

The Eleventh Annual
WILKINS LEADERSHIP
Awards Dinner

Honoring the leadership of Governor Nikki Haley,
Mayor Joe Riley, and the late Senator Clementa Pinckney

Hosts

Ambassador David Wilkins

Secretary Dick Riley

Furman President Elizabeth Davis, Ph.D.

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center



Wilkins Legislative and Civic Leadership Awards Dinner

"America the Beautiful" Bell Tower Boys
Furman University

Welcome..... Elizabeth Davis
President, Furman University

National Anthem Bell Tower Boys

Invocation..... The Rt. Rev. Andrew Waldo,
*Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese
of Upper South Carolina*

Dinner

About the Awards Dick Riley
*Former U.S. Secretary of Education
and Governor of South Carolina*

Presentation of Awards..... Paula Harper Bethea
Chair, Wilkins Steering Committee

David Wilkins
*Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada
and Speaker, South Carolina House
of Representatives*

"Civic Leadership in the Wake of the Emanuel A.M.E. Church Tragedy"
A conversation with Governor Nikki Haley and Mayor Joe Riley

Closing Elizabeth Davis

*Our great thanks to SCETV for their generous support, including
production of tonight's video features and live feed. SCETV's unstinting
and ongoing support of this program is invaluable.*

Joseph P. Riley, Jr.



Joseph P. Riley, Jr. was first elected mayor of Charleston in December 1975, and went on to serve an unprecedented 10 terms. During Riley's forty-year tenure as mayor, the City of Charleston saw a substantial decrease in crime, a revitalization of the historic downtown business district, the creation and growth of Spoleto Festival U.S. A., an expansion of the city's park system, and the development of nationally-acclaimed affordable housing.

An important part of Riley's legacy will be his leadership prior to and during the aftermath of the Emanuel A.M.E. Church shooting. Mayor Riley spent his entire public service career building bridges among diverse sectors of the community, which many consider important groundwork that aided the city's response to the tragedy. Moreover, Mayor Riley comforted families and worked in front of the cameras and behind the scenes to ease unrest and bring the community together, all the while praising "this community's instinctive, unscripted natural reaction of unifying love."

A recipient of numerous awards, Mayor Riley received the Outstanding Mayors Award from the National Urban Coalition, the Distinguished Citizen Award by the National Association of Realtors and was named the 1991 Municipal Leader of the Year by *American City & County*. He has also received the Order of the Palmetto, has been named South Carolinian of the Year, and was given the 1982 Verner Award by the South Carolina Arts Commission for outstanding contributions to the arts.

Nikki Haley



First elected in 2010 and reelected in 2014, Governor Nikki Randhawa Haley is the first female and the first minority governor in South Carolina history. Before her election as governor, she represented Lexington County (District 87) in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 2005–2010.

As governor, Haley proposed and the legislature approved more than \$160 million of new spending in the 2014-2015 fiscal year for public schools, which included an additional \$97 million for children who live in poverty, \$30 million to hire additional reading coaches in elementary schools and \$29 million to improve internet and wireless capabilities in schools. With an emphasis on workforce education and training, site and facility development, ports and transportation, and a network of skilled suppliers, Haley has overseen the addition of more than 200,000 jobs in South Carolina since 2010. In particular, the manufacturing sector has experienced significant growth, with recent new or expanding businesses in South Carolina including Boeing, Volvo, Daimler, and Continental Tire.

On June 22, 2015, five days after the massacre at Charleston's Emanuel A.M.E. Church, Haley took a nationally-heralded stand calling for the Confederate flag's removal from South Carolina's State House grounds. Following her lead, on July 7, the South Carolina Senate voted 36-3 to remove the flag from the Capitol grounds, and two days later, on July 9, the state's House of Representatives voted 94-20 to pass the Senate bill. That same day, Governor Haley signed the bill into law in a State House ceremony attended by state legislators, governors, and relatives of the shooting victims.

Senator Clementa Pinckney



Clementa Pinckney served in South Carolina's legislature since 1996, when, at the age of 23, he was the youngest African American ever elected to the legislature. In 2000, he was elected to the State Senate, where he served until his assassination in 2015.

Beloved by both Republican and Democratic colleagues in the legislature, Senator Pinckney was known for his humility, moral courage, and respect for his colleagues. His work in the legislature was centered on constituent services and creating jobs in his district.

Senator Pinckney may be longest remembered for the impassioned floor speech he gave only two months before his death as he led a successful bipartisan effort to require police officers to wear body cameras following the videotaped shooting of Walter Scott in North Charleston.

A Beaufort native, Pinckney graduated from Allen University and earned his Master's of Public Administration from the University of South Carolina. He also studied at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. As a state legislator who commuted hundreds of miles a week to Columbia, he pastored four churches in succession, served as a district administrator, and then was appointed to lead Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend Pinckney was not quite 42 when he welcomed a young white stranger into Bible study at Emanuel A.M.E. Church on June 17, 2015. An hour later, the gunman had massacred the pastor and eight other worshipers in a bloody declaration of racial warfare. In a shocking instant, Mr. Pinckney joined the pantheon of American leaders who have been cut down before fulfilling their potential. (Kevin Sack, *New York Times*)



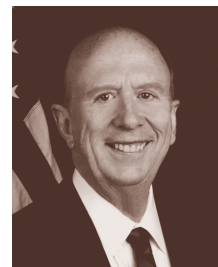
Elizabeth Davis

Elizabeth Davis became Furman University's 12th president on July 1, 2014. She came to Furman from Baylor University, where, as executive vice president and provost, she oversaw the university's 11 schools and colleges as well as more than a dozen research centers and institutes. A graduate of Baylor, Davis earned her Ph.D. from Duke University in 1992. She has delivered hundreds of addresses throughout the U.S. on issues involving higher education, university leadership, and financial management.



Dick Riley

Richard W. Riley, for whom the Riley Institute at Furman is named, is the former U.S. Secretary of Education (1993–2001) and former Governor of South Carolina (1979–1987). Secretary Riley is currently a senior partner in the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and its affiliate, EducationCounsel. Riley is the recipient of numerous education and other public service awards. In 2009, *TIME* magazine named Riley one of the Top 10 Best Cabinet Members in our nation's history.



David Wilkins

Ambassador David Wilkins is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. He chairs the firm's Public Policy and International Law practice group, which focuses primarily on representing businesses on both sides of the U.S. - Canadian border. Wilkins served as the United States Ambassador to Canada from June 2005 until January 2009. Prior to his appointment to Canada, Wilkins served 25 years in the South Carolina House of Representatives, 11 of those as speaker.

About the Wilkins Leadership Awards

Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership

is presented to a member of the South Carolina House or Senate who best exemplifies the highest principles of leadership, integrity, compassion, vision, and courage. Recipients have demonstrated the ability to collaborate with fellow legislators, regardless of party affiliation, to effect positive change in South Carolina.

Past Legislative Award Winners

2014	Speaker Jay Lucas
2013	Senator Paul Campbell
2012	Representative James Harrison
2011	Representative James Smith
2010	Senator Wes Hayes
2009	Representative Dan Cooper
2008	Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter
2007	Senator Hugh Leatherman
2006	Speaker Bobby Harrell
2005	Senator John Drummond, President <i>Pro-Tempore Emeritus</i>

Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership

is presented to a community leader who demonstrates a long-standing and exemplary commitment to working to improve the lives of South Carolinians. The recipient of this award is a civic leader whose selfless involvement in community is marked by vision, skill, and integrity, and whose efforts to improve the quality of life in the state have required a remarkable investment of personal time, energy, and responsibility.

Past Civic Award Winners

2014	Bill Barnet
2013	Steve Morrison (posthumous award)
2012	Anita Zucker
2011	Ed Sellers
2010	Minor Mickel Shaw

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** As of date of publication.*

The Riley Institute

Furman University's Riley Institute broadens student and community perspectives about issues critical to South Carolina's progress. It builds and engages present and future leaders, creates and shares data-supported information about the state's core challenges, and links the leadership body to sustainable solutions.

Launched in 1999, the Institute is named for former South Carolina Governor and former United States Secretary of Education Richard W. (Dick) Riley. It is committed to nonpartisanship in all it does and to a rhetoric-free, facts-based approach to change.

