

VIRGINIA
CAPITOL
CONNECTIONS
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Transition



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QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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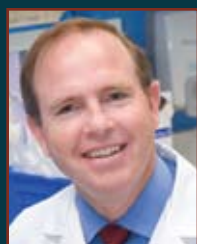
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Opportunities in Tough Times

By GOVERNOR BOB McDONNELL

It is the highest honor of my life to have been elected as the 71st Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. I approach my term in office knowing that times are tough, and this job will not be easy. Unemployment remains high. Traffic congestion around the state makes for long commutes and wasted hours. College tuition has skyrocketed. And we face a huge state budget deficit. I am committed to working across party lines to address these challenges with innovation and cooperation. I will be dedicated to making government work more effectively and efficiently for the people we serve. And I know that, together, we will put in place the policies we need to help turn our economy around and bring new jobs and more opportunities to every region of Virginia.



We will bring those new jobs to the Commonwealth by ensuring we have America's best prepared workforce. We will double the Governors Opportunity Fund so we can better compete with North Carolina and Tennessee; Singapore and China. And we will look for solutions to reduce the burdens job creators face in starting and growing their businesses.


We will work together to make Virginia the "Energy Capital of the East Coast" by taking an all the above approach to solving our energy crisis. We must continue to support the traditional sources of energy that provide thousands of jobs to Virginians and help keep electricity costs low. We will spur job creation and investment by making the Commonwealth the first state on the Atlantic Coast to drill offshore. And we will expand investments in renewable energy

sources and incentivize green job creation to further help secure our energy independence.

We will improve education for Virginia's young people through the expansion of charter schools to offer competitive education opportunities for all students. We will commit the Commonwealth to awarding 100,000 more higher education degrees over the next 15 years and improve work force development through Virginia's community college system so all Virginians can get the educations and training they need to compete in our 21st Century economy. We must place a greater emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math, the STEM subjects, to prepare our students for the highly-technical, high-paying jobs of today and tomorrow. And we will work to put more money in the classroom, where it counts, to provide our students and teachers the resources crucial to a quality education.

Together we will improve Virginia's transportation system without raising taxes. Through the privatization of ABC stores, capturing revenue generated by port expansion, enacting border tolling on the North Carolina line and expanding public-private partnerships we will fund the projects necessary to get Virginia traffic moving again.

The need for more jobs, a 21st Century energy policy, education reform and transportation improvements are just four of the challenges facing our Commonwealth today. I am confident that, working together, we will address these challenges, and others, and create a Commonwealth of Opportunity full of new jobs and more opportunities in every region of Virginia.

Governor Bob McDonnell was inaugurated on January 16. He had previously served as Virginia's Attorney General, and had served 14 years in the Virginia House of Delegates from Virginia Beach. 

Jobs Creation is Job #1

By LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BILL BOLLING

Throughout my re-election campaign for Lieutenant Governor and Bob McDonnell's election for Governor, we focused our efforts on talking about the things that mattered most to Virginians: helping families by creating jobs and getting our economy moving again.

We understand that so many Virginia families and businesses have been impacted by the economic downturn and people are concerned about the futures. That's why we made our top priority bringing new jobs and greater opportunity to every corner of the Commonwealth.



Virginia is currently suffering from the longest sustained rate of unemployment in the last 25 years, and today, 140,000 more Virginians are unemployed then just a few short years ago.

We promised, if elected, that we would do everything we could to get Virginians back to work and Governor McDonnell and I have a detailed plan to do just that.

On December 10, we took the first step on delivering on campaign promises when Governor McDonnell appointed me to serve as Virginia's first, Chief Jobs Creation Officer, which will be a cabinet level position.

As Virginia's Chief Job Creation Officer, I will help coordinate all economic development and job creation initiatives across the various agencies of state government.

The Chief Jobs Creation Officer will serve in a coordinating and oversight role with the various cabinet secretaries, agency heads, and initiative and program leaders to make sure all job creation and economic development entities of state government are working together in a coordinated and focused manner to attract new business to the state, expand existing businesses, and to create jobs.

In coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and Trade Bob Sledd, we'll evaluate all of Virginia's job creation incentives and initiatives to determine the best program to increase the return on our investment.

Virginia has several mechanisms to attract jobs to Virginia and help existing businesses expand. The Governor's Opportunity Fund, the Virginia Investment Partnership Grant, the Major Eligible Employer Grant, the Virginia Economic Development Incentive Grant, as well as numerous tax credits and bond funding programs give the Commonwealth a significant tool chest to work from.

In order to ensure that we are getting the best bang for the buck, we will evaluate our job creation incentives to determine which options provide the best return on our investment and increase resources for the most effective incentives and what new incentives we can provide to better compete with other states economic development incentives.

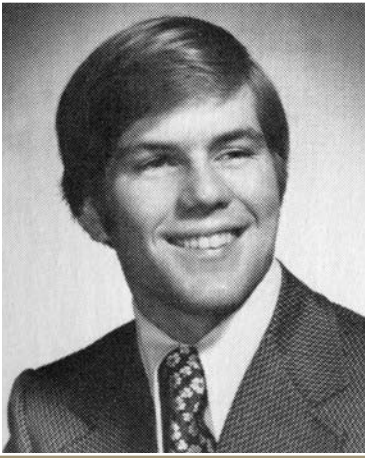
During the campaign, the Governor and I offered numerous detailed proposals to create jobs and grow the economy. We intend to implement these proposals, while developing additional job creation ideas.

We proposed an expansion of our state's Major Business Facility Job Tax Credit. Currently, any business creating 100 or more new or additional jobs in Virginia can claim a Job Creation Tax Credit of \$1,000 per job. For businesses located in an economically distressed area, the threshold is 50 jobs. We proposed that these thresholds be lowered from 100 new jobs to 50 new jobs for the state as a whole, and from 50 new jobs to 25 new jobs for economically distressed areas. This will enable more businesses to take advantage of the credit and encourage more businesses to grow jobs in Virginia.

We also proposed expanding and retooling the Governor's Opportunity Fund.

The GOF is designed as a "deal closing" fund to be employed at the

See *Jobs Creation is Job #1*, continued on page 5



College Days

Bob McDonnell's yearbook photo from University of Notre Dame. He attended the university on an ROTC scholarship, graduating with a B.B.A. in Management in 1976.



Best Wishes, Governor and Mrs. McDonnell

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Protecting Those Who Need It and Upholding the Law for All

By ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN CUCCINELLI

I am honored to serve the citizens of Virginia as the Commonwealth's 46th Attorney General. I come to this office with experiences and lessons learned that will shape the way I will fulfill my duties. The agenda is heavy, and our workload is ample. From my education as an engineer to my time as an attorney, followed by my service as a State Senator, every experience has had an effect on the way I work and live.



One such experience was my ten years spent as a court-appointed attorney for individuals in Virginia's involuntary civil commitment process. This experience in my life was eye-opening. In this role, my responsibility was to ensure that those who may suffer from mental illness were protected in the court of law, and that these people were not denied their liberty without just cause.

My interest in mental health—and the legal and political matters that surround it—grew from my time in the court-appointed system, where, in the couple of weeks a year I served, it was common to handle several cases a day. I would meet with my clients one day, and then we'd be in court the following day. I'd then spend that evening meeting with other clients, who would be in the courtroom the next day. Without an attorney present, a mentally ill person may be denied their rights as an American and unfairly hospitalized. The right to an attorney for a mentally-ill person is the same right given to a citizen charged with a crime and under threat of being jailed. Legal representation is critical in these commitment hearings.

During my time representing people who suffer from mental illness, I developed an understanding and appreciation for the challenges that they face. My work on this issue grew and I began work on the informal Temporary Detention Order (TDO) Taskforce in Fairfax County, a roundtable where representatives from all aspects of the mental health and law enforcement systems—psychiatrists, nurses, magistrates, lawyers and most anyone involved in the process—work to continually improve the community's mental health organizations.

As a State Senator, I worked in a bipartisan manner to improve the involuntary commitment process and to restrict gun ownership for those found mentally ill, closing a loophole that showed its ugly face in the 2007 Virginia Tech tragedy. And I have worked with law enforcement to reduce their burden by allowing family members to transport mentally ill patients in lieu of law enforcement when the individual is not deemed a threat. This is more humane treatment for the mentally ill and increases their chances for recovery, and it conserves our law enforcement's already stretched resources.

More recently, my election as Attorney General afforded me the opportunity to donate \$100,000 in surplus from my inaugural funds to the Daily Planet Inc., a non-profit health care center in Richmond that offers medical services to the city's homeless and low-income, uninsured individuals. The funds will be put toward an array of medical services for the mentally ill and medically underserved homeless population.

As my term begins as Attorney General, I have laid out a number of priorities to reform Virginia's mental health system.

1. Allowing doctors to move committed patients under court order from inpatient treatment to outpatient treatment without going back to court. It sounds simple but it is an incredibly complex system that must be streamlined. I cannot overemphasize how much this would improve our mental health system and improve our cost-effectiveness.
2. Cleaning up and improving our jail to hospital transfers. Petty criminals who are mentally ill should be given the care they need to stabilize and get themselves back in order to, with all hope, return to society as productive citizens.

3. Giving law students the ability to represent mentally ill individuals in court. We have good law schools in all the urban and many rural areas of the Commonwealth, and their students would jump at the opportunity to take on these cases to gain valuable experience.

In future years I also plan to submit legislation that would create a version of "Kendra's Law," the New York law that gives judges the ability to order repeatedly untreated mentally-ill citizens into regular treatment with a lower level of proof.

While mental health is an important priority of mine, I have a broad agenda as Attorney General. We have numerous public safety issues, including battling gangs, sex crimes, identity theft and drug trafficking. We should have a zero tolerance for probation violators: One strike and you're back behind bars.

We must also work to protect law-abiding citizens' 2nd Amendment rights. Keyword: "Law-abiding." I also want to protect Virginia's 10th Amendment rights; the reach of the federal government must not extend beyond what has been delegated by the Constitution or prohibited to the States.

Virginia has more than 800,000 veterans, and a great many of them are unaware of the care and benefits that are available to them. My office needs to be a "go-to point" to ensure those who fight for freedom are given the opportunities they so greatly deserve.

When it comes to immigration, we must remove economic incentives that encourage unlawful residency in America, and bring prompt justice and deportation to illegal aliens who break the Commonwealth's laws.

We must also strengthen Virginia's families, and push for parents to control the education, governance, and moral upbringing of their children.

As you might assume, I'm also one for making certain that our government is transparent and that taxpayers see exactly where their dollars are spent. In 2008, I proposed a "budget transparency" bill that would offer a searchable database to every Virginia citizen. The first department to be completely available online is the Department of Transportation. I plan to lead by example and put the budget of the Attorney General's Office online so that Virginians can openly view where every penny of their hard-earned money is spent.

For the past seven years I have been a small business owner, and with that passion in mind, I will work with the Governor to keep taxes low and support healthy growth of businesses. The private sector holds the key to America's economic recovery, and Virginia must take steps to make sure that we remain a "top state" for national and international commerce. And that means keeping incentives high and litigation threats low.

And just as my office must look out for businesses, the Attorney General is also an advocate for consumers. The state's Consumer Affairs System is ineffective in providing a one-stop shop for consumers (and businesses) whenever there are questions, complaints or information that needs to be shared about potential scams and other violations in this increasingly E-world. I will work to make consumer protection more efficient by consolidating the personnel protecting consumers that are now spread around Virginia government under the Office of the Attorney General.

Whether it is mental health or the many other issues that can affect Virginia citizens or businesses, I and my staff look forward to serving you all and working in a bipartisan manner through the coming years.

A member of the Virginia Senate since 2002, Ken Cuccinelli was elected as Virginia's 46th Attorney General in November. He holds a Mechanical Engineering degree from The University of Virginia and a Law degree from George Mason University's School of Law and Economics. ▣

Job Creation and Budget: Top House Republican Agenda

By SPEAKER WILLIAM J. HOWELL

While Virginians continue to struggle with the effects of a weak economy that's not creating new jobs and more opportunities, the 2010 Virginia General Assembly session similarly will present many challenges. With so many Virginians already uneasy about their employment status and personal finances, the pressures they are facing are personal and troubling. Citizens clearly have withdrawn from making major non-discretionary purchases leading to weak consumer spending and any possibility of economic recovery is sure to be uneven, slow and difficult. Although Virginia has weathered the financial storm better than many states, high unemployment and sagging anticipated tax revenues remain sobering reminders of the difficulties that lie ahead in 2010 and beyond.



Despite the gloomy forecasts, I see real opportunities to help create private-sector jobs, restore economic prosperity and fundamentally reform state government. By continuing to offer practical solutions that deliver real results on the issues Virginians care most about, Republicans are eager to seize opportunities and to promote progress.

No Governor or General Assembly wantonly enjoys making difficult choices to cut spending or to end non-performing government programs providing services to the people of Virginia. Yet, the fact remains that elected leaders have an obligation to live within our existing revenue constraints. This is no different than what taxpayers, families and businesses must do every day in their own lives.

Working in a bipartisan manner, we've succeeded in balancing the budget that has seen a cumulative shortfall of roughly \$6.3 billion since it was first introduced in December 2007 without raising taxes. That remains a responsible course of action that the public strongly supports as the 2009 elections indicated. But listless business activity and a jobless recovery means less state tax revenues.

Addressing the realities of the 2011-2012 biennial budget will be the major focus of the upcoming 2010 session. One-time fixes and temporary strategies have been exhausted. With a Constitutional

obligation to produce a balanced budget, state leaders must implement fiscally responsible structural reforms to change how government looks and operates. House Republicans – strengthened with a net +6 expanded majority of 61 members – are prepared to act and govern wisely during these tough times.

House Republicans look forward to working with Governor Bob McDonnell to finalize a structurally balanced budget as well as help create more jobs and opportunities all across Virginia. We are excited to advance the many innovative ideas and practical solutions we offered on the campaign trail. Like our past policy achievements, Republicans will continue to develop, initiate and pursue measures that ensure government works smarter and partners more with the private sector to take advantage of every opportunity to promote more jobs and economic prosperity.

Together with the new McDonnell Administration, we will work hard to encourage economic development, entrepreneurial investment and job creation through public-private partnerships, streamlined government regulation and targeted incentives, where possible. At the same time, we will continue to oppose counterproductive proposals that increase existing taxes, establish new taxes or reduce major tax relief programs. It seems unfathomable that government would now extract from Virginians involuntary additional tax revenue that they seemingly are unable to pay voluntarily.

Since we recognize the importance of a highly trained and educated workforce and 21st Century transportation network in positioning Virginia as the best state for business, we will continue to advance policies to reform and strengthen our public education and transportation systems.

While the demands of the upcoming session will be arduous, Republicans are ready to work with Democrats and Independents to meet these challenges head on in a fiscally responsible manner. Together, we will enact real reforms and practical solutions to ensure a smaller, smarter, simpler and more responsive state government that helps improve the quality of life for all Virginians.

William J. Howell is the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 28th District, which includes parts of Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg. ■

Jobs Creation is Job #1 from page 2

Governor's discretion when necessary to secure a company location or expansion in Virginia. The GOF serves as a final resource for Virginia in the face of serious competition from other states or countries. A GOF grant is awarded to the Virginia locality, with the expectation that the grant will assist in attracting new industry, resulting in the creation of new jobs and capital investment. Currently Virginia's GOF is budgeted at a level nearly 33% lower than the 2000-2002 levels, and another significant job creation initiative—the VEDP—is operating 25% lower than 2000-2002 levels. This is happening at a time when neighboring states and foreign countries are much more aggressive in marketing new incentives that attract jobs.

In FY2008, the GOF grants resulted in companies announcing new capital investments of \$1.728 billion and the creation of 4,881 new jobs. The average projected salary for these announced new jobs is \$49,292, which is 43% above the prevailing average wage of \$34,521 among the localities which received GOF funds.

As I mentioned earlier, Virginia has been enduring the longest period of sustained unemployment in 25 years and no area has been hit harder in Virginia than Martinsville and the other areas in Southside Virginia. The unemployment rate in Martinsville is nearly three times what it is in the rest of the state.

We know that these rural cities and counties will be a critical part of the economic engine to turn Virginia around. They are the lifeblood

of our Commonwealth and they are filled with hardworking individuals who we will not forget.

During the campaign, the Governor and I committed to spending one day each month in economically depressed regions of Southside Virginia to provide additional support and coordination of their job creating initiatives.

The McDonnell/Bolling administration will also designate one Deputy Secretary of Commerce to focus solely on rural economic development. This position will make recommendations directly to the Secretary of Commerce, the Chief Job Creation Officer, and the Governor on how to spur economic opportunities in rural cities and counties in the short and long term. This Deputy will spend extensive time in rural communities helping develop innovative and meaningful ways to retain and increase jobs in these areas.

By doing these things we can get our economy moving again and create the jobs Virginians so desperately need. That's the kind of leadership the people of Virginia expect from their next Governor and Lieutenant Governor and that's the kind of leadership the Governor and I will provide over the next four years.

Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling was elected to serve as the 40th of Virginia in 2005. Prior to his election as Lieutenant Governor, Bill Bolling served for 10 years in the Senate of Virginia. ■

From Campaigning to Governing

By DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

With the millions of dollars spent last year in political campaigns and the thousands of hours of volunteer labor expended, the easy part of providing leadership for the Commonwealth has been completed. Now that the political campaigns are over, it is time to start governing. Invariably the two activities tend to blend together, but at this critical time in the state's history it is important that individuals at all levels of government focus on what is good for the people of the Commonwealth and less on partisan, ideological considerations or personal political gain.



Although Virginia has fared reasonably well relative to other states in the recession, the economy and jobs must be top on the list for the new administration and for the General Assembly this year. Governor Kaine left behind a government that was leaner and more efficient than the one with which he started. With his predecessor Mark Warner he kept Virginia the best managed state in the nation. He made tough but compassionate decisions.

With the continued decline in state revenue and the billions needing to be cut from the state's budget, one wonders if Governor Kaine may not have been secretly happy that he could not have a second term or if Governor McDonnell may not be wishing that he had given Bill Bolling the first chance at being governor. The challenges facing the state have seldom been greater. Virginia will emerge from the recession with its reputation for excellent governance, triple-A bond rating, and essential services intact to the degree that campaigns are put behind us by all politicians and the needs and interests of the state's citizens are held paramount in carrying out good government.

Campaign rhetoric about waste in government must be measured against the harsh realities that one person's waste may be another person's lifeline. Programs and services for our most vulnerable citizens must be protected even though they may have a low number of participants and limited voting strength. Nor can short term reductions in education and prevention programs be made if they significantly increase the cost of government in the future.

The campaign rhetoric back home that one's region does not get its fair share from Richmond must be measured against the reality that there are those in every region of the state who feel that they do not get a fair share. The situation is that no region gets as much as it might want, but the rationale for the differences must be made known to constituents in an honest discussion with them. Binding caucus rules must not preclude a legislator voting for the interest of his or her own constituency. People must be put ahead of party.

The "T" word should not be so broadly interpreted as to preclude the imposition of appropriate fees on state services that accrue to individuals or interests to a greater degree than they do to society. Some interests must become accustomed to paying their own way. If programs and services to individuals that are sometimes referred to as welfare are to be reviewed, we must also look at forms of corporate welfare.

Campaign brochures and political speeches can make governance seem so simple. On Capitol Hill in Richmond these days, newly elected and veteran legislators and the new administration are having to move beyond the glib, the slogans, and the exaggerated to the hard realities of governing.

Delegate Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum serves as caucus chair of the House Democrats. He represents the 36th District, which includes parts of Fairfax County.

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Welcome to the Capitol, Class of 2010

Gold winter; Warm welcomes



Photo by wandajudd.com

Editor's Note: We asked the 20 new delegates and two new senators to give us a brief quote. Some are speaking immediately after Election Day; others are quoted during their weeks in office.

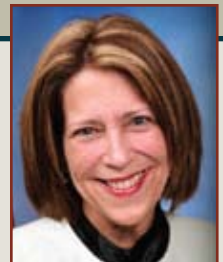
Rich Anderson (R-51st)

As I think back on the events of the last year in campaigning for election to represent the 51st House District in the Virginia General Assembly, I look forward with great anticipation to representing the citizens of Prince William County and to doing meaningful work that benefits our fellow Virginians. As a native Virginian who was born and raised in Roanoke, followed by four years at Virginia Tech and 30 years as a senior officer in the United States Air Force, I cannot think of another place I'd rather be than on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates, the oldest legislative body in the Western Hemisphere. A mere 10 months ago, I was wearing an Air Force uniform and serving at the Pentagon. Today, I am now deeply grateful for this opportunity to continue in public service—this time to my native state and the citizens of this great Commonwealth. Without question, the Old Dominion is confronted with enormous challenges, and I'm anxious to join with my fellow members of the General Assembly—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike—and with Governor Bob McDonnell and his administration in tackling these difficulties. Virginia has long been a leader in virtually every dimension, and I am confident that we will find a way ahead in resolving long-standing challenges in transportation, the economy, jobs and employment, and education. Our fellow Virginians are counting on us.



Robin Abbott (D-93rd)

I am proud to represent the constituents of the 93rd District. We have difficult challenges ahead of us, and I will serve with fiscal discipline to lessen the tax burden on the middle class, create good paying jobs, find common sense solutions and consensus on the transportation crisis, protect the most vulnerable of our citizens—our children and those with mental and physical challenges, make health care affordable and accessible, and to fight for consumers—the hard working members of our community—on every front.



Dickie Bell (R-20th)

Despite the obvious challenges facing the 2010 General Assembly and its 20 new House members, there are also tremendous opportunities to serve, to govern, and to lead this great Commonwealth. I believe that the only difference in an obstacle and an opportunity is our attitude, and it is important that we approach this session with the right attitude. My goal is to bring a positive attitude, an open mind, a common sense approach to problem solving, and the spirit of teamwork to my first session. My pledge is to uphold the traditions and the integrity of the nation's oldest elected representative legislature as an honorable statesman, while protecting the interests of my constituents and the rights of all Virginians. I am honored and humbled to serve where so many great men have served before. I am proud to be a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.



Continued on page 8

Scott Garrett (R-23rd)

As a new Delegate and as a Conservative, I want to make sure I communicate what we are FOR, rather than what we may be AGAINST.



Tag Greason (R-32nd)

In the upcoming session, we must effectively manage the downturn in the economy, by adjusting State spending to align with realistic revenue projections. Like most Virginia families, the State must live within our means by exercising fiscal responsibility, avoiding higher taxes, and resisting the need to create more government programs. It is not fair to expect families and businesses across the Commonwealth to do more with less, and not make the hard decision required at the State level to reel in spending. Simultaneously, we must focus our attention on the things required to jumpstart the economy at the local level. Initiatives that will help businesses grow and create jobs must be a top priority. We cannot further burden our struggling businesses with higher taxes in hopes of raising more State Revenue, as raising taxes will likely extend the downturn and stifle our recovery. We will do better to create a robust economy if we streamline administrative processes, provide incentives for job creation to local businesses, and protect our Right-to-Work status. These measures will help our economy grow, and help us move out of the recession more quickly.



Patrick Hope (D-47th)

I am thankful for the honor and privilege to serve in Virginia's House of Delegates. With the budget as one of our greatest challenges in the 2010 session, we must remain vigilant to protect our most vulnerable populations. Our homeless need safe and decent housing, our seniors require adequate services to stay in their homes, the uninsured/underinsured should have access to quality health care, and people with physical and mental disabilities deserve the services and treatments that allow them to thrive. I'm committed to protecting these principles and look forward to serving the people of the 47th District.



James M. "Jim" LeMunyon

(R-67th)

Several more senior members of the House of Delegates told me after Election Day that the time during session would be like drinking from a fire hose. They're right, and I'm getting a little wet, but I have great staff who keep me from getting completely soaked.



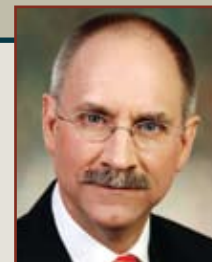
Matthew James (D-80th)

I am extremely excited about the opportunity to serve in the General Assembly. We look forward to assisting in the development of positive outcomes for residents as well as businesses of the 80th District, Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth of Virginia in but not limited to the areas of workforce & economic development, education, transportation and public safety.



Bill Cleaveland (R-17th)

I want to acknowledge what a privilege it is for me to serve as a Member of the House of Delegates. I am excited about this opportunity and am looking forward to my first General Assembly Session. I know we are in tough economic times, but I see this as an opportunity to have a positive influence on the Roanoke Valley and the Commonwealth.



Mark Keam (D-35th)

As a freshman, I am honored and excited to join the House of Delegates and I look forward to working with and learning from other Delegates, Senators, and our new Governor. We have many difficult challenges ahead in these tough economic times, and the budget will severely restrict the amount of services that our constituents expect and perhaps deserve to receive from the Commonwealth. Nevertheless, I pledge to work in a pragmatic and bipartisan way to solve the big problems we must confront in order to move Virginia forward. My focus will be on turning the economy around by bringing new jobs to the Commonwealth, seeking a comprehensive solution to the transportation mess in Northern Virginia and protecting funding for public education so that Virginia remains the best state for a child to be born.



Luke Torian (D-52nd)

I look forward to tackling our transportation challenges and protecting education funding as the delegate of the 52nd district.



Kaye Kory (D-38th)

I am very proud to represent the 38th District and challenged by the scope and magnitude of the problems Virginia faces. However, I am more convinced than ever that the General Assembly must become more transparent & accessible to those we represent. Building the Commonwealth's future is our shared responsibility.



Ron Villanueva (R-21st)

Despite the dire circumstances facing our state budget, I remain optimistic that we can make significant progress this General Assembly session, especially with regard to creating the incentives that will create jobs. I am also optimistic that we can make modest but important improvements in the areas of public safety, better education, and transportation—to name just a few.



John A. Cox (R-55th)

I am a businessman, certainly not a politician, and I sought the office of Delegate to represent Hanover County's 55th district because I think we need more experienced business people in the legislature. My company and I are very real products of deregulation when Congress deregulated the trucking industry in 1980. Deregulation of the trucking industry allowed the entrepreneurial spirit to flourish and I founded my long haul trucking company in Ashland, Va., in 1982, thereby creating good jobs for Hanover County citizens. We need to put our citizens back to work and we desperately need JOBS throughout Virginia. I know firsthand what it is like for government to get out of the way of businesses, and allow businesses to grow. We need people in the legislature who know how to manage budgets, make weekly payrolls, and most importantly live within their means. Governments need to be run more like businesses, and it is my hope that I will be able to lend my successful business experience to governing the Commonwealth. I think it is important to have more "citizen legislators" leading Virginia during these critical times that we face in this current recession. We also need to solve the transportation infrastructure problem, which continues to grow; further delay is too costly.



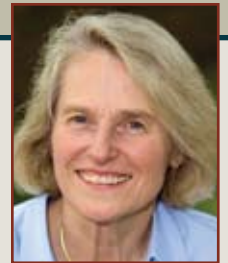
Scott Surovell (D-44th)

As a lifelong Mt. Vernon resident, I am excited and honored to be representing the 44th District in the General Assembly. I am extremely excited about the opportunity to serve in the General Assembly.



Betsy Carr (D-69th)

It is a high honor to have been elected to serve in the House of Delegates. I look forward to working together with others to ensure that our children and grandchildren and fellow citizens will enjoy the same opportunities that I have experienced.



Christopher Stolle (R-83rd)

I believe my election to the House of Delegates is an opportunity to serve. To me, public service is an extension of my [medical] practice —helping people.



James Edmunds (R-60th)

I am very excited to begin my work as the Delegate for Southside Virginia! Having served on the Board of Supervisors for nearly 10 years, I know firsthand the issues that face local governments and the average working citizen and I will strive to bring sensibility to government. My primary focus will be on job creation and seeing to it that every dollar is spent wisely with NO WASTE!



Barbara Comstock (R-34th)

As an attorney, small businesswoman and working Mom, I will be focused on restoring our prosperity and providing better opportunities for all by addressing the issues that make our Northern Virginia community among the best to live in the country: making sure we have the best job friendly environment, and insuring we have the transportation and education infrastructure that supports that environment.



James Morefield (R-3rd)

I'm very excited. Someone asked me am I nervous and I said, absolutely not. We're ready to get in and start working.



And in the Senate...

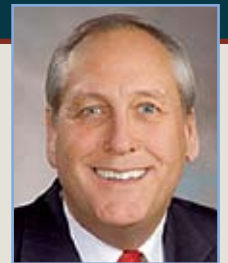
Jeffrey L. McWaters (R-8th)

I am truly looking forward to serving the people of Virginia Beach and working with our new Governor to help businesses create jobs, cut the size and cost of government, and prioritize our transportation projects. We have many challenges ahead of us but I am hopeful that we will find solutions that are best for our Commonwealth.



Dave W. Marsden (D-37th)

The opportunity to serve in the Senate will allow me to build on that which I learned in my four years in the House of Delegates. I am excited about the possibilities of positive change even in this difficult economic environment.



Is there a Doctor in the House?

...Yes, THREE in the House, and one in the Senate! By CHARLIE JUDD

Virginians elected three Medical Doctors to the House of Delegates on November 3—two newly elected and one re-elected. Dr. John O'Bannon was re-elected to his fifth full term, and Dr. Chris Stolle and Dr. Scott Garrett were each elected to their first term.

Dr. O'Bannon, a Neurologist has been the lone practicing medical doctor in the House since being first elected in a special election in January 2001. He quickly became the 'go-to' guy for sound medical perspective on most things medical pending before the House of Delegates.

He expressed relief and excitement over being joined by two additional medical doctors in the House and saw real value to the possibility of having a medical caucus...but, he lightheartedly said "I was a little overwhelmed by being the only MD in the House, and thought maybe we should add a veterinarian—when we had one serving". And, he jokingly added: "Someone suggested maybe a tree surgeon..."

Although Dr. O'Bannon has a gentle demeanor, he takes his role as a legislator very seriously and devotes a lot of time to representing the 73rd House district while maintaining an active medical practice. "More input from medical professionals is a good thing for Virginia... because it allows even more prospective on the health care debate.

When asked what he would like to see accomplished in the upcoming Session of the General Assembly, Dr. O'Bannon said: "We've GOT to balance the budget!" and, he added: "And it is important that we protect the health care safety net".

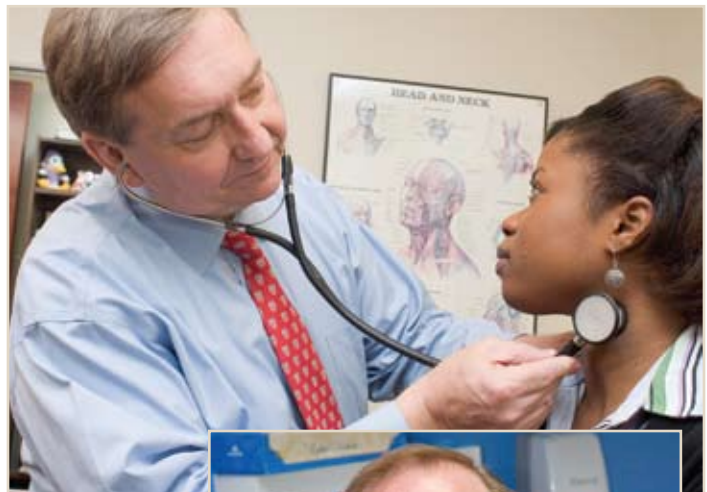
Dr. Chris Stolle becomes the first practicing OB/GYN in the House of Delegates and he comes with a sense of serving the people of Virginia and the 83rd district specifically. After serving in the military for 24 years, and now in private practice, he believes this is another opportunity to serve, because he views public service as an extension of his practice of helping people.

As he prepares to represent his constituency, Dr. Stolle sees the economy as the most pressing issue facing the Commonwealth—particularly finding ways to create jobs and get Virginians back to work. Drilling down on the issues, he further said: "We must start on the transportation solution..." Also, as part of the 'bigger picture', he believes we should explore alternative energy sources, and as representing one of the east coast districts, believes we are in a position to provide our own energy source.

Dr. Scott Garrett, a General Surgeon, is leaving his seat on Lynchburg City Council to become the Delegate from the 23rd House district. He tells of his determination to address the deterioration of families because of the lack of confidence, commitment, and relationships within the family unit, and wondered—sometimes aloud—what could be done to improve that distressful situation. Seemed to him that most fellow conservatives were able to articulate what they were *opposed* to, but few expressed what they *favored*... hence his decision to seek the seat in the House of Delegates...to add a voice to those and other concerns and offer solutions.

Dr. Garrett joins the chorus of those who believe the most important issue facing the Commonwealth is JOBS...which "affects the other pocket-book issues—taxes, health care costs, how far a dollar will go..." When asked what he wanted to accomplish in this first term, he said: "by 2011, by the end of this term, improving the economy, while assuring the critical core services have been attended to..."

During the organizing caucus meeting recently, one of the Delegates stepped outside the meeting location only to witness a serious traffic accident in downtown Richmond involving a car striking a motorcycle broadside...whereupon the delegate ran back into the meeting room and shouted: "is there a doctor in the house? We need a doctor outside...now!" Immediately upon instinct, Drs. Garrett and Stolle, true to their Hippocratic oath, immediately ran



Dr. O'Bannon



Dr. Stolle



Dr. Garrett

outside and began administering first aid to the injured until the EMT's arrived...very likely saving a life.

The formation of an active medical caucus in the General Assembly now is very likely with three doctors, a nurse, a physical therapist, and two pharmacists in the House, and one doctor in the Senate. This will be a positive addition...to the oldest serving legislative body in the world!

Charlie Judd is a Marketing/Communications Consultant in the Richmond area. He can be contacted at: 804.241.1066 or cej@j4com.com



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Women in the Legislature: Still Here, Still Outnumbered

Editor's Note: *This story is a summary of a speech given by Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia. She spoke at the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University on November 20. Chelsea Moody summarizes her remarks here:*



Treadway

Although there are 17 women now serving in the Virginia House of Delegates (only eight in the Senate), women among the predominantly male Virginia General Assembly population were unheard of until the mid-Twentieth century. Virginia women were "late in the game," according to Virginia Librarian Sandra Treadway, in organizing a coalition movement on behalf of woman suffrage. The roots of the woman suffrage movement of the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries begins at a women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. Several women from Virginia had tried to energize other women throughout the state and get women generally interested in the cause of woman suffrage, but with no real results until 1909, when the Equal Suffrage League was formed by a group of well-connected women in the state's capitol city of Richmond. This League launched a movement on Virginia's political establishment, which was intensified in 1919, when Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment and sent it to the states for ratification.

Virginia women gained the right to vote through passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution in 1920. Virginia was not among the states that voted to ratify woman suffrage, and the Virginia General Assembly did not pass the Nineteenth Amendment until nearly thirty-two years later, in 1952. The Equal Suffrage League changed its name to the League of Women Voters immediately following the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, and began campaigning to educate Virginia women on government and legislative initiatives. Eventually, women in Virginia were tired of seeing legislation from an outsider's perspective, and wanted to be part of the decision making process on the floor of the General Assembly.

The first woman to declare her candidacy to the General Assembly was Janet Oldershaw Durham, who decided to run for Virginia's House of Delegates only one year following the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Other women would soon follow her. In the next few years, including Mary Bell Perkins, Sarah Lee Fain, and Helen Timmons Henderson (1921-24). Durham and Perkins were unsuccessful in their bids, but Sarah Lee Fain and Helen Timmons Henderson were elected to the 1924 General Assembly, a victory for all women across Virginia. Next to arrive on the legislative scene was Sallie Cook Booker, in the 1926-1927 session. Many other women followed these women pioneers at the Virginia General Assembly, but it was still a difficult uphill battle for women. Emma White served in the House from 1930 to 1933, and was the last of the first generation of pioneers of women at Virginia's Capitol.

Throughout the mid-Twentieth Century, women played major roles in local and state Democratic committees representing the Commonwealth but none would serve again in the General Assembly until the election of Kathryn H. Stone in the 1954 session. Several other women were then elected in the 1960s, paving the road for many women in the following decades. The first woman to run successfully for the Virginia State Senate was Republican Eva Scott in 1979. The number of women to run for the General Assembly successfully continued to rise in the 1980s and 1990s, leaving an average of fourteen to fifteen women in the House each session. The Senate was somewhat different, but usually had at least one

See *Women in the Legislature*, continued on page 12

Morefield Starts Early, in More Ways Than One

By LASHARI CELISTAN

Editor's Note: Will Morefield was interviewed at a fundraising event after his election, and before he was sworn in to office.

Delegate-Elect Will Morefield hasn't been getting much sleep lately. The day of his interview he reflects on how busy his schedule has been since his win in the 3rd district over incumbent Dan Bowling. "I didn't sleep tonight," he said, crediting his energy to Red Bull (the popular high caffeine energy drink) and coffee. He has the energy and exuberance of a man who is very eager to begin his run as delegate.

"I'm very excited," he said. "Someone asked me am I nervous and I said, absolutely not. We're ready to get in and start working."

What makes Morefield's triumph so motivating is his age. Morefield, 25, will be 26 when he is sworn in in January, which makes him the youngest new member in the Virginia House of Delegates. His victory over incumbent Dan Bowling in the 3rd district comes just two mere years after his graduation from Midwestern State University (MSU) in Wichita, Texas.

Morefield was raised by his grandparents, Jack and Betty Morefield, a coal miner and housewife. He comes from a large, tight knit family. When asked if they were surprised by his candidacy he said, "They knew it was coming."

Morefield has been involved in politics ever since he can remember, and despite his age, has a very active history in politics. He was the first student to ever be elected student body president for two consecutive years at MSU. He said that he applied his experience from college to his campaign in the 3rd district. In 2006, he experienced another first when he was appointed as the first student to serve on the University's Board of Regents by the Governor of Texas.

It was upon his arrival back to his hometown of Tazewell after graduation that he decided he had to take an active part in improving the quality of life for citizens in Southwest Virginia. "Something told me I had to come back to the area and help the young folks," said Morefield, "I can count on my hand how many graduates came back to the area."

As a small business owner himself, Morefield recognizes the importance of economic diversity and one of his main focuses is to implement new jobs in order to encourage people to stay in the area and help build up its economy rather than leaving the area in search of work. He said, "If it creates a job we need to encourage it."

Morefield is ready to begin his stint as delegate. "We want to hit the ground running from day one," he said. Morefield recognizes that national issues come back to the local level. He said, "These are not Democrat or Republican issues that we're facing but American issues." He added, "We've got to start putting partisan politics aside."

Morefield serves as an inspiration to people both young and old. He led a momentous campaign that many in the 3rd district hadn't

See *Morefield Starts Early*, continued on page 17



Women in the Legislature from page 11

woman during most sessions, except for the sessions between 1983 and 1988.

In the last session of the General Assembly, 23 women served, eight in the Senate and 15 in the House. This session that number has grown by two women in the House, which is a great step for women in legislation in only one year. The Senate's Democratic Caucus was chaired by a woman, and for the first time ever last year a woman was appointed to the group of Senators who serve on the conference

Running right.

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committee that tries to resolve the differences between the House and the Senate versions of the state budget. The woman's role in Virginia State politics, as well as politics of the United States, will continue to grow just as the legislature does. Women may not be where they want to be in the legislature just yet, but the women of the early Twentieth Century would certainly be pleased with the accomplishments women have made thus far.

This summary is by Chelsea Moody, a student at Randolph-Macon College.

Could Virginia Go Unicameral?

By MARK RUSH

The reaction to the role Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson played in the passage of the Senate's health care bill energized the chattering classes as the nation's op-ed pages and blogs brimmed with consternation about the corrupt bargain. How could the senate justify giving Nebraska special treatment in order to get the health care bill passed? What makes Nebraska so special? What can we do to fix the Senate?



Actually, nothing is wrong with the Senate. The truth is, the securing of Senator Nelson's vote represents nothing worse than the smooth working of the American constitutional and political system. This happens all the time. The founding fathers expected this to happen—take a look at James Madison's discussion of pluralist politics in *Federalist 10*. Nebraska got a great deal on the Senate health bill. Next month another state or special interest will get a sweetheart deal on some other piece of legislation. That is the nature of American politics.

The federal Senate was designed to ensure that smaller states would retain influence in a large country. The deal with Nebraska has made a lot of folks stand up and take notice (again) that the United States is a republic—that's not the same as a democracy. The latter promotes majority rule, the former protects minority rights.

While the U.S. Senate can therefore be justified in terms of protecting the smaller states, the same cannot be said about the state senates themselves. While long ago, state senates may have served important purposes in representing counties or discrete regional interests, they have not served that purpose since the U.S. Supreme

Court declared that the one person, one vote rule applied to both houses of the states' legislatures.

Accordingly, if one looks at the composition of the state legislatures and maps of voting districts for their lower and upper houses, it becomes clear that the principal difference between the two houses is their size: senates have fewer members and represent larger districts. But, whereas U.S. Senators can justify their existence by claiming they represent a discrete state's interest, I doubt any observer of the map of Virginia's Senate districts would conclude that the district lines were drawn in order to protect any identifiable or discrete interest. Every 10 years the senate districts (and the house of delegates districts) are redrawn to suit the interests of the party controlling each house. As a result, the Commonwealth can appear to be Democratic in one house and Republican in another—even though the same voters are voting.

So, why do we need two legislative chambers?

No, really. I mean no disrespect towards any member of our legislature. Nonetheless, if we sit back and look at Virginia's government, a two-house legislature now seems to be redundant if not extravagant or unnecessary. We have an independent governor and a Supreme Court. Either one of them has the power to check the legislature. Why then, do we still need to render the legislature inefficient and slow by splitting its powers in two?

If improving legislative speed and efficiency are not good reasons to consider moving to a one-house state legislature, how about... cost? Virginians pay for 100 delegates and 40 senators and the staff, supplies, heat, running water etc. to support them. Could we not live with 100 or 40? Split the difference and reorganize the legislature into one chamber with 120 seats?

Moving from a bicameral to a unicameral legislature would remove one layer of decennial gerrymandering. It would present a clearer voice of the people and offer a clearer counterbalance to the governor. It would reduce the cost of government.

See *Could Virginia Go Unicameral*, continued on page 17



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Girl Scouts were well represented in the parade



Fortunately during the festivities emergency medical services only treated two people, the worst a broken ankle*

Henrico County: Bellwether of Virginia Politics

By DANIEL PALAZZOLO, KARIN EASTBY, AND ANDREW SLATER

While Virginia has recently gained notoriety in national politics as battleground state in presidential politics, it is worth analyzing electoral trends within the state. Since the 1990s, for instance, Henrico County has become something of a bellwether of statewide elections, and the 2009 gubernatorial election was a case in point. After voting in favor two successful Democratic gubernatorial candidates, Henrico voters and Virginians generally supported Republican Bob McDonnell in 2009. Thus a county and a state that was trending Democratic, has reversed course, at least for now.

Henrico County is the political battleground of central Virginia, surrounding the north, west, and east sides of the Richmond city, a traditionally Democratic jurisdiction, and bordering the Republican counties to its north, west, and south: Hanover, Goochland, and Chesterfield counties. In the 2009 gubernatorial election, we expected Henrico's neighbors to behave reliably, and they did. But Henrico was up for grabs. An analysis of Henrico's senatorial, gubernatorial, and presidential voting records over the past two decades, reveals two trends: the county was a barometer for predicting the winner of the statewide vote since 1992, regardless of whether it was a Democrat or a Republican, and a clear preference for Democratic candidates in four of the past five elections. With respect to the 2009 gubernatorial election, the question was whether Henrico County would be a bellwether or a blue county.

From 1968 through 2004, Virginia regularly voted for the Republican candidate for president, and so did Henrico County. For most of this period, up until 1992, the Republican candidate won an overwhelming portion of the vote in Henrico, typically amassing 65 percent or more of the two-party vote for president. Thus, the county was not only reliably Republican, but has always had a larger share of the GOP than the statewide electorate. Beginning in the 1990s and especially in the 2000 and 2004 elections, both the county and the state's vote for president was more evenly divided between the two major party candidates than in prior election years. For instance, George Bush won 55 percent of the vote in 2000 and 54 percent in 2004. In 2008, Barack Obama was the first Democratic candidate to win the state of Virginia since 1964, and he also won Henrico. In fact, Obama won Henrico County by three more points than he won statewide vote, garnering 56 percent of Henrico's vote and 53 percent of the statewide vote.

On the gubernatorial level, since the election of Republican George Allen in 1993, every candidate who has won Henrico, regardless of his party affiliation, has also won the statewide vote. Over this time period, as the state shifted toward Democratic candidates in first decade of the twenty-first century, so did Henrico. When Mark Warner was elected Governor in 2001 by a slim margin, Henrico followed suit, granting him just over a 50 percent victory. In 2005, Tim Kaine won 52 percent of the statewide vote, and won 53 percent of Henrico's vote.



On the senatorial level, Henrico has voted in line with the state over the past decade with the exception of Democratic Senator Jim Webb's election in 2006, when Republican incumbent George Allen nudged Webb by 400 votes in Henrico only to lose the state by just 10,000 votes. Thus, even in this case, Henrico's voting preferences mirrored the statewide vote. In fact, Henrico's vote percentage was closer to the state average in 2006 than it was in 2008 when both Henrico and Virginia went for Democratic Senate candidate Mark Warner. Webb won 49.10 percent of the vote in Henrico and 49.59 percent statewide, whereas Warner got 67.24 percent of Henrico's vote, compared to 65.03 percent statewide.

Thus, the 2009 gubernatorial election was a critical test to determine whether Henrico would continue to vote for the Democratic candidate, or vote in favor of the winning statewide candidate. As it turned out, the county voted for the statewide winner, a Republican, but the GOP vote in the county (56 percent) fell short of the statewide vote (59 percent) for Governor-elect McDonnell. Thus, Henrico continues to serve as a bellwether, though the strength of GOP support compared with the state is lower today than it was in the 1990s.

The electoral trends in Henrico and the state of Virginia emerged in the context of changes in voter turnout and voter demographics. Not only do more people call Henrico County and the Commonwealth of Virginia "home" today than they did fifteen or twenty years ago, but the county's population is far more diverse. Both Henrico County

See *Henrico County*, continued on page 20



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Public Policy Debates and Rousseau's General Will By BILL SHENDOW

Sometimes in midst of heated debate over public policy it is helpful to reflect on ideas of past political philosophers whose ideas have shaped history. This is a daunting task given the sheer volume of ideas deserving of consideration and the degree to which their meaning is subject to interpretation. On occasion, when considering a policy issue of importance an idea from the past cries-out to be heard. Such is the case with Jean Jacques Rousseau's formulation of the "general will." Rousseau's general will theory merits being revisited because it offers the prospect of reframing the nature of our current public policy debates.



The ideas of Rousseau regarding the general will are found in his essay the *Social Contract* (1762). In this essay Rousseau puts forth the thesis that the path towards a just and moral society leads man to enter into a social contract driven by the general will. For Rousseau, the general will is not the particular will of either the individual or groups of individuals. Neither is it the compilation or sum total of particular wills. It is, according to Rousseau, that part of man's will which is focused and directed solely towards the common good. The general will surfaces in society when all who have agreed to the social contract focus precisely on that which is best for society as a whole. The best form of government, according to Rousseau, is one in which the general will, not special interests, prevails.

Rousseau's notion of the general will is a rather simple, but powerful concept. It had a profound impact in the formulation of liberal political thought of his day and the days which followed. It was known to the well-read founders of our nation as witnessed by Madison's reference to this concept in *The Federalist*. In *Federalist 10* Madison makes the point that the new Constitution is deserving of support because it produces an elected representative who is better able to distinguish the "public good" from particular interests. Like the Founders we can learn much by reflecting upon Rousseau's general will as it relates to our public policy discourse. Currently, it would appear that the debate of public policy issues is being driven by particular interests. It seems as if the common interest is being muffled by well-organized and funded campaigns that promote the particular wills of individuals and special interest groups. It would be both refreshing and enlightening to turn the focus of our public policy debates to a search for Rousseau's general will. What is in the best interest of society as a whole?

In the *Social Contract*, Rousseau readily admits that people can disagree and even err as to the general will. He, however, steadfastly maintains that the path to a just and moral society lies in the diligent pursuit of the common good. Reframing our public policy debates to focus on the common good is a good place to start if we are to attain the type of society envisioned by Rousseau in his theory of the general will.

Dr. Bill Shendow is Chair of the Political Science Department at Shenandoah University.

Could Virginia Go Unicameral? from page 13

It is not about to happen.

Changing the structure of the legislature would require a constitutional amendment. This requires either a constitutional convention or a majority vote by two consecutive sessions of both legislative houses before submitting it to the voters. Call me cynical, but I can't yet conceive of a scenario that would lead either house to dissolve itself.

Still, political reform is in the air. As I write this, the op-ed pages continue to ooze concerns about the U.S. Senate and health care. On our pacific coast, California is in the midst of constitutional reform. It's as good a time as any for Virginians to think about their own government and ask if we can't make some changes. Could Virginia afford a unicameral legislature?

Mark Rush is Head of the Department of Politics at Washington and Lee University in Lexington.

Morefield Starts Early from page 12

seen in ages. He is an example to the younger generations that if you dream big and focus in on your dreams you can accomplish anything. He is also able to restore the faith of the older generation who may think that all that young people are worried about these days is the next party. Morefield is a testament to the contrary. He said, "We're excited and looking forward to starting in January."

LaShari Celistan is a student at Virginia State University.



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Bryant Brings Sense of Urgency and Hope to New Post

By BONNIE ATWOOD

Editor's Note: As we go to press, it has been announced that L. Preston Bryant will become a senior vice president at the Richmond-based McGuireWoods Consulting firm, in addition to serving in his role as chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission.

L. Preston Bryant Jr. presses his finger on the conference table when he makes important points:

"Water is *finite*," he says, with a serious tone. "We will run out of fresh water."

Our water supply problem is just one of the problems (he would say "challenges") that he has grappled with as the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources in Governor Tim Kaine's administration. As Bryant moves on to a different level of government, the problems are still in his focus, but so are the solutions.

The goal, he said, is to stay "ahead of the curve." With regard to water, which is just one of the many concerns of his watch, he anticipates that some day we will be changing salt water to fresh water. The Commonwealth has to think "short, medium, and long-term."

Bryant is leaving office this month, but will continue to live in Richmond, and will return to the private sector. He was appointed by President Barack Obama to chair the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) through January of 2013.

The NCPC is the central planning agency for all federal lands and buildings in Washington, D.C., suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. It also works with:

- Foreign Embassies in Washington, and works with additional projects such as
- The continued development of the new Department of Homeland Security (on a huge site in Southeast Washington),
- Redevelopment of the current Walter Reed Army Medical Center site (moving many patient services to Fort Belvoir), and
- Studying the 10th Street, N.W., corridor in Washington, D.C. (changing a "sterile office block" to a livable, fun section of "past-5 P.M" life in the District).

Such projects are huge, expensive, and exciting. Bryant will oversee planning of \$7 to 9 Billion worth of projects this fiscal year.

How will he do it? With lots of help, he says modestly. He credits a "very professional staff" to help him get it all together. And organized. This reporter cannot help adding a personal note: it does not hurt to interview someone so organized that he sends you a *personalized* 10-page fact sheet prior to the appointment.

But above all the facts and figures, Bryant wanted to make one point particularly clear: He values his time working for Governor Kaine:

"I can't say enough about the opportunity Governor Kaine has given me," he says, leaning in again with the serious tone. "He has been extraordinarily supportive. I could not have asked for any more support than what Governor Kaine has given me."

One thing that makes this relationship extraordinary is that while Kaine is a Democrat, Bryant is a Republican. Born and raised in Lynchburg, Bryant entered politics from civil engineering. For ten years, he served as a Republican in the House of Delegates. Even now, he said, he "still counts himself as a Republican." Kaine reached across party lines to appoint Bryant as Secretary of Natural Resources, just as President Obama now reaches across party lines to appoint Bryant to the NCPC. The whole thing seems to convey that sense of hopefulness that holds it all together.

Bryant's huge window looks out on the east side of the grand Old City Hall. The sky is starting to hint of a hard winter to come. His office belongings are just beginning to be packed into cardboard



boxes. A few cherished mementos, like the oyster shell on his conference table, remain out. He was asked about the world meeting in Copenhagen. At that moment, half a world away, the gavel was probably just coming down.

"This is an extraordinarily important conference," he said, intently. "I hope they can come to some agreement." That conference was later judged to be neither a great success nor a complete meltdown (paraphrasing the *New York Times*). Bryant urges Virginians to look at what *Virginia* can do about this about water, energy, air quality, and climate.

Virginia, for example, with its fast-growing regions, is responsible for emissions of 175 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. This produces more than some entire countries, such as Pakistan, Egypt, or Greece. If Virginia produces this figure, then it can reduce this figure, and he believes it will, he said, "it can be globally significant." Bryant said he regrets not making more progress on state greenhouse gas reduction and energy efficient strategies, "largely blocked by the General Assembly," but he applauds Kaine for instituting many efforts by way of Executive Orders and use of stimulus funds.

Bryant himself, and his wife, Liz, probably have a smaller carbon footprint than most. She works a few blocks away in a public relations job in downtown Richmond. They regularly carpool, and on days when that doesn't work, they are patrons of good old GRTC.

As if responsibilities for air, water, land, energy and climate were not enough, Bryant, as Secretary of Natural Resources, has also been a protector of historic resources.

"Virginia is ranked the number one state in designating historic districts," said Bryant, "and this is important to government." He said we lose 60,000 acres a year to development. The Kaine administration has been instrumental in acquiring easements and preserving these historic lands, family farms and working forests. Currently, the Secretary is looking at the future of Fort Monroe—570 acres of choice land in Hampton. Fort Monroe is one of the most historic sites in the country, he said. "It is where the end of slavery began." Runaway slaves were declared "contraband of war" by General Benjamin Franklin Butler. Now that the U.S. Army is leaving due to BRAC actions, Governor Kaine appointed Bryant to head efforts to prepare the re-use of Fort Monroe once the state takes control in September of 2011. It may become a park, a nice place to live, a tourist attraction.

And part of Bryant's historic stewardship has been working with the Virginia Council of Indians, comprised of the chiefs of Virginia's eight state-recognized tribes. As Bryant spoke, we both knew that Virginia's Indians stand



The Department of the Army awarded L. Preston Bryant, Jr., with the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal in Richmond on January 4. This medal is one of the highest public service awards that the army bestows. It is conferred on rare occasions to civilians who make a substantial contribution or whose service is significant to an Army major command.

See *Bryant*, continued on page 20

Bryant from page 19

poised very close to achieving the long-sought federal recognition, which Kaine and Bryant have both championed. The House and Senate have approved, and there are only "loose ends" to tie up, he said. The news could come down any day.

Bryant may very well be working in Washington by that time, serving President Obama. Has he met the President? Yes, once, at Fort Belvoir.

"He sincerely wants what's best for the U.S.," said Bryant.

Bryant ends with more praise for Governor Kaine. "He has been a terrific guy to work for," said Bryant. "It has been a blessing to have worked under his administration."

For more information about Secretary Bryant's new post at the National Capital Planning Commission, see www.ncpc.gov.

Bonnie Atwood is an award-winning freelance writer, working for Tall Poppies Freelance Writing LLC. She can be contacted at atwood@tallpoppiesfreelance.com. 


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Henrico County from page 16


and the Commonwealth have experienced the same percentage increase in voter turnout since the election of Governor George Allen in 1993- about ten percent by the 2009 statewide elections. In terms of diversity, from 1990 to 2008, the percentage of African Americans in Henrico Country grew from 20 percent to 28 percent; by 2008, 45 percent of Henrico's population was nonwhite. Since the vast majority of nonwhites, particularly African Americans, vote for Democratic candidates, it is not surprising that as the state and the county have become more diverse, they have become more politically competitive.



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Thus, as Henrico and the state of Virginia have been more diverse, they have become more politically competitive. Even with the Democratic gains in Henrico, the county remains a reliable bellwether and a battleground in senatorial, gubernatorial, and presidential elections. Just as is the case for Virginia as a whole, we can expect to see vibrant competition in Henrico in future elections.

Daniel Palazzolo is Professor of Political Science and Karin Eastby and Andrew Slater are political science majors at the University of Richmond. 


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Snow Days: What It Means to be “Essential” By CHARLES TODD

When I taught in the Fairfax County Public Schools in the late 1950s, there was a paralyzing snowstorm that closed all schools, colleges, businesses, and the federal government. As announced over radio in those days, “only essential federal personnel need to report to work.” One observer stated later that, “After much soul-searching, 99 percent of employees stayed home.”



So who were the essential workers that reported for work? In the schools, it was the custodians. During a snow emergency, it is the custodians who must see that the furnaces are operating. Broken water pipes could close a multi-million dollar school for several days.

Emphasis has been placed on putting more money into the classroom, and that is a lofty goal of political candidates. On the other hand, operating an efficient and successful school has become more a team effort. Support personnel have proliferated since the passage of the Elementary and Secondary School Act of 1965 that, for the first time, put significant federal money into public schools. Each federal project has required additional personnel in an effort to prove accountability for the program as well as to protect the money. Without documentation and balanced ledgers, there is no accountability for educational programs or for the proper use of public funds.

The rise of special education programs increased the number of teacher aides to assist children with multiple mental and physical needs. In practically all schools there are full-time cafeteria managers, secretaries, maintenance workers, custodians, nurses, kindergarten aides, attendance officers, security officers, and computer technicians. Teacher aides to work with small groups during the teaching of reading and mathematics have become indispensable.

Even closed or abandoned school buildings require maintenance and custodial care to replace broken windows, to remove fallen

gutters, to keep the grass cut, and to keep vagrants from seeking shelter. Our public buildings reflect the priorities of local communities and our state.

In updating the Standards of Quality funding formula in Virginia during the economy crisis, efforts have been made by state leaders to spare education. Since about half of the state budget is spent on public education, it is evident that the schools will soon lose some state funds, putting a greater burden on localities. With a cutback in the funding of support positions likely, local school boards hope that these reductions will be temporary.

On October 22, the State Board of Education met and declined to make any permanent changes to the Standards of Quality that would result in decreased funding for K-12 public education. The Board found no educational justification for a proposal to impose an across-the-board cap on state funding for support staff. Various suggestions for reduction in spending for 2010-2012 are now under consideration.

Persons holding support positions are covered by the Virginia Retirement System, but it is not widely recognized that these vital persons do not have the same state health insurance credits at retirement that teachers and administrators have earned. As the lowest paid employees of school divisions, they need health insurance as badly as certificated teachers and administrators. Some counties and cities assist retired support personnel with health insurance payments, placing the entire burden on the locality rather than the shared costs that the state provides for teachers and administrators.

Bills have been introduced at the General Assembly for several years to correct this inequity, only to have them fail in committee. Although money is always in short supply, it may be that even during an economic crisis, this benefit for dedicated and essential school employees should be brought under the same rules of retirement that teachers and state employees in similar positions receive.

Charles Todd is a retired public school teacher and administrator. ❏

Open Seats, Close Races By CHELSEA MOODY

The Virginia House of Delegates welcomes 20 new faces to the General Assembly. The class of 2009 is the largest group to be sworn in to the General Assembly, and many of these races to secure their seat in the House of Delegates were close throughout Virginia. One of the particularly close races was in my home district in Roanoke, the 17th district. Delegate Elect William “Bill” Cleaveland, a Republican, was running against Gwen Mason, a Democrat, for the seat formerly held by Delegate William Fralin, both putting up an equally impressive fight. It was Cleaveland who came out on top in the polls, however, by the end of the night of November 3, but up until the last hour or so of voting, both Cleaveland and Mason were neck and neck sharing percentages.



Another very close race came from Virginia’s 21st district of Virginia Beach, between former Delegate Bobby Mathieson, a Democrat, and Delegate-Elect Ron Villanueva, a Republican. This race was particularly close, especially because by the end of election night on November 3 it was not clear who had won the House seat in the 21st district. It was not until almost a week later, and a couple of

recounts later, that newcomer Ron Villanueva was confirmed as the winner for the House seat in the 21st.

By the time you read this, a special election on January 12 will determine the two new Senators to fill Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli’s seat (R-37th) and former Senator Ken Stolle’s (R-8th) seat.

Chelsea Moody is a student at Randolph-Macon College. Her home is near Roanoke, Va. ❏



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MFT—What does that mean? By STEVEN L. ECKER, PH.D., LPC, LMFT

We live in Richmond now, and my sister Andrea lives in a sprawling crowded Philadelphia neighborhood where the houses are so close together that only a chain link fence and a small spit of grass separates some of the homes. Last month, Andrea called. She said her walking companion, Barb, was worried. They freely talked about their joys and shared their fears, particularly regarding how their aging families had changed. So Andrea was concerned when Barb complained about her son. Apparently he had married an opinionated feisty woman who did not like Barb or her husband. This was particularly painful because they had been very close and enjoyed so much time together. So what were they to do, and who could be of help? Andrea knew I was a counselor who had gone through extensive training and had been in practice for a while. She asked what could be done to help her friend.




When it comes to seeking help for personal problems, we have a confusing array of options. If you are in need of assistance and talking with a friend or family member won't do, what type of professional support should you seek? How can you tell if the person you have chosen is right for you? Does it matter what their credentials are or if they have experience with your situation? Will they understand? These are a few of the questions you might ask and there do not seem to be any easy answers.

Even though we are in lots of relationships that consume much of our time, most of us do not think very much about the social connections that pervade our lives. Maybe this is because they are so much a part of our lives or we just simply take them for granted. This seems particularly true when it comes to family relationships. Science has recently asserted something we intuitively understand. Human beings are, by nature, social creatures. Our survival as a species probably depended upon our ability to relate successfully to others. Academics and scientists have asserted that "to be human is to be social." Some neuroscientists believe our relationships with other human beings fundamentally alter our thoughts and even affect our health. However, for years, we have thought that the individual was primary. Many have been gently seduced by this mantra.

For some, particularly if you are a male and grew-up in the 50s or 60s, people like John Wayne and the Lone Ranger might have even been role models. We were repeatedly told by authority figures to "pull ourselves up by our bootstraps." That kind of thinking has gotten a lot of us in trouble. We might think it's all about us and we should not depend on others. Unfortunately, some of the people we turn to for help also focus on the individual while they give lip service to our relationship troubles. They attend to what is going on inside our heads. It still surprises me the number of busy therapists who all rarely meet with a client's family or their significant other.

One group, in particular, sees the world quite differently. Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) have a unique perspective that may be unchallenged among service providers. They pay particular attention to how people connect to each other and whether those connections work. The individual's perspective is, of course, still important, but what is it about the relationship that has gone wrong? In other words, what has happened to change Barb's relationship with her son, can it be fixed and, if so, how?

In order to become a MFT you must hold a master's or doctorate degree from an academic program accredited by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). That experience is followed by two or more years of post-degree clinical supervision where you are expected to show proficiency in marriage and family treatment modalities. And finally you are required to successfully complete a licensure examination which formally tests your knowledge of a board array of clinical skill sets specific to the delivery of marriage and family treatment services. No other "helping" professional is required to do that. MFTs are licensed in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two Canadian provinces. These jurisdictions include an estimated 48,000 marriage and family therapists. And the federal government recently designated marriage and family therapy as a core mental health profession. So, to answer my sister's question, I said tell Barb to log on the AAMFT's (American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy) website, find a therapist nearby, and make an appointment. Andrea thanked me for the suggestion, said it was a good idea, and passed on the recommendation.

Steven L. Ecker, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, is a Member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. 

Capitol Police Promote Six




Virginia's Division of Capitol Police promoted six Officers at a ceremony on Tuesday, November 17, in the Old House Chambers in the Virginia State Capitol building. Officers Stephen R. Robinson, E. Van Pearce, Michael D. Mahoney, Rebecca Browning Herrera, Dianne M. Dowdy, and James R. Seaton, Jr. each received their certificates of promotion in front of family and friends, as well as fellow officers.

Robinson now holds the position of Lieutenant, Operations Division, Night Watch Commander; Van Pearce now holds the title

Capitol Police Association to host Golf Tournament

The Capitol Police Association is hosting its Fifth Annual Golf Tournament, "Tee Off for the Kids," Friday, May 7, at Ford's Colony in Williamsburg. Proceeds from this event will go to FACT (Families of Autistic Children) of Tidewater. This corporation provides children with the opportunity to attend a week-long summer day camp program each year. Children come to the program from Richmond and Tidewater. For more information, call Officer Clarke at the Capitol Police at 804-840-3438.

of Sergeant, Operations Division Day Shift; Mahoney was promoted to Sergeant, Operations Division Evening Shift; Herrera now holds the position of Sergeant, Administration Division, Accreditation; Dowdy has been promoted to Sergeant, Administration Division, Crime Prevention and Emergency Planning; and Seaton now holds the position of Corporal, Operations Division, Midnight Shift.

These promotions are part of the promotional system and agency restructure begun by Colonel Kimberly S. Lettner, Chief of the Division of Capitol Police, who also presided over the ceremony. Virginia's Division of Capitol Police is the nation's oldest police department, and is a full service law enforcement agency providing police and security services to all branches of Virginia state government. 

Twenty-Seven Virginia Governors, and Still Counting

By BONNIE ATWOOD

With The Honorable Bob McDonnell's swearing-in ceremony, my mother will have lived through the administrations of 27 Virginia governors.

That's more governors than years, that some of his staff members have been alive. Moreover, if you double that, that's *two times* more governors than years that the new governor has been alive. Twenty-seven Virginia governors, and 18 U.S. presidents—starting with William Howard Taft and leading to the first black President, Barack Obama.

Dee Atwood came from small town Alabama to Mrs. Boyland's boardinghouse, in the Cherrydale section of Arlington, Va., to be a federal government stenographer. Does anybody still know what a stenographer is? At our house, we don't even discuss computers. Just don't go there. She's still shocked that the bank has computerized our home address.

In my mother's day, high-tech meant ticker tape, telegrams, and those little metal flip-top phone directories. Her government job was almost unrecognizable to the modern world of cubicles and styrofoam cups. She describes the Washington cafeteria where "hot coffee" was served daily from silver coffeepots by waiters in white jackets. She and the girls in the typing pool were given the day off regularly when royalty came to town, and she shook hands with the Roosevelts when she was tagged to be a "serving girl" upon one of the presidential visits.

In this great country of ours, my mother has appreciated and exercised her right to vote, a right not won until she was well into grammar school. Like everybody else in our family, she was an early reader and a newshound. She followed the crimes of the day, Lucky Lindy, the depression, and World Wars I and II in *The Mobile Register*, *The Washington Post*, the *Washington Daily News*, and the *Evening Star*.



Dee Atwood takes on Washington, D.C., circa 1934.

Of course, they weren't called World Wars I and II back then. She read about the Great War; nobody knew there was going to be a second one, let alone all those wars ever since.


Dee continuously astounds me and my son with her casual remarks which remind us of how far she, and our American culture, have come. We consider it to be our life's greatest privilege that we can hear her memories. The other night at dinner she told us that her teacher told the class to go to the town movie theater and see "Birth of a Nation." *And it was a currently playing film!*

Dee has always valued civil liberties. She was proud of her community, Arlington County, which was so dedicated to free speech that it tolerated the official headquarters of even the hate-filled George Lincoln Rockwell. (And she was distressed when Rockwell was assassinated later at an Arlington Shopping Center). She has never been arrested, or even attended a demonstration, for that matter. The closest she came was in 1972, when this petite woman fixed a grocery bag of sandwiches for the members of the American Indian Movement during its occupation of the U.S. Interior Department. She told us she handed the bag to a big handsome man at the door, who said nothing. Then she caught her bus back home.

Such heroes and heroines, such quiet guardians of our liberty, are scattered widely among us.


A new president, a new governor and a new era await. On January 15, The Honorable John O'Bannon, Dee's delegate in the Virginia House of Delegates, is publicly commemorating 100 years of one of his oldest constituents. Happy birthday, Miss Dee.

Bonnie Atwood is an award-winning freelance writer, working for Tall Poppies Freelance Writing LLC. She can be contacted at atwood@tallpoppiesfreelance.com. 



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Who Owns Virginia's Rivers? Sometimes it all Comes Down to the King

By JOE GREEN



All water in navigable rivers is state property, and if a private landowner loses previously dry riverfront land to erosion, then that piece of property is automatically transferred to state ownership. According to Ralph White, manager of Richmond's James River Park, Virginia law does allow one exception to this rule.

"If an owner can show that the property was originally part of a land grant from the King of England to an individual, then the covenants of that land grant take precedence. They obviously pre-date the very existence of the state. In that case, the land and all its streams and rivers belong to the owner, since that is the way the king granted it," says White. However, cases of this loophole being invoked are rare. White said he knows of only one case in which a court granted a Virginia landowner the right to treat a stream that passed through his land as private property.

In Virginia, there are six rivers that have drainage basins of their own, meaning that they do not feed into other rivers. These rivers are the James, the Potomac, the Rappahannock, the York, the Nottoway and the Roanoke. While the Potomac is the largest of these rivers in terms of total drainage area, the James is the largest river entirely within the state of Virginia.

A wide variety of federal, state, and local laws and regulations govern commercial and recreational activity involving rivers. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has imposed a number of restrictions on development along the various waterways that drain into the Chesapeake Bay.

Regulations over boating safety and recreational fishing are determined at the state level, as are regulations on the removal of water from rivers for industrial and agricultural purposes.

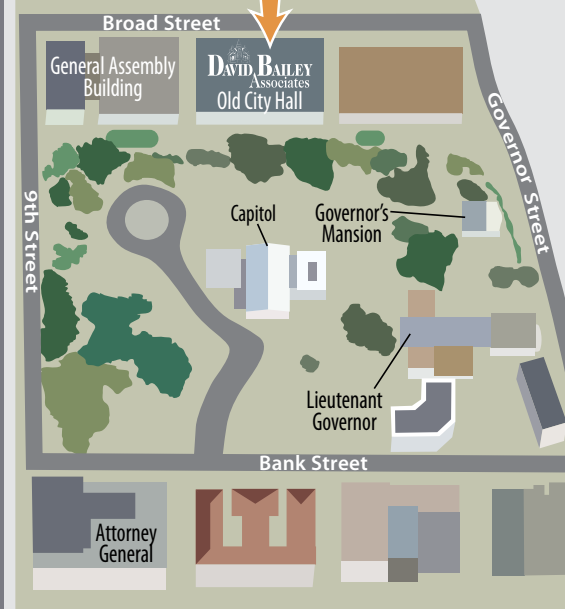
As an example of local ordinances pertaining to rivers, the City of Richmond requires boaters in the area around the falls of the James to wear life jackets, and at times of high water allows only individuals with locally issued high water use permits to access the falls of the James. The Richmond Fire Department oversees many of these regulations, as well as the issuing of high water use permits.

The King of England once had his say, and in a rare case, his wishes may even still determine claims. But Virginians are free to enjoy the six beautiful rivers, their streams and creeks, for generations to come.

Joe Green is a freelance writer and videographer in Richmond. He can be reached at josephgreen63@yahoo.com. Joe writes a hiking blog for www.examiner.com. 

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John Warren Cooke

By TOM HYLAND

John Warren Cooke, a Democratic former Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates (1968-1979) and the Delegate from Mathews County for 38 years (1941-1979) died at 94 years of age on Saturday, November 28, 2009 at his home in Mathews County, Va.

Cooke, the son of Giles Buckner Cooke and Katherine Grosh, was born in Mathews, Virginia on February 8, 1915. His father, an Episcopal minister, had been a major in the Confederate Army serving on the personal staff of General Robert E. Lee.

Cooke graduated from Lee-Jackson High School and attended the Virginia Military Institute. He was the president of Tidewater Newspapers, Inc. in Gloucester, Virginia and was publisher of the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal from 1954 until March 2009. Cooke was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1941 to represent the 31st District (then Mathews and Gloucester counties), became Secretary of the House Democratic Caucus in 1944 and Majority Floor leader in 1956, and was elected as Speaker on January 10, 1968 to replace the retiring Speaker E. Blackburn "Blackie" Moore.

When Cooke was interviewed by *Virginia Capitol Connections Quarterly Magazine* in the summer of 2006, he expressed a number of political and policy ideals that would be rarely admitted in polite political circles these days: "I am amazed at the fiscal situations causing so many problems. If new taxes are needed, why in the world doesn't the General Assembly go along and vote for them? I spent 38 years there and voted for tax increases that maybe I did not approve of; maybe I should not have voted for them but I did because the government has to function." The staff article credited Cooke as "a man who never used two words when one would do the job." It noted that "when Cooke was presiding over the House of Delegates, members recalled many occasions when he made his point with no words at all. With just a frown or pointed glance, his message was clear."

Others have referred to Cooke as a "true Virginia gentleman," an ideal often more frequently honored in flowery rhetoric than in actual practice. A recent *Richmond Times-Dispatch* editorial noted that "as Speaker of the House of Delegates, [Cooke] presided over a chamber in transition. As a Democrat, he saw Virginia change from a one-party state controlled by the so-called Byrd Organization to a state with vigorous two-party competition. When Cooke entered the House during the 1940s, Republicans did not rate recognition as an endangered species for the simple reason they did not qualify as a species. They caucused in a phone booth, as the joke put it."

Cooke is survived by his wife, Anne Rawn Cooke of Mathews, a son, Giles Cooke, and a daughter, Elsa Verbyla. He was deeply and widely involved in community affairs in the Chesapeake area until the time of his death.

Tom Hyland is a government consultant for David Bailey Associates. He has been a legislative staff member and/or lobbyist at the Virginia General Assembly for the past 20 years. He can be contacted at thyland@capitolsquare.com.



Nicholas Anthony Spinella

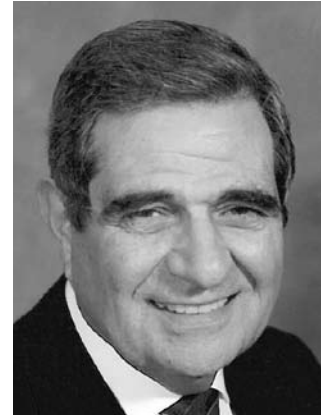
Editor's Note: *Nicholas "Nick" Spinella died on November 2, 2009. He was well known in the Richmond legal and lobbying community. He also served as General Counsel for the Diocese of Richmond under Bishop John J. Russell and Bishop Walter F. Sullivan. Virginia Capitol Connections Quarterly Magazine is honored to have some comments from Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, Bishop Emeritus of Richmond. Said Bishop Sullivan:*

I call him a "man for all seasons." He was actively involved, not only in his legal profession but also in the community and in his church. Nick was always called upon to participate in new ventures here in the Richmond area. He invited me to be on the board with him of the Council for America's First Freedom.

He was active at St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly and in a special way at St. Mary's Hospital, and was one of the founders of the hospital. Nick also was recognized as the head of Serra International which is a group, which promotes vocations to the priesthood in the Catholic Church.

Nicholas Spinella was also successful in his legal practice. He spoke on occasion before the Virginia General Assembly on matters of concern. He was highly respected in his field of law and for his active participation in the Catholic Church, which he dearly loved and lived.

Nicholas Spinella was truly a "man for all seasons." He was active and successful in every undertaking both in civil society and in the church society. He was even recognized by Pope John Paul II in receiving the "Bene Merenti Medal" which indicates that he is truly well deserving as a man of faith.



Marie Dawson Waddell

Marie Dawson Waddell, 79, of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., died Thursday, October 22 at Meadowview Nursing Home in Northfield, N.J. Born in Atlantic City in 1930, she was the daughter of Vernon Dawson and Edith Male Dawson and the former wife of now retired State Senator Charles L. Waddell.

Marie graduated from Atlantic City High School and then later moved to the Washington, D.C., area where she married and raised a family. In 1999, she moved to Egg Harbor Township to care for her aging mother.

In the not too-distant past, there were occasions that the spouse of a General Assembly member, in serving as the designated "gatekeeper" for lobbyist access to that member, exercised in his or her own right a substantial measure of power on behalf of that member. Frequently, these persons came to be recognized by lobbyists and the media as the 101st Delegate or the 41st Senator. Marie Waddell was the hallmark for the 41st Senator. Not only was she an surmountable protective shield for her husband, Senator Charles L. Waddell, but



Continued on next page

Disabled face high unemployment, but take pride in quality work.

By KEN JESSUP

With the nation coping with high unemployment which has hovered over 10 percent for months, it's hard to think of things getting worse. But for persons with disabilities, the challenges in finding employment are even greater. In fact, some studies peg the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities at close to 70 percent, a figure much too high for Paul J. Atkinson, President and CEO of Eggleston Services, a Norfolk-based organization that finds employment for the disabled.



"People with disabilities often have trouble finding employment but once hired and with the correct supports in place they can be some of the happiest and most productive employees," said Atkinson.

One program that helps is a national program administered by the federal government called the Ability One program. Originally called the Javits-Wagner O'Day Act, the program provides employment opportunities for more than 40,000 people nationwide that are blind or have other severe disabilities. Ability One seeks to orchestrate government purchases of products and services provided by nonprofit agencies like Eggleston Services who train and employ individuals with disabilities.

But not all of the work performed at organizations like Eggleston is through federal contracts. State and local agencies and private businesses also take advantage of the quality work performed by this workforce. Roger Wegener of Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital uses Eggleston's commercial laundry for the linen on the hospital beds. "The work is top notch quality; we depend on Eggleston's workers to take care of our linen needs and they deliver well".

For Bruce Johnson, facility manager at General Dynamics, the service is secure shredding. "We use Eggleston Shredding to take care of our secure shredding needs. They not only shred our sensitive documents securely but also take our recyclable paper, and they do it all at about 60% of the cost we paid a previous vendor. It's a much needed service performed well, and we are glad to support the company's mission of employing persons with disabilities."

You can learn more about NISH and the ABILITY ONE program at: www.NISH.org

For more information about Eggleston Services please call: 757-858-8011 or visit www.egglestonservices.org

Ken Jessup is a Lobbyist and may be contacted at: 757-513-3967 or by email: kenjessup@cox.net [V]

In Memoriam *continued*

for nearly every senate session for over thirty years, Marie could be found—with a marked copy of the daily schedule—in the front row center section of the Senate gallery, carefully observing the conduct of the session, counting votes, and taking names. Marie Waddell had a strong understanding of both politics and legislative process and procedures and could instinctively recognize the sincere pleader from the opportunistic poseur; she was the perfect political partner for her sociable senator husband.

Marie is survived by her sons Colonel Jeffrey D. Waddell (USA) of Fayetteville, N.C.; Gregory C. Waddell of Tucson, Ariz.; and Scott A. Waddell of Hamilton; grandchildren Elizabeth, Jennifer, Jonathan, Brianna, Lindy, Ryan and Kristen; and great-grandson Austin. [V]

Manassas exhibit will highlight black history

By BENNIE SCARTON JR. MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

MANASSAS—A new Manassas Museum exhibit, opening in time for Black History Month, will highlight 27 African-American stories and events depicted on Virginia highway historical markers.

The exhibit, "Sites and Stories: African American History in Virginia," illuminates the often little-known stories told in those familiar silver-and-black roadside historical markers found throughout the state.

On loan from the Virginia Historical Society, the exhibit starts today and runs through May 31.

Lauranette Lee, the founding curator of African-American history at the Virginia Historical Society, will speak about the exhibit during an opening reception at the museum Sunday at 2 p.m.

Lee is a native of Chesterfield County and received her doctorate in American history from the University of Virginia. She is the author of "Making the American Dream Work: A Cultural History of African Americans in Hopewell, Virginia" and has taught at Old Dominion University, Virginia Union University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

"People sometimes don't get a sense of all that Virginia history has to offer from one marker," Lee said of the exhibit. "Showing multiple markers with a similar theme side by side in an exhibition like this gives people the opportunity to see how diverse Virginia history is—and focusing on African-American history allows us all to see just how much of that history there is out there."

Each of the 27 historical markers represented in the exhibit includes photographs and a related object, and does not duplicate the information on the actual roadside plaques. Lee says her goal as curator of "Sites and Stories" was to present details that people know very little about.

Several biographies of prominent African-Americans are included in the exhibit, including:

- John Mercer Langston (1829-1897) was a Virginia's first African-American congressman, serving for seven months in 1890.
- William Mack Lee (1835-c.1930) served as General Robert E. Lee's valet and cook throughout the Civil War.
- James Leonard Farmer (1920-1999) was a major force in the civil-rights movement, organizing the Freedom Rides in 1961.
- In August 1831, Nat Turner, an African-American from Southampton County, rebelled against the institution of slavery.
- In 1951, students at the R.R.Moton School in Farmville, named after Tuskegee Institute President Robert Moton, boycotted classes to protest overcrowded conditions and inadequate facilities.

The exhibit is intended to encourage visitors to travel to the physical sites of the markers.

Bennie Scarton Jr. is a staff writer for the News & Messenger of Potomac. This article has been reprinted with permission by the Richmond Times Dispatch. [V]

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