W. Scott McGeary
February 27, 2013
Senate Page, 1969-1973

Scott: Were [you] able to attend Senator [Daniel] Inouye's [D-HI] ceremony in the Rotunda?

McGeary: Yes, I was able to visit one of those nights. I was able to watch the ceremony replayed on C-SPAN.

Scott: It was moving, wasn't it?

McGeary: Very moving.

Scott: Senator [Robert] Dole [R-KS], in particular. My goodness.

McGeary: Yes, to watch him come up and just be able to make it and pay his respects. That was so moving.

Scott: It really was.

McGeary: It just brought tears to my eyes remembering the two of them and Senator [Philip] Hart [D-MI] and their shared history. For the occasion, when I walked up from my office, I thought to myself, and I really hadn't focused on it until I was almost to the Capitol, that he was the final surviving senator from when I was a page.

Scott: Right, of your four sponsors.

McGeary: Right, of the four years.

Scott: Of the four years, yes.

McGeary: Because the previous one was Senator [Ted] Stevens [R-AK], 1969 to '73. And that was very thought-provoking. I thought, I've come full circle. Well, I'm honored Senator Lee would suggest I have something to offer you here.

Scott: Oh, well we're so delighted to have the opportunity to talk to you about your stories.

McGeary: I hope it's worthwhile.

Scott: Absolutely.

McGeary: I'm sure Julie [Price] was interesting in her comments.

Scott: She was very interesting. One thing that we do like to ask the former pages about is the way in which that experience has had an impact on your life. Clearly it has in yours. I mean, you still spend a good deal of time up here, which is really interesting. So I hope we'll have a chance to talk about that.

McGeary: Yes. It affects me every day. I was interested also in looking here at this list.

Scott: A list of our oral histories.

McGeary: I think I may have sent you a message that I recognized and knew about a dozen of these who have been interviewed. One that I had not met at that time was Rich Arenberg. He spoke at the Heritage Foundation along with Bob Dove about their new book.

Scott: About their new book, right, *Defending the Filibuster*.[1]

McGeary: I promise you I did not see it sitting there [laughing]. It was great to see Mr. Dove. He has a phenomenal memory because I last saw him, I saw him once since I had been a page. He lived in Arlington at the time and I saw him at a Fourth of July parade. That was 1975. When I went up to say hello, I said, "Mr. Dove, it's been a long time, Scott McGeary." He said, "Oh yes, you were Senator Inouye's page." That was stunning. Phenomenal. He said he remembered my story about the pictures, the autographed pictures.

Scott: Oh, wow!

McGeary: So it was great to see him and he was so very gracious as was everyone on the staff. I learned so much that I have been able to carry over in my work from him. One of my souvenirs at home is a 1964 version of the Senate Rules. It's a red book that Dr. [Floyd] Riddick gave me. The three parliamentarians were the two of them and then Murray Zweben. [They were] just great people who gave their lives to the Senate. I remembered Mr. [Francis J.] Attig. I can see him now with his machine on the floor. Bill Hildenbrand, I remember him very well. He was very devoted. Certainly too, starting with Senator [James Caleb] Boggs [R-DE] and then Senator [Hugh] Scott [R-PA], Mike Johnson. Did you meet with him?

Scott: I haven't met with him. Don did that interview.

McGeary: Alright. Well, I have a picture and he's in it. I've kept in touch with him and was honored to be invited to attend his going-away reception over in the

[1] Richard A. Arenberg and Robert B. Dove, *Defending the Filibuster: The Soul of the Senate* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2012).

Mansfield [Room]. We have so many shared memories. Then, Stan Kimmitt was secretary for the majority during the time I was on the Democratic side, certainly a big presence. Featherstone Reid, an interesting character, which I mean in a positive way, with Senator [Warren] Magnuson [D-WA]. Then you have Dr. Riddick, Mr. [William] Ridgely, and then Dorothye Scott. I still need to read hers, but I will. Then Senator [George] Smathers [D-FL], Darrell St.Claire, Mr. [Francis] Valeo. Jade West, did you do that one?

Scott: I did not. Don did it.

McGeary: Okay. She and I are neighbors.

Scott: Oh, is that right?

McGeary: Yes.

Scott: That's a fantastic interview.

McGeary: She was my predecessor as Republican chairman in Arlington.

Scott: Yes, how interesting.

McGeary: So, the ties that bind. In any event, it was a trip down memory lane just looking at these, and the two that I have read so far were of the two pages. Yes, very special. I learned some things that were very different from my time there, as you might expect. But for them to be able to remember 70 years after their experience. I'll do my best to emulate that. [Scott laughs]

Scott: Well why don't you start by telling us how you became interested in the page program.

McGeary: Sure. I had an interest in government and politics going back to my time in elementary school. In fact, I was showing a member of the general assembly who has great devotion to the Kennedy family a souvenir from when I was in elementary school.

Scott: Oh wow, look at that.

McGeary: My Weekly Reader. I kept that. My earliest governmental memory is from the presidential inauguration of 1961. Our school in Alexandria was used as a polling place. That's one reason in my current work on our electoral board in Arlington I like the fact that schools are still used as polling places, so students can see the voters come in. That formed a lasting memory for me. When we would have elementary school trips up here to the Capitol, I'd see the pages and think that was something I'd like to do. That became a dream of mine. I'd written to our congressman from Virginia, Joel

Broyhill, who was very thoughtful in his response and said that, in the case of the House, the pages there were 16 to 18 and that the Democrats held the patronage and so he was not able to offer me a position, which I understood. Then in 1966, about that same time, I began to make a collection of autograph pictures. That goes back to a book, during President Kennedy's administration, goes back to a book that had paintings, pictures, and autographs. I took a liking to that so I began to make a collection of autograph pictures of members of the House and of the Senate and governors, which I maintain, to some extent, today. My first two that I ever got were this one from Senator Karl Mundt of South Dakota, and one from then-House Minority Leader, and future President, Gerald R. Ford.

[Scott reading the caption accompanying the photograph]

McGeary: During those years, that reminds me—

Scott: You were eleven years old?

McGeary: Yes.

Scott: You were on a tour of the Capitol?

McGeary: Yes.

Scott: How did you do that?

McGeary: I arranged it [laughing]. This was during the summer so I was off from school. But my interest in being a page was known to a staff member for Senator [Thomas] Kuchel [R-CA] and she offered to bring me in as a volunteer intern. I did that for two summers. One of the staff members there was giving me a tour and that's where we saw Senator Mundt. That experience as an intern certainly whetted my appetite even more and strengthened my dream of becoming a page. That was a picture of him.

I was also showing, again, this delegate in Richmond, Delegate Lewis, this is one of my early photographs of Robert Kennedy [D-NY]. In addition to meeting Senator Mundt, I met Senator Kennedy in the hallway of what we knew then as the "new senate office building." I went up and said hello to him and he introduced me, in turn, to Burke Marshall, who was one of his Department of Justice key assistants. I expressed my appreciation for his service. He was very friendly. I had this dream that I wanted to accomplish. Oftentimes when I would call members' offices requesting the pictures, I would be asked to send a note saying why I wanted the picture, which was fine. Was it for personal use or display, or whatever? In my response I would say that it was for a personal collection and as additional reasons for my interest, I would mention that I'd like to be a page, go to college and law school. All of which was to say why I wanted the picture, focused on that. I was astonished when I received this response, which I took to Senator Inouye's office a year ago in April and asked if I could have an opportunity for a

short visit with him to express anew my appreciation after he had succeeded Senator [Robert] Byrd [D-WV] as president pro tempore and appropriations chairman. As the letter here suggested that if I wanted to pursue this to have my—he wanted to discuss it with my parents. I mean, to get this letter, I was astonished.

Scott: Because you had just merely indicated your interest in being a page but hadn't asked him for his support.

McGeary: Yes. Of course not. Exactly. I'd also read his autobiography, *Journey to Washington*.[2] But for him to write here, "If you're really interested in serving as a page, may I suggest I be given an opportunity to discuss it with," my parents. So my dad drove me up here and we met with him later that year in 1967 and that was his response after I had responded, saying, "Yes, I'd be honored," to visit with him. We met in August of 1967, when I was 12. I needed to be 14. I contacted him again and he arranged for Senator [Mike] Mansfield [D-MT] and the sergeant at arms, Mr. [Robert] Dunphy, to create a position, for which I am forever grateful. I thought, especially with his assuming the additional leadership positions, that it would be an opportunity to thank him again, as I say, for the opportunity that he gave me.

Scott: This is the photo from a year ago?

McGeary: Yes, from April of 2011. I arranged for my wife to attend. That was his office in this building. His staff arranged for me to see the even more beautiful, to my eye, office in the Appropriations room.

Scott: Oh it's a beautiful space, isn't it?

McGeary: Yes, it truly is, yes. When I'm here on Wednesdays, the route that I follow is down that hall past that office, past the parliamentarian's office, and then up the steps. This was, I brought this, in large part, because Mike Johnson is in it.

Scott: There he is, yes.

McGeary: I wasn't sure if you had done his or not, or knew him. I was fortunate enough to sit right next to him. Senator Mansfield had co-authored a book with Paul Jeffers,[3] who also produced one called *Gallant Men* for Senator Dirksen, which I brought by the Republican leader's office and had—in those days the sign still said Minority Leader—I think it was Senator [Hugh] Scott [R-PA] who changed it to Republican Leader, hoping to be in the majority someday. And so [Senator Mansfield] had us in for this interview over in the Capitol, in what was the leader's office then, in S-208. It's

[2] Daniel Inouye, *Journey to Washington* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1967).
[3] Paul H. Jeffers, *How the U.S. Senate Works: the ABM Debate* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1970).

now—was Senator [Jon] Kyl's [R-AZ] office, and I guess Senator [John] Cornyn's [R-TX] probably in there now, as Senate Republican whip

Scott: I haven't been by there since the new Congress, but I think you're right. So this is Senator Mansfield?

McGeary: Yes, and you can see by the ashtrays what a different era it was [laughing]. Not one, but four of them.

Scott: Right [laughing].

McGeary: Yes, and so the senator wanted to have us in. We came in and we discussed the book. The book was centered around the debate on the anti-ballistic missile system, which was one of the major debates in 1968-69.

Scott: What was that discussion like? Was he asking your impressions and your thoughts about the book and the debate?

McGeary: Yes, and for those pages who were there. I was not present for that debate, but I remember reading about it. He invited questions about the Senate and what we were doing. I'd say that he probably earned so well the title "gentleman" more than probably almost anybody I've ever known, along with my dad. He was so kind to us. He treated us very well. He used to come in the center door and he and Senator Dirksen and Senator Scott would have a little press conference on the floor. Do they still do that?

Scott: Not really.

McGeary: Okay, then they just do the stakeouts out by the Ohio Clock.

Scott: Yeah, exactly. Yeah, they still use that space.

McGeary: He would come in that center door and he would always greet us and he would say, "Good morning, men." Of course, that made us feel very good. He was just very thoughtful. I also enjoyed keeping in touch with him. There's another picture of us. [He was] very much engaged. That was the author, Paul Jeffers. Then he would invite us to occasions such as this, which was the awarding by the pages of what we called the "Golden Gavel Award," for presiding 100 hours.

Scott: Yes, right.

McGeary: This was to Senator James B. Allen of Alabama, also a wonderful gentleman. He earned it not once, but twice. That's how he learned the rules, as Senator Byrd told freshman senators they would. This was in the President's Room with Senator Mansfield and Senator Scott. I was honored to be there. So those explain my start. I was blessed to be under Senator Inouye's patronage for two years. Then Senator Hiram Fong

[R -HI] had a girl page come from Hawaii. [Senator Inouye] decided to follow suit so I decided that I'd enjoyed so much the experience that I wanted to continue, so I went to the senator that I felt that I knew best who might be able to help me in terms of my desire to stay, and that was Senator Byrd. I had gotten to know him when he was secretary for the Democratic Caucus and as the whip. I can remember as if it were yesterday, in a very memorable contest that he had with Senator [Ted] Kennedy [D-MA] for whip, and won. He thought he was going to win based on, literally, the death-bed proxy of his beloved mentor, Senator [Richard] Russell [D-GA]. That's when Senator Kennedy, afterwards, said to the press he wanted to thank the 28 members who pledged their support, and especially the 24 who voted for him. But that was a memorable—

Scott: Were you there? Were you in the room?

McGeary: I was not in the room, but I was in the chamber. That was in the Mansfield Room where they had the caucuses. There was some staff there from the cloakroom, but no pages. When that was announced on the floor, that was big news in the Senate, and a tremendous upset.

Senator Byrd was my sponsor for the remainder of the time, up to my final six months when I was officially on the Republican side, thanks to Senator Dole and Mark Trice, the former secretary for the majority and minority, also a former page.

He was a contemporary of Mr. Little and Mr. Detwiler, because he was a page, I think, in 1917-1918. For me to think I was working with someone who served as a page back then, that was something I enjoyed. I was very fortunate. I had gone through officially on the Republican side because of Senator Dole and Mr. Trice. There was a shortage of pages on the Republican side and the way the patronage was balanced out. I loved the floor work and I was very honored to be, most of the time that I was there, the chief Democratic floor page. Then volunteers were invited to go onto the Republican side. I said yes, and was honored to become, then in turn, the chief Republican page. I loved the floor debates and just thought that was a wonderful experience that, again, was a dream come true.

Scott: I wondered how you served under the sponsorships of both Democrats and Republicans. That must have been unique. I don't know that there were many pages who crossed the aisle.

McGeary: I think you're right. I'm not aware of any others. To me, it was an opportunity to work and serve the Senate. As I've said numerous times over the years in relation to my activities in Arlington, I've been bipartisan ever since I was a page [laughing].

Scott: What were some of those memorable debates? What were some of the debates you remember from your service?

McGeary: Some of the debates that come to my mind the clearest are the Supreme Court nomination debates. The opposition led by Senator Birch Bayh from Indiana, a member of the Judiciary Committee. His son, Evan, was a page during one summer. I was excited to see his progress over the years and running for office.

Scott: You served with him?

McGeary: Yes, he was a summer page. He did not, at the time, express any particular interest in politics. But he certainly pursued it very well in his home state and I was excited for him when he became secretary of state and then governor, then senator, and sent him a note and received a nice one back. Those debates over Judges [Clement] Haynesworth and [Harrold] Carswell, I thought, were riveting. It was certainly a part of a tug-of-war, so to speak, between President [Richard] Nixon and the Democratic-controlled Senate, with a smaller Republican minority than has been the case in recent years. It took even more of a bipartisan vote to confirm members of the court. I recall in December of 1971 the confirmation—a better outcome from the president's point of view—of Justice [William] Rehnquist and Justice [Lewis] Powell. I remember the date, December 10, 1971, because it's when the second picture ever of the Senate taken in session. I have it at home. I pass by it every day. Taken from the Republican side. I was honored to be in there as a floor page. Those were memorable. The Vietnam War debates, certainly. The McGovern-Hatfield amendments; amendments to cut off the funding in Vietnam and Cambodia, right before our eyes.

Of course, some of those were leading up, chronologically, to the presidential contest in 1972. We had, I think, a record number of Democratic candidates. In fact, I remember Senator Dole saying, when he would speak during the morning hour, he said that practically every Democratic senator, he thought, either thought he would be president, or was president, or could be president, when they looked in the mirror. He showed a great wit from his first years in the Senate. I felt that he was one who had the potential to go on to leadership either within the Senate or as president. He certainly pursued that vigorously. With our conversations on the floor, he was always very friendly towards the pages. In fact, when I visited with him—and I'll show you that picture in time—when he would come into the cloakroom—of course, he always held a pen in his left hand—and he would come into the cloakroom and he'd go like this [gesturing] and he'd say to the pages and the cloakroom staff, he'd say (whenever the debate was raging over Vietnam), he'd say, "Well, the doves are flying." [Laughing] He just became an instant favorite of ours. Likewise, his page patronage meant a tremendous amount. There were also vetoes that President Nixon cast that were overridden. Those were some contentious debates. But I'd say, overall, the ones that stirred the passions the most

among the members and were the most riveting were over Vietnam and the Supreme Court.

Scott: You said that you had an interest in politics, were your parents political? Were you interested in these things because your parents were also talking about these things at home?

McGeary: It was more of a personal interest. They, in turn, became more interested. It was my interest going back to President Kennedy and going back to seeing the pages. As I became more interested and active, they became more interested. They did serve in their later years as election officials in Arlington. I had no idea whatsoever, at that time, that I would ever be on the electoral board that appoints the election officials. Now my son's one. But it was more a self-starter.

Scott: What was a typical day like when you started the page program in 1969? What would your days be like? What kind of activities would you be doing?

McGeary: The day would start at 4 or 4:30 in the morning to get up and make it to the school on time. I was so blessed to have my father bring me in.

Scott: So you were living out in Arlington still?

McGeary: Yes, I always lived there. It was a short drive, especially that early in the morning. The classes at the page school would start at 6:15 a.m. and go until a quarter of 10, unless the Senate or House convened early. One of the things I did as secretary/treasurer of the student council was to let the principal and the teachers know how long the periods would be. I would always know, especially in working the sessions at night, if the Senate was going to convene early the next morning, would know how much homework had to be done. We would come across from the Library of Congress. The classes were on the third floor there. That's when all the pages were together; the House, the Senate, and the Supreme Court, before the program was changed. We would arrive, if the session convened at noon—the usual time—would arrive by ten o'clock and place the Executive Calendars and the *Congressional Records* from the preceding day, and the calendar, as well as the Executive Calendar, on the senators' desks, making sure they were in place. We also would put the *Congressional Record* from the preceding day into a red binder underneath their desks that members would actually pull out and use in those days, looking for a very recent record. Then we'd be prepared, starting as soon as we finished that, to assume our places on the rostrum and be on call for whatever the senators' needs would be and taking items from the Capitol, from them, to their offices, or picking up hearings. One of my favorite trips was to the library, now the Chaplain's office. Being there brings back some great memories.

Scott: What a beautiful location.

McGeary: Yes. In fact, I was just saying to the new chief of staff over there this morning that, in the office below, S-148, that was Senator Byrd's whip office, and he said he thought it had the best view of the Capitol. It is indeed so beautiful, straight down the Mall.

Throughout the day we'd be on call and I got a tremendous amount of exercise. We'd also, other than going back and forth between the office buildings, on the floor, we'd let senators know when a phone call came into the cloakroom, and what line. We'd also bring water. I saw a reference in one of the other page interviews to the water. We had the Poland Spring water and also club soda. Senator Dole liked the club soda. As I reminded him when I had my little visit with him a few months ago, he would say, "Scott, get me some bubbly." I've enjoyed club soda ever since.

We also would, from time to time, substitute in the cloakroom. I also made, in the early days, a cloakroom call system, people could call in and get a recording. It sounds quaint now, I'm sure. Call in to get the latest at the end of the day on what happened that day in the Senate. I did that several times. But it was a great opportunity that has set my course ever since and made a great impression on me at a very impressionable age.

Scott: What kind of work did you do in the cloakroom? You said answering the phone and running messages. What other types of things would they have you doing in there?

McGeary: Senators would come in wanting to know the status of a bill, if it was being discussed on the floor. There were also televisions in there and so sometimes they'd watch the news. Those phones were heavily used. It was before anybody dreamed of cell phones.

Scott: Right, Blackberries or anything else [laughing].

McGeary: Yes, so that involved quite a bit. We would get lunch for members and bring it up to the cloakroom, whatever needed to be done. There was always something to do, a great variety. It was just a thrill to be doing it every day.

Scott: What do the members do back there? Would they discuss legislation with each other? Would they work out differences? What was the cloakroom like back then?

McGeary: Yes, yes, talk with each other about the issues of the day, the debates, the strategy. One of my favorite memories was seeing Senator Byrd when he developed the whip notice. He and Senator [Robert] Griffin [R-MI] were the first to do that.

Scott: Tell us a little bit about that. What was that?

McGeary: Senator Byrd gave meticulous attention to this new idea of letting the members know the status of legislation. It would be a weekly, sometimes daily, delivery we'd make to members' offices. I remember him sitting in the cloakroom and he drew out a diagram of what the business of the Senate would be based on a system he and Senator Mansfield designed that was called a "two-track system."

Scott: Yes, talk about the two-track system. This is great.

McGeary: Well good, I'm glad it's of interest. The Senate would be able to consider more than one item for a considerable portion of each day. He drew this in black ink, drew this elaborate map. I have it at home, he drew this map of what the Senate would be considering, and then he would write the commentary about it in the whip notice. I remember in particular, he would sometimes get very flowery in his language and he would write—if there was what was expected to be a contentious debate, I remember him writing, "The storm clouds are gathering, and there may be thunderstorms in the afternoons." One of the things I learned from him was the importance of personal touch, and I've endeavored to carry that on to this day.

Scott: What do you mean by that?

McGeary: Personal touch in terms of caring about the members of the Senate. He remembered them on their birthdays, their anniversaries, when he'd receive a thank-you note for such, he would write a thank-you note thanking them for the thank-you note [laughing]. He, in this whip notice, would be able to show, to my mind, both the business of the Senate and his mastery of the procedure. I wish I had brought it in. It seems to be of interest. This two-track system was very creative because the Senate was getting bogged down—not that that ever happens today—getting bogged down on one item the entire day. Now there might be some non-controversial things, certainly, pass, so it wasn't necessarily one bill each day, of course. But to be able to, especially with appropriation bills, when more of them used to pass in those years, and others to have more than one major substantive item considered.

He plotted all of this out. He would sign the whip notices personally. He'd write personal notes.

Scott: For each member?

McGeary: Yes. In fact, in one of them that I saved, he signed it—this was typed and then he'd hand write something else—but he used to sometimes have it typed out, "Your old Plebian friend." [Laughing] He would have us down to his office in 148. Sometimes we'd have ice cream and cookies and then we'd go out and deliver the whip notices.

Scott: Okay. What time would those notices go out?

McGeary: Late afternoon.

Scott: Late afternoon, okay. For the next day?

McGeary: Yes.

Scott: So basically a preview for what it would look like.

McGeary: Yes. It was definitely once a week and sometimes, depending on the business, more than that. Again, that was the only way to get things out. Nobody dreamed, I mentioned cellphones or emails, it was different then. I think, in some ways, better. Again, it was the personal touch. I remember a conversation that he had one night after I came back. We were walking together back to 148 and I asked him for some advice in terms of my future and among the things he said was work hard. He quoted a Bible verse from Proverbs 22, "Seest thou a man diligent in his business. He shall stand before kings. He shall not stand before mere men." He said, "Hard work never hurt anybody." He said, "I've been working for 36 years." At the time, he was 54. Very encouraging. Very supportive. As I told him in later years, I learned so much from him in terms of how to conduct meetings, parliamentary procedure. A friend of mine from Arlington, his name was John Nicholas, he was a dear friend of Senator Byrd's and he chaired a tremendous tribute dinner to him in 1994, right when he was at the pinnacle of his time as Appropriations chairman, still in the majority. I was able to attend that. President Clinton came. Senator Byrd played his fiddle.

I've got one of his records that he signed. And that was to be able to keep in touch with him and Senator Mansfield. I wrote to him when he turned 90 and got a very nice response. To be able to visit with him on that occasion, as well as—let me show you—this picture was taken in the Appropriations office in front of his beloved, as he called her, Lady Byrd. This was when he had published volume two of his *History of the Senate*.[4] I got the idea, same as I did with respect to Senator Inouye, to call his office and ask if I could come up for a short courtesy call and have him sign the book. I arranged that with Charlotte Holt, who was a long-time staff member, and came up, thinking it was going to be five or 10 minutes. Sign the book. The first thing he did was he replaced the book that I had bought, because he said, "Let me give you this one." There was another edition that was more colorful, limited edition.

Scott: The beautiful leather bound ones?

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[4] Robert C. Byrd, ed. Wendy Wolff, *The Senate, 1789-1989, vol. II* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1991).

McGeary: Yes. He wrote a very nice inscription and had a photographer come in and take this. That was a surprise. That was a bonus. Almost as an afterthought, before I left home, I brought my collection. I kept the items about Senator Byrd over the years in a separate notebook because I had so many of them, including the headline, "Byrd Defeats Kennedy," which he had framed in his office next to a whip from the *Washington Star*. The punch line is that I was there for an hour and a half in that office.

Scott: Personal touch.

McGeary: I'd also gotten to know one of his grandsons who is the editor, Erik Fatemi, was the editor of the *Northern Virginia Sun*. We had several points in common in terms of keeping in touch over the years. I enjoyed seeing him enjoy going through my notebooks and pulling out things from the plastic covers, including the whip notices, including the very things I'm talking about with his own graphic work. He called in Brenda, who was with him for many years, and he said, "Brenda, Charlotte, this is how we did it when we really ran the Senate." [Laughing] It was 1992, and he was very concerned that there wasn't enough strong leadership in the country. Then he gave me a letter opener that had "Majority Leader" on it. He said he had those created when he was leader before. He said, "Then, of course, we were in the minority, but I always thought we'd be back in the majority." Just wonderful memories.

I attended the service for him at Arlington. He had actually come to a church we were attending at the time, and that was after I had him sign one of his smaller books, later books, it was those beautiful, amazing addresses he gave on the history of the Roman Senate, the Roman Republic. I told him that I had watched them and read them and I was amazed at his delivery and his memory. I had him sign one. He came into the church and I seemed to be the only person who recognized him. He was looking for a new church home and came in and sat in the back of the church. I came up to him and said, "Senator, good to see you." He said he was looking for a new church home and he said, "I have just one question, Scott." This was after a contemporary music service. He said, "Where are the hymns?" I said they were at the 8:30 service.

That visit, plus seeing him here was just wonderful. I was very, very blessed—I keep using that term, blessed—to be able to have kept in touch with my sponsors, appreciating anew the opportunity they gave me that helped to set me on my course for everything I've done.

There was also another very important debate, which was October 6, 1970, which I have here. That was on the Congressional Reorganization Act. In fact, here, I'll show you this. That's one of my points of contact with Senator Dole in later years was when I was the executive officer of this trade association and we arranged for him to speak and had that nice picture.

Scott: Oh that's great. What beautiful photos.

McGeary: And then this was last summer with a friend of mine from Arlington. He had a great memory, just having a difficult time physically. But he was sharp and was just a delight to be with and I treasure that.

Scott: Wow. Now where did you meet him?

McGeary: At his law office. I had attended a very enjoyable, and I hope that your office has a copy of it, Bipartisan Policy Center tribute.

Scott: Yes, we do.

McGeary: So special. Of course, both Senator [Howard] Baker [R-TN] and Senator Dole being such figures during the whole time that I was here. In fact, Senator Baker's daughter, Cissy and I, were colleagues on the WETA board. She'd keep me in touch on him. It was a wonderful occasion. I so much enjoyed all the tributes and seeing them. I didn't have an opportunity to speak to Senator Dole that night, so I called his office and asked for, again, a courtesy call. I brought my friend from Arlington, Rex Wackerle. He had been an intern. He was very gracious. That's also part of the collection. This debate—and I want to make sure I'm getting to all your questions—this debate in 1970 was on the Congressional Reorganization Act. This is the handwritten amendment that Senator Marlow Cook of Kentucky wrote that would have changed the age of pages from 14 to 16, making it just the same as the House. I had no idea what the amendment said when Senator Cook motioned for me to come up and bring—something else that we did that was certainly an honor was to be asked to come to a senator's desk and bring up copies of amendments to the desk to be read.

Scott: That was the amendment that you carried?

McGeary: Yes, indeed. That's why I remember the date. The extract from the *Record.* He was very generous to mention me. That was another important debate. Then there was actually a roll-call vote on it. [Laughing]

Scott: Now what did you think about that idea?

McGeary: I felt that, on the merits, I agreed with Senator Cook that 14 was appropriate. Now one of my other favorites was Senator Robert P. Griffin [R], of Michigan, who took the other point of view, being a member of the committee that had brought forward the bill, that current pages would be grandfathered. But Senator Cook was steadfast in saying that he felt that 14 was appropriate, that it was a wonderful opportunity going back to Daniel Webster and his page and ought to be preserved. It moved to a vote and that was the vote. Senator Griffin came up and said something nice, as did Senator Hugh Scott, the Republican leader, who was also a very impressive

statesman. Something that was very interesting in those days was the open closeness of the two leaders. Now that goes back to just before I was a page, with Senator Mansfield and Senator [Everett] Dirksen [R-IL]. Senator Dirksen passed the weekend before I became a page. I had met him when I was working as the volunteer intern. I met him, but did not have the opportunity to see him as a page. Senator Mansfield and he were so respectful towards one another. Senator Scott and Mansfield also had a good working relationship, and there was more of it openly expressed than you tend to see in politics today.

Senator Scott was also friendly towards us. In fact, it's like my life's passing by when I came downstairs from the chaplain's office going by S-120, the Hugh Scott Room, where I had worked after I was a page, for the Senate Steering Committee, in the course of my subsequent activities. I want to wind this up here. Senator [Ted] Kennedy was also a favorite. This is the first picture I ever had taken with a senator. I had this in this notebook to show to the delegate from downstate Virginia, so I thought I'd share that with you. The senator arranged for that for all the pages. He used to send us also—

Scott: He did? Senator Kennedy took a picture with all the pages? Oh wow.

McGeary: Yes, at Christmas time. It was an end of the year thank you, yes. That was in the President's Room.

Scott: So do you have more than one, then? You had one taken each year?

McGeary: He just did it that one year and that was thoughtful. He would also send us Christmas cards. A subsequent addition to my collection—

Scott: How cool.

McGeary: I'll hold the others. I want to make sure I'm giving you what you want in terms of the interview.

Scott: Well I did want to ask you about—I haven't interviewed a head page before. What does it mean to be a head page? What extra responsibilities do you have?

McGeary: Supervising the other pages. Making certain that we had enough pages on the floor. There was a telephone on the floor between the cloakroom and the head page and when there was a need for a page to come into the cloakroom to be given a request to go to do something or go get something in the Senate office buildings or in the Capitol, that came through the head page. The cloakroom would call me and others who did that and then we would tell the next page in line to go into the cloakroom or do something otherwise. One of the other things that we used to do—you asked about what did we do—I enjoyed the job we had to do in keeping the ticker tape up to date with UPI and AP machines. Are you familiar with this?

Scott: No.

McGeary: They would run all day and all night long. Every single story on UPI and AP. We would take them, the last time I was in there, there were still—it was quite some time back—there were the more modern machines in there. I'm not sure if they're still there now, but we would take the ticker tape. There'd be two copies and we would take the first copy and hang it up on a board about this size as you'd enter the back of the chamber, in between the chamber and the Marble Room.

Scott: Yes, okay.

McGeary: The carbon copy would be a file copy. To me it was interesting to do that because we would see breaking news coming right before our eyes, and every now and then it would be something that would come across that would be big news.

Scott: Where were those machines in the cloakroom? Where were they located?

McGeary: They were not in the cloakroom. This is between—it's the lobby from the Reception Room.

Scott: Yes.

McGeary: It's the area between the chamber and the Marble Room, just off the Chamber.

Something else that we did was to be the—I noticed this also in one of the other page interviews—be in effect, the doorkeepers, before the session would convene. I mentioned Senator Mansfield and his, "Good morning, men" greeting to us. Also I, as a head page, was one who was at the door with the president pro tem or the acting president pro tem for the day, and the Senate chaplain. The chaplain then was Reverend Edward L. R. Elson. I remember especially Senator Russell, and he had been in and out of Walter Reed for lung cancer. I remember he said something to us that Senator Mike Lee [R-UT] told me, when I shared this with him, he said Senator Helms told him the same thing. He started a conversation one day and he said, "I wanted to give you boys some advice. Don't ever smoke," which was good advice.

We would be responsible for staffing the doors, having an opportunity to talk with them before they would come in to convene the Senate. They couldn't convene the Senate unless one of the pages went up to the sergeant at arms office to bring down the gavel. We would place the gavel there, outside of its box, ready for the presiding officer and ready for the day's business.

Scott: Wow. Who were some of the other members who left an impression on you? You've mentioned leaders.

McGeary: Others would include—there happens to be someone who comes right to mind—Senator [Tom] Eagleton [D-MO]. He was one of the youngest members of the Senate and he was one of our favorites. He would preside frequently over the Senate. He would always have a kind word as he would come up and down the rostrum and was another one of those senators who seemed to me to be someone who had potential for further leadership prominence. We were all very excited when he was chosen for vice president. It was, looking back—well, then and now—I think that it's unfortunate that he had to depart the ticket. His enthusiasm, he just was a great personality, always interesting to hear on the floor. I wrote a letter to him expressing support for him during his time before he was asked by Senator [George] McGovern [D-SD] to depart the ticket, and he was thoughtful enough to send this inside mail, and that very nice piece there.

Scott: Oh, what a nice message.

McGeary: I likewise kept in touch with him and sent this to him in 1984 when he announced his retirement. In 1994, I gave him a call. I'd read in the *Washington Times* an excerpt from a column he was writing for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, so I did as I've done with the others I've mentioned. I got the idea to give him a call and say hello. I did that. It was right before our page reunion, so he said, "Tell everybody hello." He asked me about the Virginia Senate race, which was between Ollie North and Chuck Robb [D-VA] and Marshall Coleman. After I gave him my opinion about that race, I said to him, "How does the Missouri Senate race look?"

Scott: Who was running at that time?

McGeary: He said, in his very gravelly voice, he said, "Well, we've got this very conservative Republican running. The name's [John] Ashcroft [R-MO]." He said, "Anything conservative, he's for whatever it is." I also complimented him another time on what class I thought he showed in taking the time, in great personal pain from his illnesses, to come here to speak. He flew in for the purpose of introducing Senator [John] Danforth [R-MO] when President [George W.] Bush nominated him for the United Nations. He flew in and delivered that and went back home. That's the kind of politics with which we grew up as pages in those days, and that appealed to me. He made a great impression. Another favorite was the young Senator [Joe] Biden [D-DE].

Scott: Look at that photo. Oh my goodness.

McGeary: Yes, the hair. I arranged for him, he signed this to me while he was presiding over the Senate.

Scott: "My favorite Republican," he says.

McGeary: Yes, that was very nice, yes. I mentioned that to him some years later when he spoke at GW and he had a good memory. I'd arranged for him and also Senator [Robert] Packwood [R-OR] to come, on two different occasions. We had something called the "page forum" during our breakfast break and we were able to arrange for a number of speakers to come in. I volunteered to fill two of the slots and I chose the two of them. I still have the tapes. I introduced him. Again, I felt that he had the potential to go farther. He was very generous in what he wrote here. He's someone I've certainly enjoyed following over the years. Then Senator [Ernest "Fritz"] Hollings [D-SC]. He was one of the senators—and I'll mention some others if you'd like—one of the senators, who, when they took the floor, you knew that it was going to be a good show.

Scott: Is that right?

McGeary: Yes. A great voice. A great wit. This picture was taken when I arranged for him, same with Senator Dole, to speak to our trade association. And that was very thoughtful. Russell Long [D-LA] was also, again, whenever he spoke, it was going to be interesting and worth watching. You probably have heard his quote many times, when he was Finance chairman, people would come in and not like a particular tax provision and he would say, "Don't tax you, don't tax me, tax the fellow behind the tree." But again, full of witticisms. There's a PBS movie on Huey Long [D-LA] and I have never seen a father and son look more alike. Stunning.

Scott: I was just thinking when I look at this photo, my goodness, he looks like his father. Wow.

McGeary: Yes. There was a student at my son's school who did a one act show on Huey Long. He did such a great job. I got that special for him. Amazing, amazing. Just so very powerful. Margaret Chase Smith [R-ME] was very thoughtful. And again, you asked what did we do? We would do anything and everything to help them.

Scott: "Thank you for finding my glasses," she writes.

McGeary: Yes, and that was nice. She gave me, in addition to that note, she gave me a candle that I still have, from either—could have been'52 or '56 vice presidential campaign of Richard Nixon. He's on one side of this candle and Pat Nixon's on the other. Again, quaint. The only candle I've ever seen from a presidential campaign. She was very distinguished. Again, she sat right as you came in the chamber. Right there at the first desk. Very thoughtful. She holds a place in history, as you might know, as the first lady to be placed in nomination for president. Very impressive.

Someone who was not a senator while I was there, but whom I did enjoy the privilege of meeting on the floor, was Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. [R-MA] I had him sign my paper pad there. He was talking with John Sherman Cooper [R-KY]. I treasure that. The

very last thing I have in here is—I pulled this after the reference that one of the other pages, Mr. Little or Mr. Detwiler mentioned to the presidential seal on the messages that would be delivered to the Senate. He said that was a prized possession, or words to that effect. I thought it was, too. Very special.

Scott: Now what's the history of this particular piece? Did you carry that?

McGeary: Yes, I carried that message. Again, very importantly, we would carry messages from the president, from the center aisle, down to the presiding officer. I also remember carrying, after Senator Dirksen passed, I remember carrying the notice of appointment of his successor, Senator Ralph Tyler Smith [R-IL], who had been speaker of the house in Illinois. Carrying those messages was a major thing we did. We had to always be alert and awake to a request to be someone to do that as well as anything that a senator would need.

A couple more people I'll mention who stood out to me, again, on the floor, I made this list of all those who served in the Senate. John Pastore [D-RI], a great, booming voice who was a dynamic speaker, a powerful speaker. Short in stature, but you could hear his voice even without the microphones. In fact, it was only about halfway through my time as a page that the microphones were installed. We heard them speak the old-fashioned way. Senator [Strom] Thurmond [D/R-SC] was very thoughtful to us. He would have pages out to his home. One time he arranged for us to come out for a Sunday afternoon and we took bike rides. That was very thoughtful. He used to have a page, as you might know, every six weeks. He never went to the page school. [Thurmond] made many friends and had that as a regular feature of his service here. Also the friendship that Senator George Aiken of Vermont had—who'd come to the Senate in 1941—the friendship that he had with Senator Mansfield was very special. They use to have breakfast every day in the Senate dining room. That's the only time I've heard of anything such as that. [I] had a tremendous respect. To be here and serving here in the early 1970s with members such as Senator Aiken or Senator Jennings Randolph [D-WV], who, in his case, came to the House in 1932, and then a bit later in the Senate. To be serving with people who—you know, in those days, at the age of 14—to be serving with someone who'd even come there 20 years ago seemed like a long time ago.

Senator [William] Proxmire [D-WI] used to have the aisle seat as you'd come in the center aisle. He was impressive, in part, because of his health regimen. I remember I saw his name in one of the articles about the last time that there was a session in between Christmas and New Year's. It was in 1970 or '71 when he was a mini-filibusterer on the issue of what was known as the SST, supersonic transport. Senator [Mike] Gravel of Alaska, I remember very well when he planned to read the Pentagon Papers on the floor as I recall in June of '71. He was getting ready. He had Gatorade brought into the cloakroom. Of course, he'd have to be prepared to deal with however much he was going

to drink of that. But he had a supply, and he was ready to go and read these historical papers. I learned a good example of one of my favorite terms, "procedure is substance He yielded the floor to Senator Griffin, who called a quorum call, and he shut that down. He was prepared to go all night. As you may know, this was a major news story.

Scott: Yes, and some members, as I recall, were not happy with his decision to read the Pentagon Papers. They were not pleased.

McGeary: Yes, on both sides of the aisle. It was interesting to me to see him as a presidential candidate after so many years. I remember when he lost his seat in 1980 to Frank Murkowski [R-AK], whose daughter I saw yesterday at the American Gas Association on her Senate committee work. Senator [Charles] Percy [R-IL] and Senator [Jacob] Javits [R-NY] made history with their page appointments. I was very, very proud to welcome them. Harold Hughes from Iowa was also good on the floor, with a great booming voice. Someone I thought would run for reelection and serve longer and had potential as a presidential candidate. He chose to give it up after one term. Coming in here, I thought back to what a gentle man Phillip Hart was, and what a great privilege I had to have met and talked with him, and before I was a page, Senator Dirksen, and President pro tem Richard Russell. Those three, I think about them all the time. And to be able to have fond memories of all three, after whom these buildings are named, is something special.

Let's see, Gene McCarthy [D-MN] was an interesting member, having run for president. Hubert Humphrey [D-MN] was very friendly towards the pages. One of his phrases, as you might know, was he believed in the politics of joy. I think he showed the positive side of politics and a style that I wish we'd see more of these days on both sides of the aisle, in terms of that politics can be good, can be clean, can be robust but civil.

Scott: What was his relationship with the other members?

McGeary: James Buckley [C-NY] was interesting as a conservative independent. Having met Robert Kennedy and then his successor, Congressman [Charles] Goodell [R-NY]—you know his son, Roger Goodell, is the president of the football league, football association. Then Senator Buckley formed what he called the Independent Caucus with Harry Byrd, Jr., [I-VA] who was very gracious to me over the years. Also Senator Packwood, very impressive, very sharp. Again, [he] made a great impression on us and served very well. I'm sorry things turned out as they did towards the end. I remember being in his office when I saw him in later years, and seeing all the gavels from the chairmanships he had held; Commerce, Finance, and the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee. He had a very impressive career for many years. To be able to talk with Vice President [Spiro] Agnew was also a treat.

Scott: What was he like?

McGeary: He was very friendly towards us. I remember taking up a picture and asking him to autograph it while he was presiding. He was very gracious. He hosted us in his office for his first golden gavel ceremony. I have this picture at home with Senator [James] Allen [D-AL]. In fact, I recalled that to him some years back when I sent him a note saying that I was pleased that the Senate had a ceremony installing the bust of him. He lived in Rancho Mirage, California, and he wrote back a very thoughtful note mentioning how good he thought Senator Allen was. To be in the presence of these leaders and also being able to go each year to the president's State of the Union address over on the House side, it was a dream come true that has influenced everything I've done ever since.

Scott: Do you have memories of those State of the Union addresses? Does anything stand out in particular? What was that like to be a part of that?

McGeary: It was exciting. I have another picture from the one in 1970 that was taken. To be in attendance the one time that's guaranteed to happen each year with the House and the Senate being together, [it was] very impressive. You see history, of course, being televised live. To be in the presence of it was very meaningful.

Scott: How would you gauge the quality of the education you received at the page school during those four years? We've had pages mention this in the past as they thought it wasn't as rigorous as it could have been and later they do address some of those concerns by installing their own page school and sort of separating it out from the Library of Congress. What was you impression of the quality of education you received?

McGeary: Positive. I felt very adequately prepared for college. The school was accredited by the Middle States Association, along with the other schools in the District of Columbia. I felt the education was good. In many classes, there were just two or three of us. The largest classes, which everyone had to take, were English and history, where there were as many as 20 of us. Today that's a small class. But for bookkeeping, there were two of us. And typing, three of us. And French, four of us. You had, in effect, a one-on-one education. I'd say probably the most objective measure of which I can think is, were you admitted to college, and did you feel that you were in good academic shape? Today I know that, in many cases, students are graduating from high school and 50 percent—I know this from being on the George Mason University Board of Visitors—50 percent of high school students entering college have to take remedial math or English. That shouldn't be necessary.

Scott: Wow, 50 percent.

McGeary: Yes, I'd never even heard of that back when I was a page. I honestly felt the education was good and that I was able to take the electives that I wanted to that

were helpful. I felt pleased. Now that's based on the teachers I had when I was there. Others may have a different experience, but mine was positive.

Scott: You graduated from the page school in 1973?

McGeary: Yes. I still have my ring. My goal is to lose more weight so I can wear it back on this finger. I should have mentioned about Senator Eagleton, that I was happy to arrange for him to give the commencement. That's how highly—

Scott: At the 1973 graduation ceremony?

McGeary: Yes. That's how highly we thought of him. It was over in the Longworth House Office Building. Certainly an historic committee room over there in the Ways and Means Committee room.

Scott: One of the developments that changes the page program happened right in the middle of your tenure there, in 1971, as you've already mentioned, with the admission of the first three female pages, sponsored by Senator [Fred] Harris [D-OK], Senator Percy, and Senator Javits. Can you say something about that and what it was like to be a part of the program before and then maybe how it changed or didn't change after?

McGeary: I thought it was great. I remember going with my colleague Greg King, who's in that picture with Senator Mansfield, to the hearings.

Scott: Right, the Rules Committee.

McGeary: I remember seeing the bill introduced by Senator Javits. It was interesting that it, first, would even require a bill, but it did. I can't think of any tangible way that it really changed in terms of the other pages with whom I associated. It seemed to us to be a logical thing to do. The fact that it would get nationwide press was amazing. I remember being interviewed by Harold Walker of CBS—it was on CBS radio news—about it. In the end, we thought it was terrific. I think that certainly Paulette [Desell], Julie [Price], and Ellen [McConnell] are a testament to how valuable they thought it was, and by the fact that they'd come back for the reunions. Also that Julie would come in to do an interview. It was positive. It's time had come.

Scott: It's sort of remarkable to think, as you say, that it didn't even seem like it would take—why would it take a hearing or anything like that? And what we found in our research is that some of the members were concerned that maybe the daily activities would be too physically demanding for female pages. But also the concern about, frankly, the surrounding community and that these young women would have to be walking presumably from wherever it is that they found lodging, because some of them were not staying here with their parents as you were, to the Capitol, in an area that wasn't known to be very safe at the time. Did you have any experiences with crime in the District or

were your parents concerned about your well-being while you were here during those four years?

McGeary: They were certainly concerned. Just wherever I would be they would be concerned and supportive. It wasn't something about which I thought. I was so gifted to have a father who would get up, as I mentioned, and bring me in in the morning. I used to get two buses home. I would wait for the bus right across from the Taft memorial at Constitution Avenue. I just didn't think about it. I'm trying to recall if Julie, did she say where she lived?

Scott: She did. It wasn't far away, but she recalls a couple of times, late nights for example, walking and having some concerns just about, you know, because it's dark and she's a young person. Anybody could have been concerned about their safety at that point.

McGeary: Maybe I'm thinking about Mari Iwashita who was Senator Inouye's girl page. I was thinking there was at least one of them who lived at home, and she did. I think Julie and Paulette and Ellen, I believe, all lived right across the street at the Thompson Marquis Hall. That certainly helped in terms of being so close.

Scott: Barbara Wheeler might be someone you remember. She was with Senator Harris, and she did live in Arlington with her family.

McGeary: Yes, indeed. I remember her very well. Blond.

Scott: She would get rides back and forth.

McGeary: Yes, indeed.

Scott: So that was the way that she didn't have to worry about it because she would get the rides back and forth. Or she also drove her car in, I think, on most days.

McGeary: Now if I were living on my own—most of the pages lived very close. Many of them lived at 201 Massachusetts Avenue or right here, it was the Senate Courts apartment building . If I were living here on my own and was out and about at night, I would have thought about it more. But I was fortunate to not have any incidents.

Scott: So after you graduated from the page program what did you do?

McGeary: I went to George Washington University, where coincidentally, Senator Inouye went to law school. I wanted to be a major in political science. In fact, I told my son don't do it this way. I had my heart set so much on GW. It's the only school to which I applied. I was very lucky to get in and I loved it. In fact, one of my classmates there was a young intern from Connecticut for Senator Dodd, and we've kept in touch over the years, Mark Warner [D-VA].

Scott: Oh, wow.

McGeary: I loved the classes. I then wanted to go into law school, as I said in my letter to Senator Inouye a long time before. I was a member of the class of 1982 at George Mason University School of Law. During those years, I worked for a year back here in the Senate, as I mentioned, for the Senate Steering Committee. That was a good experience. Then I also worked as a law clerk for two law firms in Washington. I wanted to go to GW and George Mason, in part, because I had remained active locally in community affairs and saw that as a part of what I wanted to do after school. So after I graduated from law school, I began, in September of '83, with the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association as their first legislative assistant. Part of the work there involved federal relations, so I had opportunities to return to the Hill here. I was there far longer than I expected, for almost 20 years, finishing my last four years as the executive vice president while continuing as general counsel. I then had a wonderful opportunity to join Washington Gas in June of 1999. The constant, so to speak, in both of those jobs with the association and the gas company was representing us full-time during the Virginia General Assembly. Again, putting to use so much of what I learned here in the legislative arena. My office was located for my first nine years with Washington Gas, in Springfield, and moved here four years ago as we formed a corporate public policy department with all of us here. Part of that was my picking up more federal responsibility, which I love. We're in a great location at 101 Constitution Avenue, and being able to be here and come up and do things like this.

Scott: What types of things did you learn during your page experience that helped prepare you for these positions that you've had in your career?

McGeary: One important lesson, which I saw every day, and many of these members I've mentioned to you impressed me because of their ability to get things done and work with others to do it. That's something that, again, fresh from the legislative experience and getting a natural gas safety bill passed in Richmond—procedure, the importance of procedure, that goes straight back to Senator Byrd, particularly.

Scott: Yes, he was the master.

McGeary: Yes, indeed. The personal touch that I mentioned. I remember when there was a gentleman named Charles Kinney who retired from the Senate staff, and Senator Byrd used that occasion—he had been, I think, with the Democratic Policy Committee and Senator Byrd used that occasion to deliver one of his memorized prayers or poems, I should say, he did both. One part of the poem was, "When you see a man or woman do something and you like it, tell them so. Don't wait until it's time for the flowers on the grave." Keeping in touch with people, keeping in touch with legislators throughout the year, how to treat people, how to work with them. Seeing that there were

sometimes coalitions that would come together in the Senate on particular issues. Members who would be together on some votes and not the next. I mean, that happens every day here, some with more attention in the press than others.

I've developed these top ten rules for lobbyists that I give each year to a group called Leadership Arlington, of which I'm a graduate. One of them is, "Don't burn your bridges." Another one is, "Every member is important." A third one is, "Don't forget the governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general in terms of how they're involved in the legislative process." I guess the equivalent of that here would be, "Don't forget the vice president and the president's legislative packages as they work to get things done." Again, the phrase "procedure is substance." To be able to accomplish things in a manner that's appropriate. Again, procedurally, that came day after day watching members on the floor. Also I learned much in watching the members I mentioned. They were interesting to watch when they would speak in terms of their speaking styles. We're all products of our experience and those are some of mine.

Scott: What kind of work did you do with the Senate Steering Committee when you came back?

McGeary: That committee—are you familiar with it?

Scott: I'm not.

McGeary: It sometimes is called the Senate Republican Steering Committee. It is the informal caucus of more of your conservative Republican senators. I was given an opportunity through a mutual friend in Arlington. Her name was Margot Carlisle. She was with the Policy Committee right before Jade West joined there. I was their legislative assistant. Our office was in what we called the Immigration Building.

Yes indeed, it still stands. We weren't sure it was going to after we were there. But it had an amazing facelift and I think it was a wonderful thing that it was named as the police headquarters in honor of those who gave their lives. I'd be remiss probably if I didn't say that one of the reasons we felt safe, certainly, here, obviously, was because of the police. I know Senator [Harry] Reid [D-NV] was a police officer. There were others with whom we formed a working relationship. I am very fortunate to know those who lead the men's Bible study in the chaplain's office. I also, back in terms of the Steering Committee, drafted legislative memorandums, did legal research, which I loved doing, going to law school.

Scott: This was while you were at law school, is that right?

McGeary: Yes. I was there from 1981 to 1982. I, in fact, graduated from law school in '82. So it was a great experience for a year to do that. Of course it meant

something to me to have our weekly luncheons in what has since become the Hugh Scott room. I would see there members who would come together. When I was there, Senator [Jesse] Helms [R-NC] was the chairman of it. He was formally the senator who hired me. He certainly also, along with Senator Allen, became a master of the rules and also had a courtliness that stuck with me and made a positive impression. To me, it was an ideal job while I was in law school, and then helped prepare me for my next steps.

Scott: Now did you secure that position because of some of the folks that you had met while you had been a page? How did you come into that position?

McGeary: No, it was actually independent of that. I was talking with a friend of mine in Arlington who was the president of the Leadership Institute and he asked me if I was interested, and so I applied. As I tell my son, "the ties that bind,"—his wife was my immediate predecessor as the Republican Party chairman for Arlington. I was honored to be the chairman from 1986 to 1988. In fact, we had a breakfast for Congressman [Frank] Wolf [R-VA] that our trade association did and Senator Dole was there. I told him I was running for chairman and he was very encouraging. I should have mentioned earlier that in 1996, when he achieved the nomination 20 years after being the vice presidential nominee, that I was honored to be his honorary chairman for Arlington. I'm currently the vice-chairman of the electoral board in Arlington. It's, again, one of many things I never expected I would be doing. In that capacity, that is an extension of the interest that I had here in the election process.

Scott: What does that work entail?

McGeary: We employ the voter registrar and all of our staff, who work year round. There are three members on the board, who are appointed by the Circuit Court of Arlington on the recommendation of the political parties. I was recommended, having had a Republican background, when Governor, and future Senator, George Allen became governor in 1994. I served for nine years, rotated off, and came back two years ago. We prepare the sample ballots. We train the election officials, choose the polling places, and administer the election process. We normally have two elections each year: a primary in June and a general election. Last year we had five because we had the presidential primary. We had a special election for county board and a special election for the House of Delegates.

That just relates right back to my early interest in the elections arena. I'm glad that I told him when I did, I told Senator Byrd when I became chairman of the chamber of commerce, which his grandson covered in his newspaper work.

Scott: Of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce?

McGeary: Yes. I mentioned the George Mason Board of Visitors. I was on there for eight years. Again, I never expected to do that. I did something that I, again, learned from Senator Byrd in terms of seeking election as an officer. I was a candidate and was fortunate to be elected vice rector. Plan early, personal contact, the personal touch. These are among the many lessons and opportunities that I trace back to these early years.

Scott: You've had such a remarkable career and it all starts right here, I think, in the Senate in the page program. It's really a testament to what you learned here and what you were able to do with the things that you learned. It's remarkable.

McGeary: Thanks.

Scott: Is there anything else that you would like to add that we haven't talked about?

McGeary: Well thanks for asking. I appreciate your listening to all this and I'm very honored to have the opportunity. The only thing I am going to add is that I hope the program will continue. I was pleased to see Senator Reid and Senator [Mitch] McConnell [R-KY] indicate that it would. I found the closing of the House program unfortunate. There still is some hope among the Page School Alumni Association that that might be changed. But there seems to be certainly enough work for the pages to do here on the Senate side. The experience is valuable and I think to offer young people the opportunity to serve at an early age and learn what service is about and the types of things that we've talked about can better prepare them for their lives and as informed citizens. And I think that, in one sense, the success of the program is shown by how it helped to inspire Mike Lee, and also some members of the House, like Congressman [John] Dingell [D-MI] was a page.

Scott: Right. Bill Gates has been a page.

McGeary: Yes, indeed. In fact one of the staff members on the Democratic side was Nick Rahall, Congressman Rahall, from West Virginia. He was appointed by Senator Byrd. So to me there are many ties that bind in terms of experiences I've had. My hope would be that the program would continue and be a benefit to them so that they could also realize their dreams as I have been fortunate to do.

Scott: Well thank you, Scott, for taking the time to come here and tell us about your experience. And if anything comes up, if you think of something that you'd like to come in and talk about, we're always here. We'd be happy to meet with you again.

McGeary: Well thanks. And remind me, how long have you been here?

Scott: I've been here for three years.

McGeary: And where were you before?

Scott: I had a temporary teaching position at a university in Wisconsin and this position opened up and I applied for it. I was fortunate enough to have the offer. I jumped at the chance because I'm a political historian so this is exactly the kind of work that I want to be doing. I'm so close to the action. It's really fascinating. I love it.

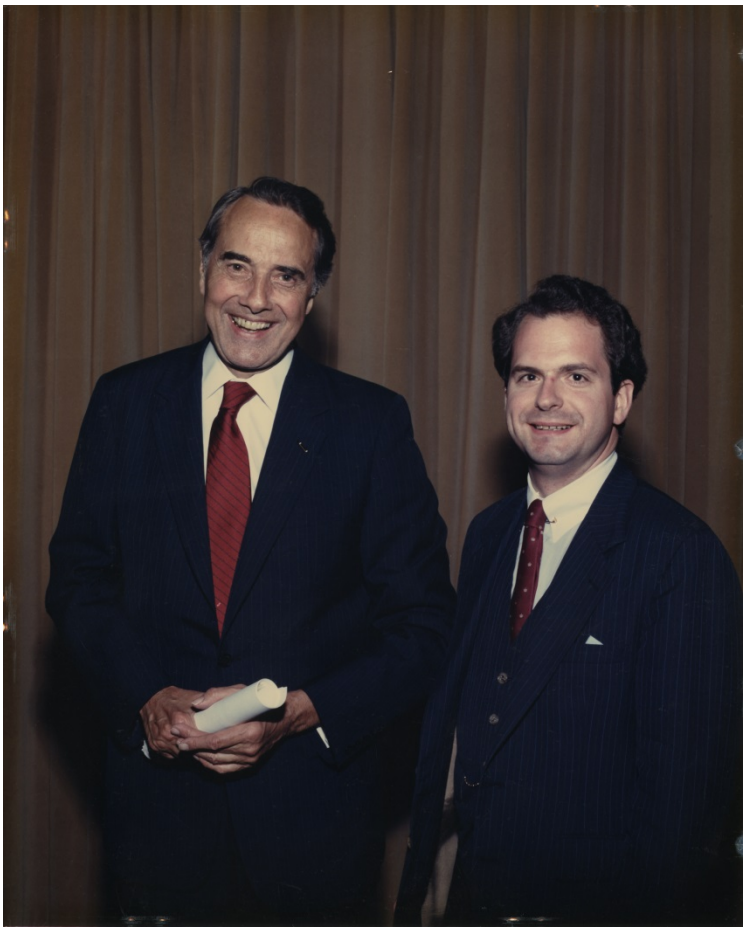
McGeary: That's great. Well you're very kind with your time, and again, I just treasure the chance to be able to have had the opportunity to be a page and talk about it. So that's my commercial for the page program.

Scott: Thank you, Scott.

McGeary: Thank you.

Above: McGeary (3rd from left, front row) with his fellow pages, 1970.

Left: McGeary with Senator Ted Kennedy, 1970.



Left: McGeary with Senator Bob Dole

Bottom: McGeary with wife Linda and Senator Daniel Inouye