



**SENATOR HUGH LEATHERMAN
RECEIVES DAVID WILKINS AWARD
FOR LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP**

Award presented by the Riley Institute at Furman University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C. — South Carolina Senator Hugh K. Leatherman, who represents Darlington and Florence counties in District 31, has been named the winner of the third annual David Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership.

The award is sponsored by the Riley Institute at Furman University and will be presented to Leatherman at the annual Wilkins Award dinner in Columbia Monday, Jan. 7. Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will be the keynote speaker for the event.

The awards dinner begins with a reception at 6 p.m. in the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. David Wilkins, the former Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives and current U.S. Ambassador to Canada will be in attendance, as will former U.S. Secretary of Education and S.C. Governor Richard W. Riley.

Tickets are \$125 per person, and can be reserved by calling 864-235-8330.

The Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership is given annually to a state legislator who “embodies the highest principles of leadership based on integrity, compassion, vision, civility and courage.” The winner is selected by a committee composed of business and community leaders, former legislators, political scientists and members of the South Carolina media. The two previous winners were John Drummond, President Pro-Tem Emeritus of the Senate, and Bobby Harrell, Speaker of the House.

The Riley Institute at Furman is a non-partisan program affiliated with the university’s Department of Political Science. The Institute created the David H. Wilkins Legislative Leadership Program in 2006 in honor of the respected South Carolina politician.

“The selection committee chose Senator Leatherman because he reflects the kind of quiet, thoughtful and courageous leadership that focuses on the needs of the people of South Carolina rather than on partisan advantage,” said Don Gordon, executive director of the Riley Institute.

Leatherman, a Republican, was elected to the South Carolina Senate in November 1980. He currently serves as chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, while also serving

on the Senate Ethics, Interstate Cooperation, Labor, Commerce and Industry, Rules, State House and Transportation committees. He is also serves as one of the five members on the State Budget and Control Board, which oversees the state's financial dealings on a monthly basis.

A native of Lincoln County, N.C., Leatherman moved to Florence shortly after graduating from North Carolina State University. He began his career in public service in 1967 when he was elected to the Quinby Town Council. He later served Quinby as Mayor Pro Tempore (1971-1976). He still operates several businesses in the Pee Dee area, including his home building construction company, LEACON.

Leatherman has received honorary doctorate degrees from Francis Marion University, the College of Charleston, the Medical University of South Carolina, The Citadel, Coastal Carolina University, the University of South Carolina, Clemson University and Lander University. The science building at Frances Marion is named in his honor and an endowed faculty chair at the university also bears his name. Florence-Darlington Technical College recently named a building on its new Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology campus in his honor.

He is married to Jean Leatherman and has six children and three grandchildren.

The Riley Institute at Furman, named for Furman graduate Richard W. Riley, offers a broad array of programs designed to engage students and citizens across South Carolina in the various arenas of politics, public policy, and public leadership.

For more information, contact the Riley Institute at Furman at 864-294-3253.

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