



South Carolina Association of Counties

August 7, 2009

Diane B. Anderson, President
Laurens County

Michael B. Cone
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHOTO ATTACHED

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PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR**

KERSHAW COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN STEVE S. KELLY, JR. RECEIVES SCAC PRESIDENT'S CUP

The South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) presented the President's Cup — one of the Association's highest honors — for 2009 to Kershaw County Council Chairman Steve S. Kelly, Jr. at its 42nd Annual Conference (July 30 - Aug. 2). The President's Cup is presented each year to the county official who has merited special recognition for their service to county governments and assistance to SCAC's president during the past year.

Kelly served as SCAC President from 2000-01.

"One of the best things about being the SCAC President is having the opportunity to recognize someone whose service to county government goes beyond the call of duty," said SCAC President L. Gregory Pearce, Jr. (Richland County Council Member) when presenting the award Saturday evening, Aug. 1, during SCAC's Annual Conference Banquet. "Steve Kelly, tonight's recipient, has been a steady and faithful servant to the citizens of his county for over 30 years. In this business, that length of service is pretty rare. What it says is that you must be doing something right. It also says that you must be highly respected and appreciated by your constituents in electing you to nine consecutive four-year terms.

"He's a man of great character, a true gentleman and a good friend," Pearce added. "He has been a steady and faithful servant to this Association, and he has always been a champion of county government and a supporter of this Association's programs. I have worked with him on a number of committees and boards over the past several years. Like others, I have a profound respect for his knowledge of county government and for his sound judgment and wise counsel. When he talks, you listen. His ability to reason and to strike the right balance, along with his easy-going and likable personality, have made him a 'go to' person for many, and I certainly count myself as one of them. His service on behalf of his community is a true reflection of his character and unselfish devotion."

Kelly has served on Kershaw County Council for 33 years, including 19 as council chairman. He is a board member of the SCAC and the Regional Wachovia Bank (Camden); a board member of Agape Senior; and a supporter of Kershaw County Mental Health, Kershaw County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. He is a board member and past vice chairman of the Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance and a member of the Alliance's executive committee; a former member of the YMCA Board of Directors; honorary chairman of March of Dimes; and a Boy Scout leader. He has also served as chairman of Friends of Scouting (2007-08) and as past division chairman of the United Way.

He received the State of South Carolina Local Government Official Award in 2009.

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Kelly, an Eagle Scout (Bronze, Silver and Gold Palms), was named Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1976 for Distinguished Service by the Camden Chapter of the Jaycees. A S.C. residential contractor, he owns Wateree Construction and Improvement in Camden.

Currently, Kelly serves on the Governor's State Workforce Investment Board.

Kelly received his Associate degree in Science and Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina (USC). He also graduated from Levels I and II of SCAC's Institute of Government for County Officials.

He and his wife, Beth, have two sons, Stephen III and Travis, and a daughter, Lindsey. Kelly is a former Deacon of First Baptist Church of Camden.

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