

Wilkins Legislative Award Dinner Program

WelcomeDavid E. Shi
President, Furman University

“America the Beautiful”Bell Tower Boys
Furman University

National AnthemJuana Spears Slade
Director, Diversity and Language Services
AnMed Health

Invocation

Remarks..... Richard W. Riley
former United States Secretary of Education
former Governor of South Carolina

David H. Wilkins
former United States Ambassador to Canada
former speaker of SC House of Representatives

Keynote Address Judy Woodruff
Senior Correspondent, PBS NewsHour

Award PresentationMinor Mickel Shaw
President, Micco Corporation

Paula Harper Bethea
Executive Director,
South Carolina Education Lottery

Remarks.....Daniel T. “Dan” Cooper
2009 Legislative Award Winner

Closing.....David E. Shi

“God Bless America” Bell Tower Boys

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

Judy Woodruff



Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff has covered politics and other news for more than three decades at CNN, NBC and PBS. Most recently, she signed on as a senior correspondent for the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, recently renamed *PBS NewsHour*.

For 12 years, Woodruff served as anchor and senior correspondent for CNN, anchoring the weekday political program, *Inside Politics*. Woodruff also played a central role in the network's political coverage and other major news stories.

At PBS from 1983 to 1993, she was the chief Washington correspondent for *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*. From 1984–1990, she also anchored PBS's award-winning weekly documentary series, *Frontline with Judy Woodruff*.

In 2007, Woodruff completed an extensive project on the views of young Americans called *Generation Next: Speak Up. Be Heard.*, two hour-long documentaries aired on PBS, along with a series of reports on the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, NPR, Yahoo and in *USA Today*.

In addition, she anchors a monthly program for Bloomberg Television, *Conversations with Judy Woodruff*. Through fall of 2006, Judy was a visiting professor at Duke University's Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, teaching a weekly seminar course on media and politics. In the fall of 2005, she was a visiting fellow at Harvard University's Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, where she led a study group for students on contemporary issues in journalism.

At NBC News, Woodruff served as White House correspondent from 1977 to 1982. For one year after that she served as NBC's *Today Show* chief Washington correspondent. She wrote the book, *This is Judy Woodruff at the White House*, published in 1982 by Addison-Wesley.

Woodruff is a founding co-chair of the International Women's Media Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting and encouraging women in communication industries worldwide. She serves on the boards of trustees of the Freedom Forum, the Newseum, and Global Rights: Partners for Justice. She also serves as a member of The Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics and the board of the National Museum of American History. Woodruff is a graduate of Duke University, where she is a trustee emerita.

Daniel T. Cooper



Daniel T. Cooper represents South Carolina House of Representatives District 10 in Anderson County. He has served the people of Anderson since 1990 when he succeeded his late father, Milford J. “Dolly” Cooper, who had served in the House for 16 years. Cooper has the distinction of being the first Republican ever elected to the South Carolina Statehouse from Anderson County.

Throughout his time in office, Cooper has been recognized as a devoted public servant who shapes public policy based on his dedication to making South Carolina an even better place to live and work. He currently serves as chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, a position his House colleagues elected him to in 2005. In this role, Cooper manages the House version of the state budget and serves as a member of the State Budget and Control Board where he has the distinction of being the only board member from the Upstate.

As chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Cooper serves on the Joint Bond Review Committee, which studies and monitors policies and procedures related to the approval of permanent state improvement projects. Before he was elected Ways and Means chair, Cooper served as a member of the House Medical, Military and Municipal Affairs Committee; the Education and Public Works Committee; and the Ways and Means Committee, a position he held for a decade. He also was a member of the special Joint Tax Study Committee, which reviewed the state’s tax laws for simplicity and fairness.

Dan Cooper is very involved in his community. He is on the board for Freedom Weekend Aloft and is a member of the Hunley Commission, the Pelzer Lions Club and the Small Business Association. Previously, he was a board member for Boys Home of the South and a member of the legislative advisory board of Palmetto Pride, South Carolina’s anti-litter group.

A graduate of Clemson University, Cooper is currently a vice-president of Capstone Insurance Services, LLC. Cooper lives in Piedmont with his wife Melissa “Missy” Shellenbarger Cooper and their two children, Leanne Alexandra and Daniel T. Cooper, II.

The David H. Wilkins South Carolina Legislative Program

Former speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives David Wilkins left an indelible mark on the state's political landscape during his 25-year tenure in office. His widely acclaimed leadership and commitment to public service has become a benchmark standard for excellence for state legislators around the country.

Among other significant achievements, David Wilkins was elected president of the National Speakers Association and, in 2004, was awarded the National Conference of State Legislatures' Award for Excellence in State Legislative Leadership.

To honor and sustain his efforts to improve the quality of legislative activity in his home state, Furman University has created and is in the process of implementing the following programs:

Annual Wilkins Legislative Award Dinner

This annual event, held in Columbia, features nationally acclaimed speakers and the presentation of the Riley Institute's David H. Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership in South Carolina.

Recipients of the award are selected by a non-partisan/bi-partisan panel of distinguished scholars, former legislators and leaders from the public and private sectors. The award is presented to a member of the South Carolina House or Senate who best embodies the highest principles of leadership, integrity, compassion, vision and courage.

David H. Wilkins Chair in South Carolina Politics

This endowed professorship will enable Furman to offer more courses in state and local politics and provide a leading scholar as a resource for the development of legislative initiatives in South Carolina.

Wilkins Fellowships in South Carolina Legislative Affairs

The Wilkins Fellowships in State Legislative Affairs provide 12 to 15 Furman students with the opportunity to work in the South Carolina General Assembly or with an interest group or agency associated with the legislature. Wilkins Fellows live in Columbia and work Tuesday through Thursday for a twelve-week period while the legislature is in session. In this immersion experience, students meet and work with South Carolina elected officials, listen to presentations made by legislative staff, agency personnel, and lobbyists, and attend receptions. They also enroll in courses taught by Glen A. Halva-Neubauer, professor of political science at Furman University and a state politics specialist, which focus on state politics, legislative politics, and South Carolina public policy. Wilkins Fellows gain a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of the legislative process that comes from integrating theory and practice.

Past Award Winners

- 2008 Gilda Cobb-Hunter, South Carolina Representative
- 2007 Hugh K. Leatherman, South Carolina Senator
- 2006 Robert W. “Bobby” Harrell, Jr., Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives
- 2005 John J. Drummond, South Carolina Senator and President Pro-Tem Emeritus



David H. Wilkins

David H. Wilkins is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and chairs the Public Policy and International Law practice group, which focuses primarily on representing businesses on both sides of the U.S.–Canadian border and offers experience on a wide range of strategic bilateral issues.

From 2002–2009, Wilkins served as the United States Ambassador to Canada. During his tenure, Ambassador Wilkins helped to resolve some of the most high-profile issues between Canada and the United States, including the decades-old softwood lumber dispute. He is known on both sides of the border as an honest broker who worked for solutions on the toughest issues—energy, national security, the environment, trade and travel—impacting millions of citizens in both countries.

Wilkins was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1980 and served there for 25 years. He quickly rose through the ranks in the House of Representatives, serving six years as chair of the House Judiciary Committee and two years as speaker pro tem before being elected speaker, a position he held for 11 years. He was the first Republican elected speaker of any legislative body in the South since the 1880s and retired as one of the longest serving speakers in the country.

Wilkins served as state chairman of the 2004 Bush–Cheney campaign and as co-chair of the campaign in 2000. In 2001, he served as president of the National Speakers Association. He was appointed by the president to the Board of Visitors to the United States Academy at West Point in 2002 and served for three years. He currently serves as chair of the Clemson University Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors of Porter Airlines Inc. and the Greenville Area Development Corporation's (GADC) Board of Directors.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Ambassador Wilkins earned his undergraduate degree from Clemson University and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He also served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserves.

Wilkins resides in Greenville, South Carolina with his wife Susan. They have two grown sons and two grandchildren.

Richard W. 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 currently is a senior partner in the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and its affiliate, Education Counsel, with offices in South and North Carolina, Georgia, Boston, Chicago, Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. He counsels clients and works with partners on complex business, governance, financial, legal, education, government process and advocacy matters for local, state, national and international clients.

With the full support of the firm, Riley remains an ambassador for improving education in the United States and abroad. He has been appointed distinguished professor at Furman, and serves as Advisory Board chair of the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership. Riley has been named distinguished professor at the University of South Carolina, and the College of Education at Winthrop University bears his name, as does the College of Education and Leadership at Walden University. He is also a distinguished senior fellow at NAFSA: Association of International Educators in Washington, D.C. In addition, Riley serves in an advisory and collaborative capacity with several other entities across the nation and overseas that promote progressive education improvement.

Riley earned his bachelor's degree, cum laude, in political science from Furman in 1954 and received a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1959. He is the recipient of numerous education and other public service awards, as well as honorary degrees from universities and colleges in the United States and abroad. In 2008, Riley was named one of the Top 10 Cabinet Members of the 20th Century by *Time* magazine.

Riley and his late wife, Ann “Tunky” Yarborough Riley, have four children and thirteen grandchildren.

Wilkins Program Sponsors

Platinum Level

AT&T

Furman University

Gold Level

Duke Energy

Piedmont Natural Gas

Silver Level

Michelin North America, Inc.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP

SCETV

Bronze Level

Progress Energy

Table Sponsors

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina

BMW

Charleston School of Law

Childs & Halligan, PA

Clare Morris Agency

Clemson University

Delta Dental

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

SCBIZ News

South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA)

S.C. Statehouse Report

Time Warner

Wachovia Securities, Ballentine Group