdictions this year with more than 182,000 votes cast, went for Clinton by a 55 percent to 38 percent margin. Four years ago, Democrats won the county by a 52-47 margin.

The relatively bad news continued for Republicans in Chesterfield, long the state's largest reliably Republican county. Trump won Chesterfield, which ranked third in the total number of votes cast, but only by two percentage points, compared to an eight percentage point margin for Romney four years ago.



FARNSWORTH



HANNA

Virginia Beach, which ranked fourth in number of votes cast, offered a bit better news for the GOP. Trump secured a four point advantage in the city, a notably stronger performance than that of his Republican predecessor, who ran two points behind Obama in Virginia Beach in 2012.

The greatest declines for the Democrats, though, were found in Southside and Southwest Virginia. The attached cartogram, which adjusts the sizes of Virginia counties and cities to match the number of votes cast, marks the greatest declines in Democratic vote share with deep red, and the greatest increases in the percentage support for Clinton with dark blue. Most of the counties along Interstate 81 and along the North Carolina border are marked dark red, signifying the greatest declines for Clinton when compared to the percentage Obama received four years ago.

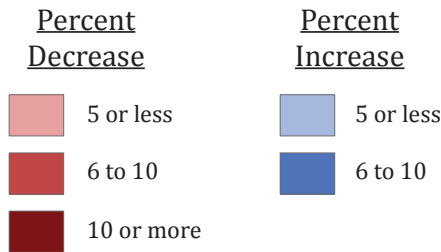
These rural counties do not have a lot of voters, so appear much smaller on this map when their size is adjusted to account for the number of votes cast. (People vote, acres don't.)

Given their small electorates, there is limited upside opportunity for the GOP in these areas. Further, these dark red counties already offer strong support for the party, even for Trump, who paid little attention to the socially conservative Republicanism that dominates these counties. If Trump's twice-divorced, bawdy, glitzy billionaire Fifth Avenue Manhattan lifestyle didn't drive away Christian conservatives, then nothing will.

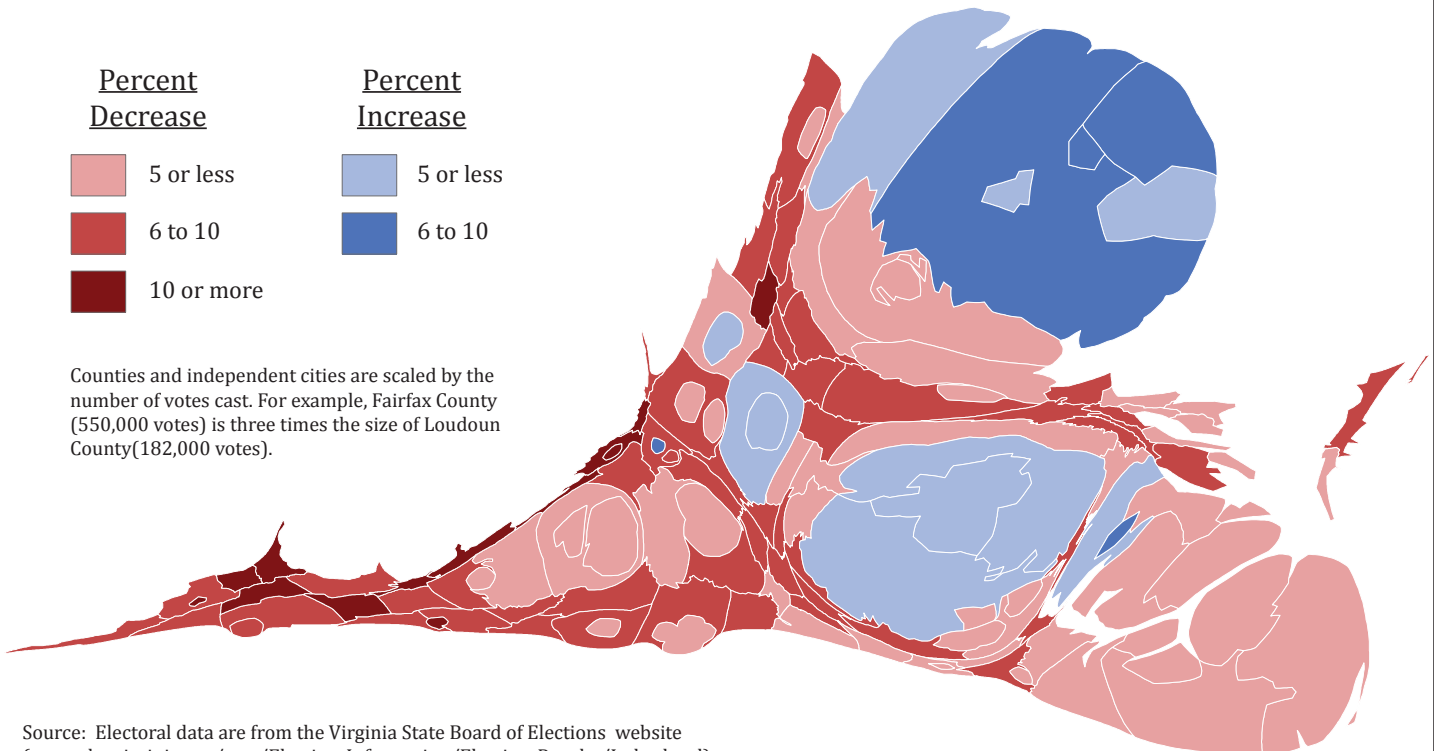
Looking ahead, the Republican Party would likely maximize its chances of success by nominating a less divisive candidate than Trump who nevertheless follows his lead in one crucial area: de-emphasizing a conservative social policy agenda. That way,

Continued on next page

Change in Support for Democratic Presidential Candidates, 2012-2016



Counties and independent cities are scaled by the number of votes cast. For example, Fairfax County (550,000 votes) is three times the size of Loudoun County(182,000 votes).



Source: Electoral data are from the Virginia State Board of Elections website (www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Election_Information/Election_Results/Index.html).

Map by Stephen P. Hanna, UMW Geography Department.

When Virginia was first blue...

By JIM WATKINSON

Before the Civil War, the state invested heavily in infrastructure, often borrowing to build the bridges, canals, and rail that it needed to compete in the national economy. After the devastation of the war, though the infrastructure had in large part been destroyed, the debt remained—with accrued interest. The war also destroyed much of Virginia's private wealth, making the pre-war debt even more onerous. In 1865, the Commonwealth was \$34,000,000 in debt, or approximately \$61,500,000,000.00 in today's dollars. (Perhaps leading to the 20th-century Democrat mantra, "Pay as you go.")

The Democrats who regained control of the state in 1870 vowed to repay the debt in full and on time, no matter that West Virginia had been created during the war and, many thought, should bear some of the responsibility. Virginia's ruling class's honor was at stake, as well as the credit rating of the Commonwealth. However, their policies to do so were painfully injurious to many of the state's residents. To try to retire the debt in good time, the Funders, as the Democrats became known, decided to cut funding to the newly created public school system, and to raise taxes (horrors!) on land. Thus, in one fell swoop, the Democrats angered whites in the western part of the state and the Southside, especially middling farmers, who owned most of the land, as well as blacks in the east who counted on the public schools to raise their economic status. The two groups coalesced into a new political party: the Readjusters.

An unlikely individual came to help create and guide the Readjusters: ex-Confederate General William Mahone. Before the war, and after, Mahone was a railroad executive, having been trained to the task at VMI. However, he was ruined by the Panic of 1873 that gripped the country. He ran for governor in 1877 and lost. In 1879, as a forward looking individual, as well as one who understood that Virginia needed investment and to adapt Northern ways of finance and industry, Mahone broke with the conservative, Democratic party and formed the Readjusters. The Readjusters promised to alleviate the debt and lower taxes, while at the same time providing better funding for education. With the coalition of white landowners in the western part of the state and blacks in the eastern crescent who had been harmed by Democratic policies, Mahone had a new political base and movement, one which would not be seen again until the 2008 election of Barack Obama.



The party's rise was swift. By 1879, the Readjusters had a majority in the General Assembly; by 1881, it held the General Assembly and the governorship, and appointed Mahone to the United States Senate. And the Readjusters represent one of the few political groups in America to keep its campaign promises. One of the first things the party did was to rid the state of the whipping post, a corporal criminal punishment reserved specifically for blacks. The Readjusters also immediately got rid of the poll tax in Virginia, as it was onerous to much of its party base. The state negotiated with its creditors and lowered the debt service by half. This allowed the Commonwealth to cut property taxes by 20%. With the savings from reduced interest payments, the Readjusters increased funding for education—for both blacks and whites, at all levels. The Readjusters listened to their black constituents and created and funded the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute (now Virginia State University), the first state-funded black institute of higher education in the nation, as well as creating more teachers' colleges for women. With the creation of the VNCI, the state hired John Mercer Langston, a Virginia native who helped establish Howard Law School as its first president. Langston would later win election to the U.S. House of Representatives, the first and only black congressman from Virginia until the election of Robert Scott in 1993.

The Readjuster coalition lasted less than a decade, destroyed by racism and the fear of black political and social equality, stoked by the then out-of-power Democrats. A one-page political diatribe, known as the "Danville Circular," precipitated a white backlash which destroyed the coalition. Blacks and poor whites found themselves forsaken by the reawakened Democratic Party. They would remain so until the passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts of 1964 and '65. And the state would continue pay-as-you-go until the ascendancy—and sanity—of Mills Godwin. Still, for a decade, Virginia experienced a political and economic renaissance, as well as something of a golden age of improved race relations. It would not be glimpsed again until 2008.

James D. Watkinson is a native Virginian who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Virginia. He teaches social, cultural and intellectual history at VCU.

Possible Republican Renaissance? continued from previous page

Republicans can increase their share of the suburban voters who decide statewide elections.

The next Republican candidate for governor, in particular, would be wise to concentrate on Hampton Roads, where Clinton did not do as well as Obama did four years ago. Although she won Prince William County, that northern Virginia jurisdiction was another place where Clinton under-performed compared to Obama. Strength in these areas, together with revived strength for Republicans in vote-rich Chesterfield, can lead to a Republican victory in Virginia next time.

One vital advantage for the Republicans in 2017 is the fact that a gubernatorial election year turnout in Virginia falls considerably short of a presidential year turnout, and the voters most likely to skip the ballot box next year are from groups most likely to vote for Democrats: younger voters, African-Americans and Latinos.

But the biggest unknown for 2017—and the factor that may make all these demographic and ideological concerns moot—is what shape the Donald Trump presidency will take. Virginia's gubernatorial elections are nationalized affairs, as partisans on both sides look to our

odd-year elections as a key early barometer for a new president. More often than not the party controlling the White House fares poorly in the Old Dominion's contest for governor a year later.

But Trump's eclectic policy mix, including infrastructure spending plans to please Democrats and tax cut proposals to please Republicans, suggests few clues as to what he will do as president, much less how well he will do. Some quick policy victories may help the GOP with swing voters, while a problematic early start may embolden angry Democrats. A key potential risk for the new president is whether congressional Republicans will push for major adjustments to Social Security and Medicare, programs candidate Trump said he would not cut.

The close 2016 presidential election in Virginia, even with Senator Tim Kaine on the Democratic ticket, demonstrates that the Old Dominion's electorate remains persuadable by either party.

Stephen J. Farnsworth is professor of political science at the University of Mary Washington, where he directs the Center for Leadership and Media Studies. Stephen Hanna is professor of geography at University of Mary Washington.

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Pursuing Bi-Partisan Solutions to Enhance Behavioral Health

By JENNIFER WICKER VIRGINIA HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION
DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mental health and related challenges such as substance use disorder have gained traction in the dialogue about enhancing population health. Attention on these issues is a good thing—it means stigmas associated with mental health challenges, while still persistent, are receding as public awareness about treatment needs increases.



Virginians are familiar with these issues through high-profile events that left us shocked and heartbroken in the face of tragedy. Closer to home, there are countless personal examples of families dealing with a loved one experiencing mental health challenges. Indeed, behavioral health issues have touched nearly every Virginian in some form.

Across the Commonwealth, law enforcement deals with the challenges, as do health care and behavioral health providers, our public leaders, and many other advocates and stakeholders. As with any illness, the failure to properly address mental health needs can have serious consequences.

That's why the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association is pleased to announce its 2017 behavioral health legislative package, an agenda for long-term success, driven by bi-partisan solutions, and stakeholder outreach. Virginia leaders and advocates in recent years have collaborated to enhance mental health policy to better serve patients. The VHHA package reflects hospitals' continuing contribution to that work. Hospitals play a key role in meeting patients' mental health treatment needs. For instance, private hospitals provide 1,300 of the roughly 2,922 psychiatric beds in Virginia.

Mental health challenges are not uncommon in Virginia where, in 2014, more than 1.1 million adults were diagnosed with Any Mental Illness (AMI). Also that year, 213,565 adults were identified as having a serious mental illness (SMI). Almost half of those people went without treatment.

While we've seen commendable work done on mental health issues over the years, more can be done. And that's why Virginia's hospital community is engaging with stakeholders on ways to enhance services. Over the past six months, VHHA has worked with the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians to identify baseline standards for conducting a medical assessment of people presenting with a psychiatric illness, commonly known as medical clearance. Enhancements in medical assessment procedures will allow patients to begin treatment quicker.

We've met with the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and the Virginia Ambulance Association for conversations about identifying opportunities to improve mental health transportation. We've participated in discussions with some regional Community Services Boards to improve the identification of inpatient psychiatric beds for patients under a Temporary Detention Order (TDO). And VHHA hospital members continue efforts to identify solutions to issues around the delivery of behavioral health care and to find more opportunities to partner with external stakeholders.

Our four legislative recommendations are critically important proposals to improve mental health care in Virginia. We are thankful to have a bipartisan group of legislators sponsoring them, including Senator George L. Barker (D-Fairfax County), Senator A. Benton "Ben" Chafin Jr. (R-Russell County), Senator Janet D. Howell (D-Fairfax County), Delegate Roxann L. Robinson (R-Chesterfield County), and Delegate Joseph R. Yost (R-Giles County). The proposals focus on the emergency psychiatric evaluation process, inpatient bed identification, commitment hearings, and funding

to support the behavioral health needs of families, friends, and neighbors in the communities hospitals serve. They include:

Preadmission Screening Evaluations

One challenge in getting patients who are in psychiatric crisis the necessary care is that CSB emergency evaluators can't always reach emergency departments swiftly to start the psychiatric pre-screening process. That can delay the start of treatment when timing is critical, especially for patients under an emergency custody order due to a state law providing an eight-hour evaluation period for patients to either be detained or discharged. In response to situations when a CSB evaluator can't arrive within two hours of a call for a preadmission screening, proposed legislation would authorize alternative behavioral health professionals to conduct emergency psychiatric evaluations.

Emergency Department Psychiatric Patient Registry

Virginia's Psychiatric Bed Registry on its own isn't sufficiently reducing delays in identifying available inpatient psychiatric beds for patients under a TDO. Proposed legislation would authorize the development of a psychiatric patient registry to store de-identified information about every psychiatric patient in need of an inpatient bed. Hospitals with available beds can find potential patients to admit through the patient registry, which would be used in conjunction with the Bed Registry.

24-Hour TDO Stabilization Period

TDO patients' commitment hearings sometimes occur too soon, preventing a patient from receiving treatment and stabilizing before a commitment decision is made. Insufficient patient evaluation and crisis stabilization can contribute to higher rates of involuntary commitment and longer hospital stays.

Proposed legislation would mandate that patients under a TDO are stabilized and treated for up to 24 hours before appearing at a commitment hearing. This proposal would not alter current state law granting physicians providing care the authority to discharge a patient who is determined to no longer need psychiatric care at any time within the TDO period.

Local Inpatient Purchase of Service (LIPOS) Funding

Current use of LIPOS, or Local Inpatient Purchase of Service funding, is limited to involuntarily committed patients at a private hospital. Expanded use of these funds for patients in need of voluntary or involuntary psychiatric care will improve access to care for all patients. Proposed budget language would seek a state study regarding the potential authorization of greater flexibility in the use of LIPOS funds linked to patient clinical needs rather than commitment status.

During the 2017 Virginia General Assembly session, Virginia's hospital and health system community stands ready to work with lawmakers, advocates, and other stakeholders on these and other policy ideas developed to enhance treatment and care options for patients experiencing mental health challenges.

Jennifer Wicker is Intergovernmental Affairs Director for VHHA. She previously served as Deputy Legislative Director for Virginia Governor Terence R. McAuliffe, as Legislative Coordinator for former Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones, and as Legislative Assistant for two members of the Virginia House of Delegates. She also has experience in the financial sector. Wicker earned a Bachelor's Degree from Randolph-Macon College, a Master's Degree in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University, and has a Certificate in Non-Profit Management. ▣

Dr. William “Fergie” Reid: *A Resilient Force in Virginia Civil Rights* By LYDIA FREEMAN



Dr. William Ferguson “Fergie” Reid is characterized by his hope. Not an apathetic or ambiguous hope, but an active hope; a hope marked by a historic election into the Virginia General Assembly, his co-founding of the Richmond Crusade of Voters, and his continuing work to establish a strong voter base in his state.

“Well, you don’t give up,” Reid explained, followed by a chuckle. “You try to make the changes and you try to do it within the system. We knew that voting was the answer and because we were denied the right to vote, we would have to register as many blacks as we possibly could in order to beat the system. We thought the ballot was more effective than bullets. We had to beat the system within the system. The voter registration was the only way out. And fortunately with the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, we got them.”

The disparities in education and at work that Reid faced as an African American man heightened his awareness to injustices and other problems in society.

“The schools were separate but not equal,” Reid explained. “The white schools had better facilities than we did. We never got new books. We always got hand me downs, and they’d been used by previous students. They had that sticker in the front of the book with the names of previous owners. The white schools had swimming pools. The high schools had tennis courts and other athletic facilities which the black schools did not have. There were no black principals. We did not have school busses.”

While the teachers were excellent, the students recognized the inequity.

“Well, we resented it,” Reid answers. “Particularly when we would get school books that previous owners had been white and these were hand me downs. These had no recent history. That was a handicap. We resented it. Tried to hope there would be a better day.”

After finishing high school, Reid studied biology at Virginia Union University and decided on a career in medicine. He attended Howard University, a prominent HBCU [historically black college or university] instead of the Medical College of Virginia, which was within walking distance of his home, because the college did not accept African-American students. Later he was an intern at the Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis because it was one of the few hospitals black Americans were able to train in.

“After that, I did a couple of years in the military,” Reid said, in a 2003 interview published by VCU libraries. “One year in Korea with the 1st Marine Division and another year at the United States Naval Hospital at Bethesda.”

While in Korea, Reid heard the news of the Brown v. Board decision. In that moment, he felt that his hope was being fulfilled. But when he returned from the Navy, Reid saw that integration was not as simple as a court ruling.

“When I came back from the Navy, the big battle was Save Our Schools,” Reid explained. “People were fighting to close the schools rather than integrate them.”

The Committee to Save Our Schools, was a group of local Richmond citizens, fighting against a referendum that would defy the Brown v. Board decision. The black voter turnout in Richmond against the referendum was disappointing, with less than half of registered black voters casting a vote at the polls. Reid knew that poor voter turnout on an issue that affected black voters revealed a deeper issue. In response, he began meeting with Dr. William S. Thornton and John M. Brooks to strategize possible solutions. The Richmond

Crusade of Voters was born from these meetings. Its dual purpose is stated below:

To increase the voting strength of the population of the City of Richmond and to improve the moral, social, economic, educational, and general welfare.

To establish VOTER REGISTRATION and VOTER EDUCATION in the City of Richmond and issue such policy statement or institute such programs that will improve the economic, educational, general welfare and solidarity of the people.

“We realized that even though you might have the laws on your side, if you don’t have the judges and the elected officials willing to follow the law, you haven’t won the battle, and the battle is down in the trenches, and you have to elect people that are going to represent you and are going to obey the law,” Reid said in the same 2003 interview.

Over the next twelve years, Reid would continue working to strategically increase the voter base. Progress was made after the Voter Rights Act of 1965. The Crusade partnered with moderate whites, registering many voters. But while blacks were being elected to the city council, none had been elected to the General Assembly.

“As the black vote increased and became more effective getting persons elected to city council and elected to Richmond,” said Reid. “The General Assembly gerrymandered to make it eight delegates from Richmond and Henrico and that was almost the size of a Congressional district. This was the problem of gerrymandering. They diluted the black vote so we would never get someone elected to the General Assembly.”

Reid has a strategic mind, and a continual focus on identifying the cause of the problem, as well as the solution. Because of this, the Crusade bargained by saying they would support the Democratic slate of eight if one of the legislators was African American. The plan appeared to work, until the chosen candidate dropped out of the race.

“Because I had been involved in setting up the deal, I got caught up in running,” said Reid. “I had no intention in running. When he dropped out, they told me ‘you’re going to have to run yourself.’”

Reid lost that election in 1965, but was elected in 1967. This made history as he was the first Black American elected to the Virginia General Assembly since Reconstruction.

“Well, you always had everybody watching you,” Reid said. “To see how you’d react to everything. You had to be very thoughtful with statements that you made. Your activities and how you treat others. But there was no hostility. None openly. There may have been some that I was not aware of. Certainly there were things that happened that I did not know about.”

At the time, Bernie Henderson was a seventeen year old white youth, working as a legislative aide for three Delegates.

“In the 1965 campaign, I was a fourteen year old political activist volunteering in Fergie’s campaign. I was drawn to him because at the time everything in Virginia politics seemed to be race based and I thought it was past high time for the African-American community to be represented in the General Assembly and Fergie was uniquely qualified for that office.”

When asked about moments of discrimination that Reid experienced during this period of his life, Reid only recounts one

See “Fergie”, continued on page 8



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"Fergie" from page 7

moment of open discrimination.

"The most prevalent memory of discrimination was when the legislators were invited to a dinner at a country club in Charlottesville," recounted Reid. "I was the only one who was not invited. No Blacks or Jews could come into the club. I was not invited. I would not have known that if it had not been in the papers and some of my friendly delegates asked if I had been invited. When I said no, they boycotted."

Henderson, however, remembers racial discrimination playing a larger role in opposition to Reid.

"He showed what a gentleman he was, even in the face of both overt and covert racism and bigotry. "In his first campaign he won the primary but some missing paper ballots disappeared. The candidate Reid had edged out then ran as a write-in and defeated Reid. It was nothing but race. Through it all, Fergie held his head high, never stooping to the level of his adversaries. He persevered and ran again two years later and was elected."

Reid kept his focus on the cause rather than the effects.

"Well, that wasn't the first time being discriminated against," chuckled Reid. "You realize at that particular time that that was life. You had to accommodate to it and try to correct it through other means. The bill for open housing to make sure that banks and other institutions could not discriminate based on race. These were some of the things you had to break down."

One of the most important issues Reid worked to change was redlining, which is the practice of denying financial services to individuals in certain areas based on race or ethnicity. In Richmond, Reid shared that blacks were unable to buy or rent outside a specific section on the map notated by a red line. Redlining was a form of institutional racism that perpetuated segregation. Reid was able to work as a legislator to fight against that form of racism.

Reid is still involved in the Virginia political sphere. In 2009, he met activist Brenda Hill at a political forum on healthcare, which led to their ongoing friendship. When Reid's 90th birthday was approaching, Hill began considering a celebration.

"We tossed around the idea of a big party, but he shot the idea down because he doesn't like a lot of attention," explained Hill. "He said the only thing he wanted was for us to register 90 voters in each precinct, thus the name 90 for 90. A handful of us couldn't accomplish that task alone, so I decided to surprise him and make his birthday gift a 90 for 90 website and facebook so that we could possibly gain interest in his wish. Fergie, Fergie Jr., and Candy Graham started calling elected officials and candidates and asking them to sign on to the project. It quickly expanded outside of VA."

Over the past two years there have been 633,000 new voter registrations in Virginia. While statistics directly related to the impact of 90 for 90 are unavailable, the movement correlates with higher levels of voter turnout in the state.

In a 2015 interview on "This Week in Richmond", Reid said that "the people are the power." The life, work, and undefeatable optimism that Reid exhibits prove his commitment to this philosophy.

"Voter registration should be a constant," said Reid. "That should be a day-to-day activity. We have to get more people elected to the lower level offices. The Democratic party is not very well organized. We have to organize on the city and state level first."

Reid spoke passionately about the importance of organizing the party, admonishing that it takes years to make progress and revisiting the mantra that the people are the power.

"You win by hard work," said Reid. "Not by money. New problems arise and you have to be flexible. Take them on. Analyze them. Find out what the problem is. Come up with a solution. Precinct organization has not been taken on like it should and as it will be eventually. If you make one step forward that's progress. It takes time. Five or ten years in politics is a short period of time. Looking back you can see that it passed much faster. I'm not discouraged if change is not made within ten years. Before I was a little more impatient."

Continued on next page

Virginia's Veterans Care Center Provide Top-Notch Care To Veterans

New facilities to be built in Fauquier County and the City of Virginia Beach will complement existing facilities in Richmond and Roanoke

By ROBYN JENNINGS



Rendering of the Forthcoming Puller Veterans Care Center, Fauquier County.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) operates two veterans care centers—in Richmond and in Roanoke—that provide affordable, high-quality care to Virginia's veterans in a caring and dignified setting appropriate for those men and women who have served our nation with honor.

The Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC) is located on the campus of the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Richmond. It is named for two Medal of Honor recipients with ties to the Richmond area—Colonel Carl L. Sitter of the United States Marine Corps and Colonel Van T. Barfoot of the United States Army. SBVCC has 200 single-occupancy rooms organized into four skilled nursing care units, including a dedicated 40-bed Alzheimer's/memory care unit. SBVCC provides exceptional nursing, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, as well as therapeutic recreation, social and spiritual activities, and other amenities such as an on-site pharmacy, a fully equipped barber and beauty shop, activity and game rooms, resident lounges in each nursing unit, courtyards, and an outdoor walking trail. Veterans may be admitted as long-term residents or on a short-term basis for rehabilitation as they transition from hospital care to home.

And Bernie Henderson, the 1960s legislative aide, has been looking up to Fergie Reid ever since their first meeting. Over these years, he's continually been struck by his optimism and resilience.

Henderson said, "My grandfather was in politics as a progressive in the Deep South, so he frequently got beat up politically. He told me that 'you don't lose until you stop trying to win.' Fergie embodies that; he won't stop trying, so he'll never lose."

Lydia Freeman is a graduate of Bluefield College, former intern at David Bailey Associates, and currently Teach for America fifth grade teacher in Northampton County, NC.

The Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC), located adjacent to the Salem VAMC, provides state-of-the-art care for up to 240 veterans, with 180 skilled nursing beds (including 60 dedicated to Alzheimer's/memory care) and 60 assisted-living (domiciliary care) beds. The VVCC provides on-site physical therapy, occupational and speech therapies, and podiatry care, as well as many other ancillary health care services. VVCC also offers amenities such as a wheelchair accessible nature trail and deck, library, chapel, solariums, and barbershop.

Both facilities are certified for both Medicare and Medicaid and by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

To meet the growing demand for specialized veterans health care, Governor Terry McAuliffe and the Virginia General Assembly have approved funding to construct new veterans care centers. The Puller Veterans Care Center will be built in the Vint Hill area of Fauquier County, while the Hampton Road Veterans Care Center will be built in the Princess Anne area of Virginia Beach. DVS will break ground on the two new facilities in late 2017, with both slated to open in late 2019. Each of these care centers will feature 120 private rooms and offer a homelike neighborhood atmosphere. Both care centers will also feature dedicated neighborhoods to serve those with Alzheimer's/memory care needs.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services works diligently to provide Virginia veterans with the care and resources needed, and with these two new care centers, more Virginia veterans will be able to receive top-notch care they have earned through service and sacrifice. To learn more about Virginia's veterans care centers and all the veteran services provided by DVS, visit www.dvs.virginia.gov.

Robyn Jennings is the administrator, Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond.

Virginia National Guard meets challenges of busy 2016

By COTTON PURYEAR



SANDSTON, Va.—The Virginia National Guard is a dual-status military force with both a state and federal mission, and it effectively balanced the demands of those missions through 2016 in one of the busiest years in recent memory.

“I am incredibly proud of the dedicated service and tremendous duty performance from our entire force in 2016,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “We also owe a special thanks to their families, loved ones and employers because we couldn’t perform our mission without their critical support.”

The National Guard’s federal mission is to provide the combat reserve forces to help fight our nation’s wars, and nearly 1,500 Soldiers and Airmen served on federal active duty in 2016. Virginia Guard units conducted a wide variety of missions including mission command, military-to-military partnership building, security and rotary wing flight operations and maintenance. Nearly 850 personnel are still serving on federal active duty in the Middle East, and they join the nearly 15,000 Soldiers and Airmen who have mobilized for homeland security missions, combat operations and peacekeeping and stabilization missions since September 11, 2001.

“This has been one of our busiest years in terms of number of people mobilized for federal active duty, and our personnel have met and exceeded every challenge,” Williams said. “In particular, I look at the great work of the Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division as they prepared for a mobilization on very short notice, and now they will



be leading more than 18,000 personnel in the Middle East. That’s the largest number of people they have led since World War II, and they have a great team in place to make sure the mission is successful.”

The Guard’s state mission is to answer the call of the governor to assist citizens of the commonwealth during times of need, and more than 900 Virginia National Guard personnel served on state active duty this year in response to severe weather events as part of the state’s multi-agency team. Soldiers transported first responders through heavy snow and high water, helped get citizens to safety and used chain saws to help clear debris and open roads after tornadoes and hurricanes. Soldiers, Airmen and Virginia Defense Force troopers also assisted with mission command, logistics and public information support.

“Once again this year we demonstrated our ability to quickly respond when called by the governor after severe weather hits Virginia” Williams said. “In some cases our personnel were staged and ready to respond in less than 12 hours, and that is no easy task when you have to leave work and family. But the Guard is a critical part of the state’s response capabilities, and our personnel are dedicated to meeting the demands of the mission to help keep our fellow Virginian’s safe.”

The Virginia National Guard consistently ranks at the top in the nation in readiness indicators tracked by National Guard Bureau, and it received national recognition for renewable energy, maintenance, marksmanship and military education. It received a Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award in the Renewables and Alternatives category, and the Fort Pickett-based Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site was selected for a 2015 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence in the Army National Guard Table of Distribution and Allowance Category. Virginia National Guard Soldiers took first place in the U.S. Army Service Pistol Team Championship and excelled in numerous other team and individual categories at the 2016 All-Army Small Arms Championship. The Virginia National Guard’s Fort Pickett-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute was awarded “Institute of Excellence” status by U. S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and evaluated as full accredited.

“There are so many examples of how our uniformed personnel and state and federal workforce are exceeding the standard,” Williams said. “We are so fortunate to have such a great group of dedicated people who won’t settle and want to be the best.”

The all-volunteer Virginia Defense Force continued to improve its capabilities and build expertise in interoperable communications. These dedicated professionals bring significant civilian expertise with them and help make sure the VDF can provide critical communications when needed, and they also a force multiplier for the Guard providing operations centers augmentation and public information support. In

See *Virginia National Guard*, continued on page 12

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Virginia National Guard from page 11

addition to their role assisting the Virginia National Guard, they also volunteer their time to assist in their communities.

“Our VDF troopers are great volunteers, and we have them integrated into all of our domestic operations,” Williams said. “They bring a wealth of civilian, military and first responder experience with them to their jobs, and we would not be able to perform our state mission so well without them.”

As all branches of the military and the civilian sector build on the cyber capabilities, the Virginia National Guard is leading the way. The Virginia Air National Guard will stand up one of four new cyber operations squadrons at Langley Air Force Base, adding to Virginia’s growing cyber capabilities. Soldiers and VDF troopers conducted more than half a dozen cyber assessments in a state active duty status for localities across the state to help them strengthen their network’s security.

“Effective cyber defense is critical to our security at the state and national level, and we are helping led the way in the development of cyber forces and capabilities,” Williams said. “We were very excited to be able to put that great expertise to work this year with our first-ever state active duty cyber assessments, and we look forward to continued partnerships with Virginia localities and helping them defend their networks.”

The Virginia National Guard traces the history and traditions of Citizen Soldier and Citizen Airmen service to the founding of the Jamestown colony and celebrated its 409th birthday at Jamestown on May 14, 2016. And for the first time in its history, the Virginia National Guard will have a new facility built specifically to serve as a headquarters. The 102,000 square foot facility will be built on a 13.6-acre site in the northern section of Defense Supply Center Richmond, cost approximately \$30 million and construction should be completed by February 2018. It will provide workspace for the Adjutant General of Virginia, the Virginia National Guard Joint Staff and Air National Guard Staff currently located at Mullins Readiness Center in Sandston.

Looking ahead to 2017, Williams identified readiness and growing the Virginia Guard’s force structure as two key strategic objectives.

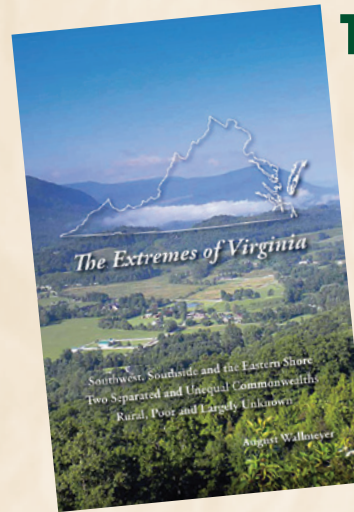
“We all have the responsibility to ensure that we meet all individual federal mobilization requirements, including the standards for height and weight, physical fitness, and military education,” Williams said. “The Army and the Air Force are counting on us to bring our organizations up to a level that can meet any global requirement, and it is up to each of us to reach and maintain that standard.”

Williams said he would like to see the Guard’s force structure grow by 2,000 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen.

“I may be biased, but I truly believe that our state is blessed with the best Soldiers and Airmen in the country,” Williams said. “With that in mind, I plan to advance Virginia as a key player in the National Guard. Our strategic plan includes setting the conditions to grow force structure in Virginia. Achieving this goal will take time and everyone’s hard work to remain laser-focused on meeting and exceeding all standards, effectively setting an example for the rest of the National Guard to follow.”

A. A. “Cotton” Puryear is the State Public Affairs Officer, Virginia National Guard. 

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT — *AVAILABLE NOW*



The Extremes of Virginia

By
August Wallmeyer

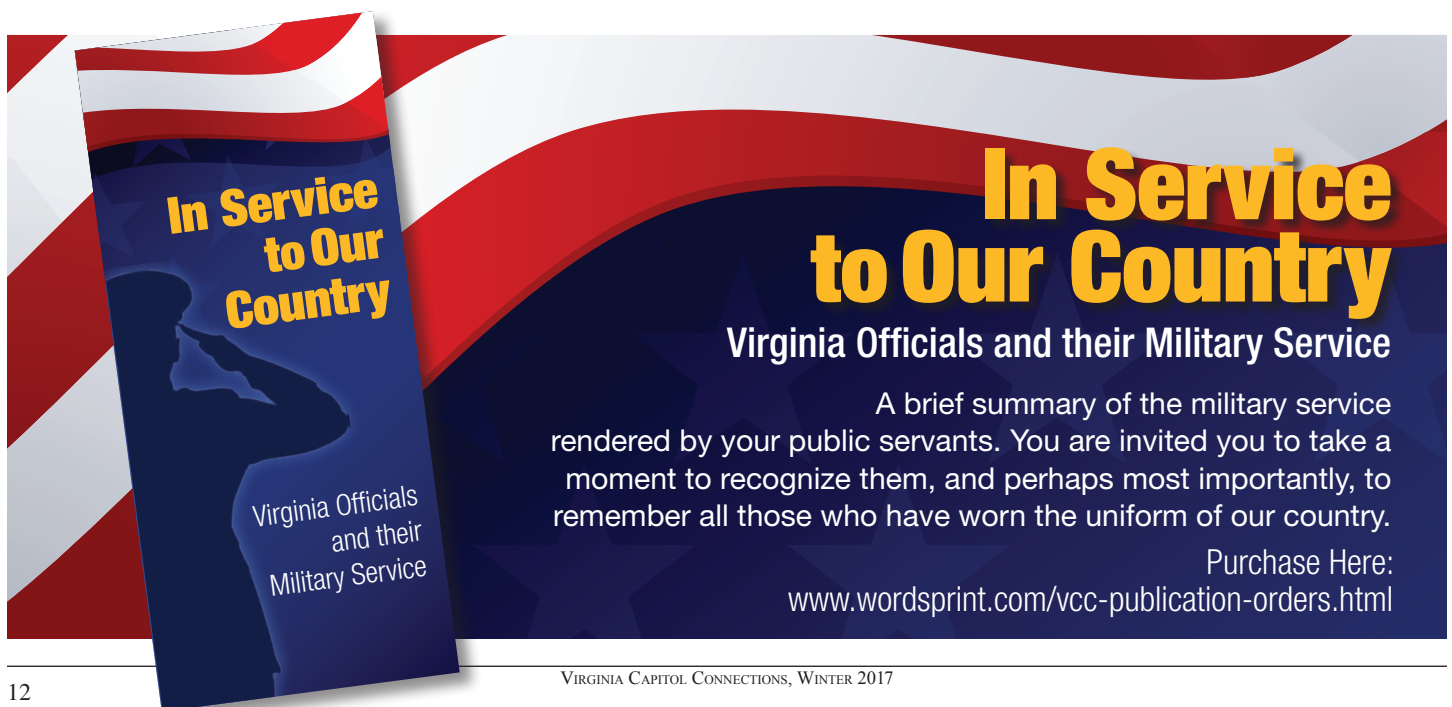
August Wallmeyer brings his unique perspectives on public policy issues in Virginia as a former radio and television news reporter, government speechwriter and energy lobbyist to bear on three ‘rural, poor and largely unknown’ areas of Virginia: Southwest, Southside and the Eastern Shore.



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Virginia Tourism Corporation's Development Team Facilitating Tourism Business and Product Development across the Commonwealth

Since July 2005, Virginia Tourism Corporation's Partnership Marketing Development Team has worked closely with communities throughout Virginia to unite small businesses, attractions, corporations, associations and agencies. Through marketing, education, and product development, the Development Team has successfully implemented a number of projects that have boosted tourism in their respective regions.

At the foundation of the development program is assisting localities with the development of strategic tourism plans which help to guide economic growth and enhance the quality of life of those localities and citizens.

A great example of a project facilitated by the Development Team from concept to fruition is the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority, also known as Spearhead Trails. Spearhead Trails currently has four multiuse/OHV trails the communities of St. Paul, Pocahontas, Pennington Gap, and Grundy with additional trails opening in the near future. Since Spearhead Trails opened in 2013, there has been major investment in trailhead communities, such as \$10.5 million in private investments in St. Paul, including the anticipated Western Front hotel which is scheduled to open in 2017. The Town of Pocahontas has seen more than \$2 million in private investment since October 2014. Since May 2015, there has been more than \$1 million in private investment in Buchanan County. Pennington Gap's meals tax revenues increased by \$7,000 more than their all-time high shortly after a trail opened in their community. The Southwest Virginia region as a whole has seen a 53% increase in tourism expenditures since 2004.

Other examples of regional initiatives facilitated or supported by the Development Team include the Virginia Oyster Trail, Back of the Dragon, the Tobacco Heritage Trail, and many others.

VTC's development team efforts also include entrepreneur and



Spearhead Trails is attracting adventure seeking visitors to the Commonwealth.

small business development support from workshops and training to one-on-one counseling with businesses all across the Commonwealth.

The "Entrepreneur Express: Moving Your Business Forward" workshop program, started in late 2006 as a way to take business resources to rural communities, rather than forcing entrepreneurs to travel great distances to find the assistance they needed. This training event is held in economically challenged communities and covers business planning basics, marketing, financing and other small business assistance resources.

The training event is in partnership with various other state agencies, including the Small Business Development Centers of Virginia, all under the leadership of Virginia's Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity. Since its inception, more than 150 Entrepreneur Express workshops serving more than 4,410 entrepreneurs were conducted and the program continues to provide VTC with a list of potential tourism entrepreneurs.

"VTC's dedication to small businesses has been impeccable in our success in such a short time," says Terri Anne Funk, business developer of Clinch River Adventures in St. Paul, Virginia. "The organization provided us with ample resources to aid in our success. Any programs that can help our local economy and educate businesses of Southwest Virginia's on how to prosper is an asset to Virginia's future."

VTC's development staff focuses on areas and partnerships throughout the Commonwealth that have great potential for tourism growth, with a special focus on business development and job creation.

"We're most proud of the partnerships we've been able to form with local, state, and federal agencies to provide assistance to entrepreneurs, businesses, and localities," says Rita McClenny, president and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation. "When they succeed, Virginia succeeds."

For more information on Virginia Tourism Corporation's Partnership Marketing Development Team, visit www.vatc.org.



The Virginia Oyster Trail is showcasing the East Coast Oyster Capital to visitors.



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Another Successful Virginia Economic Summit and a Visit from Gubernatorial Hopefuls

By MICHAEL E. BELEFSKI

The Seventh Annual Virginia Chamber of Commerce Economic Conference sponsored by 80 organizations was held in Williamsburg on December 2nd and over 700 attendees were welcomed by Mr. Barry DuVal, President & CEO of the chamber.

At the annual Luncheon, The First Lady of Virginia Dorothy McAuliffe gave brief remarks about Virginia's economy.

The focus of the conference was the introduction of the 2016 State of the Commonwealth Report. The Report, consisting of 172 pages, was presented by Old Dominion University's Dr. James V. Koch, Professor of Economics and President Emeritus; Dr. Larry Filer, Senior Fellow, Center for Economic Analysis and Policy; and Dr. Robert McNab, Deputy Director, Center for Economic Analysis and Policy.

The contents of the Report included current topics and very interesting trends - The Virginia Economy in Transition; NOVA: Turning the Corner?; The Hotel Industry in the Commonwealth; Will Robots Take Your Job? A Look At Virginia's Opportunities and Vulnerabilities; Broadband in Virginia: Vital for Economic Development; Stock Car Racing in Virginia: The Sport and the Business; The Rise of Single-Earner Households in Virginia: Why It Matters and Liberty University: A Higher Education Phenomenon. A copy of the report was available to all attendees.

Mr. Keith Martin, Executive Director, Virginia Chamber Foundation and Executive Vice President, Public policy and General Counsel, Virginia Chamber of Commerce presented the Chamber Foundation Economic Dashboard which focus on how Virginia compares with other states on key economic indicators in addition to how the different geographical regions of the Commonwealth are faring.



A Kickoff to Blueprint Virginia 2025 was presented by Mr. Robert M. Blue, Senior Vice President-Law, Regulation and Policy and President, Dominion Virginia Power and Chairman of the Blueprint Virginia 2025 Steering Committee and Mr. Ryan Dunn, Executive Vice President of Corporate and Government Affairs, Virginia Chamber of Commerce. The attendees participated through their smart phones in voting to identify priorities for long-term economic growth in the Commonwealth. You can download a copy of this Report on the Virginia Chamber of Commerce web page.

Another highlight of the summit was an expert analysis presentation of the presidential election and next year's political climate in the Commonwealth by Dr. Bob Holsworth, Managing Principal, DecideSmart.

According to Dr. Holsworth, Virginia is a divided Commonwealth—Republicans are favored in the rural areas and Democrats favored in the cities and metro areas. Voter turnout in geographical areas, especially in NOVA, greater Richmond, and Virginia Beach are critical to both parties to win statewide elections.

Democratic Candidate Lt. Governor Ralph Northam gave his opening remarks on the need for better education and research opportunities and stated that over the past three years Virginia had

Continued on next page

From Guidance Counseling to School Counseling: *What's Best for Students? Counselor Student 250:1 Ratios*

By KARLA ALLEN

For most of us, when we were in school, we accessed the resources of our school guidance counselor, whose main focus was to help us select our classes, make sure we were on track to graduate, and to talk to us about what we wanted to do after high school. If we wanted to go to college, they would send a transcript to the college and we would wait to hear that we got in, and then go along our merry way. I don't recall feeling any stress about the college process, or worrying about what classes I was taking, or even thinking that I may not get in. I was awarded a full tuition scholarship to the college I attended, and looking back on it now, I am not sure how that even happened!

Fast forward to 2017. My how times have changed. Students begin to stress about the college application process as early as middle school. I have heard comments from 6th graders about community service opportunities and how they will look on a resume. There are record numbers of students applying to college with no more seats added over the years, which has made it even more difficult to get into a four year school. We add on to that the graduation requirements of SOL tests, verified credits, a virtual course, a credential exam, a sequential elective, an academic career plan, First Aid CPR training, computer literacy and what do you want to be when you grow up and how will you pay for it? Students on at risk lists are tested and retested multiple times in SOLs, and now the credential exam is added to that retest list for those on the standard diploma, which is usually the same student who is already retesting SOLs. All of this then results in stress and anxiety and sometimes escalates into mental health concerns.

Fortunately, the American School Counselor Association and many counselor graduate school programs have recognized this shift in the profession, and counselors are now trained in comprehensive school counseling programs which are data driven and utilize delivery systems of classroom, small group and individual counseling. School counselors are also tasked with working with students in the three domains of career, academics, and personal/social. All current school counselors are licensed professionals with a minimum of a master's degree. With our current state recommendations for caseloads, the counselor student ratios are: elementary 500:1, middle school 400:1, high school 350:1. However, with localities under budget constraints in the past few years, many counselor caseloads are much higher than that. In a given day a counselor can sit in on an IEP meeting, hold a parent teacher conference for a failing student, run a 504 meeting and set up accommodations, do a suicide assessment on a high risk student, make a CPS call, set up resources for a homeless student, run a small group on test anxiety, help a student with a career interest inventory, teach a classroom lesson on graduation requirements, see multiple individual students who have requested

180,000 new jobs and \$14 billion dollars in new investment under the leadership of Governor McAuliffe.

The Republican candidates had different remarks concerning the lagging economy in Virginia and a need for changes in tax reductions and regulation reforms.

Three of the four Republican candidates for Governor attended the conference and talked about their personal backgrounds and emphasized their economic positions.

Mr. Ed Gillespie, a political and business consultant, said that reforms were needed with Virginia's tax system and emphasized coal production and offshore resources opportunities.

Chairman Corey Stewart, of the Prince William Board of Supervisors, promoted himself as a personal income and business tax cut candidate. He said that government should support core services and streamline regulations.



a meeting, answer hundreds of emails, and I can go on. At the high school level, counselors are also the college counselor, writing hundreds of college recommendations, assisting a student in putting together a list of best fit schools, filling out college forms, sending transcripts, and recommending and assisting students with financial aid and scholarships. We spend many of our days doing drive by counseling, unable to do the intentional, comprehensive work that we are trained to do because of the sheer numbers of our caseload and because of the overwhelming needs of our students.

Recent studies show that 1 in 4 people struggle with some sort of mental health issue. Graduation requirements continue to change, sometimes yearly. We have more students with greater needs every year. Our task list gets longer and our student's needs are not able to be met, which is our ethical responsibility. We all have the passion and the heart to provide equitable resources for all of our students, but because of the nature of the job and the cavernous needs of our student populations, we are no longer able to do so. The only viable option for us to do WHAT'S BEST FOR STUDENTS, is to lower counselor caseloads to 250:1. It's what's best for them and it's what's best for all of us.

Karla Allen is the Coordinator of Counseling Services for Hanover County Public Schools. She also serves as the Vice President Elect for Supervisors for the Virginia School Counselor Association and is an adjunct professor at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Counselor Education graduate program. She is an active member of the American School Counselor Association, the National Association of College Admission Counseling and the Association for Career and Technical Education.



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State Senator Frank Wagner emphasized maintenance with new construction in Virginia's highways, career education and less government regulation of business establishments.

Congressman Rob Wittman did not attend the conference but through a tele-conference appearance stated that there were too much government regulations. Since then, he has decided to stay in his present position and not run for governor.

Businessman Denver Riggelman recently announced that he has initiated an exploratory committee for a possible gubernatorial run in the June 13 Republican Primary.

Michael E. Belefski is President of CPC CORPORATION, a Communications and Marketing Firm specializing in Performance Management Analysis in Business, Law and Political Systems.



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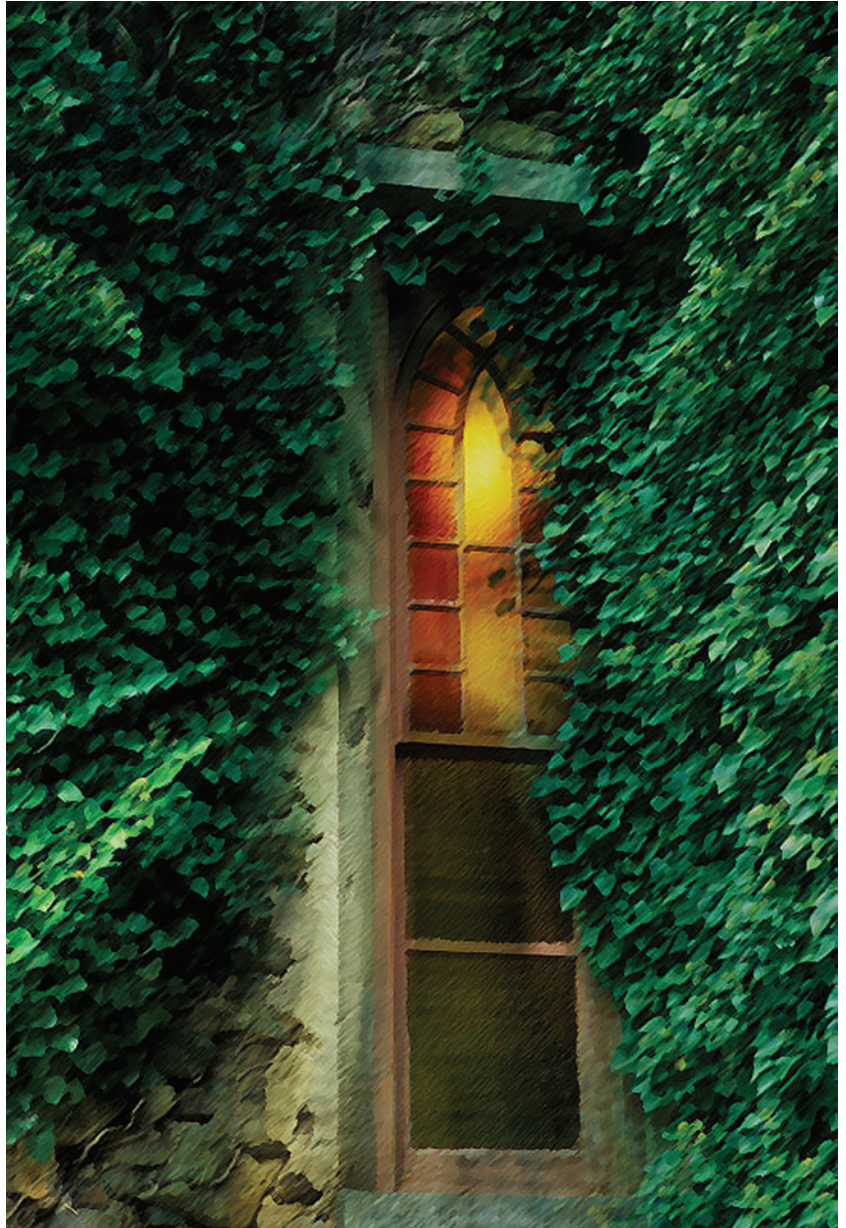
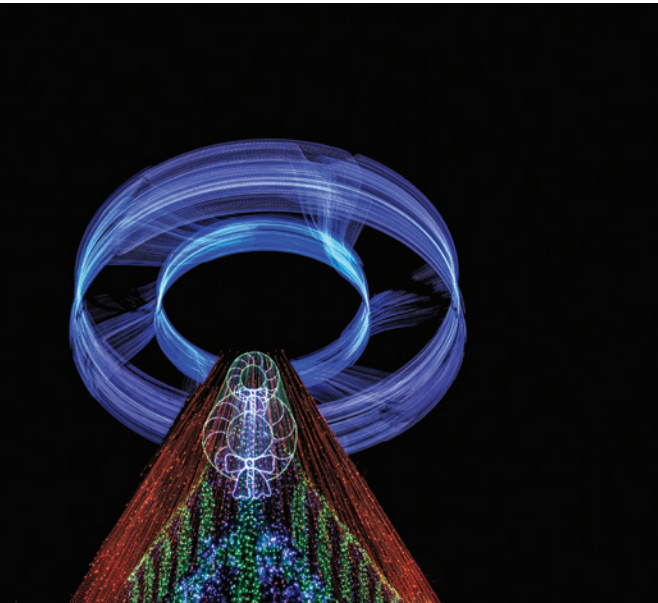


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Church Window – Walton's Mountain, Va.

Families as a Resource for School Problems

By ARNOLD WOODRUFF

The management of antisocial behavior of children in school has been making national headlines as the so-called “school to prison” pipeline has been highlighted. A 1995 study of juvenile delinquency in Colorado¹ concluded:



Overall, the varied findings continue to suggest the importance of prevention efforts. These efforts must occur early, before violent careers are well established and usually before contact with the juvenile justice system occurs. They must be comprehensive to deal with the multiple behavioral and personal problems characteristic of these individuals. The findings about resilience are very encouraging, indicating that malleable factors that reduce violence exist and provide opportunities for intervention efforts. These same findings, however, also suggest that interventions must be active over a multi-year period. Thus, early, comprehensive, and long-term interventions seem dearly needed. (pg.79)

While this study did focus on the most dangerous and aggressive of youth behaviors, much the same intervention strategy has proven useful in other instances of youth and child misbehavior at school, including behaviors that might be labelled as due to mental health disorders, conduct disorders or intellectual/cognitive impairment.

The burden on school systems to provide the early identification of children who may become at risk and the further personnel and financial burden of providing adequate, timely and effective intervention to prevent escalation to more serious levels of behavior is, to say the least, daunting.

The study indicates that there are many factors which contribute to the evolution of “bad” behavior in children. At later ages, peer pressure is a strong influence, but it appears that peer influence emerges primarily in youth who have had previous indicators of risk and are, therefore, more vulnerable to the influences. At younger ages, the

factors that correlate with antisocial behavior are much more likely to stem from the home and cultural environment. Bronfenbrenner² has outlined the multiple levels of systems that interact in creating and maintain behavior patterns, both good and bad, in children. In early life, of course, the family system is the most critical in the formation of behavior while later the school and, later still, peer pressures impact as well. However, it is clear that the single most important and longest lasting of these systems is the family. Schools do understand this and, in fact, the Federal law regulating the treatment planning and management of children in need of special education services identify the parent as the leader of the mandated Individual Education Plan (IEP). These plans, created in multi-person team meetings are intended to assure that any child with special needs is adequately assessed and services needed to insure successful educational interventions are in place. In practice, both resource limitations and other factors make this process less than ideal. From most parents’ perspective, the IEP meeting can be very intimidating. The parent is frequently ushered into a room with a table full of school personnel, many unknown to the parent. Each of these attendees may have a stack of files and reports in front of them. Again, many have not been seen by the parent and, frankly, might not be understood without specialized knowledge of the language and acronyms of the various professions represented. It is also frequently the situation that the parent is struggling with many of the same systemic issues that are impacting the child: poverty, difficult living arrangements, mental health concerns and/or substance abuse issues. These factors too often lead to a meeting that feels oppositional or confrontational and leads to mutual recrimination between the parent and the school.

Family therapists are uniquely trained and qualified to mediate in these kinds of situations. Family therapy training focuses on how relationships within and between social systems can be modified so that communication is clear and desired outcomes can be achieved. Currently, family therapy, although recognized at the Federal level as one of six core mental health disciplines (along with psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social work and mental health counseling), is not an eligible recipient of special education funding and are, therefore, not generally included in the IEP process unless the family is being seen by a family therapist through other funding sources, e.g., Medicaid, private insurance). This is truly unfortunate as the specialized training in understanding the operation of systems, whether those be the family system or other social systems, would be an invaluable addition to the IEP team and the process and would, in many cases, reduce the dissonance between the school and the parent.

Family therapy has been recognized by the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration³ as an effective intervention both as a preventative measure for the earliest manifestations of potential behavior problems, but also as an effective treatment for child and adolescent problems across the behavioral spectrum, including mental health, substance abuse and cognitive disabilities. One measure that would improve the outcomes for children with mental health or behavior problems in the school would be to include licensed marriage and family therapists within the counseling departments to provide better support for both the school and the parents as the work to provide the best education possible for children with special needs.

¹Denver Youth Survey, et al. “Recent findings on the causes and correlates of juvenile delinquency. 1995. Available at NCJRS.gov

²Addison, J. T. (1992). Urie Bronfenbrenner. *Human Ecology*, 20(2), 16-20.

³Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 1998. *Family-Centered Approaches*. Prevention Enhancement Protocols Systems (PEPS). Washington, DC: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office.

Arnold Woodruff is a Licensed MFT and Executive Director of VAMFT. Woodruff is semiretired after a 45 year career in public health and child welfare. [V]



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Just Saying

By JOE ELTON

January 2017—Happy New Year

First, some good and undeniable facts. Virginia is among the most beautiful of states. Several years ago, I helped launch a national program called “First Day Hikes.” The idea is to start the new year off right with activity that promotes the value a healthy active life can have on one’s mental and physical health. Following a holiday season where the normal rules of diet have gone out the window, kick off the new year doing something emotionally and physically healthy and fun. On January 1st, First Day Hikes were held in every state and every state park in Virginia. Thousands of Virginians turned out for what is becoming an annual rite of passage into the new year. In recent years, our family participated in First Day Hikes at Bear Creek Lake, Powhatan, Pocahontas and New River Trail State Parks. It’s a great and affordable way to start the new year, especially since parking is free for the day. Park staff and volunteers typically provide guided hikes, hot chocolate and programs for young and old to enjoy.

My hope is our House of Delegates and State Senate will continue to invest in our job creating outdoor recreation assets. There are park lands already in the state’s inventory in Shenandoah, Henry, Gloucester, Stafford, Albemarle and Loudoun counties that have been master planned and are ready to be developed and opened. Hiking, biking, horseback riding, paddling, bird and wildlife watching, fishing, hunting and simply communing in nature to off-load the daily pressures of life generates spending on fuel, equipment, food and clothing that is critical to our local and state economies.

2017—Predicting the future has become more challenging than ever

The year ahead may be the most important in modern political history. Much like the nation, about half of my friends and family are wildly optimistic about draining the swamp, term limits, limiting the influence of special interests, repealing and replacing Obamacare, bringing jobs back to America, investing in America’s crumbling infrastructure and generally making America great again. The other half, are filled with anxiety about a Trump presidency, twitter diplomacy, sabre rattling and cyber bullying. They see similarities between George Orwell’s 1984 and Donald Trump’s America. Orwell’s “doublespeak” or “newspeak” has been replaced by a “twitterspeak” that conforms to no known standards or traditional meaning of the English written word. It has been very hard to talk politics—a favorite pastime—without finding that the most innocent of observations can be viewed as divisive. We, as a nation, are super sensitive about our politics. And, at the national level, some favorite pundits like David Brooks, Bill Kristol and Charles Krauthammer have been ostracized for daring to question the president-elect on policy or style. Krauthammer summed it up when he said, “trying to read the tea leaves is quite fruitless.”



GOP Dream or Nightmare?

Senator Mitch McConnell, Speaker Paul Ryan and President-elect Donald Trump woke up Wednesday, November 9, 2016 with their wildest dream having come true. Republicans own America’s government with majorities in both houses and the presidency come January 20, 2017. No excuses now.

Republicans have promised the nation they will repeal and replace Obamacare with something better and more affordable. Trump promised to build a wall and have Mexico pay for it. He pledged to rescind President Obama’s executive actions on immigration and guns and suspend immigration from “terror-prone” countries and implement “extreme vetting.” He said he would drain the swamp of Washington and eliminate the corrupt power of special interests and enact term limits for members of congress. High on his priority list is renegotiating the North America Free Trade Agreement and withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, imposing tariffs and enacting a tax plan that collapses the seven federal income tax brackets into three and reducing the top marginal rate from 39.6 percent to 15 percent. He also promised to address crumbling infrastructure (highways, bridges and ports) and create thousands of new jobs.

Trump has experienced legislative partners in Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan and the nation should have every expectation that they will govern together to implement the president-elect’s agenda.

We should see an end to the intense animosity and obstructionism that McConnell has practiced over the past eight years. McConnell made it clear when Barack Obama was elected president in 2008 that Obama wasn’t his president and his top priority was making sure he wasn’t reelected.

Democrats, led in the House by Nancy Pelosi and in the Senate by Chuck Schumer say they are poised to oppose Trump, much like Ryan and McConnell opposed Obama. Collaboration between the two parties seems out of the question. That said, the country needs leaders to work together for the common good. Collaboration and compromise are hard, but essential. I have high expectations of Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine and expect them to be relevant, transformative leaders for our nation. The future can be good and bright, or not, depending on how our elected leaders choose to function in a new year.

Just saying...Republicans have no excuses and can show America that they are capable of delivering on their campaign promises. Both parties can demonstrate they have the capacity to collaborate and work for the common good. If we get more of the same Washington log jam, the nation and our citizens will suffer and the American dream could really be in jeopardy. End.

Joe Elton served 22 years with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation—20 years as director of Virginia’s national award winning state parks system and for several years as the departments director and deputy director. He is a former chief of staff to the Ohio House Republican Leader, executive director of the Ohio House Republican Campaign Committee and executive director of the Republican Party of Virginia. [V]





STANDING ROCK

A Personal Reflection
By KIRK SCHRODER

Susan Hughes, a long-time friend, is the founder of the Baby Girl Project and has raised money over the years to build almost 40 schools for children in Africa. Like many Americans, Susan has closely followed the situation with the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and the Native Americans located on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. These Native Americans oppose DAPL because of the serious risk to their water supply and the potential irreversible harm to their land.

I confess: *Going to Standing Rock to bear first hand witness to what was happening to Native Americans was no where on my list of things to do this past November.* However, Susan inspired me as she, in passing one day, told me of her plans to visit Standing Rock and why that was important to her. She already knew what I would learn from visiting Standing Rock; that there was something of much deeper importance occurring at Standing Rock; something that should concern all Americans.

Weston Mathews, Vice-Rector at Stephen Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, who did not know me beforehand but had already been to Standing Rock, gave his time and insights to us on what to expect. He warned that the racism toward Native Americans is perhaps unlike any that I might have seen. And he, sadly, is correct.

Mainstream media coverage showed little of the violence being directed at peaceful protestors. Here is where my shock set in regarding the racism toward Native Americans. *The government and private contractor are essentially running a military action against people who are unarmed and using prayer and courage to stand up for themselves.* It was what I might have expected in a totalitarian country but not in the United States. The night that we left we saw horrific violence against Native Americans and their allies. It was heartbreaking for me to witness. Consider the following. When police shootings and race concerns broke out in Charlotte, did the militarized police use: (1) water cannons in sub-freezing temperatures on unarmed peaceful protestors, (2) tear gas in a manner where protestors could not escape but also on those aiding protestors, (3) rubber bullets and devices to cause ear pain for days and (4) the ELRAD sound cannon to cause concussion and disorientation? No. That would not look good for television news, which was virtually 24-hour coverage for several days in Charlotte. All four things happened the night we left Standing Rock.

It is well-documented that oil pipeline spills happen around the United States at a far more alarming rate and damage than many

Americans realize since only catastrophic oil spills garner serious media attention. It is a legitimate concern for not only Native Americans and other Americans who live in rural or less populated areas where many pipelines exist and should be for urban and suburban-based Americans.

Here are people, who don't want a pipeline planted under their only supply of drinking water, the same pipeline that was redirected from Bismarck because of health risk concerns to that population, so that oil can be sold, not in the USA, but overseas. Although there are federal directives for Energy Transfer Partners to stop work on DAPL, those orders have been largely ignored and the rights of Native Americans, who are still "citizens" of our country, have been trampled.

During my time at Standing Rock, I was never in harm's way. I, along with Susan and another friend, Lainie Gratz, helped by washing dishes, moving building supplies and assisting in any way needed. I loved sitting in prayer with Native people, many who are Christians, who talked about their faith, their convictions and who demonstrate incredible courage. There was never any discussion of doing harm to the police or others. In fact, many led prayers for their oppressors. Women Native American leaders spoke so eloquently about their values and their purpose.

The Hopi and Lakota Indians tell of a native ancient prophecy of "the Black Snake" attempting to cross rivers around the country and if successful will bring destruction and harm to many waters and lands. These are not prophecies of convenient storytelling but teachings in their Native American traditions that go back hundreds of years and

demonstrate a profound stewardship for the environment. If oil pipelines are "the Black Snake" in such prophecies I pray they don't come true.

There is a saying that God speaks to those who take time to listen and God listens to those who take time to pray. I am grateful that I took time to listen to my friend, Susan Hughes, about Standing Rock and for bearing witness to something all too easy to ignore.

Kirk T. Schroder is an attorney with the law firm of Schroder Davis in Richmond. From 1998 to 2002, he served as president of the Virginia Board of Education. Kirk currently serves as a legislative appointee and member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission. [V]



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Kaine

By BONNIE ATWOOD

“Before the campaign, I didn’t even know there was such a thing as a Dad joke”

Oh, yes, Senator Kaine, Dad jokes are “a thing.” With your other accomplishments, you will now go down in history with the great good-natured Dads who have contributed to our national addiction to humor.

Just kidding. The Honorable Senator Tim Kaine is many things. One of them—and this is crucial to why I like a person—is that he is a good sport. Being a Richmonder myself for the past 35 years, I’ve known the Senator for a long time. Truth be told, I was stunned when, according to the national conversation, he sort of came out of nowhere.

I remember sitting with him in the library at Thomas Jefferson High School in about 1995 when he was on the Richmond City Council. He helped me strategize a way to keep the school open as a comprehensive high school. This was one of the most important fights of my life, and I’m happy to say that we won.

Our community watched with pride as he moved up from city council to mayor. It felt right. Kaine’s personality was suited to the job. He was positive, approachable, amiable. Whenever I avoid a collision in the Richmond’s fan district, I thank him for the abundance of stop signs. All those factors contributed to his political success (as well as his later title as “America’s Dad.”) We heard about his devotion to his mission work in South America, his marriage to a Virginia governor’s daughter (Anne Holton, an accomplished woman in her own right), and his love of public service. As mayor, he negotiated a compromise in a contentious debate about whether a picture of Robert E. Lee should be included on a mural on the city’s new floodwall. The result was that Lee’s portrait was one of a number of historic likenesses.

A few years later, my son (a Thomas Jefferson alumnus), videotaped Kaine in his bid for Lieutenant Governor. The scene was the front view of the renovated Maggie Walker High School, a project that he had worked hard on. With humility, Kaine recently honored the late Senator Emily Couric, a fellow Democrat, whose death hastened his path to Lieutenant Governor and then Governor:

“I have no doubt that Emily would have been elected Governor of Virginia,” he said for this publication, just last spring. Gracious then, as now, Kaine acknowledged that fate, for better or worse, has its way in the political life.



As Governor, Kaine was considered a centrist, and championed a host of issues, including conservation, health care, and transportation. In balancing the budget, he received flak for shutting down rest stops, but the closure proved to be temporary. Kaine had the misfortune of being Governor during the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007, in which 32 people lost their lives. He was in Japan at the time, and was praised for cutting his trip short so that he could return to the Commonwealth and provide leadership to the stunned citizens. He set up a review panel to break down the causes and solutions for the tragedy.

Kaine’s “brand” includes not only political know-how, but he is also known as “a quite humble, down-to-earth, genuine nice guy.” (Mark J. Rozzell, Richmond.com). What’s more down-to-earth than a harmonica player?

“Playing the harmonica with great musicians and bands was one of the highlights of the campaign,” said Kaine. And this reporter can testify that he is known and loved at one of my own personal haunts: the City Diner on Broad Street. “The great thing about Richmond is that they are so used to me that they treat me as their neighbor rather than as an elected official. And that’s the way I like it.”

Kaine has contributed to our community just by the way he carries out his daily life. African American Catholic Churches are a little scarce in the South, and it pains this Southerner to say this, but in some parts, the Catholics have had a hard time being accepted. The Kaines are an active family at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, well known for its pastor (and my longtime friend through NCCJ) Sister Cora Marie Billings, one of the first black nuns in the U.S. The three Kaine children attended Richmond Public Schools, one of which was named for their grandfather, The Honorable Linwood Holton.

What comes now for America’s Dad? Well, to his three children, he’s still “Dad.” To Virginia, he goes back to being a Senator, and to Richmond, he goes back to being a friend.

“I was honored to be the first Virginia political leader on a ticket in 170 years, honored to run with Hillary Clinton and proud that we handily won Virginia and the popular vote. I was back in the Senate one week after Election Day finishing work on our annual defense bill and will keep doing all I can to represent the Commonwealth with energy, creativity and heart.”

Bonnie Atwood, “chief poppy” at Tall Poppies Consulting, was named “Communicator of Achievement” runner up by National Federation of Press Women in Wichita Kansas, 2016. ▣

One Foot Out The Door

By KEN JESSUP

Twenty some years ago, I worked out of a cozy cubicle in the second story suite of David Bailey Associates. Chances are that you know that DBA is a lobbying firm based until recently at the majestic Old City Hall, right next door to the General Assembly Building.

What a time that was! Our “technology” consisted of desktop telephones. To hunt down a bill, one had to trot over to the bill room, either at the GAB or the Capitol. Instead of getting our news on twitter or Facebook, we got it over coffee at the tall tables at Chicken’s snack bar. My colleagues and I had a lot of fun—chatting at the water cooler, schmoozing at legislative receptions, following



bills from their inception to—win or lose—their grand finales. You probably remember me—I was the guy with the floppy hat and sunglasses, doing my level best to articulate the needs of small nonprofits, people with all kinds of disabilities, and working on environmental issues. I made a lot of friends, and I value that time of my life.

As I write this, December is trying to decide if it’s winter or fall. The changing seasons can be a dramatic time. One day it’s warm; the next day sleet; with the correct season eventually taking control.

With much kicking and screaming, I have moved into my correct season, too. I am spending more time with family, traveling with my wife, and taking care of a few medical issues. I am in—dare I say it?—retirement. It’s the time of life when your personal life starts to demand more attention, and you become busier than ever.

Looking back at the lobbying life, I see it as a special calling. Lobbyists often get a bad rap, but they are the voices of people and organizations who have the right to address their concerns to

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This (21 year) life time achievement award in excellence to the Commonwealth of Virginia award was presented to Marty Hall by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.



Marcy Hernick, Marty Hall, Senator Vogel and son, and Judy Brannock.



The crowd over 300 at the PoorMans Dinner at the 2016 Galax Fiddlers Convention.



Marty Hall, past chairman of PoorMans dinner and Megan M. Brown, tourism department of Tazewell County.

elected and appointed representatives. They serve a much needed purpose; they work hard; they deserve our respect. That was part of the thinking behind the creation of the Virginia Association of Professional Lobbyists (VAPL), of which I am proud to be a founding member. I will miss my colleagues. I will miss the drama. I may even miss some of the panic, as the Session draws to a close, and one follows his bill like a hound dog after a fox.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. There is also a lively lobbying community, and, yes, there is retirement. I don't care for the word or the action (or inaction) that it implies. What's next? Death? Maybe there's a bill stuck in a committee, with an amendment revoking retirement. As soon as I mentioned "the R-Word," I felt a freedom, but I also felt a loss. Therefore I have added the term "semi" in front of the R-Word, to soften the blow.

I will see you again at Capitol Square. Look for the guy in the floppy hat, soaking up the atmosphere at Ground Zero of the great Commonwealth of Virginia, watching the sausage get made, and enjoying my friends in the wonderful world of lobbying.

Ken Jessup is author of the book, "It was just a phase," which tells more about his adventures in lobbying and life. The book can be purchased through Kenjessup@cox.net or Bonatwood@verizon.net.

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Play along the Border

By EDGAR H. THOMPSON

Prologue

Research shows that play is in a continual stage of development worldwide, especially where one culture rubs up and against another, like two geologic tectonic plates colliding with each other. We need more research on what is happening at this nexus of cultures. We can learn a lot about humanity, and ourselves, specifically as we watch what children are doing as they play. The following story is fiction, but fiction or not, I know this story, or what it suggests, is true. It was inspired by presentations I heard at a play conference in Delaware a few years ago regarding research studies conducted along the border between Texas and Mexico. I had no specific place or children or adults in mind when I wrote this piece. I know in my heart that stories of this kind, and different stories endemic to the various cultures extant in Virginia are also happening. We need to be looking. We need to be listening.



Play along the Border

Spring. The border. Somewhere in Texas. It is 5:45 a.m., and the alarm has just gone off. Warm air blows in and moves the curtain that covers the trailer window in Martina's room. She is up, and she is getting ready to go to school. She is in kindergarten. She loves school. She can't wait to get there.

After a 30 minute bus ride, Martina is at school, and she rushes off the bus and goes to the cafeteria where she has breakfast with many of her friends. She then makes her way to her classroom, and the day begins. She plays with friends for a few minutes before her teacher, Mrs. Rodman, gets all of the children into the carpeted instructional seating area of the room. "Okay, boys and girls, let's get started. Let's see how many days of May we have used. Count along with me." And they all count until they come to May 14th, that day's date, which is then marked on the calendar.

Mrs. Rodman then asks, "What is our weather today? Martina, it is your turn." Martina stands up, goes to the outside door to the classroom, opens it, looks outside and then shuts the door and returns back to the front of the classroom. She reports, "It is sunny, no clouds."

"Thank you, Martina. Let's put the right picture up under our weather logo." Opening activities continued until it was time for serious free play.

Martina along with her friends Juan and Lupe go to the big rectangular blocks and start creating a staggered maze on the floor. If you were trying to go straight forward without tripping over a block, you could not do it unless you wound left and right, which slowed your forward progress. The three children then created a wall at the end of this maze. Three blocks high left and three blocks high right

with a space or opening in the middle. There was a table just to the right of the wall on the right hand side of the wall. It is a pretend car.

Once the space was organized, they started the game. The scenario they were going to play was "Crossing the Border." Lupe was to be the border guard. He had cut a silver star out of light gray construction paper and taped it to his shirt. Martina and Lupe were playing a couple trying to make their way across the border. They started at the farthest point and wound their way back and forth until they came to the crossing point, where Lupe stood and held up his hand. He spoke sternly to Martina and Juan: "Let me see your papers!"

Martina and Juan gave him a piece of paper they had each folded. Lupe pretended to examine the papers, and then said, firmly, "These papers are not right." Lupe then yelled at Juan and Martina, "Put your hands on the top of the car."

Juan and Martina turned and put their hands on the top of the table, as if it were the top of a car. Lupe proceeded to mock patting them down, without actually touching them." He then went and got a stuffed animal that looked like a dog and passed the dog all over the table, as if it was smelling the car for something illegal. He then found an envelope—an empty one they had gotten with permission from Mrs. Rodman's desk, and opened it up, and asked, "What is this white powder?" He then mimicked tasting something from the envelope. "Raise your hands," he yells. "You are under arrest." The scenario continues for another 10 minutes, and students go back to their seats to continue with the rest of the day, a typical, normal day.

Other lessons were taught, and the school day came to an end. After the 30-minute bus ride home, Martina went into her trailer and found her favorite program on television. She was happy to be home, but she was also happy when she was in school. She looked forward to tomorrow when she could go back to school, to learn and to play.

Herb Thompson is a widely published poet, essayist, and literary critic. His research interests include the American West, play, literacy, and educational policy. He is a member of Western Writers of America.

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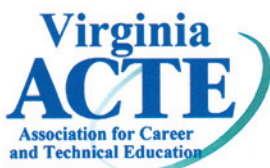
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Go Mobile with the Virginia Capitol Connections App

By LYDIA FREEMAN

Virginia Capitol Connections has gone mobile, allowing quick and easy access to legislator contact information, meeting schedules, news, and more.

“The Virginia Capitol Connection app is the most comprehensive Virginia General Assembly resource app on the market and it’s free,” said Dr. Tom Brewster, faculty of Bluefield College. “The app has everything you need to navigate the General Assembly right in the palm of your hand including emails, phone numbers, calendars, news, and alerts.”

David Bailey, President of David Bailey Associates which produces the Virginia Capitol Connections publications, had been contemplating the creation of an app for several years. In 2015, he met Brad Veach, president of Mobile Marketing & Entertainment Solutions, Inc., and conversation around the creation of an app began. With the help of Veach and Hayley Allison, a staff member of David Bailey Associates, the content necessary for the app’s creation was added.

Kelly Gee, the Chief of Staff for Majority House Leader Kirk Cox said that she loved the app.

“All of the pertinent contact information for our state government is easily accessible right in the palm of my hand,” said Gee. “What is especially helpful to me as I’m walking around the General Assembly Building is that the Delegate’s and Senator’s office number is listed so I don’t have to wander from floor to floor. I also suggest downloading the app to constituents who visit Capitol Square so they can look at the public meeting scheduling and have the map of nearby restaurants.”

Virginia Capitol Connections was started after a conversation in 1986. David Bailey was meeting with lobbyists Sumpter Priddy and “Judge” Williams. As they discussed the legislative session, Bailey commented that it would be useful to have a published book of information on legislators. Priddy suggested that Bailey take on the task, and Virginia Capitol Connections was born. Throughout the years, the publication has expanded to include the Virginia Quarterly Capitol Connections magazine, and now, the Capitol Connections app.

Bailey envisions that the app will be relevant and used by anyone interested in government with a smartphone or tablet.

“It’s not just for the youngest among us,” said Bailey. “Virginia AARP is our lead sponsor of the app—it’s for people of all ages.”

And while the app is not a replacement for the Red Book, the app



does allow Capitol Connections staff to add updates instantly.

Ken Jessup of Ken Jessup & Associates said he was sold on the app because “contacts, phone numbers, [and] websites” were readily available, and Marty Hall, Chief of Staff at Delegate Will Morefield’s office praised the app for its expansive collection of information.

Delegate Rich Anderson is allegedly the first legislator to download the app.

“Having used Virginia Capitol Connections’ Redbook directory during seven General Assembly sessions and in my home district between sessions, I couldn’t wait to download their new app for my iPhone,” said Anderson. “Hardly a day doesn’t go by that I don’t

reference my hardcopy Redbook, so being able to access the same information electronically made my job faster and easier. The hardcopy Redbooks have been a hit with my constituents. At every public event, I lay out a stack of Redbooks and they go like hotcakes. The new app provides the same useful information, but in an easy-to-use, user-friendly format that puts the information in the palm of my hand. Another job superbly done by David Bailey & Associates and Virginia Capitol Connections!”

The Virginia Capitol Connections app is available for free on Apple and Android devices.

Lydia Freeman is a graduate of Bluefield College, former intern at David Bailey Associates, and currently Teach for America fifth grade teacher in Northampton County, NC.

Legislative Counsel

John G. “Chip” Dicks
FutureLaw, LLC

1802 Bayberry Court, Suite 403
Richmond, Virginia 23226

(804) 225-5507 (Direct Dial) chipdicks@futurelaw.net
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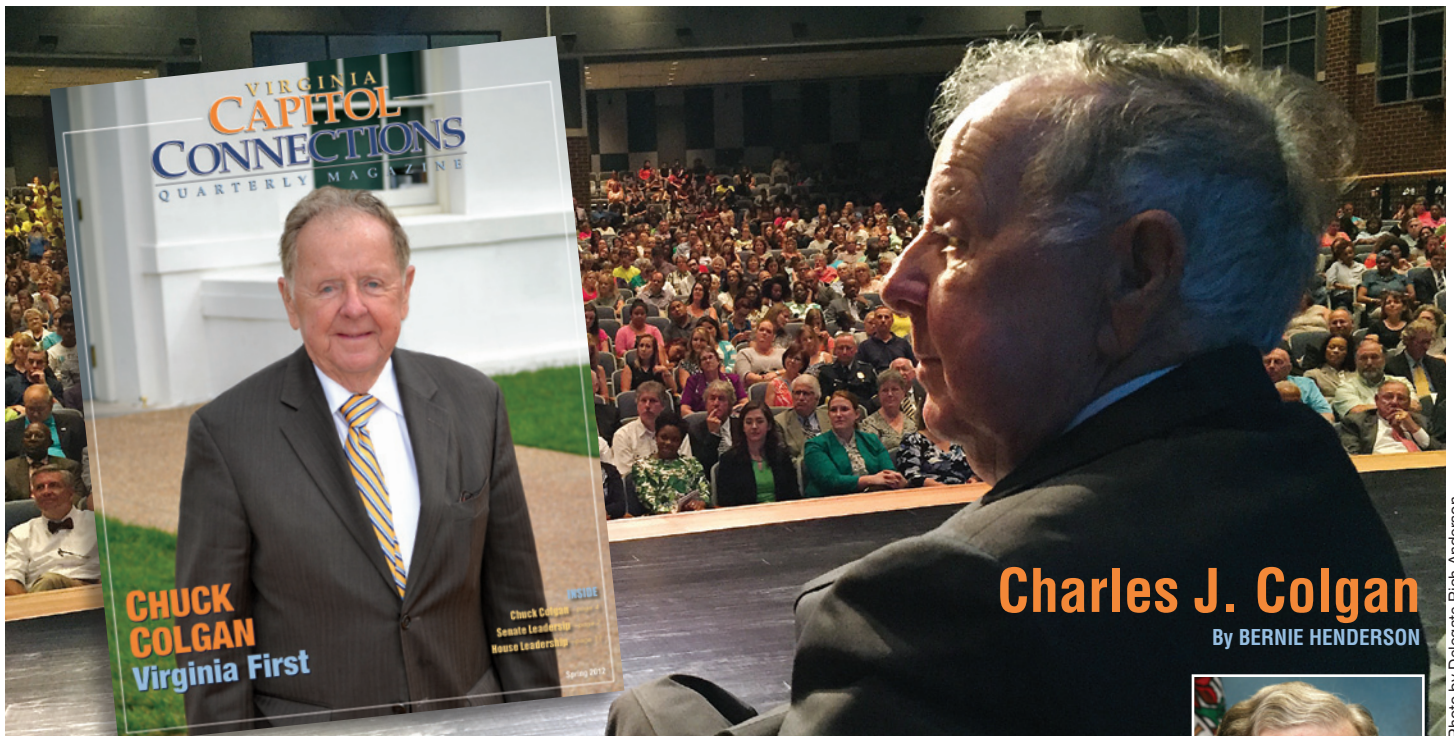


Photo by Delegate Rich Anderson

Charles J. Colgan

By BERNIE HENDERSON



In September of 2013, I was asked to write a tribute to my friend H. Selwyn Smith upon his death. I had become friends with Selwyn when he served in the Senate of Virginia, representing the Manassas area, from 1972 to 1976. Prior to his election to the Senate, he had been an army officer in World War II, and Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County. After serving in the Senate, Selwyn was appointed by Governor Mills Godwin to be the first Secretary of Public Safety and then the General Assembly elected him a Circuit Court Judge for the 31st Judicial Circuit.

In preparing Selwyn's tribute, I called upon another longtime friend in Manassas for any words he would like to add. Superficially, this might have appeared to be a strange thing to do, given the fact that the friend I was calling was Chuck Colgan, the person who ran against and defeated Selwyn in the Democratic primary for the Senate seat. However, it was not at all strange to me because I knew them both.

Sometime between Selwyn's defeat and Chuck's swearing-in, Selwyn called me to ask that I help Chuck learn his way around the Capitol and Virginia government. How many times does a defeated incumbent ask a friend to help the person who just defeated him; and how often does a successful challenger take advice from his defeated foe and seek go on to ask for help from his opponent's friend?

Both Selwyn and Chuck were World War II veterans; their service during the war and their public service afterward are why their generation so richly deserves the title "Greatest Generation." They both returned home, started families, worked hard and got involved in their community. They were elected to public office, not to have a political career or to become well-known or to even promote any partisan agenda, but to do what they could to provide a government worthy of what they had risked their lives to protect.

Selwyn helped Chuck become an effective legislator; when a judgeship on the Circuit Court for the Manassas area became available, Chuck nominated Selwyn for it and worked tirelessly to have him elected to it.

The relationship between Chuck Colgan and Selwyn Smith exemplified what Chuck was. Not only did he not have any enemies,

he was completely incapable of even having any adversaries. He saw labels as differences that just didn't matter. Chuck's relationship with Selwyn Smith was just like his relationship with his Republican colleagues in the Senate; whether he was a member or the majority party or they were the majority party; he treated them with respect and they treated him the same way. While he never wavered from being a loyal Democrat, he boldly went his own way from his party's positions whenever he believed he needed to do so.

Chuck Colgan epitomizes the greatness of our representative democracy. An orphan raised on a modest farm by his grandparents, he joined the military upon graduating from high school and went off to war. While in the service he learned a trade, aircraft mechanics. He returned home, went to work, started and raised a family, learned to be a pilot, took the risk of starting his own business that became enormously successful, served in local office and then represented his community in the Senate. Unlike most Senators, Chuck did not hold an advanced academic degree; he proudly claimed the distinction of being the only licensed aircraft mechanic to ever serve in the General Assembly. In so many areas, especially transportation, education and finance, he learned from others and taught himself so much more than so many of his colleagues who spent decades in classrooms and on the most prestigious campuses; and to their credit many of his colleagues with impressive academic credentials would readily agree with that.

Our Commonwealth was made greater because Chuck Colgan served us in our Senate for forty years—longer than anyone else, ever. He did not need political office to enhance his career or financial status; in fact his business and financial wealth were adversely impacted because of his public service. Our most profound wish is that his example would be a beacon for others to try to emulate.

When I asked Chuck for words of tribute to Selwyn, he said Selwyn "was truly one of our community's finest sons," and, "I never met a finer man." Chuck, my friend, it takes one to know one. ▮

The Honorable Chuck Colgan

Excerpts from an interview published in the Spring 2012 issue of Virginia Capitol Connections Quarterly Magazine By MIKE BELEFSKI

What are your most memorable moments serving as a Senator?

I think of some of the characters I served with. I think the most colorful individual I served with was Senator Hunter Andrews. He was very vocal, had a brilliant mind and was great to work with. I sat beside him on the Senate floor for about eight years. He was a very brilliant guy, very smart. He was a great orator and would say some remarkable things; he was certainly one of my favorites.

Then there's Ed Willey. No one will ever forget him. He was more colorful I suppose and more serious than Senator Andrews. Senator Willey was the most powerful man I ever saw and I've been all over this Commonwealth and country. I've never seen a single person who had the authority and had the power he had. If you wanted your bill to pass, you got Senator Willey to speak for it. You want to kill somebody's bill, you got Senator Willey to speak against it. He spoke for your bill it passed; if he spoke against it failed.

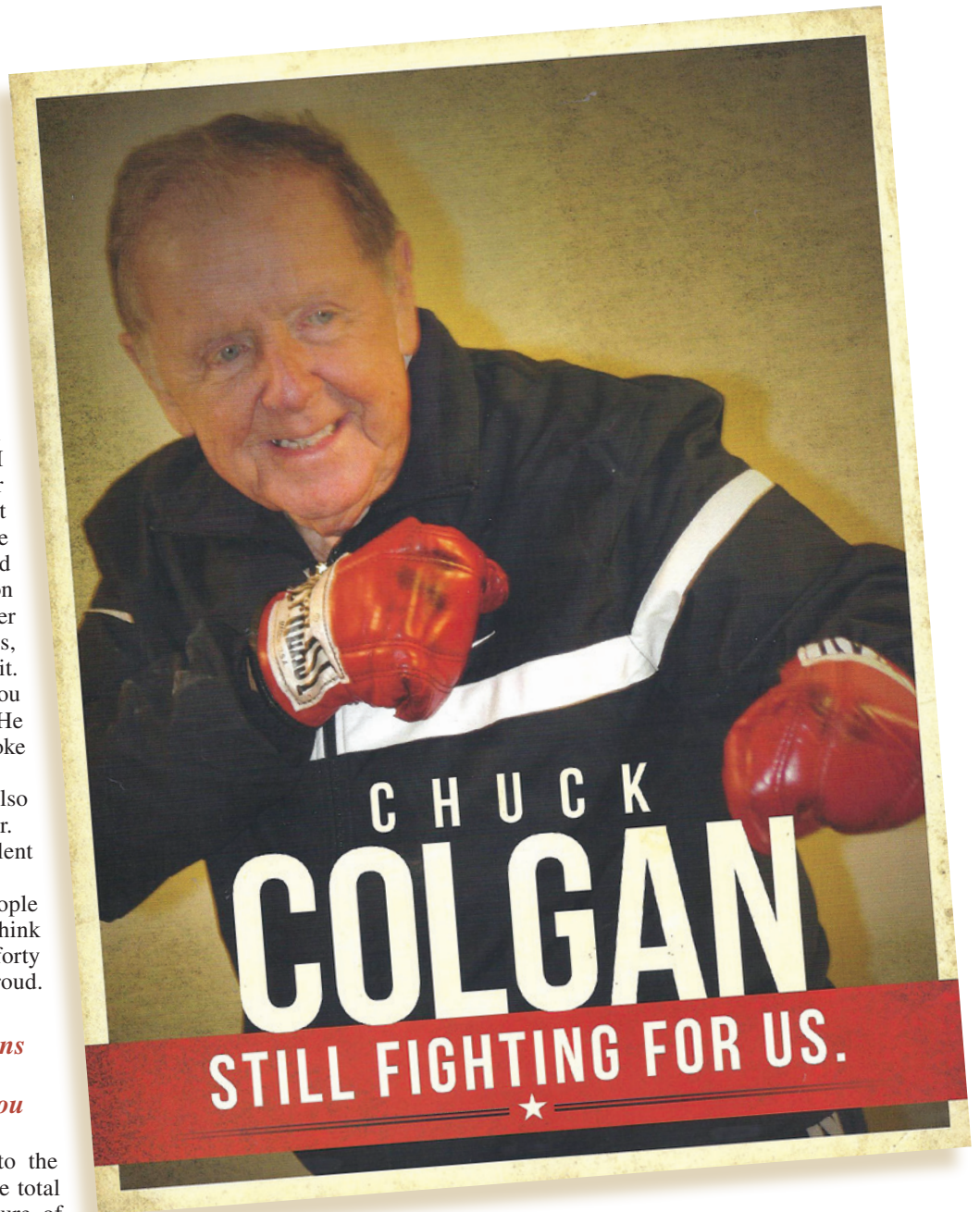
Senator Madison Marye was also very colorful; he was a great storyteller.

John Chichester also was an excellent senator.

There have been so many fine people who have served in this body and I think if the people of Virginia knew the forty people as I do they would be pretty proud. They are all really good people.

During your numerous campaigns for office — there is a theme of “honor in politics” — How do you define “honor in politics”?

I think that you can't respond to the things people say about you. Some are total falsehoods. My opponent had a picture of President Obama and me and it looked like we had our arms around each other. The caption was “Senator Colgan and President Obama are collaborating to increase your taxes.” I've been accused of being friendly with people who have been in jail because of some sex offense. I did not respond to it. I tried to keep my cool and not respond to it. Many things like that occur and they are very insulting. Every time I got a nasty bulletin in the mail from my opponent I would send out a nice one with some enthusiasm and very positive. I've tried to keep it positive. I guess it worked since I won by 10%.



Any comments about your ‘Rocky’ re-election campaign theme?

I got a lot of discussion out of it because people still see me in a 7-Eleven and holler “Hi Rocky.” It was really a very good TV commercial and I think we got a great deal of mileage out of it.

Michael E. Belefski, is President of CPC CORPORATION, a Communications and Marketing Firm specializing in Performance Management Analysis in Business, Law and Political Systems. He can be reached at cpcorp@verizon.net. 

Alan Mayer By BERNIE HENDERSON

Alan Mayer was one of the few members of the Virginia House of Delegates who did not look in the bathroom mirror every morning and see the future Governor of Virginia looking back at him. He was already 61 years old when he was elected to his first term in a special election in 1986. He didn't run to launch a political trajectory, to transition into some lucrative full-time appointive position or to achieve name recognition to promote his business or professional visibility. Alan just wanted to make a positive contribution to the people of his community and his Commonwealth.



He had retired in 1980 from a 29-year career at the Central Intelligence Agency as a senior officer, where he received the Intelligence Medal of Merit. He had also retired from the U. S. Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant Commander after service from 1944 during World War II through 1985.

In 1986, I had been appointed Director of the Department of Health Professions by Governor Gerald Baliles. Almost immediately upon Alan's arrival in Richmond, he and I began working together on a relatively large and somewhat controversial package of legislation to promote integrity and competency in health professions and how they are regulated for the protection of the public. Even though he was a freshman Delegate, he sponsored and managed several of these bills. He continued his interest in effective regulation of health professions throughout his ten years of service in the General Assembly.

His heart and main focus as a legislator was on promoting effective services for Virginians who had experienced life-altering injuries,

especially brain injuries. He sponsored legislation that created the Virginia Disabilities Commission and was a member of it. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Brain Injury Services, Incorporated.

In 1984, at the age of 60, Alan earned a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Virginia. That same year, he was awarded the Virginia Citizens Planning Association's student achievement award. This expertise caused him to be immediately recognized by his colleagues in the General Assembly as an authority on responsible urban planning.

Alan retired from the House of Delegates in 1996. At the age of 71, having served in many capacities as a public servant in the most honorable and distinguished meaning of that term, and still enjoying good health and an active life, he deserved to enjoy life with his wife, children and grandchildren without further public responsibilities, but he instead continued to serve our Commonwealth. He was appointed by Governor Mark Warner in 2002 to the Board of Health Professions and he served as Chair of the Board, using the expertise he developed as chief patron of so many of the laws administered by that body.

Alan remained active in his community. He received the Fairfax County Federation Citizen of Merit award in 1996, the Rotary Four Avenues of Service award in 2002 and the Annandale Rotarian of the Year award in 2003.

Alan Mayer exemplified the model citizen who served his community, his Commonwealth and his nation with diligence and compassion. He was a humble and dedicated servant who saw service as its own reward and did not seek or even feel comfortable in the limelight. Alan left us on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at the age of 91. Virginia is blessed and infinitely better because he was here.

Bernie Henderson is a Funeral Celebrant and President of Woody Funeral Home. Prior to his retirement at the end of Governor Kaine's administration, Henderson served in a variety of positions in Virginia government.



This Blue Ridge PBS

Week

IN RICHMOND

VIEWING SCHEDULE

Blue Ridge PBS -WBRA (Roanoke, Lynchburg)—Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m. • Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Southwest Virginia PTV
Monday at 6:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m. • Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. • Friday at Noon

WCVE 23.1 (Richmond)—Sunday at 9 a.m.

WHTJ 41.1 (Charlottesville)—Sunday at 9 a.m.

WVPT (Harrisonburg)—Tuesday at 5 p.m.

WHRO-World (Norfolk)—Tuesday at 5 p.m. • Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Norfolk's Neighborhood Network, TV-48—Sunday through Tuesday, 12 noon • Wednesday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m.

Weekly show information is on Facebook—**THIS WEEK IN RICHMOND**

All shows are archived here:

<http://blueridgepbs.org/index.php/videos/local-productions/this-week-in-richmond>

Policy Makers of the Year

By BRENDA LONG

The Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education is pleased to announce that Delegate Kathy J. Byron of the 22nd District and Senator Frank M. Ruff Jr. of the 15th District are the association's Policymakers of the Year. They were honored January 12 during the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education Professional Development and Leadership Seminar.



Delegate Byron represents parts of Bedford, Campbell, and Franklin counties and part of the city of Lynchburg. She serves as vice chair of the House Commerce and Labor Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee and the House Science and Technology Committee.



BYRON

Senator Ruff represents parts of Brunswick, Campbell, Dinwiddie, Halifax, Pittsylvania, and Prince George counties, part of the city of Danville, and all of Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, and Nottoway counties. He serves as chair of the General Laws and Technology Committee and is a member of the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee, Finance Committee, and Rules Committee.



RUFF

Delegate Byron and Senator Ruff recognize the need to prepare students for successful careers beyond high school and to increase opportunities for workforce training. Both support the need for industry credentialing for students and the opportunity for qualified individuals who meet certain requirements to teach high school career and technical education courses in specific subject areas. [V]

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Virginia Political Events Calendar

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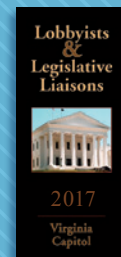
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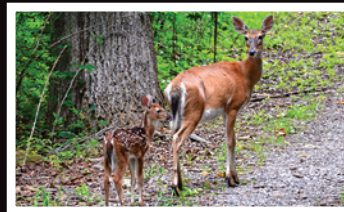
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