

# VIRGINIA CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE



*Women of the 2017  
General Assembly  
of Virginia*

## INSIDE

**The Powerful Voices**—page 4

**Expanding Opportunity Together**—page 5

**Virginia Women House Candidates 2017**—pages 6–7

**Education**—pages 8–16



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# CONTENTS

Fall 2017

- 4** The Powerful Voices of Virginia Women
- 5** Expanding Opportunity Together
- 6** Virginia Women House Candidates 2017
- 8** Virginia's Growing Teacher Shortage Crisis
- 9** Teaching the Best Profession
- 11** Honoring The Contribution Of Women Throughout Virginia History
- 12** Career and Technical Education: Don't Leave High School without It!
- 13** Public Safety Report
- 14** Civic Education
- 15** Making a Difference in Petersburg Schools
- 15** Identification key for Candidates on pages 6-7
- 16** The Photography of Wanda Judd
- 18** VOLSAP Board Seeks Volunteers' Feedback
- 18** Pipeline Politics
- 19** New Virginia Veteran and Family Support Initiative Offers Resources for Justice-Involved Veterans
- 20** The GAB Walls May Not Talk, But Some Say Specters Walk—On the grounds of Capitol Square
- 21** BC Gives Away MBA Tuition Waiver
- 22** Election Day 2017, your town, your polling place
- 22** Two New Cabinet Members
- 25** Patsy Ticer
- 26** Lacey E. Putney
- 28** E. Hatcher Crenshaw, Jr.
- 30** Association and Business Directory



## The Powerful Voices

page 4

WOMEN

FREEMAN

WOMEN

## Expanding Opportunity Together

page 6



MCAULIFFE



## Virginia's Growing Teacher Shortage

page 8

EDUCATION

TRENT

*Women of the 2017  
General Assembly  
of Virginia*

1. Lashrecce D. Aird—House District 63
2. Jennifer B. Boysko—House District 86
3. Kathy J. Byron—House District 22
4. Betsy Carr—House District 69
5. Amanda Chase—Senate District 11
6. Eileen Filler-Corn—House District 41
7. Rosalyn R. Dance—Senate District 16
8. Siobhan Dunnivant—Senate District 12
9. Barbara A. Favola—Senate District 31
10. Charmiele Herring—House District 46
11. Daun Hester—House District 89
12. Janet D. Howell—Senate District 32
13. Kaye Kory—House District 38
14. Mamie E. Locke—Senate District 2
15. L. Louise Lucas—Senate District 18
16. Jennifer L. McClellan—Senate District 9
17. Delores L. McQuinn—House District 70
18. Kathleen J. Murphy—House District 34
19. Brenda Pogge—House District 96
20. Marcia S. "Cia" Price—House District 95
21. Margaret B. Ransone—House District 99
22. Roxann L. Robinson—House District 27
23. Roslyn C. Tyler—House District 75
24. Jill Holtzman Vogel—Senate District 27
25. Jeion Antonia Ward—House District 92
26. Vivian E. Watts—House District 39
27. Jennifer T. Wexton—Senate District 33

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27			

**On The Web**

[www.vccqm.org](http://www.vccqm.org)



# The Powerful Voices of Virginia Women By LYDIA FREEMAN

In 2011 I drove my beat-up, bright red, Chevy Cavalier to the Virginian countryside. I was en route to interview Eva Scott, who in 1971 became the first woman elected to the Virginia Senate.”



On the way to Scott’s house in the Virginia countryside, a group of men in a pickup truck held up a piece of paper with an explicit proposition scrawled in sharpie; it was the written version of the cat call. I went into that interview feeling angry and demoralized. Voiceless, following the one way communication I hadn’t wanted.

2011 was also an election year for The House of Delegates. That year 133 men ran for a seat in the House of Delegates. Only 29 women did the same. Less than 20% of the seats in the House were held by women, and this is still the case today. Women in Virginia do not have the same quality of representation as men do. Their voices are not being as well heard.

But it’s been five years since 2011: five years since the sign held up to a car window, five years since I interviewed Eva Scott, five years since 29 women ran for office. We’re approaching a new election cycle, and this year, 53 women are running for the House of Delegates.

I interviewed Viola Baskerville, the 14th Virginia Secretary of Administration and a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1998-2005, in preparation for this piece. She spoke on the power of women in the 1990s, but how, in contrast, women’s voices continue today to be absent on the local, state, and federal level.

“Well, gosh, we cannot have it so that we are not represented at every single opportunity at the local, state, federal level,” said Baskerville. “We have been asleep at the wheel.”

Baskerville attributed some of the increase of women running to the 2016 Presidential Race, as well as images of older white men signing legislation and executive orders.

“Women aren’t feeling that their voices are being heard,” said Baskerville. “I remember running for the House of Delegates ... that was 20 years ago since I first entered the House of Delegates. There were roughly fifteen women in the house and eight or so women in the Senate. Virginia had something like 15-16 women creating legislation. We’re 52% of the voting population, so there’s this huge disparity on voices and volumes of voices on issues that needs to be addressed.”

On January 21, 2017, the Women’s March organization marched on Washington D.C. to advocate legislation and policies regarding human rights and other issues, including women’s rights, immigration reform, healthcare reform, reproductive rights, the natural environment, LGBTQ rights, racial equality, freedom of religion, and workers’ rights. This powerful moment in history was evidence that women want to be heard, and it surely spurred many of Virginia’s female candidates to run for office.

“I believe we have reached a point in society where we are no longer willing to sit on the sidelines and allow others to make decisions for us,” said Rebecca Colaw, a first time candidate running for Virginia’s 64th District.

“I’m running for office primarily because I went to the Women’s March,” Colaw continued. “It was one of the most amazing things I’ve ever done. It was all sorts of colors: black, brown, white, rainbow ... all colors working together to express what America truly is. When I came home I was trying to figure out what I could do and how I could be of service. I couldn’t stand what was happening in our country and decided to run for office.”

Kathy Byron, a Virginia Delegate since 1998, also mentioned the March.

“Many of the women seeking office as Democrats have expressed their unanimity with the goals of the march that coincided with the inauguration of President Trump,” said Byron. “Although I do not

believe those goals - other than opposing the President - were coherently or succinctly expressed, running for office can be an effective way to ensure your opinion is heard.”

Another first time candidate, Elizabeth Guzman, also spoke on the importance of women stepping up to make a change.

“I think women across the country, especially here in Virginia, are tired of the divisive politics that Donald Trump and Republicans across the country are bringing to our communities. While many of us were inspired by Hillary Clinton and the achievements women have made today, we know we have to do better. Women are tired of government not getting anything done, and that’s why we stepped up to lead this year. For me, public service was not just my only motivation. I want to show my children that you can achieve anything, and they have a future in Virginia.”

Although the women running recognize the importance of women’s voices being heard in Virginia, the policies and issues that they are interested in are at the heart of their decision to run. Another first time candidate, Linda Schlutz, for District 38, said the following:

“No matter the party, I am happy to see more women running for office—we have three Republican women running in Northern Virginia alone. What I am disappointed about is that the conversation around more women candidates is focused on ‘Resist’. When women are only positioned as ‘running to resist’, this diminishes their efforts. We should be seen as running to ‘Represent’. I want to believe that women, of both parties, are running because we want to make a difference in our communities and for our families. We want strong education, safety, and economic growth.”

This dedication to doing the work ahead is foundational to every woman who spoke on running for office.

Margaret B. Ransone, was one of the 29 women who ran for office in 2011. She was elected that year and represents the 99th district.

“There’s no difference for me as a woman,” said Ransone. “I am a parent, a spouse, and I work full time. I would say this is true for most here in Virginia serving as part time legislators. It’s a sacrifice for all of us, but it’s our sacrifice and commitment that keeps us honest in representing our community and our Commonwealth.”

Baskerville did note a difference between men and women in politics. She said that women were more likely to collaborate than their male colleagues.

“One of the things that I observed as far as the way women leaders work when looking at elected positions is that women were willing to talk across party lines at the state level, and at the local level women were more willing to work as a team,” said Baskerville. “It wasn’t about who got credit. It was about getting the job done. Getting the legislation passed.”

Women across the state are stepping up to face the challenges and sacrifices that come with public service, and as they do, women will be better represented across Virginia. The issues, the legislation, the policies ... this is the driving force behind Virginia’s women. If women are not represented in decision making, that disparity will be apparent in the legislation that is passed. So this year, as more women run, we will also begin to hear more of the authentic, knowledgeable and empathetic voices of Virginia’s women.

That 2011 day with Eva Scott we talked about her political career: her motivations, her failures, her successes. When I asked her about why women should run, she told me the following:

“Women sincerely believe in a cause,” Scott said. “Women go down with a cause, and they conscientiously believe in that as a reason for election and service.”

*Lydia Freeman is a teacher at KIPP ENC Public Schools in Gaston, North Carolina where she pushes sixth graders to think deeply and engage with historical, social and political spheres while practicing reading and writing. She writes often, engages deeply in conversation with friends, and strives to live purposefully in her community. ▣*

# Expanding Opportunity Together

By DOROTHY MCAULIFFE, FIRST LADY OF VIRGINIA

Over the past four years, we have been successful in expanding opportunities for all Virginians to access nutritious food and serve their communities through national service. We have also helped ensure that children in military families have the support and resources they need through their frequent school transitions. Below are a few of the accomplishments we have achieved in collaboration with public and private partners. With your advocacy, we can continue our progress on these issues in the years ahead.



## School Breakfast for Educational Success

With the School Nutrition Association of Virginia, we successfully advocated for General Assembly approval for \$2.7 million dollars in the Governor's budget, over three years, to help school divisions increase student access to school breakfast. This pool of funding has unlocked an additional \$22 million in annual federal reimbursement coming back to Virginia. 54% of schools receiving state funding in the first year increased the number of breakfasts served and improved in one or more SOL subjects. Virginia schools served 10 million more school breakfasts last school year compared to 2013.

## No Kid Hungry Virginia Campaign

We established a unique public-private partnership with the No Kid Hungry Virginia campaign, resulting in 2 million more afterschool meals and snacks per year and 297% growth in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) over three years. The CEP provides meals at no cost to every student in high need communities, reducing stigma, lightening the administrative burdens for school divisions, and building robust nutrition programs to support student education, health and well-being.

## Connecting Virginia's Food System

Serving as Chair of the Commonwealth Council on Bridging the Nutritional Divide, I worked with 43 stakeholders across the food system to create the Virginia Food Access Network ([www.vfan.org](http://www.vfan.org)), an interactive online resource designed to support organizations working on food issues with more than 30 data sets, geospatial mapping capabilities, and dozens of best-practice toolkits. The Council also achieved passage of a state income tax credit for farmers who donate excess crops to Virginia food banks, and launched an advocacy campaign for an investment fund to encourage grocery store expansion in Virginia's food deserts.

## Promoting National Service

In 2016, the Governor and I established Virginia as the nation's first state Employer of National Service, and in just two years, the number of national service alumni serving in Virginia state government has tripled. Additionally, we worked with Presidents Revely (William & Mary) and Alger (JMU) over the course of three higher education summits to inspire over 50 institutions to sign on to the "Compact on National Service," which will integrate service opportunities on college campuses.

## Military Child Identifier

As the Governor's designee to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in Virginia, I worked with stakeholders to ensure that military-connected children have smooth transitions in and out of Virginia schools. In 2015, we won approval for legislation to ensure school districts are aware of the number of uniformed services-connected students enrolled in their schools. This tracking helps inform policy and program decisions for this unique student population, and provides critical data for public and private grant funding to local school districts. ▮



# Virginia Women House Candidates 2017 *Identification key on page 15*





# Virginia's Growing Teacher Shortage Crisis

By DIETRA TRENT, VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Remember the teacher who changed the way you see the world, the one who taught you to love learning and fostered your intellectual curiosity? Mine was my first grade teacher, a woman who inspired a love of learning, made every child feel known and their talents appreciated, and expected academic excellence from all her students. She was also my Grandmother, and the profound impact she had on my life was compounded by her dual roles.

Now imagine what your life would be like if that teacher had never existed.

Unfortunately that is an increasingly common reality for students around the Commonwealth. We are facing a growing teacher shortage. Last year, statewide Virginia had more than 1,000 unfilled teaching positions as of October 1st, a number that has been rising for years. Meanwhile, enrollment in Virginia teacher preparation programs has fallen, as it has nationwide.

The teacher shortage looks slightly different in each region of the state, but the problem is growing throughout the Commonwealth. By sheer volume, our largest divisions have the greatest number of vacancies, but as a percentage of the total number of employed teachers, Region 8 (Buckingham south to Mecklenburg) has the deepest shortage, followed by Region 3 (the Northern Neck). Southwest needs high school math teachers, Northern Virginia needs special education teachers, and Hampton Roads needs elementary school teachers. But the numbers are climbing in many disciplines and many divisions.

The shortage is taking place as our overall student population continues to grow, the number of English language learners expands even more rapidly, and the number of students living in poverty climbs steadily—a trend that has mercifully begun to reverse in the last few years.

While the numbers and data are helpful in understanding changing trends and patterns, some of the anecdotes are more powerful. For example, if you were a 6th grader in Petersburg Public Schools last year, there wasn't a single day during the school year that you had a qualified math instructor teaching your math class. And yet, we expected you to pass your SOL test and advance to middle school math without any need for remediation.

The single biggest predictor of student success is access to quality instruction. Every child needs and deserves teachers who are qualified to help that student succeed at a particular age or in a particular discipline.



Genuine student-teacher relationships are a prerequisite for real learning, which is why it's also important that our children have teachers with whom they can identify. Research indicates that learning from racially diverse teachers can positively impact academic outcomes for students of color.

Unfortunately, Virginia's educators aren't often representative of the communities they teach. In fact, 21% of our educators are nonwhite, while 49% of our student population is nonwhite. This disparity poses a unique threat to the success of our students of color.

When talking about this issue with others, the first question I receive is typically: "Is this just a compensation issue?" The answer is partially yes, but we need to do more than just address compensation. Our teachers deserve better salaries, as well as access to scholarships, loan forgiveness, and other benefits that help lessen the financial burden so many of them experience.

But a desirable working environment and smooth licensure pathways into the profession must be considered too. Over the years, we have saddled teachers with the responsibility of administering an endless battery of standardized assessments to their students. We have emphasized rote learning and regurgitation over critical thinking and creative problem solving in the classroom. We have added to the licensure and recertification requirements, including a battery of standardized tests for prospective teachers themselves.

With all these challenges, is it really surprising that so many talented educators are leaving the classroom or, worse yet, never even getting there?

If there were a simple dollars and cents solution for these issues, the McAuliffe administration would have uncovered it. We fought hard to ensure teachers received a much-deserved raise and are proud of our historic investment in Virginia's public schools. But money alone can't fix this issue.

Fortunately, a vast coalition of advocates is fighting for Virginia's students and teachers.

The business community recognizes the impacts this issue could have on Virginia's future workforce and is working to find solutions. The Commonwealth's school board members, superintendents and principals are painfully aware of the unique shortages in their schools and are working creatively to address it in their communities. Our teacher preparation programs understand their models must adapt to meet the needs of a modern public education system.

As a state, our solutions must be as varied as the root causes of the problem. That's why I convened a state-wide task force to develop concrete plans to improve diversity in our educator pipeline. Additionally, at the Governor's request, the Virginia Board of Education and the State Council of Higher Education have partnered to assess and address the root causes of the teacher shortage, and we anticipate their preliminary report later this month. And in late October, the Governor and I will co-host a summit with the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education and UVA K-12 Advisory Council to discuss this complex issue and strategize about actions many different stakeholders can take to turn the tide.

Regardless of the outcome of the November election, I hope Virginia's next Governor will continue attacking this issue with every resource at his disposal. The Commonwealth's teacher shortage cannot be solved in a single budget cycle or administration, but our collective efforts will yield results. As long as we remain engaged and keep working together, I have every confidence we will overcome this challenge for our teachers, our students, and our future. ▮

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# Teaching the Best Profession

By DONNA WATSON

Teaching is a powerful profession, one that plants seeds of hope for the tomorrows beyond our lifetime. I am proud to be a part of that profession, first as a middle school math teacher, now with the great privilege to be a teacher of teachers. As the Dean of the School of Education at Bluefield College, and most recently King University, I have seen changes in the teaching profession with increased accountability, enormous challenges, and broader responsibilities.



Coupled with that reality is a persistent view that teaching is somehow an undesirable career choice, demonstrated every semester as teaching candidates tell me that they were urged to forget being a teacher and choose a career with more money and prestige.

Why would bright passionate committed individuals still choose teaching as a career, despite the challenges and the naysayers? From countless interviews of college sophomores and juniors for admission to the teacher education program, their initial leanings toward a career in teaching tend to be the inspiration of that one special teacher from their past who inspired them in a multitude of ways: taking extra time to make a difficult subject understandable, gently encouraging a hidden talent or interest, giving quiet space to process ideas, maintaining a higher standard than they thought they could achieve, serving as a warm supporter through difficult family times, or making a dry subject engaging and joyful. In short, being a caring adult with the sensitivity to understand the strengths and weaknesses of students and to develop those students beyond their own expectations sparked a desire in some students to become a teacher.

As candidates progress in the teacher education program, their ideas about why they want to be a teacher become thoughts about how they can impact the world through children and adolescents. To complete a "Why Teach?" bulletin board outside my office, I asked the student teachers this semester why they wanted to be a teacher. With their focus on the present and future, the answers of these nine soon-to-be-teachers were altruistic and idealistic, "To be an advocate," "To be a positive impact," "To be a light for children," "To love children and prepare them to believe they are capable," "To be a positive influence," "To be a mentor for students and share my love for math," "To inspire students," and "To get a daily opportunity to exchange ideas and thoughts." They also showed spiritual connections in comments such as, "It's my calling," "To fulfill my calling," and the joy of learning in "I am forever a student."

With teacher shortages increasing in the United States, how are we to convince these intelligent, enthusiastic, idealistic individuals that teaching is not only a worthy career choice, but a profession that is important for the good of society? How can we encourage college students to pursue that teaching license along with their bachelor's degree to achieve required high academic standards, find time to visit schools for necessary field experiences, take entry level assessments and licensure assessments totaling hundreds of dollars, and finish course work on time or early to student teach in their last collegiate semester? How can we support first year teachers who are often given the most challenging teaching assignments due to a seniority system within the school, who are finding their way with classroom management and time organization, and who often are not hired until just days before school starts?

College students who have chosen a path to teaching within a critical shortage area in Virginia benefit by the VTSLP (Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program): this important program should continue to be funded and even expanded when possible. In addition to this state program, districts with critical shortages of teachers could establish local scholarship loans to entice local capable young people to enter the teaching profession with a loan that is forgiven after years

of service to that district. Individuals who wish to honor a teacher who has made a difference for them could establish scholarships for teaching candidates in the junior and senior years at local colleges to help offset the expenses of the required assessments for licensure in addition to licensure application and graduation fees. In addition to monetary support, a class that provides an introduction to teaching at the high school level could extol benefits of a teaching license, opportunities for other careers within education, and the nature of a profession that can truly make a difference in this world.

Without question, first year teachers should be paid a living wage. But salary is only part of the equation in keeping novice teachers in the profession. Providing them with an effective mentor has a measurable impact on their ability to cope with the stresses of the first year and influences their willingness to remain in the profession. Beginning teachers have a probationary period that lasts for three years, enough time to work through challenges, but this should not be extended further. Beginning teachers should have enough security after 3 years to buy a home and become part of the community.

As you go about your work today, think back to the teachers who provided knowledge, skills, and guidance for you to succeed. Several years ago, I was in Walmart, and I spotted in the line in front of me my third-grade teacher, Mrs. Helen Boothe. She was confined to a wheel chair, and her daughter was helping her with a few items. Without thinking, I ran past people in front of me to throw my arms around her and give her a warm hug. I stood up and said to the line of people, "She was my third-grade teacher." They all smiled and nodded, no doubt remembering a precious teacher from their past.

*Donna Hardy Watson grew up in McDowell County, West Virginia, where she taught middle school mathematics for 16 years. She holds a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, M.S. from Radford University, and B.A. from Bluefield College. She is currently the Dean of the School of Education at King University in Bristol, TN, where she resides with husband Tim Keegan, two dogs, and a cat. She enjoys reading about and exploring Appalachia, as well as telling and listening to stories. ▣*



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# VEA 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*The Constitution of Virginia  
Article VIII, Section 1:*

*The General Assembly shall provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth, and shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained.*

**VEA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT:**

- Raises teacher pay to reach or exceed the national average, as the General Assembly unanimously voted to do in the 2017 session.
- Creates the kinds of supports and work environments that attract and keep high-quality teachers and school personnel.
- Fully funds the Standards of Quality to adequately pay for the education of Virginia's public school students, as the state's Board of Education has repeatedly requested.
- Increases the state's add-on contribution for at-risk students, which is currently one of the lowest in the country.

- Puts in place a teacher evaluation model that uses multiple measures, reduces reliance on standardized test scores, and accurately reflects a teacher's effectiveness.
- Implements and funds programs and resources proven to reduce suspensions and expulsions.
- Eliminates required reporting of Student Code of Conduct violations to law enforcement except when a felony is involved.
- Cuts the rate at which we incarcerate our young people and increases funding for restorative justice programs.

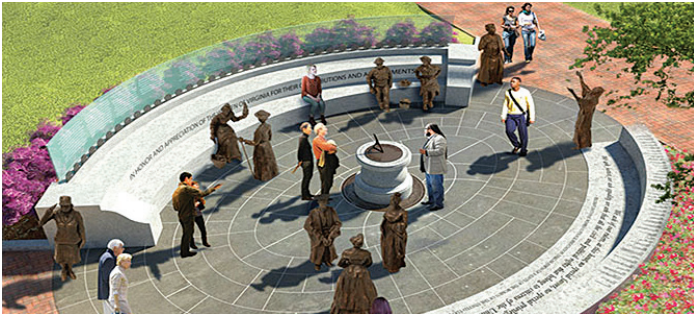
**VEA WILL INITIATE LEGISLATION TO:**

- Survey educators state-wide about school climate, using a reliable, nationally-validated survey.
- Implement recommendations from the Commission on Youth's 2007-2009 study on reducing long-term suspensions and expulsions—recommendations that have been ignored for years.

**VEA OPPOSES LEGISLATION THAT:**

- Undermines the state Board of Education's Constitutional authority to define the standards for a high-quality public education in our Commonwealth.
- Diverts public dollars to non-public schools.
- Transfers authority for granting charter schools away from local school boards.
- Damages educators' health or retirement benefits.





## Honoring The Contribution Of Women Throughout Virginia History

BY SUSAN ALLEN | CHAIRMAN, VIRGINIA CAPITOL FOUNDATION & FIRST LADY OF VIRGINIA, 1994-1998

I am delighted to share the news of a very special project, the Virginia Women's Monument. During my time as the First Lady of Virginia, living on the grounds of the Virginia Capitol, I came to love the wonderful oasis of green space and beautiful architecture within the Commonwealth's Capitol City. But it was hard to ignore the absence of historical markers honoring women represented on the grounds of the Capitol.

Several years ago, in response to the lobbying efforts of several determined women led by Em Bowles Locker Alsop, the Virginia Legislature and Governor formed a commission with the goal of planning and implementing a monument honoring the contributions of women on the grounds of the Capitol of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This monument will be the first of its kind to be built at any state capitol.

The Women's Monument aims to highlight important contributions of women in the male-dominated memorial landscape, and uplift these role-models and trail-blazers who deserve a place in Virginia's history. This monument will educate generations of Virginians about the contributions of women throughout the first 400 years of our Commonwealth.

The Women's Monument will include a memorial plaza with monuments to twelve amazing Virginia women. Details about these women can be found at, <http://womensmonumentcom.virginia.gov/>. The women honored with bronze statues include a Pamunkey chief, the first woman banker, a First Lady of the United States, a suffragist, and more. In addition, the monument will be encompassed by a glass wall with the names of 200-300 additional women who are noteworthy and important to Virginia's history.

The dedication of the Virginia Women's Monument has been selected by the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution, as one of their signature events during the celebration of Virginia's 400 years of making history, in 2019. Their generous financial investment, along with corporate and individual gifts, has allowed us to begin construction of the Women's Monument this year. To meet our goal of completion by 2019, we are now asking members of the public for support.

This year, the Cabell Foundation has selected the Women's Monument as the recipient of a matching grant. The Cabell Foundation will donate \$400,000 to the Women's Monument construction fund, but only after we raise \$800,000 in contributions from generous individuals. I hope you will consider making a gift in support of this worthy cause.

For details about the Women's Monument and for information on how to get involved, please visit: <http://womensmonumentcom.virginia.gov/>

*Raised in Charlottesville, Susan Allen served as First Lady of Virginia from 1994 to 1998. In that role, she worked on many initiatives including tourism, breast cancer awareness, and children's issues. Susan currently serves the Commonwealth of Virginia as the Chairman of the Virginia Capitol Foundation Board of Trustees. ▣*



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## Career and Technical Education: *Don't Leave High School without It!* By BRENDA LONG



The myriad Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities across Virginia—including CTE programs and courses in public secondary schools, work-based learning, career and technical student organizations, dual enrollment, Governor's STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Math] and Governor's Health Science Academies—provide students with avenues to acquire technical, academic, and employability skills that are essential not only for college and career success, but also to be “life-ready.”

Even before entering high school, every student can explore and analyze future career options through programs such as elementary career exploration, children's engineering, middle school CTE courses, career investigation, job shadowing, and mentorships. Whether a student plans to complete a four-year college degree, a two-year associate degree, or a one-year certificate program, CTE has it covered.

Statistics highlight the opportunities available for students enrolled in CTE courses: according to the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, the state will need qualified men and women to fill half a million new jobs created by 2022, while businesses need to fill another 930,000 jobs vacated primarily due to retirements.

How does CTE address these needs?

Virginia has 16 Career Clusters offering over 70 career pathways that are critical to preparing students for the 21st century workforce. CTE courses are available across Virginia's 132 school divisions that include 335 high schools, 326 middle schools, 47 school division centers, 22 Governor's STEM Academies, 8 Governor's Health Science Academies, 10 jointly operated regional CTE Centers, and 105 school divisions that offer CTE dual enrollment. In particular, STEM and Health Science Academies are designed to expand options for students to acquire STEM literacy, and technical knowledge and skills. They also develop partnerships between public schools divisions, health care institutions, the private sector, and higher education institutions by creating rigorous programs for students.

The CTE arm of the Virginia Department of Education partners with educators and experts from business and industry to update curricula and design dynamic, high-quality programs that meet current and projected workforce needs.

Most recently, this partnership aimed to address the critical need for a qualified workforce in Cybersecurity, resulting in the creation of a new Cybersecurity course to be implemented at the high school level this academic year. The course allows students to develop a strong foundation for a career that has over 30,000 jobs available in Virginia alone, and to gain knowledge and skills above and beyond entry-level requirements. Postsecondary institutions are also implementing Cybersecurity programs, for which students will be more than sufficiently prepared after undergoing this new course.

Virginia's future workforce must meet emerging needs and trends in high-tech, high-growth industries. This begins in our public schools as we equip students with relevant technical, academic, and workplace skills that prepare them for high-demand, high-wage, and high-skill careers.

Recent reports state that about 57 percent of the labor market comprises jobs requiring less than a bachelor's degree, but more

*Continued on next page*

# Public Safety Report

By **BRIAN MORAN, SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

On August 12, 2017, I was an eyewitness to one of the largest outpourings of hatred and violence in recent years when a “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville became violent. A group of neo-nazis and white supremacists from across the country descended upon Charlottesville with the stated goal of protesting the removal of the Robert E. Lee Monument from what is now Emancipation Park. Early on August 12, well before the rally was scheduled to begin, large numbers of protestors and counter-protestors gathered at Emancipation Park. Ultimately, the event quickly became violent and in the early afternoon, a domestic terrorist drove his vehicle into a crowd of people, killing Heather Heyer and injuring at least 19 others. Later, a Virginia State Police Helicopter crashed killing Troopers Burke Bates and Jay Cullen.



Leading up to the event, our state public safety officials worked with Charlottesville to support their preparation and response efforts, including intelligence gathering and information sharing. Governor McAuliffe received several briefings from his public safety team and was extremely concerned about the potential for violence at the rally. In fact, the Virginia Fusion Center briefed Charlottesville’s City Council. Because of the Governor’s concerns, he mobilized unprecedented resources to assist the City of Charlottesville, including the activation of the Virginia National Guard in preparation for the rally, which had not been done in preparation for civil unrest since the Bonus Army March of 1932.

Despite the significant state resources deployed to Charlottesville, including the Virginia National Guard, the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and even the Department of Corrections, the City of Charlottesville remained in control of the event from start to finish, as is standard protocol for a Unified Command structure. A Unified Command structure is used when more than one agency has a role or responsibility within the incident jurisdiction, or across jurisdictions, and facilitates collaboration among agencies to establish a common set of objectives and strategies.

In the days following the incidents in Charlottesville, the entire Commonwealth was shaken and reeling from the tragic events that occurred. Governor McAuliffe took immediate action and issued a statement on the next steps his administration would take to begin healing and recovering. It became clear that in order to ensure these types of incidents never occur in the Commonwealth again, we needed to look closely at what happened leading up to August 12, and our ability to respond to events of this nature. Additionally, it became clear that we needed to review the state’s permitting process for the Robert E. Lee Monument in Richmond, as several permits had been submitted for demonstrations on the grounds.

On August 18, the Governor signed Executive Order 67, which temporarily suspended permitting for the Lee Monument until the regulations could be reviewed, updated and adopted by the Department

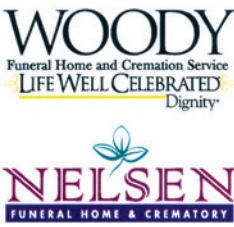
of General Services (DGS). On August 24, the Governor signed Executive Order 68, directing me to establish and chair the Task Force on Public Safety Preparedness and Response to Civil Unrest. The Task Force is charged with reviewing and updating the DGS regulations governing permitting at the Lee Monument pursuant to Executive Order 67, adopting a model permitting process for localities to consider, and reviewing the Commonwealth’s ability across all levels of government to prepare for and respond to incidents of civil unrest. The Task Force will also review the results of an independent After Action Review of the state’s actions leading up to and during the incidents in Charlottesville and make recommendations to the Governor.

The Task Force held its first meeting on September 12 and heard presentations from Rodney Smolla, First Amendment scholar and Dean of the Delaware School of Law, on First Amendment case law over the past century, as well as Jim Cervera, Chief of Police in Virginia Beach, on the City’s permitting and planning process for special events in his city. The Task Force will complete its work on November 17 and submit its final report to the Governor on December 1.

In addition to signing Executive Orders 67 and 68, Governor McAuliffe directed me to identify additional funding sources to prevent acts of domestic terrorism and violent extremism. In recent months, the Trump Administration has proposed significant cuts to critical counterterrorism funding that is used to address domestic terrorism and violent extremism. To ensure that these needs continue to be met in Virginia, the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) has made \$1.5 million available to law enforcement agencies and other public safety stakeholders through the federal Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program.

Grants funds are being offered to address youth engagement, as well as training for law enforcement and community partners on awareness of indicators of potential violence to include domestic terrorism, domestic extremism, hate groups, and community threat assessments. Additional information about the grants can be found on the DCJS website at [dcjs.virginia.gov](http://dcjs.virginia.gov) and applications will be due no later than November 6, 2017.

Virginia suffered tragic losses on August 12 of a young woman and two heroes. We continue to be proud of the men and women in uniform who risked their lives to protect us not only on August 12, but also every single day that they wake up and put their uniforms on. It is my sincere hope that our work will honor the memories of those we lost. ▮



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## Continued from previous page

than a high school diploma. In addition, according to a study by the Brookings Institution, 36 percent of STEM jobs require postsecondary credentials that CTE students can obtain within two years of high school graduation. Providing students with the opportunity to earn industry credentials in high school thus expands their options for employment and postsecondary education.

High school students can earn nationally recognized industry credentials in their CTE courses. In the 2016-2017 academic year alone, 157,490 students earned industry credentials and 42,313 took the Workplace Readiness Skills assessment. Over the past five years, students earned 70,942 Microsoft Imagine Academy certifications.

Many students enroll in more than one CTE course, and last year’s CTE enrollment was over 617,000!

There is a CTE career pathway for every student at the secondary level that will allow him or her to be a step ahead as he or she begins postsecondary education or enters the workforce—making each student not only college- and career-ready, but also life-ready.

Career and Technical Education: Don’t Leave High School without It!

*Dr. Brenda D. Long, Executive Director, Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education. ▮*

# Civic Education

By JIM DILLARD

The Virginia Commission on Civic Education was established by the General Assembly in 2005. Its goal is to prepare students to be active citizens and to give them the tools necessary to be effective participants in our society.

One of the Commission's first projects was to establish an annual teacher conference that is held each fall in the Virginia Capitol. Approximately 100 to 120 teachers attend this conference every November. Each year there is a different theme, such as, the "executive branch" or "legislative branch" and presentations on classroom activities such as helping teachers provide ways for practical civic engagement by students. Each conference provides teachers with materials and introductions to resources that promote civic learning.

In 2009 the Commission helped rewrite Virginia's Social Studies Standards of Learning that provide requirements for the teaching of social studies in grades K-12. More recently the Commission is helping define and incorporate elements of authentic service learning in the state's Standards of Accreditation to ensure that schools foster civic responsibility and learning and pursue academic excellence and continuous improvement while preparing their students for success in society.

A working subcommittee, a smaller group of six to eight former Social Studies teachers, Social Studies supervisors and representatives from public service organizations, performs much of the Commission's significant work. To emphasize inquiry, critical thinking skills and a political science approach to learning, the subcommittee revised the state Standards of Learning's skills required for Virginia and US Government and Civics.

A major concern of the Commission's subcommittee has been the de-emphasis of Social Studies in the school curriculum. We have seen both Social Studies and Science pushed aside as school divisions concentrated on Math and English. There has been much talk of preparing students for college and career without the mention of preparing our students to be active participants in our society. For the past two years, whenever college and career goals were discussed in Board meetings I would add that civic readiness should be included as equally important as career and college readiness. The Board members would nod heads in agreement and then go on to other items. During the June 2017 meeting of the Board, I, again, raised the issue of the importance of civic readiness. At this point a fellow Board member agreed and citizenship readiness was added as a key factor in the Profile of a Virginia Graduate.

At the same meeting, a major breakthrough for civic learning was established as citizenship readiness was added as a component of school accreditation. The Department of Education adopted the subcommittee's definition of service learning that will be used to determine if a school has met the requirement that their students be "citizenship ready."

The Commission's mandate was renewed during the 2017 session of the Virginia General Assembly. It is comprised of legislators and educators whose shared mission is to strengthen best practices in civic learning. Members of the Commission worked with the Department of Education to revise the 2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning with a focus on the middle school Civics and Economics course and the high school Virginia and United States Government course—long a credit required for graduation. The Commission works to give teachers online resources that provide evidence-based instructional strategies. The Commission wrote model policies that defined how current and



controversial issues can best be addressed in the classroom and how political campaigns can enhance civic understanding.

The Commission has worked with the DOE in professional development settings across the Commonwealth to illustrate how civic content knowledge and skills can be the focus of K-12 Social Studies.

As discussion continues to unfold at the state level, the Virginia Board of Education has chosen to reiterate the importance of this historic mission of public education. Citizenship readiness is explicit in the Standards of Accreditation—co-equal with the emphasis on preparation for college and career. The Board is in the process of redesigning the Standards of Accreditation for schools and also developing a Profile of a Virginia Graduate. As a former state legislator I introduced legislation to establish of the Virginia Commission on Civic Education. As a member of the Board of Education and the Commission I act as a liaison between the two groups. In developing the Profiles of a Virginia Graduate, the Board established four domains: Content Knowledge; Workplace Skills; Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility; and Career Exploration. These domains were for discussion and guidance, but were not part of the actual profile. The subcommittee of the Commission felt that the Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility section was too weak. The working group rewrote the domain for civics and presented it to the Board. While not officially adopted by the Board, the Department of Education will be incorporating the stronger language in the new Profile in the Standards of Accreditation.

The Commissions working group also pointed out to the Board that its goals did not include preparing students to be effective participants in our democratic process. Preparing students to be "citizenship ready" is now a goal the Board. The work of the Commission's working group is largely responsible for bringing about these significant inclusions of civic readiness in the Board's view of educational outcomes and the recognition of the importance of civic education.

As education leaders and policymakers continue to discuss how best public education can be advanced in the Commonwealth, those who advocate on behalf of the essential role of civic education should have a place at the table. The current discussion at the state level focuses on revisions to the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools. In this context, the Commission, working with the Department of Education and the Board, promotes civic education policy. A focus on community engagement and civic responsibility makes explicit civic learning connections; reflects the content knowledge, skills and dispositions citizenship readiness requires; and emphasizes inquiry-based instruction, informed action, and application to real-world civic issues.

The Commission is up for reauthorization this session. Civic Leaders in Virginia feel the work of the Commission is critical and want the Commission to continue as a separate Commission and not merged with another group.

*Dillard received his BA History, W&M, MA Political Science American University Married 62 years to HS sweetheart, Joyce, four daughters, Teacher and principal Fairfax Co. 30 years, House of Delegates 32 years, Board of Education presently serving. Worldwide big boat sailor and small boat racer, Antique car owner, woodworker and carver. 📧*

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# Making a Difference in Petersburg Schools

Petersburg City Public Schools continues to recruit teachers in a variety of ways:

- Proactively recruiting and starting to recruit early
- Using social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) to recruit applicants
- Working with VSU, Richard Bland and community colleges to employ professors and adjunct professors as part-time teachers
- Working with VCU to create teacher residency program
- Hiring retired teachers to return to the classroom while retaining their full retirement benefits
- Working with VCU doctoral students on research projects to seek additional recruitment ideas and to improve support for teachers

The school system's outreach to professors and adjunct professors was significantly aided by an Aug. 21 letter from Governor Terry McAuliffe that said, in part:

"Petersburg's public schools are still facing a severe teacher shortage. As you know, Southcentral Virginia boasts some of the finest colleges and universities in the nation, each with a deep pool

of talented education professional. I am asking you you're your colleagues to help fill vacant teaching positions."

"The children of Petersburg are excited and ready to embark on their educational journey, but they need teachers to show them the way to provide the quality instruction that will teachers to show them the way and provide the quality instruction that will change their lives. If you hold a Bachelor's degree or higher in Math, English, History, Special Education, or Business disciplines, you can assist by teaching a class at the elementary or secondary level."

"We are committed to making your participation as easy as possible. You will be provided the training and ongoing support necessary to make your classroom experience a success. The school division will apply your teaching license and compensate you with approximately \$5,400 per course each semester."

The governor's letter spurred a great deal of interest and lots of job applications that the school system is evaluating while matching the availability of applicants with the needs of schools.

For more information or to apply for a job, go to [www.petersburg.k12.va.us](http://www.petersburg.k12.va.us).

## Virginia Women House Candidates 2017

The numbers below correspond to House Districts. (a) and (b) are use to distinguish between two candidates running in the same district.

- |                               |                                   |                                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Alicia D. Kallen (D)       | 39. Vivian E. Watts (D)*          | 75. Roslyn C. Tyler (D)*        |
| 2. Jennifer Foy (D)           | 41. Eileen Filler-Corn (D)*       | 81. Kimberly Tucker (D)         |
| 7. Flo Marie Moore Ketner (D) | 42. (a) Kathy Tran (D)            | 82. Leigh Anne Bowling (D)      |
| 9. Stephanie C. Cook (D)      | 42. (b) Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R) | 84. Veronica Coleman (D)        |
| 10. Wendy Gooditis (D)        | 46. Charniele Herring (D)*        | 85. Cheryl Turpin (D)           |
| 13. Danica Roem (D)           | 51. Hala S. Ayala (D)             | 86. (a) Jennifer B. Boysko (D)* |
| 17. Djuna Osborne (D)         | 55. Morgan K. Goodman (D)         | 86. (b) Linda C. Schulz (R)     |
| 20. Michele Edwards (D)       | 56. Melissa M. Dart (D)           | 88. Amanda M. Blalock (I)       |
| 21. Kelly Fowler (D)          | 62. Sheila Bynum-Coleman (D)      | 92. Jeion Antonia Ward (D)*     |
| 22. Kathy J. Byron (R)*       | 63. Lashrecse Aird (D)*           | 93. Heather Cordasco (R)        |
| 23. Natalie Short (D)         | 64. (a) Rebecca Colaw (D)         | 94. Shelly Simonds (D)          |
| 25. Angela Lynn (D)           | 64. (b) Emily Brewer (R)          | 95. Marcia S. "Cia" Price (D)*  |
| 27. Roxann L. Robinson (R)*   | 66. Katie Ann Sponsler (D)        | 96. (a) Kelly DeLucia (D)       |
| 31. Elizabeth R. Guzman (D)   | 67. Karrie Delaney (D)            | 96. (b) Brenda Pogge (R)*       |
| 33. Tia Walbridge (D)         | 68. Dawn Adams (D)                | 97. Cori Johnson (D)            |
| 34. (a) Kathleen Murphy (D)*  | 69. Betsy Carr (D)*               | 98. Sheila Crowley (D)          |
| 34. (b) Cheryl Buford (R)     | 70. Delores L. McQuinn (D)*       | 99. Margaret B. Ransone (R)*    |
| 38. Kaye Kory (D)*            | 73. Debra H. Rodman (D)           | <i>*indicates incumbent</i>     |



# This Week in RICHMOND

## VIEWING SCHEDULE

**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.

**WBRA** (Roanoke, Lynchburg) — To be scheduled

**ARC TV** (Southwest Virginia)  
Wednesday 1:30 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.

**Norfolk's Neighborhood Network**, TV-48 — Sunday through Thursday 5 a.m. and again at 8:30 p.m. • Thursday & Friday at 10 p.m. • Saturday at 5 p.m.

**Suffolk Network**, TV-190 — 8:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. daily

Weekly show information is on Facebook — **THIS WEEK IN RICHMOND**  
Past shows may be found on YouTube.  
For more information: <http://ideastations.org/tags/week-richmond>

The Barter Theater was opened in Abingdon Va in 1933...during the Depression.



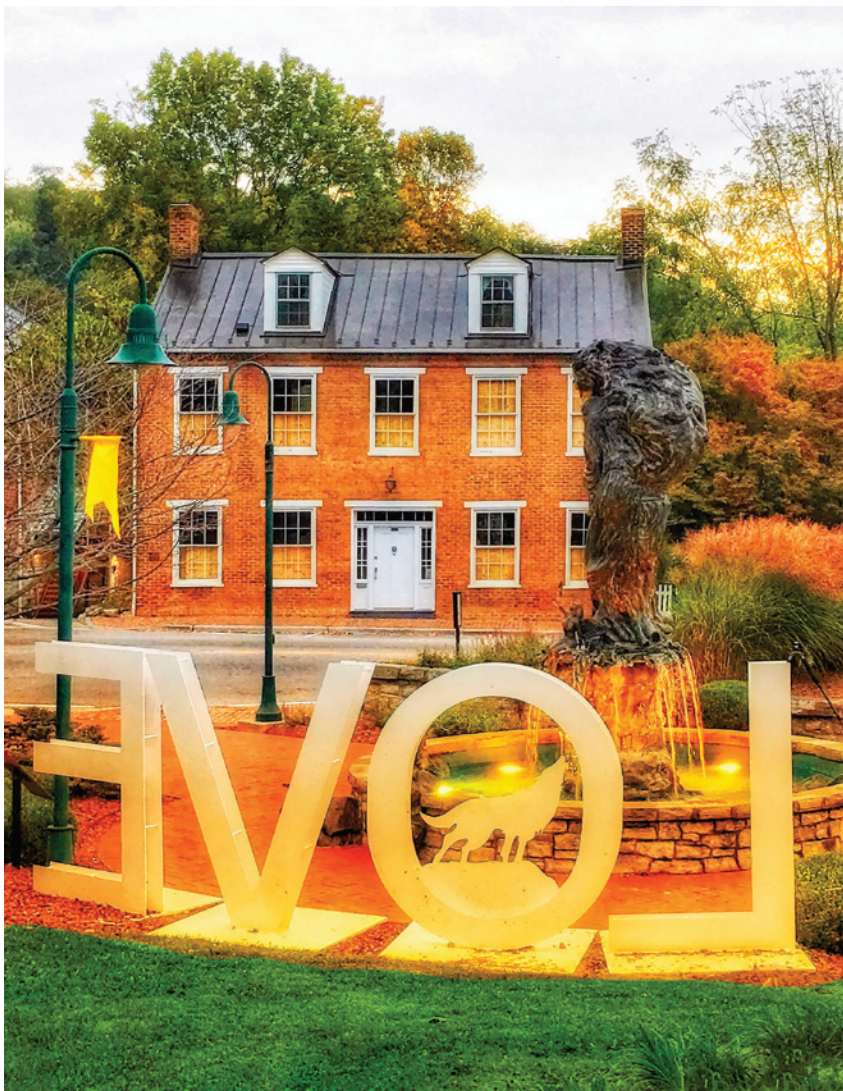
≡ The State Theatre Of Virginia ≡

[www.wandajudd.com](http://www.wandajudd.com)

Daniel Boone named the place by wolves while hunting.



The Martha Washington



THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF Wanda Judd

The Backside of Love...in Abingdon Va.







In Inn...since 1935



◀ Historic District in Abingdon Va. ▶

# VOLSAP Board Seeks Volunteers' Feedback

By PATRICIA S. BISHOP, CHAIR OF THE VOLSAP BOARD

If you are a volunteer firefighter or rescue squad worker in the Commonwealth of Virginia, you may be eligible to participate in a program that provides an optional savings opportunity as a reward for your volunteer service. The program, more commonly known as VOLSAP, is the Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Program. The VOLSAP Board is currently seeking your feedback on potential changes to the program and requests that participants, as well as participating volunteer departments and sponsoring localities, take a moment to fill out a brief survey at [www.volsap.org/pcs](http://www.volsap.org/pcs).



## How the Program Works

Established in 1999 to recognize the invaluable efforts of Virginia's volunteer first responders, VOLSAP allows participating volunteers to save money in a dedicated account. The account is funded by you at \$30 per quarter, an amount that is set by the VOLSAP Board. In addition, your department and locality may provide a matching contribution. Over the course of your volunteer career, the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) invests these after-tax contributions alongside the VRS Trust Fund, a diversified portfolio. Upon satisfying the applicable age and service provisions, you may receive a distribution of your account. Distributions are made only once per year, and distribution requests are due by June 10 each year.

## Give Your Feedback

The VOLSAP Board is considering an adjustment to the quarterly \$30 participant contribution, which has not changed since the program's inception. In an effort to allow participants to save more over the course of their volunteer careers, the VOLSAP Board requests your feedback on a proposal to transition to a tiered contribution approach. For example, instead of a set amount of \$30 per quarter for everyone, a participant could have the option to choose from different quarterly contribution levels (e.g., \$30, \$60 or \$90). Any change, if adopted, would not take effect until July 1, 2018, at the earliest.

In addition to feedback from participants, the VOLSAP Board also requests responses from representatives of volunteer departments and sponsoring localities with regard to any potential impact related to the proposed change to the contributions made through the program.

**To participate in the brief survey, please visit [www.volsap.org/pcs](http://www.volsap.org/pcs). You can also access the survey from the homepage of the VOLSAP website at [www.volsap.org](http://www.volsap.org).**

## Learn More

The VOLSAP website is also a great place to learn more about the program. Informational material and program forms can be printed directly from the website, and you will also find contact information for the VOLSAP third-party administrator (BPS&M, a Wells Fargo company). If you have questions about the program or your account, please contact BPS&M at 1-844-749-1819 and leave a voicemail. Your call will be returned within two business days. You can also email your questions to [volsap@bpsm.com](mailto:volsap@bpsm.com).

Thank you for your service to your community. The VOLSAP Board looks forward to receiving your feedback on the proposed changes.

*Trish Bishop serves as the Director of the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), a \$74.4 billion public employee retirement system*

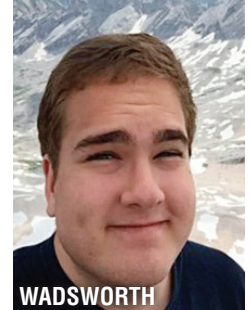
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# Pipeline Politics

By WILLIAM WADSWORTH AND STEPHEN J. FARNSWORTH

Virginians favor construction of two large natural gas pipelines in the state, but hostility to the pipelines by many Democrats creates a potential problem for Ralph Northam's gubernatorial campaign.

While 51 percent of Virginians support construction of the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley pipelines, only 33 percent of self-identified Democrats back the projects, according to a September University of Mary Washington Virginia survey of 1,000 adults.



WADSWORTH

Tom Perriello emphasized his opposition to the pipelines during his unsuccessful run for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination campaign. In contrast, Northam has been noncommittal, saying that the projects should meet environmental standards and that the decision whether or not to proceed is in the hands of federal, not state, officials.

In what polls show is a close race for governor, Northam cannot afford to have any Democratic voters noncommittal towards him.

This is especially true when it comes to young adults and college students, who often form the core of any campaign's get out the vote efforts and can make the difference in what now looks like a close election. Any reduced enthusiasm among younger voters, who the survey found were far more likely to oppose the pipelines than were older voters, makes maximizing Democratic turnout that much more difficult for Northam's campaign.

Of course, Northam won the nomination despite Perriello's efforts to emphasize their differences on the pipeline projects. Environmental donors have contributed to the Northam campaign, even though many environmental groups oppose the project, as do many property owners whose land the pipelines will cross.

Top environmental donor Tom Steyer has publicly pledged \$2 million from his NextGen America PAC to get the Democratic statewide ticket elected. Much of that money will be spent getting millennials on college campuses to vote. Whether these efforts prove successful remains to be seen, but Steyer's commitment provides Northam with opportunities to connect with younger voters who might have preferred Perriello in the past and a stronger anti-pipeline stance from Northam in the present.

The enthusiasm among some environmental donors may encourage sympathetic voters to imagine that Northam will become more anti-pipeline after the election. In addition, the limited focus on the pipeline projects so far during the fall campaign may convince Democratic and independent voters opposed to the pipeline to support Northam for other reasons.

Given the advantages Republicans historically have had in the state, many Virginia Democrats favor more centrist appeals rather than the full-throated liberalism that may form the core of many Democratic appeals in more northern states. The party has succeeded when Democrats draw attention to divisive social issues, when tend to be more problematic for Republican statewide candidates. Four years ago, for example, Terry McAuliffe defeated Ken Cuccinelli by 2.5 percentage points in a combative campaign that focused on the Republican's conservative record.

This time, Gillespie stayed away from the sorts of divisive social issues that hobbled the GOP ticket in 2013 as well as in the gubernatorial contests of 2005 and 2001. Gillespie does have to face the headwinds caused by President Trump, who has the support of 37 percent of Virginians.

The impact that the pipelines will have on the 2017 Virginia governor's race remains to be seen, but Democrats would be wise to remember that statewide elections in Virginia are always close,

*Continued on next page*

# New Virginia Veteran and Family Support Initiative Offers Resources for Justice-Involved Veterans

By DONNA HARRISON

Virginia is once again leading the way by providing innovative assistance to its veteran population. In this case, the Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program (VVFS) has established a new veteran outreach initiative designed to assist justice involved veterans. (JIVs)



## What is a Justice Involved Veteran?

A justice-involved veteran (JIV) is defined as a U.S. military veteran detained by, or under the supervision of, the criminal justice system which includes arrests, diversion programs, adjudication, incarceration, and supervision. A 2012 U.S. Department of Justice report found that an estimated 181,500 veterans were incarcerated in state and federal prisons and local jails. Overall, incarcerated veterans represent approximately 8 % of the total inmate population in the U.S.

There are many paths that lead to a veteran's involvement in the criminal justice system. Many veterans have "invisible wounds" that manifest into other issues that steer them to the criminal justice system. JIVs often have untreated mental illness and substance use disorders. Several studies have shown that a large number of JIVs have had at least one lifetime traumatic experience including nonmilitary (e.g. childhood abuse, assault) and military (e.g., combat, military sexual trauma). Veterans often feel guilt and shame once entering the justice system and face many barriers to housing, employment, benefits, and medical and behavioral health treatment upon reintegration.

The ultimate goal of this new initiative is to provide resource connections, care coordination, behavioral health and rehabilitative support and services for JIVs. VVFS provides outreach and supportive services to JIVs in courts, jails, and correctional facilities regardless of their discharge status. In addition, VVFS conducts comprehensive assessments and coordinates direct linkages to identified services including behavioral healthcare, rehabilitative services, veterans' benefits, housing, employment, and other public and private assistance programs by working closely with local, state, and federal partners.

## What are the strengths identified for JIVs that assist with reintegration?

JIVs possess many strengths and resilience factors that play a critical role in helping them reintegrate back into the community. Recent studies have noted that they usually have higher levels of education than other justice-involved individuals and possess a strong work ethic. Research has also shown that JIVs have individual skill sets from prior work and/or military experience that help make them more marketable to employers.

## VOLSAP from previous page

that provides benefit administration for more than 687,000 public members and beneficiaries, including several retirement plans, insurance programs and disability programs. Before joining VRS, Trish served as a staff member of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), the Senate of Virginia, and in the executive branch of the Commonwealth. During her 24-year public service career, Trish has been active in a number of professional and community organizations, such as the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES), Central Virginia Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), and the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA). [V]

## What is Virginia doing to Help Justice Involved Veterans with Reintegration?

### Breaking the cycle

One of the best ways to break the cycle of justice-involvement is to prevent it in the first place. Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT's) and efforts such as veteran dockets provide opportunities to divert veterans away from the criminal justice system. VVFS offers CIT training from a military perspective to Virginia's first responders in order to help them develop strategies when working with veterans in crisis. Police officers utilize these strategies to prevent the possible arrest of veterans and divert them to treatment and services.

### The Role of Veteran Docket and Track Teams

VVFS also participates on veteran docket and track teams. Veteran dockets/tracks are court dockets designed to link veterans to treatment and other supportive services in lieu of incarceration. VVFS staff, along with the veteran docket court judge, program coordinator, law enforcement, probation officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, veteran service providers, veteran mentors, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, sit on these docket teams to provide resource connections and services for JIVs.

Here is a recent example of a veteran track team success: A veteran was in the Veteran's Track with the Hampton Drug Court and participating in the program. A basic requirement of the program is that the veteran needs to be housed and employed in order to remain in the program. VVFS was contacted by the Veteran's Track Coordinator who shared that one of their Veteran's Track enrollees had lost their job and was in danger of being evicted from their housing where they were also receiving support for substance abuse.

VVFS was able to pay the rent for their housing and provided support funds so that the veteran could purchase an appropriate outfit for upcoming interviews. By the time the next rental payment was due, the veteran was re-employed and able to support their own housing. This veteran successfully completed the Veteran's Track requirements and is now gainfully employed, a win for Virginia and the veteran.

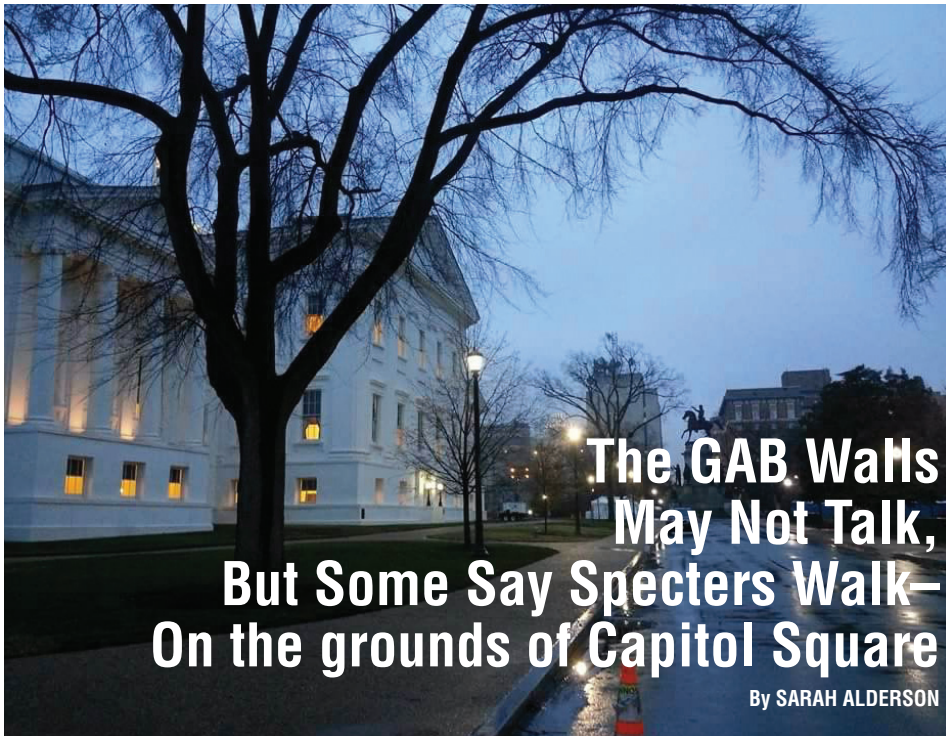
*Donna Harrison serves as the Criminal Justice Coordinator for the Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and is the daughter of an Army veteran. Questions? Reach out to Donna at Donna.Harrison@dvs.virginia.gov. [V]*

## Pipeline from previous page

and that any self-inflicted wounds are never helpful. Northam holds a slight advantage overall in the half-dozen or so polls conducted at this point in this election, but as past elections have shown, both parties have little margin for error in the Commonwealth.

*William Wadsworth is a senior political science major at the University of Mary Washington and a research associate at its Center for Leadership and Media Studies. Stephen J. Farnsworth is professor of political science at UMW and the center's director.*

*The University of Mary Washington's Virginia Survey Fall 2017 obtained telephone interviews with a representative sample of 1,000 adults, ages 18 or older, living in Virginia. Telephone interviews were conducted by landline (350) and cell phone (650, including 352 without a landline phone). The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). Interviews were done in English under the direction of Princeton Data Source from September 5 to 12, 2017. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is  $\pm 3.8$  percentage points. [V]*



## The GAB Walls May Not Talk, But Some Say Specters Walk— On the grounds of Capitol Square

By SARAH ALDERSON

Watching shadows fall across the grass as the day fades away, taking note of lights beginning to glow in the windows at dusk, walking through mist on a foggy morning, or waiting for the sun to come up at the dawn of another day—if any of us takes time out of our busy lives, we can enjoy moments like this almost anywhere.

While working for the Capitol Studios, I've been fortunate enough to glimpse images like this around Capitol Square when working late after streaming a regular General Assembly Session, getting ready for a satellite uplink with a legislator in the early morning, loading equipment after dark for a State of the Commonwealth speech, or waiting in the early morning fog to broadcast the festivities on Inauguration Day. These images can be beautiful and memorable, and I've captured some on camera. They can even be a little spooky, but I've always considered them normal. I've never seen anything that I thought was out of the ordinary.

Only a few who work around Virginia's Capitol experience these types of visuals on a regular basis—and sometimes a whole lot more. These men and women have collectively explored every nook and cranny in every building nearby at every time of day or night to keep the rest of us safe. So it would make sense that they might see, hear and experience more than the average person who works there...especially during the appropriately nicknamed "Graveyard Shift."

They are Virginia's Capitol Police, members of the nation's oldest police agency, originally established in 1618 for the protection of the Colonial Governor of Jamestown, the first permanent English Settlement. This group still watches over the Virginia General Assembly, the oldest

elected legislative body in North America, as well as Mr. Jefferson's Capitol, which has served as Virginia's seat of government since 1788. And they still protect the Governor and his family at Virginia's Executive Mansion, the oldest governor's residence in the country. So at the very least, the organization itself has been the eye-witness to a whole lot of history.

The Capitol Police are also probably the most familiar with the ghost stories that accompany their beat, but most people who've worked in the area have heard at least some of the tales as well. I had really only heard that there WERE interesting stories, but I didn't know many specifics until now. The sights and sounds over the years have included shadows where they shouldn't be, lights where they couldn't be, disembodied footsteps, walking apparitions, faces in mirrors, whispering voices, cool spots—and yes, even things that go bump in the night.

For me, the quest to find out more started with the imminent demolition of the former General Assembly Building. I had wondered if any ghost stories were connected to it. As it turned out, I couldn't find any. But even though there seemed to be no spirit activity in the GAB, everyone I talked to knew about sightings in other buildings nearby. It turns out that haunting tales can be found everywhere else around Capitol Square.

Nearly every person I interviewed for the last article answered my initial questions with



something along the lines of "I haven't heard any at the GAB, but I have about the Capitol and the Governor's Mansion." Or "You should tell the one about Old City Hall." Or the Supreme Court Building. Or even the grounds itself. So, of course, I knew that I would have to write a follow up. The fall issue seemed an appropriate time to do it.

While it seemed that everyone had heard stories, only a few hinted that they might have witnessed anything unusual themselves. And when it came time to for them to be shared with me for the article, I didn't end up with many details. However, many suggested that I read the book, "Policing the Paranormal—The Haunting of Virginia's State Capitol Complex" written by a former member of the Capitol Police, Paul Hope. And finally, one Capitol Police friend told me to read the chapter that he himself had contributed.

So I got the book, and it was definitely interesting. If you haven't read it already, I recommend adding it to your fall reading list. According to Hope, many members of the force as well as other regular employees and inhabitants have experienced numerous unexplained incidents over the years—not just alone, but also in small groups. They've learned to take it all in stride.

Ghost stories usually materialize in places that have not only seen a lot of history, but also experienced tragedy. And Capitol Square has certainly had its share of both. The Capitol and the Governor's Mansion were still standing after departing Confederate troops burned the city's warehouses and factories, and I didn't find any stories with overt connections to the war. But there was a story of a young woman dying in the Mansion sometime during the Civil War era after falling from a horse-drawn carriage.

In April 1870, during a Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals hearing, the Capitol building experienced its greatest tragedy when the gallery in a large courtroom on the second floor collapsed and fell to the main floor under the weight of several hundred people who had gathered to watch. The sudden impact then caused the courtroom floor to give way and fall 40 feet into the House of Delegates chamber below, killing 62 people and injuring another 251.

In February of 1972, the current Virginia Supreme Court Building was Richmond's U.S. Federal Reserve Bank. One of the bank's security officers was killed by another member of the bank's guard in a shoot-out in the basement. Several other officers were injured, too.

And in January of 1989, a groundskeeper was brutally murdered in the Carriage House behind the Mansion by another groundskeeper.

None of these stories seem to be directly linked to the ghost stories that have followed, except possibly the Mansion's woman in white and the Capitol's disembodied voices.

See *The GAB Walls*, continued on page 23

# BC Gives Away MBA Tuition Waiver By CHRIS SHOEMAKER

Helping students understand and fulfill their calling is part of the Bluefield College mission. Making higher education more accessible to students of the region is also a BC cause. And there's no other person happier about those two things than Natachia Neal, a single mother of two who recently won a full tuition waiver for Bluefield's new online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, giving her an opportunity she might not have ever had to fulfill her dreams.

A native of Bluefield, Virginia, Neal attended Graham High School and Bluefield State College before starting a family in Bluefield, West Virginia. While furthering her higher education was always in the back of her mind, the possibility of that became virtually impossible, she said, when her sons lost their father, and she suddenly became their sole provider.

"Their father passed away about 11 years ago," recalled Neal. "They were just about three and seven (years old) at the time. I didn't have life insurance. It was like completely starting over as a single parent, raising two boys on my own. It was tough, but you get through it, and you're a better person for it."

Neal said she made ends meet and provided for her boys working 12 years as a technician at Bluefield Regional Medical Center. Now just recently a corrections officer at the Pocahontas State Correctional Center in Tazewell County, Virginia, she said she's been thinking even more about going back to college, even looking into the prison's payback options for higher education for employees.

"But even that's hard," said Neal. "As a single mom, you just don't have the funds to pay to go to college, even if they're going to be reimbursed. My oldest son is 18 now, and he's getting ready to go to college. I have to think about him first and make sure he has a good foundation before I think about myself."

That's why Neal decided to submit her name for a Bluefield College drawing to win free tuition for its new MBA. The college offered the opportunity during the Graham-Bluefield football game at Mitchell Stadium on August 25. As a scholarship sponsor for the annual event, the college gives a \$1,000 scholarship to an outstanding student-athlete from both the Bluefield and Graham football teams. This year, however, BC

decided to take its generosity to a new level, giving away the full tuition waiver, which Neal won.

"It's a blessing this happened," said Neal. "This will now make it a reality for me. I don't think I could have done it without this. It's definitely made it possible for me. I've always asked my boys to go to college. What better way to encourage that than to go back, myself?"

Bluefield College's new online MBA is slated to begin in January 2018, pending official approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), and will have concentrations in leadership, finance, and healthcare management.

"This new MBA targets industries — healthcare and finance — where qualified people are needed that believe in serving others and transforming the world," said Dr. Sharon Perot, dean of BC's College of Professional Programs. "It is different from others because all students participate in service learning community-based projects at either a business, community center, state agency, or non-profit organization."



# BLUEFIELD

C O L L E G E

Dr. Perot also noted that students in the new MBA program will gain a worldview through participation in Net Impact, a community of more than 60,000 students and professional leaders across the world committed to

creating positive social and environmental change in the workplace and the world.

"Bluefield College is committed to the idea of improving lives through education, and our new MBA program prepares students to do just that," said Michael White, BC's vice president for enrollment management. "And this opportunity (the full tuition waiver) makes affording a private education more accessible than ever before. We believe in our Appalachian community and stand with it as it soars to new heights."

For more information about the Bluefield College MBA, contact the Admissions Office by phone at 800-872-0175 or by email at [admissions@bluefield.edu](mailto:admissions@bluefield.edu), or visit the BC web site at [bluefield.edu/mba](http://bluefield.edu/mba).

*Chris Shoemaker is the Director of Marketing and Communications at Bluefield College.*

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# Election Day 2017, your town, your polling place

By TRACY HOWARD

You enter a familiar building, follow the signs, pull out your driver's license and hand it to the person seated behind a small computer. They ask for your name and address, repeat it then hand you a ticket.

You swap the ticket for a ballot card; you are directed to a little cardboard booth, fill in a few ovals and put the now marked ballot into something that looks like a computer resting on a fancy trash can.

DING! Someone hands you an "I VOTED" sticker. You go on your way. To most Virginians this amounts to Election Day.

There may have been a short wait of a few minutes if you went right before work or during lunch, but in a process that was both relatively simple and speedy, you have exercised the most revered and precious of all American rights.

Easy, huh?

From a voter's singular viewpoint it can be difficult to imagine that Election Day is the very public culmination and highly scrutinized climax of months of effort.

"What?!?! You mean you guys work more than one day a year?? What do you do the rest of the year??"

Well, since you've asked... The Elections Office in your county or city is there for you 5 days a week, 8 hours a day working to ensure that your vote counts. As we approach any given Election Day, all offices are open six days a week.

Virginia's voter rolls are quickly approaching 5.5 million individuals. Voter registration is now available 24 hours a day 365 days a year. In addition to your Elections Office you may register online, at DMV, in public libraries, colleges, high schools, through third party groups, and any place that offers a state service. What you may not know is that every single application, electronic or paper, taken through any of these sources goes through the hands of your local general registrar and staff. EACH AND EVERY ONE.

In 2016 Virginia's local registrar's offices handled 3,196,780 individual applications. You can see for yourself at the Department of Elections website: <http://www.elections.virginia.gov/resultsreports/dataproject/VoterRegistrationActivity.html>



These applications include new voters, out of locality transfers, address changes, name changes, and updates. Each of these applications was individually scrutinized and processed by a real person in a local elections office somewhere between Cumberland Gap and Chincoteague. Yes, it's a full time job, no matter where you are.

Even as the registration process for the public has gotten much easier, the behind the scenes preparation leading up to what the world sees as a one day event, has gotten much more complex.

Elections are now among the most litigated and legally complicated of any service offered by your Commonwealth.

Holding an election is a team effort. Every county or city has a three member Electoral Board who is responsible for the administration and oversight of the election itself. They appoint the Election Officers, record the results then report to the Commonwealth. Many of these duties are delegated to the general registrar as the Director of Elections. The larger localities have a staff and several workers, but for most of Virginia it's the Registrar, the three member board and an assistant or two.

For your local elections team, an "election" is actually comprised of a three or four month period immediately prior to any given Election Day. So, how many elections are possible in a 365 day period? Yes, it's a trick question.

We all know there is an election every November in all Virginia counties and cities. It's probable that every locality will hold two elections, and it is not unheard of for a Virginia locality to hold three or four elections in a calendar year. In 2016 many Virginia localities had five separate elections, and for many localities in 2018 there are already three elections scheduled.

As each election begins several months before Election Day they often overlap. Absentee voting for the next election may have begun before the current Election Day. Our offices are preparing ballots for the June primary while absentee voting for the May local Election. We'll be checking candidate petitions for a November race, while holding a June primary. List maintenance is ongoing throughout the year only stopping for a short time before a specific Election Day. Even after a given election is over and the news has announced the winners, it isn't complete, the canvass and reconciliation can run for seven days. Recounts can take an additional month.

"Wow that sounds expensive; I guess the state takes care of that?"

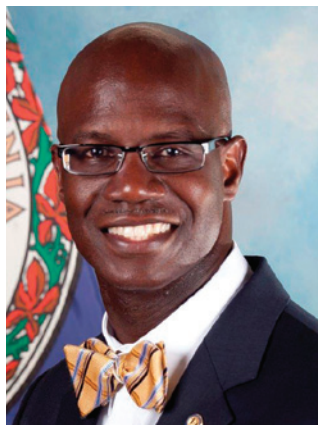
Yes it is expensive, no the state puts very little into your local elections office.


The question of who pays for elections always results in the inevitable local vs. state struggle. The local governments foot the bill with very little local governing authority.

*Continued on next page*

## Two New Cabinet Members

On September 3, 2017, **Carlos Hopkins** was appointed Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. He previously served as Counsel to the Governor. Prior to this he served as a Deputy City Attorney in Richmond. Before joining the City Attorney's Office, Carlos operated a small, private practice. He served as the Training Director for the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, and as a Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney in Richmond. In addition to his civilian legal experiences, Carlos holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Virginia Army National Guard. Carlos received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and holds a law degree from the University of Richmond.



**Noah Sullivan**, a native of Lynchburg, VA was first appointed to the Governors staff in 2015 as Deputy Counsel. Sullivan was appointed to Counsel of the Governor in 2017 when Carlos Hopkins was appointed to replace John Harvey as Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. Sullivan holds a Bachelors of Arts in Government from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School. Prior to being appointed to Deputy Counsel in 2015 Sullivan was an associate at the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Washington DC. 



## The GAB Walls from page 20

Various sightings at the Executive Mansion include one by a previous Governor early on who had seen an apparition of a woman in white in an upstairs bedroom. In fact, it's been reported that every Governor who has lived in the mansion, as well as some visitors and a Governor's young grandson, have reported similar experiences. And one Capitol Policeman who saw the apparition face-to-face immediately quit his job. Others have reported seeing a woman's face in an antique mirror in the house, and a couple of other odd sightings have involved a butler in uniform.

John McKee was the officer who told me to check out his story in the book, called "A Mysterious Light." The incident he experienced involved the sound of footsteps in the darkened Mansion and an inexplicable bright stream of light that cascaded across the top of the stairs. The story was corroborated by another officer on site that night.

Another Capital Police Officer friend, John Nicholson, contributed a story called "Moving Furniture." He had heard what sounded like furniture being moved in the Old Governor's Office in the empty Mansion and after thoroughly checking, could find no reasonable explanation.

Not surprisingly, the Old House Chamber and the surrounding area in the Capitol provide the setting for many unusual sights and sounds. More than one witness has seen a phone sitting on the hostess desk move of its own volition. And several have heard voices coming from the closed and locked room.

The book is filled with all of these stories and more - too many to cover in this one article. The Virginia Supreme Court Building, Old City Hall, and the buildings on Morrison Row behind the Governor's Mansion all have their own tales to tell as well.

So remember, if you're walking around Capitol Square and begin to notice abnormal shadows behind you, strange lights that shouldn't be there, an isolated mist nearby, or disembodied voices in an empty room, it could just be your imagination or it might be something more.



You can try reciting the penultimate lines of this traditional Scottish poem:

"From ghoulies and ghosties / And long-leggedy beasties / *And things that go bump in the night, / Good Lord, deliver us!*"

Or simply—call the Capitol Police.

Sarah Alderson is an award-winning freelance writer who often disappears into a broadcast control room or reappears from behind a camera during General Assembly sessions. Her voice can sometimes be heard echoing through the halls, her footsteps are not always quiet, she'll watch you from behind a camera, occasionally appear in a gallery, and often flash you a smile if you look her way. She moves about without being noticed much of the time, except by the Capitol Police. And she rarely, if ever, wears a white dress. You can summon her by email at [aldersonproductions@gmail.com](mailto:aldersonproductions@gmail.com).

*Sarah Alderson is an award-winning freelance writer who also works in the General Assembly broadcast control rooms during sessions and the Capitol Studio throughout the year. She can be reached at [aldersonproductions@gmail.com](mailto:aldersonproductions@gmail.com).* 

### Continued from previous page

Virginia's general fund supports the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT), employees, and the statewide registration system. Some of ELECT's programs and employees have been relying on federal HAVA funds since 2003 but that money is now gone. ELECT's operating budget has remained basically stagnant since the early 2000's even in the face of many increasing costs. Cost saving efforts at the state level has resulted in increased local responsibilities as portions of the costs are passed along to the local office.

From ELECT's budget, the Commonwealth does pay a reimbursement for the locally paid salary of the general registrar and the stipend of the Electoral Boards. The last time this diminishing reimbursement was 100% was in 2006, it's now hovering at less than 70%.

In addition to eroding monetary aid for the last decade, Virginia has also passed along hidden costs of printing, correspondence, equipment, supplies and materials. Once those expenses are passed along, rarely do they return.

When local fiscal officers see a reduction in revenue, they want to offset that reduction with a cut in spending. Some local governing bodies have had a difficult time getting past the old one-day-a-year myth, and balk when told to spend local funds on a state controlled office while writing checks for unfunded mandates. Then the cycle is repeated, with rising costs, reduced revenue, and cuts in spending until out of sheer necessity the local government begrudgingly concedes to the Dillon Rule and drops a pittance in a line item.

Elections, however, are the "show that must go on" and will continue as long as there is a Commonwealth of Virginia. There is

no question that every member of every level of government agrees that elections are the foundational basis for our system of governance.


Every political speech, every community forum and town hall soap box, every written opinion piece speaks of the need for good elections. I have yet to meet any elected leader or aspiring elected leader from any level who would ever say that Virginians don't deserve the best elections possible. They will, to a person, wax poetic about Virginia's strong electoral history, the foundation of Democracy, the rockers on the cradle of liberty... until the time comes to put their money where their mouth is.

A good election takes months of work and dedication on the part of a few committed people, for what most voters think of as only taking a few minutes.

A good election is not just Election Day. It's a team effort involving a small underfunded state agency, 133 determined local offices, thousands of Polling places and tens of thousands of good civic minded Election Officers, making sure that literally millions of Virginians can exercise a single, simple, fundamental right.

The right to vote.

And **THAT** is what we do every day, not just the "rest of the year."

*Tracy Howard has served as the General Registrar/Director of Elections for the City of Radford since 1992, is a Certified Professional General Registrar and accredited Virginia Registration and Election Official, two-time past President of the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia 1998-2000 & 2015-2017, and Fellow of the Sorenson Institute of Political Leadership at UVA.* 

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*This Week in Richmond*, hosted by Virginia Capitol veteran **David Bailey**, features discussions with Virginia newsmakers, including elected officials and top administrators. Most episodes originate from the Capitol in Richmond.

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Program schedules are available on the Facebook page for *This Week in Richmond* and shows are available on YouTube.

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## Patsy Ticer Remembrance

By MARY MARGARET WHIPPLE

Patsy Ticer, Democratic Senator from Alexandria from 1996 to 2012, was my dear friend and colleague. We were elected to local government at the same time, went to the Senate the same year, stayed together in Richmond, and both retired in 2012.



She was charming and gracious and friendly, always welcoming and kind, with beautiful manners. Everyone liked Patsy, even those who disagreed with her. How could you not?

I must say that for Patsy it was quite a shock to go to Richmond. She had just experienced an amazing career in local government, and was an influential figure in the Washington Metropolitan region; arriving in the Virginia General Assembly as a freshman was quite a big change. Members were given very little credit for what they had done before, and were expected to sit at the ends of the committee dais and keep quiet.

Furthermore the political and cultural climate was quite different and much more conservative. Patsy had what to me was an endearing quality of continually being shocked that the Republicans in Richmond didn't share her Alexandria values. For 16 years, she never got used to it. I can hear her saying "I just can't believe that they wouldn't vote for this bill", whatever it was.

She nevertheless persevered. If her bill didn't pass the first time, she brought it back the next year. If the way to get it passed was to send it to be studied first, she took that route. If she could find a Republican to co-sponsor the bill, then that was what she did.

Her fundamental optimism prevailed. She continued to believe in her objectives and was sure she could find a way to make them happen. For example, she was rightly lauded for getting legislation passed that required hearing screening for newborns; then she moved on to require insurance companies to pay for hearing aids. When it came time to add CAH (congenital adrenal hyperplasia) screening, she shrewdly had the Department of Health study it first, then—with all her facts assembled—saw the bill sail through the General Assembly.

She was even optimistic enough to introduce a bill for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

She was known for her support for families and children. She worked on protecting victims of domestic violence, on setting staffing standards for child care centers, on crime victim rights. One year when very few bills passed, she was successful in eliminating the death penalty for minors.

She used policy and legislation to make the Commonwealth a better place. One of her notable achievements was legislation that changed the words "mentally retarded" to intellectual disabilities everywhere it appeared in the Code of Virginia and changed the name of the department to Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Patsy was a serious legislator. She "worked her bills"—talking to individual legislators about their merits before presenting them to the committee. She introduced bills that met real needs and addressed real issues and she had lots of information to back them up. She was a constructive member of the various committees on which she served and often asked searching questions or made insightful comments.

As a member of the Local Government committee, she brought her City Council experience to the table; she knew in a way that many others did not, how government actually functioned and what the likely consequences would be. Sometimes I think the General Assembly would be a lot better off if it had more members with local government backgrounds.

She was member and later Chairman of the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. It was quite exciting when the Democrats gained the majority in the Senate in 2008. Suddenly there were seven women committee chairs, three of them women of color, and it quite literally changed the face of the Senate. Some of the Republican former chairs offered to help us, not apparently knowing that three of us were former mayors and all had chaired other important Boards.

She did get teased about chairing the agriculture committee; some people asked if a farm in Alexandria consisted of a potted plant on the windowsill. What Patsy brought to that committee was an emphasis on the Conservation and Natural Resources areas. She supported land conservation—she served on the Virginia Outdoors Foundation board—and offered legislation on wetlands, scenic byways, stormwater management, incentives to maintain forestland, recycling and reductions in air pollution. She was on the honorary board of Scenic Virginia and an advocate for the Chesapeake Bay.

Not only was Patsy a good legislator, she was a committed and hard-working member of boards and commissions that brought no glory whatsoever. She was a member of CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies); it met quarterly and she told me the agendas and related reports were hundreds of pages long. She faithfully read them all and went to the meetings that were in decidedly ordinary places.



Of course it wasn't all work. We had many a nice dinner together, stopped by each other's room at night to talk over the day, went on trips around Virginia, including going into the depths of a coal mine. I remember going to an Ag committee meeting at Douthat State Park. Patsy was driving, we had a late start, realized we had to stop for supper, then continued west as it got darker and darker. By the time we reached the entrance to the park it had started to snow. As we entered the dark, empty cabin these city girls thought we were at the end of nowhere!

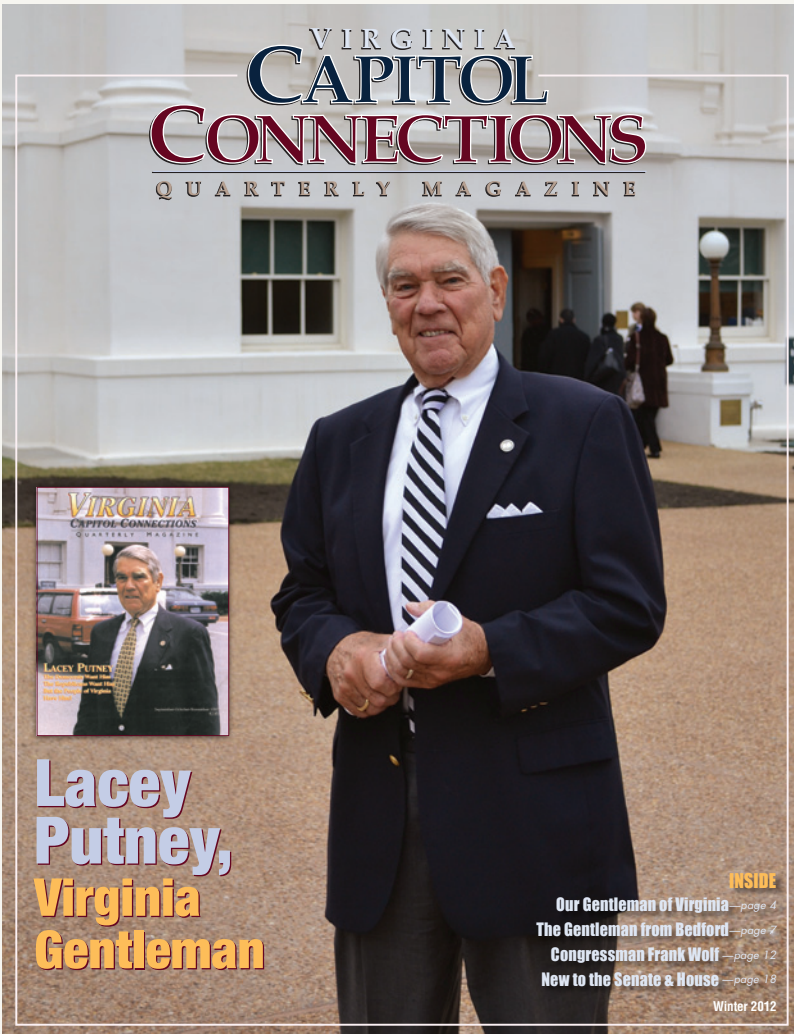
Finally she was a great Democrat. She believed in the ideals of the Democratic Party and was a valued member of the Senator Democratic Caucus. When the Democrats gained the majority in the Senate in the elections of 2007, Patsy emptied out her campaign coffers to help the challengers succeed.

We are fortunate to have known Patsy Ticer; she will be remembered with love by many. The Commonwealth of Virginia is a better place because of Patsy and her admirable service to her citizens. We are indeed grateful.

*Mary Margaret Whipple was a member of the Senate of Virginia from 1996-2012, She represented the 31st district comprised of the City of Falls Church and parts of Arlington and Fairfax counties. ▣*

# LACEY E. PUTNEY

The Commonwealth's longest-serving member of the Virginia General Assembly, served for 52 years in the nearly 400-year old Virginia House of Delegates.



## Putney's Colleagues Speak in 1997

"The conservative independent or the independent conservative; or is he even a conservative? The only legislator who can advocate an increase in the sales tax and get away with it."

**Former Delegate Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.**

"The Democrats want him. The Republicans want him.

But the people of Virginia have him!"

**Senator Chuck Colgan**

"Lacey Putney is the finest example of a public servant.

A strong guardian of the public funds appropriated by the state government and a fellow champion of the rights and compensation of state employees."

**Senator Walter A. Stosch**

"A wealth on Institutional Knowledge—Lacey has heard every argument that exists on most of our perennial favorites."

**Delegate John C. Watkins**

"A legislator that always puts the best interest of the citizens of the Commonwealth at the center of his legislative goals. He is known and respected for his fairness, frankness and compassion. Best put, it can be said that his word is his bond, his character and integrity cannot be questioned."

**Delegate Joseph P. Johnson, Jr.**

Winter 2012

## Tribute by Speaker Bill Howell

I told these stories to Carmela while we were making plans and she said she hoped I'd tell them at the Capitol, so I did get Carmela's OK to tell them. To me, these stories really describe Lacey's character. He was just an honest, straight forward and do it by the books man all his life.

Lacey's wife died after a pretty long and disabling illness. Lacey was just really great with her. Carmela Bills worked in the House of Delegates Clerk's Office. She had worked there for years, and her husband had died about four years before. Lacey called me probably about a year after Sue had died and asked me for permission to ask Carmela out for dinner. I kind of laughed a bit I guess, and said "Lacey why are you asking me? You don't have to ask me for permission for something like that. I think it's a great idea! I'd love for you to do it." Lacey explained; "I just worried a little bit Mr. Speaker about the fact that she works for the Clerk's office and I am a member of the House. Some people might see that as some sort of conflict of interest or undue pressure or whatever. I just don't want to do anything to tarnish



or diminish the stature of the House." Of course I said I think it's a wonderful idea, I'd love for him to do it. And he did. They just had a great courtship.

Lacey came to me about a year later and told me he and Carmela were getting married. He said, "Bill, I had to do it because she was breaking me." He said she would come up to visit in Bedford on weekends but she would never stay at the house. Of course, Lacey had this big huge house and you could be on opposite ends of it and not know the other one was there. She would stay at a bed and breakfast down the road and Lacey would pay for it. He said, "It was just breaking me financially so we had to get married."

You don't see that today. I just think it was a wonderful illustration of not only their commitment towards each other but their love for each other. They wanted to do everything as they had learned growing up.

Justice Mims spoke to me afterwards and said that when Lacey went on his first date he was there. Lacey kept looking at him and looking at him and finally he came over to him and said,

"Did the Speaker send you here to spy on me?" Carmela confirmed this too.

There will never be another Lacey Putney.

*Remarks made September 6, 2017, when Lacey Putney's body was lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda.*

## Tributes to Lacey Putney

“Today Virginia lost our best man, Delegate Lacey Putney.

Mr. Putney was my mentor for 30 years, I will always remember the kindness and love he showed toward Kim and me. Mr. Putney loved his family and they loved him. To Carmela and the children and grandchildren thank you for sharing this great man with the rest of us.

There is no other Virginian in recent history that had a bigger impact on his Commonwealth. Lacey served our area in the House of Delegates for 52 years, he was the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and former Speaker of the House of Delegates. But it was the way Mr. Putney lead his beloved Commonwealth that made him so special. He was strong and firm but he was the statesman of all statesmen, he was the most honorable man at the Capitol, and he did all of this with a kind, sweat spirit and a true servant’s heart.

The last few years Kim and I have enjoyed the honor of traveling and spending even more time with Lacey and Carmela, we are so grateful for every minute and every memory with our most dear friends.

Yes, Virginia you lost your best man today, a model for every generation to come.”

**Senator Steve Newman**, 23rd Senate District

“During my freshman term, I had the high honor of sitting on the House floor in front of Chairman Putney and took the opportunity to talk to him as often as I could. I would sometimes sit mesmerized as he shared with me the rich history and proud legacy of the Virginia House of Delegates. He has left a lasting legacy for our Commonwealth and for all whose lives he touched.”

**Delegate Rich Anderson**, 51st House District

“I was honored to work with Lacey and wish we had more like him; fiercely independent, fighting for his constituents, and looking out for the betterment of the Commonwealth. He knew when to yield for compromise and when to stand his ground for what he believed. We should all work to serve more in that capacity for it’s a sign of strength, not weakness to do so.”

**Senator Emmett Hanger**, 24th Senate District

“We are profoundly saddened by the death of our former colleague, Lacey Putney. For more than half a century, Lacey served in the House of Delegates with diligence and independence. He always had an open door and warmly welcomed new legislators, including both of us, to the chamber.”

**Delegate David Toscano**, 57th House District

**Delegate Charniele Herring**, 46th House District

“Most folks are aware that Lacey Putney was a great legislator and a prolific storyteller, but he was also a talented baseball player at W&L. Once he found out that I’d also played baseball in college, he would tell me some wonderful stories from his playing days. From the start, I had great respect for Delegate Putney and his longstanding public service, but I’m particularly grateful to have gotten to know him better as a person through a shared love of baseball.”

**Delegate Israel O’Quinn**, 5th House District

“Lacey represented his constituents in the 19th House of Delegates district with distinct honor and dedication for 52 years. His representation was determined to be more in line with the action of a true Statesman and not of a self serving politician. He was able to hold his seat as an independent for all those years, simply by voting his constituents best interest. That today is a very difficult thing to do, political preference and divide seems to drive the direction and divide in politics.”

**Delegate Terry Austin**, 19th House District

“I would see Delegate Putney on the elevator most mornings and he would always ask how everything was in SWVA, what a Legislator and Person he was.”

**Marty Hall**, Chief of Staff, House District 3

“It was an honor to know and serve with a true Virginia statesman and gentleman.”

**Delegate Tony Wilt**, 26th House District

“Delegate Lacey Putney was the epitome of a Virginia Legislator. He was truly a Virginia Gentleman, and a mentor and friend to many of us who had the honor to serve with him in the House of Delegates. He represented his constituents with honor, integrity and dedication. It was my great privilege to serve on the House Appropriations Committee while he served first as Vice Chairman and then Chairman.”

**Delegate Steve Landes**, 25th House District

“Lacey Putney was the finest example of a Virginia gentleman that I have ever known. He extended his friendship to me my first day in the General Assembly and we shared our love of baseball on several occasions. We had mutual friends that allowed us another connection, and his classic style of statesmanship was a model we should all aspire to. I am thankful that I had the opportunity and blessing to know him.”

**Delegate Dickie Bell**, 20th House District

“Lacey Putney was a true public servant who dedicated his life to serving the constituents of the greater Bedford area. He was a pillar for fiscal responsibility in state government. He will be missed.”

**Senator Mark Peake**, 22nd Senate District

“Lacey Putney epitomized the true “Virginia Gentleman” in the purest form of the expression. He only cared about what was good for the Commonwealth and the politics was a very distant second”

**Senator Dick Saslaw**, 35th Senate District

“Lacey was a dear friend. The Commonwealth is a better place because of his service. He was a true gentleman and statesman.”

**Delegate Riley Ingram**, 62nd House District

“Lacey was a true Virginia Gentleman who was always quick to share his wisdom and perspective on Virginia policy. He cared deeply for Bedford County, his district and the entire Commonwealth and set the example for all of us on how to serve.”

**Senator Scott Surovell**, 36th Senate District

“Delegate Putney was a true Virginia gentleman. He held fast to his principles and never wavered, always placing the interests of our Commonwealth above all else. He was exceptionally kind and patient with me when I was a freshman Delegate- willing to answer my questions, no matter how basic. His death is a great loss.”

**Delegate Kaye Kory**, 38th House District

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services honors Lacey Putney for his lifetime of service to his country and commonwealth. [V]

# In Memoriam

## E. Hatcher Crenshaw, Jr.

October 14, 2017 • Virginia House of Delegates, 1986-1989

By JIM ROTHROCK

In the early 80s, I got a great job leading a disability advocacy organization — Handicaps Unlimited of Virginia. One of my new duties was the coordination of grass roots advocacy in support of a bill introduced by then Governor Charles Robb. It was the most advanced disability rights legislation heard by any state government at that time and generated significant debate.



As a rookie in the legislative process, I had daily problems remembering the “R’s” and “D’s” of the process while dealing with what had been “PBI’d”, and discerning the meaning of bills on green, blue, and yellow paper—yes, paper was big!



One of the highlights of this frustrating, but exciting, time was the kindness and good humor shared with me and so many others by Delegate Hatcher Crenshaw. Even with his busy schedule, he met all with a ready smile, and to me, he was always glad to offer a tutorial on what I was witnessing.

One day he was chatting about what he could do to “better my cause.” He looked around the House chamber area and saw that if anyone became ill, there was no wheelchair that could be used in case of emergency. It was not necessarily a major task he wished to accept, but it was a step—though small—in the right direction.

Somehow he found, to his delight, an old wheelchair, I think from his basement, cleaned it up and brought it to the GAB. But he was not satisfied. He called me to his office and asked if I would approve—as if I had any authority—his final product. Somehow he had located a big state seal, suitable for any door, and successfully duct taped it to the back of the chair. The next day he presented it to his colleagues during the Morning Hour and proclaimed it as the “ Official Wheelchair of the Commonwealth.”

His accomplishment was one of many that came—though not as much fun—and after a year of study, the bill passed.

Oh, that we had more like Delegate Hatcher Crenshaw!

*James A. Rothrock is the Commissioner of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. *

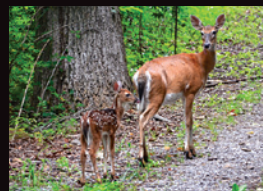


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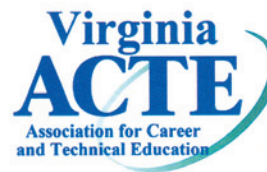
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