

Lake Country Living



Principal - Governor ↑ Carl Bagley
Ben Taylor Tim Kaine ↓ Jean Clary Bagley -

Gov. Tim Kaine, Carl and Jean Clary Bagley of Century 21 Clary Realty and Associates, Park View staff and graduates of the Class of 2008. (Lisa Clary photos)

Appointment with **THE GOVERNOR**

Kaine lands at Park View to honor students, class benefactor Bagley

From staff reports

It's not every day the governor visits for a high school graduation. In the case of Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, only two such visits are on tap this year.

One will occur with the graduation of Kaine's son from Maggie Walker High School in Richmond, and the other happened Friday when Kaine flew in by helicopter to Park View High School, where he spoke prior to the senior awards day program that morning.

Kaine's visit had two purposes: one, to honor Park View's 163 graduates, and two, to lavish praise on a local business that has sponsored members of the Class of 2008 since their days as kindergarten students.

Kaine paid tribute to Carl and Jean Clary Bagley of Century 21 Clary and Associates, after the firm in 1994 adopted the kindergarten class at the then-

South Hill Primary School in a program called CARES (Children Are Really Extra Special). Jean Clary Bagley, the daughter of a schoolteacher, spearheaded the program to encourage children to reach for their dreams and goals. Employees of Century 21 Clary and Associates have helped students excel by rewarding them with gifts and parties for a job well done, and by mentoring students as they have progressed through their school years.

"What a wonderful thing," Kaine said of the CARES program. "Boy, if we had more people and companies like these guys, there would be no stopping us."

Park View seniors will graduate on June 14, and Kaine reminded the students that it's a challenging world we live in today. But he also encouraged the students to go out and meet those challenges with a positive attitude and work to change the world and make a difference.

"We adults count on you and your optimism and sense of hope," said the governor. "My mother once told me, be right in life and be a pessimist, do right in life and be an optimist. Don't let events change you, but you change the events and you will be happier."

Kaine held up Bagley as an example of someone who is making a difference in the community. By providing educational opportunities to students in Southside Virginia, Century 21 Clary and Associates is addressing one of the region's most critical needs — to develop citizens and workers for the 21st century economy.

Besides mentoring and encouraging students, the firm is providing another important lift — money for graduates to continue their education at Southside Virginia Community College. Bagley and her firm have raised \$50,000 for the SVCC scholarship fund, which with interest has grown to \$64,000. The money will allow students to have the opportunity upon graduation to attend Southside Virginia Community College free for one year.

To thank her for her efforts, Park View students presented Clary with a yearbook and flowers during the awards ceremony.

It was a fitting show of appreciation for a mentor and role model for the Class of 2008, and capped a big day which started with the governor landing on the Park View campus by State Police helicopter. "It's been a labor of love," said Bagley.



Kaine speaks to the Park View assembly with school principal Ben Taylor listening in the background.