

VIRGINIA

CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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Who

All High School
Juniors and Seniors

What

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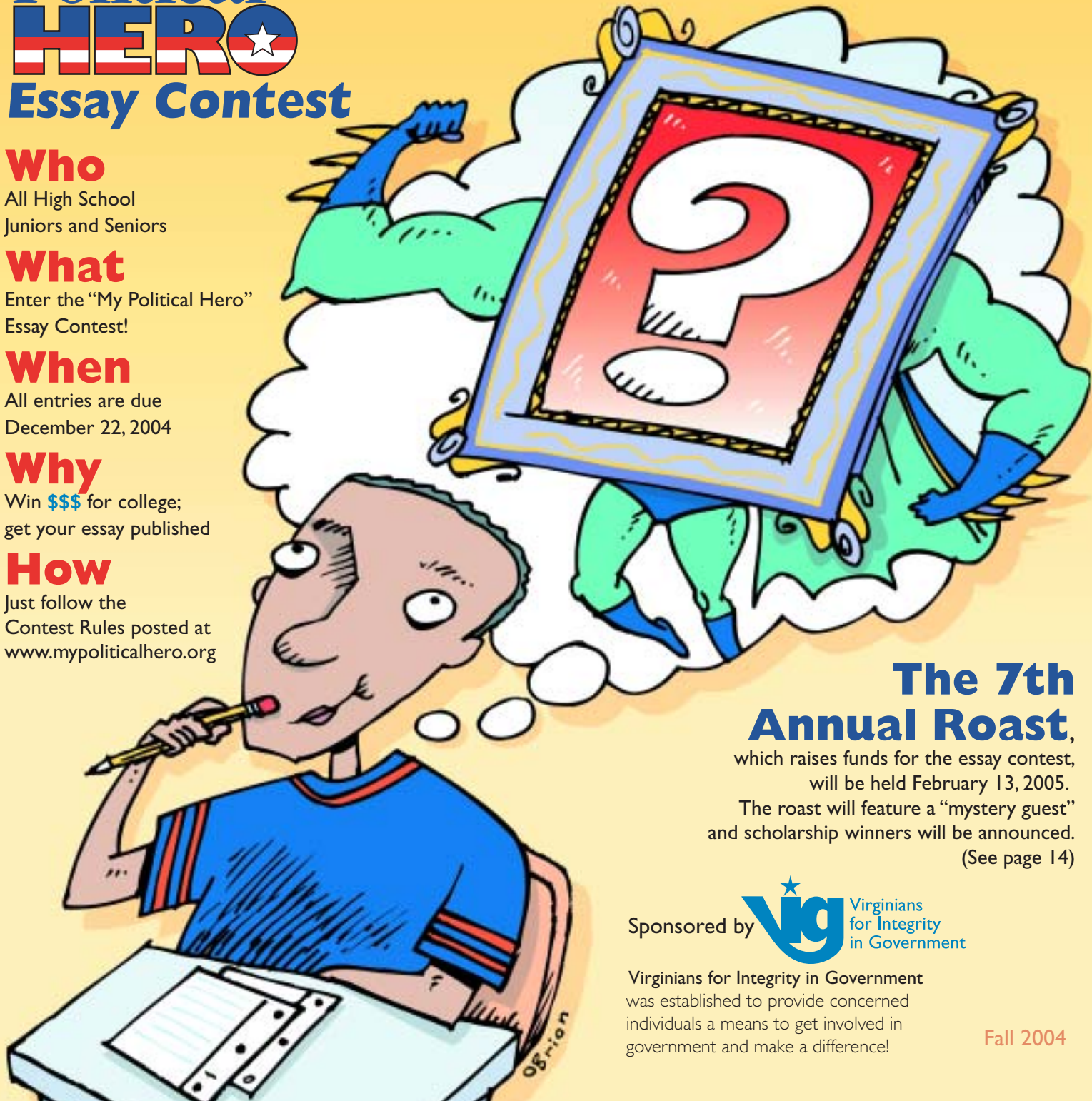
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The 7th Annual Roast,

which raises funds for the essay contest,
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The roast will feature a "mystery guest"
and scholarship winners will be announced.

(See page 14)

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Fall 2004



Meet Chief Bill Leighty: Senior Member of the Governor's Cabinet

By Bonnie Atwood

Chief William H. Leighty seldom has a really bad day. Of course, as the high-level job description of governor's Chief of Staff would suggest, he has long, stressful, frustrating, and downright nail-biting days. He, more than almost anybody, has to worry about security, natural disasters, scheduling disasters, public relations disasters, state budgeting, and just plain keeping the state government in the business of governing, but he has the state of mind of someone who, even through all that, doesn't have a truly bad day.

Chief Leighty, who properly is called "Chief" but by many is called "Bill," is the senior member of Governor Mark Warner's cabinet. He was appointed by the Governor for his nearly three decades of state government service.

"I'm a professional bureaucrat," he likes to say, with the pride of someone who knows the importance of our many experienced, skilled, creative, hardworking state employees in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He has worked for both Democratic and Republican administrations, with equal dedication and respect.

Chief Leighty started out in Stuttgart, Germany, where he was born into a family stationed there as part of a career in the U.S. Army. They moved often in his young life, coming back most often to Ft. Eustis in Newport News, Va.

Traveling and moving gave him "experience with different cultures and people and opportunities," said the Chief.

After high school, he wasted no years in adolescent high jinks. He immediately enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps. This was wartime, 1971 to 1975, and he had hoped to serve in Vietnam, but he was not ordered to go there. He served as a computer repairman stationed at Quantico Marine Corps Base in Northern Virginia.

Chief Leighty married his high school prom date, Marti Kearns. She had been a student at Virginia Tech, and then transferred to the all-female Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg to be closer to Leighty in nearby Quantico.

After his military service, Leighty joined her as a student at Mary Washington. Vastly outnumbered by the women students, he had a "great" time as part of the first graduating class to include men.

In spite of the female distraction factor,

Leighty again wasted no time. He earned a B.A. degree in economics, Phi Beta Kappa, in just two years, quickly followed up by his M.B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Government Life Begins

Thus began his service to his home state. He started out as an economist in the Virginia Tax Department. There he decided, "government is pretty cool." He moved on the Senate Finance Committee staff, working closely with Senator Ed Willey and then was appointed by Governor Baliles to serve as Deputy to the Secretary of Transportation and Public Safety. At that time the two secretariats were combined. After four years in the Baliles cabinet, he became Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, and then, true to his bipartisan reputation, he was appointed by Governor George Allen to be Assistant Director of the Governor's Commission on Government Reform, also known as the Blue Ribbon Strike Force. He was, just prior to Governor Warner's appointment as Chief of Staff, Director of the Virginia Retirement System, a \$35 billion pension plan covering almost all state and local employees in Virginia.

Huge responsibilities and stress notwithstanding, Chief Leighty comes across as calm, witty and fun. What's his secret? It could be in part, his hobby.

"My hobby is birdwatching," he said, taking a sip of coffee from a mug with a picture of what looks to this layman like a red-breasted robin. "To many people, all birds are the same," he said. He went on to explain that careful observation of birds reveals that they are all quite different, and "It's the same with people." (It is at moments like these when the scribbling reporter gets the uncomfortable feeling that she has shifted from being the observer to the observed.)

These insights into the differences among people feed into Chief Leighty's management style, or as he prefers to call it, his operational style. He describes it as the understanding that everything is based on relationships, and that this concept even applies to state governments. When he communicates in state government, he said, he remembers that he is not talking to a position; he is talking to a person. When he talks to a person, he said, he knows if something will get done or not.

Continued on page 4

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At the age of 51, Chief Leighty has the interesting experience of being the oldest person on the third floor (where the Governor's offices are located in the State Capitol). Even Governor Warner, who is getting ready to turn 50, is his chronological junior.

Leighty's age, experience, and institutional memory are the wealth he brings to the office.

He was sitting at a long mahogany conference table in the governor's conference room. It is an elegant and prestigious setting, with muted dark gray walls, gilded mirrors, portraits, and chandeliers.

"I have a sense of what being in this room means," said Leighty, "and I have a sense of what this office means."

The Bad Day

One day his staff was complaining. He gathered them together and took them to the northeast corner of the Capitol's third floor. He asked them to look out the large window and tell him what they saw.

"The Old State Library," they said, with no particular expression.

Leighty had them picture what they would have seen looking out that very same window in April of 1862. They would have seen the horizon ablaze just beyond the city.

"Those people were having a bad day," Leighty told his staff. "We're not having a bad day."

Chief Leighty has an unusual take on the role of government. He said that while many citizens claim that government is not responsive enough, he can view government, ironically, as too responsive.

"Everyone runs to the legislature and gets things passed," he said, "but laws stay on the books forever. Long after the problem may be gone, the agencies are still following the laws." Every day, the hard workers in the state offices must carry out their duties, whether those duties are currently needed or not. We have, for example, boards of mat-

tress inspectors, bikini wax inspectors, and hair braid examiners.

"This is not the bureaucrat's fault," reminded Leighty. It is the way of the legislative system.

Behind Every Great Man

Leighty's philosophy as Chief of Staff follows "Three P's," he said. They are "the purpose of government, the passion of government, and the priorities of government."

Leighty's job as Chief is to keep the government running so that the Governor can do the things that he cares most deeply about. Above his desk is a portrait of Carter Olin Lowance, Chief of Staff to six governors. He served Virginians in a crucial way for a long period of time, but one can't help but wonder, how many citizens know his name?

Most Chiefs of Staff are appointed after work in political campaigns. Leighty said he thinks Governor Warner chose him because he didn't have that background, but rather was bipartisan. Governor Warner, said Leighty, is passionate about governing from a bipartisan point of view. Chief Leighty works politics from the "little p" perspective. He doesn't get involved in appointments. He does no fundraising.

A Day in the Life

Listening to Chief Leighty's typical day (if there ever is one) is like an elegant course in industrial efficiency. He begins by reading the news clips that readers have cut out from newspapers at 4:00 a.m. that morning. At 9:00 a.m. he convenes a "message meeting," where third floor staff discuss the clips, go over schedules, talking points, legislation, and all related details. They end the meeting by looking ahead to the week that will follow.

The rest of the day depends on whether Governor Warner is present or not. The Governor travels extensively. For that reason, Chief Leighty does not travel much at

all. He has to be at the Capitol to anchor the Governor's Office. He does get his share of midnight telephone calls. He speaks on behalf of the Governor.

On Friday there are weekly reports, organized by Secretariat. Each Secretariat reports on progress on the Governor's initiatives, operational issues, and news items. Any thing not addressed or completed must go onto a list called "Pending." Nothing is lost. Cabinet meetings are held Mondays at 10 a.m.

Once a week Leighty issues a "Leadership Communiqué." The two-page document for Sept. 16 included: (1) instructions for requests for budget amendments, (2) recommended technology investment projects, (3) voter information, and (4) A best practices study.

Leighty was justifiably proud of a black leather, gold embossed, loose-leaf binder, which holds all the important documents each week. All important documents are copied. One set of copies goes to Governor Warner's personal papers, and one set goes to the Virginia State Library as a permanent record of this administration. Who knows what scholars, a century from now, will pore through those historic pages?

Chief Leighty describes the system as very "process-oriented." The government is run in the best possible way to produce decisions. It goes back to the "three P's" and the reporting system, he said. Keeping in touch is a hallmark. Calls are regularly placed to community people to hear what they have to say.

A testament to Leighty's talents is that the nearly three decades of state service have been almost entirely "at will" appointments. Only 18 months has he been a classified state employee.

An Eagle Scout, Chief Leighty still quotes the Boy Scout motto that he lives by, to "be of cheerful service." He is the man behind the man, and content to stay that way. He knows that "no one person" makes government what it is. ■

Virginia Political Commentary



Live Political Shows from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the following dates:

November 4th	February 10th
December 2nd	February 24th
January 13th	March 24th
January 27th	April 7th

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Unfinished Business

By Senator John H. Chichester

Editor's Note: This is the speech given to Virginia21, a student advocacy group.

The copy of this speech which appeared in our print version of VCCQM contained some numerical typographical errors. The numbers have been corrected in this electronic version. VCCQM regrets the error.



Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to be here. I hope you've had a productive session so far and I look forward to the workgroup reports that will be issued shortly. No doubt, the energetic and enterprising minds assembled in this room will have some very important things to say about our future.

Why am I so sure of that? Because you already have shown your mettle!

Last session, you took a stand and showed that college is not a time to "zone out" from the real world but a time to "zone in" on precisely those things that will make your world **real and meaningful**.

You were a welcome partner as we advanced the case for change—change that was long overdue as an investment in Virginia's future.

You were articulate and compelling, and I thank you for the support that you provided. **It makes me proud to know that the future we are trying to protect is so well represented!**

And I am heartened to know that as we take the next step, you will be right there with us.

Yes, there will be a next step. We made tremendous progress last session, but clearly, there is **unfinished business**.

I'd like to share my thoughts about that unfinished business because it reflects my vision for what lies ahead.

Our journey last year began with four basic goals:

First, we wanted to put some wind back in the sails of our fiscal ship of state.

That ship was "listing" from a combination of economic ills and short-sighted decisions. The urgency of this goal was underlined by the Moody's bond rating agency which was a step away from retracting the Commonwealth's Triple A bond rating—our gold standard of financial management.

Second, we wanted to make the tax code fairer—to deliver on tax relief that had been promised and to eliminate certain glaring inequities in the tax system.

Our third and fourth goals involved strategic investments for our future.

We wanted to invest in core state functions that had long been neglected, like higher education and protection of the environment.

We wanted to reduce long waiting lists for mental health services. Elderly parents of disabled adults need to know that the son or daughter they have cared for their entire lives still has a future after they are gone.

We wanted to bring our public safety communications system into the 21st century so first responders could talk to one another.

Not outlandish goals—but solid responsibilities of state government.

With regard to education, we basically had been wearing blinders for too long.

In public education, we had short-changed local governments by not recognizing our fair share of the teaching cost. We had turned a blind eye to reality—to what is actually happening in the classroom. By using outdated, 15-year old standards and ignoring what teachers actually do in the classroom, the state could claim that it was holding the line on cost.

But, for our localities, the reality was that costs were going up and without needed state resources, so too were local property taxes. **We**

were doing the taxpayer no favor by shirking our responsibility at the state level and having the local cash register ring it up in the annual real estate tax.

In higher education, there was a similar story, and you are acutely aware of that story.

Where the state had once provided 70 percent of the funding needed for the academic mission of our public institutions, we had reached the point where we contributed less than 50 percent.

There was no doubt about what we needed to do. Based on legislative funding guidelines, our institutions were under-funded on average by 15 percent. Yet, we ignored those needs, thereby slowing your progress toward graduation and stretching your parents' pocket-books.

And year after year, we closed our eyes to the deterioration of capital assets on your campuses by investing a tenth of what the private sector would invest in major maintenance to keep the properties sound.

Higher education was virtually without a financial compass for the future!

And if that was not bad enough, we need only turn to our transportation system to see a **bigger policy meltdown!**

In 1986, the General Assembly took extraordinary steps to revive a transportation program to meet the state's growing needs. But, over time, we lost our initiative and did nothing to correct the course over the intervening 18 years.

And so, our fourth goal, and a major strategic investment was to put transportation back on the path envisioned in 1986.

The call for action was very simple—an inadequate transportation system places a strangle-hold both on our quality of life and the life of our economy.

We articulated the four goals that I have just mentioned as being crucial to keeping Virginia on the path to prosperity. Thankfully, the citizens of Virginia saw it that way too, and sent a message to Richmond that in the end was heeded, **at least in part.**

I say at least in part to bring me back to my original point—**there is unfinished business.**

Let's see where we stand on each goal.

First, our fiscal ship of state.

Well, I'm proud to report that the ship is no longer "listing" because of action we took last session to shore up our savings account—the Rainy Day Fund—and to reduce the imbalance between on-going budget commitments and resources. Moody's immediately re-affirmed our triple-A bond rating upon passage of our budget.

But, I must quickly add that all our "sins" have not been washed away. We continue to use accounting gimmicks to make ends meet.

For example, we require retail merchants to remit sales tax collections ahead of schedule at the close of the fiscal year—we slide the normal July payment into June so it can be counted on the state's books to close out a fiscal year.

We are not proud of this fiscally imprudent policy, and have vowed to eliminate it at the first opportunity—**to the tune of \$180 million.**

In addition, the current operating budget continues to rely heavily on funds that were intended for capital. Specifically, we have diverted over **\$130 million annually** from the Literary Fund that was meant to address local school construction.

And, just as we "cashed out" well over \$300 million in state capital outlay projects during the recession, moving the cash into the operating budget and moving the capital projects to debt, **we continue to rely exclusively on debt for state capital construction in the current budget.**

Those actions were necessary during the recession, **but I question the wisdom of continuing to divert funds from public school construction and continuing to use debt exclusively for capital as our economic fortune improves.**

In fact, I believe our intent was very clear in 2002. We passed legislation saying when state revenue growth exceeds five percent, we will finance our capital building plan with a combination of cash and

debt, and when our revenue growth exceeds eight percent, we will finance capital entirely from “pay-as-you-go”.

In light of this clear intent, my view is that we need to re-examine the underpinning of our current budget vis-à-vis 100 percent debt for capital construction.

And so, while our fiscal ship of state is vastly improved, we still have a little “house cleaning” to do.

We need to eliminate the accounting gimmick of requiring retail merchants to pay the sales tax early, and we need to reduce our operating budget reliance on the Literary Fund and other capital-related funds.

Let’s turn to our second goal—that of tax relief. Have we made the tax code fairer and have we delivered on promised tax relief?

The answer to both questions is “yes.”

We significantly lowered the income tax burden on the working poor; we provided a modicum of relief to all taxpayers through a \$100 increase in the personal exemption; and we asked higher income retirees and corporations to give up some of the tax preferences they had enjoyed from age-related deductions and tax loopholes respectively.

These things make the tax code fairer!

And we took the very major step of delivering on food tax relief that had been promised for several years. In my view, this is the most important tax relief that we passed because **it has a very real benefit for our taxpayers every day.**

There’s only one problem. While the Senate adopted a 1½ percent reduction in the food tax, the final “deal” included only a ½ percent reduction in the current budget and **pushed off** the 1 percent reduction **until the next two-year budget.**

Clearly, this was better than walking away from food tax relief altogether. But, it continues a practice that I had hoped we could leave behind—the practice of issuing post-dated checks.

In other words, we are counting on the revenue growth **from the next biennium** to pay for tax relief we approved last session.

So, my plan is to put another option before the 2005 General Assembly. Since our economic fortune has unexpectedly improved, I believe we can now afford the entire 1½ percent food tax relief this biennium—to the tune of about \$104 million. I hope that my colleagues will concur so that we can **complete this unfinished business.**

Finally, let’s look at progress made on our goal of strategic investments.

In my view, investment in education and transportation are inextricably linked. Both are crucial to our long-term economic vitality. We cannot take actions that subrogate one to the other.

What do I mean by this? Well, I’m going to be very blunt.

In public education, we stepped up to the plate and **“owned up to”** our fair share of the cost, and we fully expect this action to relieve pressure on local real estate taxes.

But in higher education, we only **“bought down”** our commitment with the investments we made this past session.

We infused new funds that put us firmly on the path to 100 percent funding of higher education guidelines. But, even with our actions, we still have not provided our public institutions with adequate resources to meet the needs of the students already enrolled. And we know more are coming.

Healthy general fund revenue growth will be needed to reach our full commitment to higher education. **It’s important to see it through, and not sacrifice one priority for the other.**

Said another way, I hope we will oppose every attempt to “bleed” general funds into transportation because **those general funds are needed to satisfy the unfinished business on our general fund plate!**

We have taken historic action to strengthen the general fund so that we can look ahead and know that our commitments will be met. There can be no backsliding!

Putting general funds into transportation would be just that—backsliding.

We made a strategic decision last session on transportation.

Essentially, we set it aside for the time being—**certainly not because it lacked in importance**, but because there were those who simply felt the Senate’s plan was too ambitious, given the other issues before us.

Fixing transportation is a mammoth undertaking in and of itself. To combine transportation with other structural issues was just more than could be digested at one time.

Having said that, I don’t believe anyone would argue with the statement that our transportation system is of paramount importance to our future.

It must be based on a reliable source of funding, and in my view, it must stand on its own.

There is no area of public finance that better exemplifies what a **user fee** should cover. And so, with **major unfinished business in transportation**, we simply need to get on with it and do three things:

- 1) We need to think more smartly about how to move people and products;
- 2) We need to find a way for those who make development decisions to become part of the solution;

For example, all new subdivision roads become “wards of the state” after one year. Perhaps those who control development decisions should provide the “care and feeding” of new roads for a longer period of time . . . perhaps five years.

- 3) Finally, we must put in place the best combination of transportation user fees that we can identify, with the goal of spreading the cost fairly among **all users—both those who reside within our boundaries and those who live elsewhere and partake of the wonderful bounty that our Commonwealth offers.**

And so, to those who have visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads over the prospect of increased general fund revenue from the economic strength that emerged last May, I say, “We are fortunate, but let’s keep things in perspective.”

There is unfinished business from the 2004 session that has a first call on that good fortune.

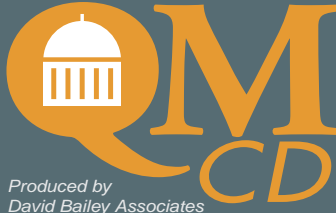
Specifically, we now can

- provide our citizens with major tax relief by implementing the one and one half percent food tax cut in July 2005 rather than delaying part of it;
- rid ourselves once and for all of the dubious practice of requiring retail merchants to pay taxes early; and
- scale back our reliance on funds meant for one-time capital needs, returning to the policy that we adopted not so long ago—when economic times are good, use a combination of cash and debt for capital outlay, thereby conserving our debt capacity for tougher times.

These are all common sense, fiscally sound policies.

And finally, let’s set aside any notion of weakening our resolve and ability to meet the 100 percent funding commitment on higher education guidelines by diverting general funds to transportation.

I ask for your help in carrying these thoughts back to the constituency that you represent. ▣



The complete collection of *Virginia Capitol Connections Quarterly Magazine (QM)* will be available soon on one CD. All issues from 1995 through 2004 are included in high resolution, printable format.

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Produced by David Bailey Associates in cooperation with Virginians for Integrity in Government.

Virginia's Gift to the Nation— The Capitol Holiday Tree

The Commonwealth of Virginia has been given the honor of providing the 2004

U.S. Capitol Christmas tree as a gift to the nation. Our uplifting theme is “2004 Capitol Holiday Tree—from Virginia, Birthplace of Presidents.”

In the 35 year history of the U.S. Forest Service providing the Capitol Christmas Tree, this is the first time Virginia has had the honor and one of the few times the tree will come from the South. Congressman Bob Goodlatte, Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, Forest Supervisor Bill Damon and State Forester Jim Garner officially initiated the 2004 Capitol Holiday Tree Project on March 12 at a news conference in Roanoke.

Since then, Matthew Evans, the U.S. Capitol Landscape Architect, and U.S. Forest Service foresters have selected a wonderful 70-foot red spruce Christmas tree from the Warm Springs Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest in Highland County. The tree will be carefully cut just prior to its official Send-off on November 13 in the town of Monterey. Highland County is hosting quite a party in honor of the tree on that date.

The tree will be loaded on a customized truck, and then hauled to celebrations in 34 communities around Virginia during late November and early December. The final stop on December 6 is the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. where the tree will be decorated with more than 4,500 ornaments handcrafted by the children and citizens of Virginia. As the sun sets on December 9, and as America watches, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives will throw the switch, lighting the magnificent holiday tree on the front lawn of our Nation's Capitol.

Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, Honorary Chair for the 2004 Capitol Holiday Tree Project, said “This is a heart-stirring project. In addition to being a gift to the nation from the citizens of Virginia, it will provide an excellent opportunity to highlight the Commonwealth of Virginia, our history, and our beautiful natural resources.”

NASCAR driver Ward Burton is serving as Celebrity Chair for Capitol Holiday Tree 2004, using his popularity and well-known passion for the outdoors for the success of the project. Vera Dickerson, award-winning Roanoke artist has been selected to paint the Capitol Holiday Tree. Her painting will be unveiled at the Send-off Ceremony in Monterey and displayed at the Lighting Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

A state steering committee provides the overall strategic direction for the Capitol Holiday Tree Project, making the key decisions and overseeing accomplishment of the many tasks. The Committee Co-Chairs are Paul Howe, Executive Vice President of Virginia Forestry Association, and Bill Damon, Forest Supervisor for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Sue Bostic, President of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, is serving as Vice Chair. Other active members include representatives from the offices of Senator John Warner, Senator George Allen, and Congressman Bob Goodlatte, and the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, Virginia Forestry Association, Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation, Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Virginia Tourism Corporation, MeadWestvaco Corporation and the U.S. Forest Service.



Approximately 70 smaller trees donated by private Christmas Tree growers from across the state will be distributed among House and Senate office buildings and other federal government offices in Washington D.C. as a gift from the people of Virginia.

The making of ornaments is one way all Virginians can participate in this historic event. Some 4,500 ornaments, 8 to 12 inches in size, are needed for the big tree. Many additional six to nine inch ornaments will be used with the companion trees. All ornaments will depict the theme “From Virginia-Birthplace of Presidents.” The ornament project is being correlated to Virginia Standards of Learning as a learning tool for our schools.

The Capitol Holiday Tree Project is a great statewide event requiring funds to cover transportation and other associated event costs. Based on efforts in previous years, an estimated \$250,000 in cash or in-kind contributions will be needed to help make this project successful.

Information about the sponsorship and incentive levels is provided on the Capitol Holiday Tree website, or contact Paul Howe at 804/278-8733 or prhowe@verizon.net to find out what financial or material needs exist. Sponsorship is tax-deductible through the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation.

One enjoyable way to contribute financially is through the purchase of Capitol Holiday Tree merchandise all adorned with the official logo. Items include ornaments, shirts, hats, mugs and other holiday and gift options. The high quality merchandise is produced by DesignLab, also known as the provider of Virginia is for Lovers merchandise. These items will be available at the State Fair, the 33 community celebrations, and through the website www.capitolholidaytree2004.org. The locations and dates for the community celebrations are also listed on the website.

“The process of finding a perfect tree, planning celebration events, and preparing for the journey around the State is enormous,” said Attorney General Kilgore. “My praise goes to all those energetic folks involved in this Statewide coordinated effort.”

New Patient Simulators Being Distributed Statewide for Emergency Medical Services Training

(Richmond, Va.)—Virginia's 15 accredited emergency medical services training sites are receiving patient training simulators that not only look like live patients, they respond in much the same way. The Virginia Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), is distributing new SimMan patient simulators to EMS training sites statewide, which annually train more than 500 EMS providers.

"The simulators test the clinical and decision-making skills of EMS providers during realistic patient care scenarios," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. "The use of these patient simulators will promote uniformity of education at EMS training sites and provide critical training skills for Virginia's 33,000 EMS providers."

The simulators cost \$32,600 each. Funding for the simulators is being provided by the Office of EMS general state funding.

The SimMan patient training simulators are more advanced and offer more training options than on previous simulators. Some of the unique life-saving techniques that EMS providers can practice on these simulators include:

- Accessing airways that are swollen from allergic reactions, blocked due to seizures or are difficult to position due to trauma (e.g. broken neck) and medical conditions (e.g. stiffness due to arthritis)
- Passing a needle through the chest wall to re-expand a collapsed lung
- Making an airway passage through the neck directly into the windpipe when access through the mouth or nose is unavailable
- Using equipment that prevents the collapse of airway passages
- Obtaining blood pressure, pulse and respiratory rates
- Measuring oxygen content in blood
- Measuring carbon dioxide in exhaled air
- Monitoring more than 2,500 variations in heart rhythms
- Inserting tubes into the stomach and bladder

Other training practices include:

- Placing a needle in a blood vessel or muscle to administer medications
- Placing a tube in the windpipe to assist patients experiencing inadequate breathing

- Placing electric shock pads to defibrillate a patient's heart

Virginia's 15 accredited EMS training sites are:

- Associates in Emergency Care, Inc., Manassas, Middletown and Stafford
- Center for Emergency Health Services, Richmond
- Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg
- George Washington University, Fairfax Campus, Fairfax
- J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond
- Jefferson College of Health Sciences, Roanoke
- Loudoun County Paramedic Program, Leesburg
- Northern Virginia Community College, Springfield
- Piedmont Virginia Community College/University of Virginia, Charlottesville
- Prince William County Paramedic Program, Nokesville
- Rappahannock Emergency Medical Services Council, Fredericksburg
- Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands
- Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach Campus, Virginia Beach
- University of Virginia Pre-Hospital Program, Charlottesville
- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine Paramedic Program, Richmond

Virginia Medical Reserve Corps Launches Recruitment Campaign

(Richmond, Va.)—The Virginia Medical Reserve Corps is launching a volunteer recruitment campaign as part of National Preparedness Month. Medical Reserve Corps volunteers are needed to support public health response activities during times of emergency. Volunteers might respond to any health emergencies, including communicable disease outbreaks, natural disasters, or possible terrorism incidents.

"Becoming a Medical Reserve Corps volunteer is a great way for people to help make their communities and neighborhoods stronger, safer and more secure," said Governor Mark R. Warner.

In Virginia, 12 local Medical Reserve Corps received federal grant funding in 2003. An additional Medical Reserve Corps unit on the Eastern Shore has recently received federal recognition. To date, more than 3,000 Virginians now serve as Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. The volunteers have already responded to public health events, such as assisting in the aftermath of recent hurricanes and helping to staff a tuberculosis prevention clinic in the Chesapeake area.


"The local Medical Reserve Corps want to recruit medically trained volunteers, such as nurses, doctors and veterinarians," said Lisa Kaplowitz, M.D., M.S.H.A., Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs at the Virginia Department of Health. "In addition, non-medically trained volunteers are needed in many areas. Anyone with useful skills, such as dispatching, data management, volunteer management, or foreign language and communication skills should consider volunteering."

Local volunteers will participate in training programs tailored to their local needs, including but not limited to training in biological agents, CPR, First Aide, and emergency preparedness. In addition, many will receive first-aid kits and useful emergency information, which can be beneficial to their families in an emergency, and are kept up-to-date on community preparedness events and activities.

Virginia Medical Reserve Corps is launching a new Web site to help volunteers register with a program in their area. The Web address is www.vamrc.org.

The following is a listing of the Medical Reserve Corps programs in Virginia:

- Western Tidewater Health District-Suffolk, VA
- Southwest Virginia (Cumberland Plateau, Lenowisco & Mount Rogers Health Districts)—Abingdon, VA
- Roanoke and Alleghany Health Districts—Roanoke, VA
- University of Virginia—Charlottesville, VA
- Southside Health District—Boydton, VA
- Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District—Culpeper, VA
- Rappahannock Area Health District—Fredericksburg, VA
- Loudoun Health District—Leesburg, VA
- Fairfax County Health Department—Fairfax, VA
- City of Virginia Beach—Virginia Beach, VA
- City of Chesapeake—Chesapeake, VA
- Arlington County Government—Arlington, VA
- Eastern Shore Health District—Accomack, VA

The Virginia Medical Reserve Corps program is one of five Citizen Corps programs. Citizen Corps is a national program that gets citizens directly involved in homeland security and emergency preparedness. More information is available through Virginia Corps at www.virginiacorps.org. 



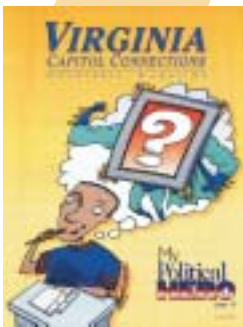
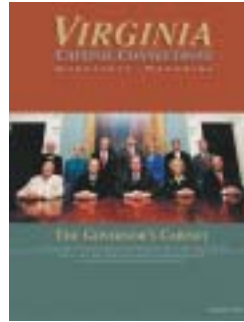
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