

FALL 2011

The Honorable Mike Chenault, Alaska
President, NSC

The Honorable John A. Pérez, California
1st Vice President, NSC

NSC 2011 Annual Meeting: Honoring America on the Anniversary of 9/11



Wilkins, DeMint, Harrell

On September 26, 2001, two weeks after the September 11 terrorist attacks on America, The Honorable **David Wilkins** brought to order the tenth annual meeting of the National Speakers Conference in Charleston, South Carolina to celebrate America and remember those taken in the attack. Ten years later, on September 7-11, this time under the guidance of The Honorable **Robert J. Harrell, Jr.**, we met once again in “The Holy City” to honor the memory of those terrible events and celebrate the people and institutions that continue to make this country great.

The program, which focused on critical issues concerning national security, featured Keynote presenters Admiral Mike Mullin, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; The Honorable Jane Holl Lute, Undersecretary, Department of Homeland Security; Premier Brad Wall of Saskatchewan, Canada; Senators Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint; and renowned historian Dr. Walter Edgar.



Wall

Admiral Mullin expressed his gratitude to the men and women who put themselves in harms way to protect us and emphasized our obligation to take care of them when they return home.

The Honorable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan, Canada, focused the participants' attention on the long-standing relationship between Canada and her neighbors to the south and the importance of continuing that relationship in the name of energy security.



Mullin

Dr. Walter Edgar, South Carolina's unofficial state historian, spoke about the significance of effective and honorable leadership in turbulent times, noting eleven South Carolinians who exhibited unselfish bravery and vision through the history of the Palmetto state (see text box on next page for complete list). They included historic figures like revolutionary war hero Francis Marion, who risked life and fortune for his country, and longtime South Carolina House Speaker Solomon Blatt, as well as contemporary South Carolinians like retired Senator Ernest “Fritz” Hollings and former Governor James Edwards.



Edgar

continued on page 2

Speaker to Speaker

Stephen G. Lakis - *Publisher, Editor-in-Chief*
Thom Little - *Director of Development*
Ken Morton - *Managing Editor*
Papalinka Paradise - *Design & Layout*

State Legislative Leaders Foundation
1645 Falmouth Road, Bldg. D • Centerville, MA 02632-2932
Tel.: (508) 771-3821 • www.sllf.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|------|
| Annual Meeting - South Carolina | 1, 2 |
| Participants Experience Charleston | 3 |
| Speakers Move to Washington | 3 |
| Missouri and Oklahoma Choose Speakers | 4 |
| North to Alaska | 4 |



Eleven Notable South Carolinians

- Thomas P. Lynch, Sr.** (1727-1776) - Patriot, Revolutionary, Delegate to Continental Congress
- John Rutledge** (1739-1800) - 1st SC Governor, Co-Editor of US Constitution, US Supreme Court
- Francis Marion** (1732-1795) - Brigadier General, American Revolution (the Swamp Fox)
- John C. Calhoun** (1782-1850) - Statesman, US Senator, Vice President
- James L. Orr** (1822-1873) - Speaker of US House, Member of Confederate Congress, Governor
- Bernard Baruch** (1870-1965) - Statesman, Financier, Presidential Advisor
- James F. Byrnes** (1882-1972) - Governor, Justice, US Senator, Secretary of State
- Solomon Blatt, Jr.** (1895-1986) - Speaker of the SC House, 1937-1947, 1951-1973
- Robert McNair** (1923-2007) - Lt. Governor, Governor, Civil Rights Progressive
- Ernest "Friz" Hollings, Jr.** (1922-) - Lt. Governor, Governor, US Senator
- James B. Edwards** (1927-) - Congressman, Governor, US Secretary of Energy

Finally, The Honorable Lindsey Graham, senior US Senator from South Carolina, articulated the three big challenges facing America: unemployment and job creation; a rising and potentially crippling federal deficit; and national security. He expressed a firm belief that America's leaders could rise above the current partisanship and address these problems much like the leaders Dr. Edgar described when faced with even more serious challenges.



Graham

A highlight of every Annual Meeting is the Speakers Only session. This year, Speakers held a session in the Old Exchange Building, where South Carolina declared independence from Great Britain and ratified the US Constitution. Thirty-four speakers were present. The discussion was mainly centered on issues of partisanship, with many speakers expressing a desire to mend fences, foster a spirit of cooperation, and address the extremism that has poisoned the well of compromise.





Learning Outside the Classroom: Experiencing Charleston

While participants at the 20th annual meeting of the National Speakers Conference surely learned a great deal from our nationally recognized faculty of pundits, dignitaries, and scholars, their education was not limited to the classroom.

Participants enjoyed an evening on board the historic Battleship *Yorktown* which included an inspiring tour of the US Medal of Honor Museum. And the following evening, a dinner was held on the campus of The Citadel, one of America's oldest and finest military academies of higher learning. We also had the opportunity to tour Fort Sumter, home of the first shots of the Civil War (or, as they say in Charleston, "The War Between the States").

Guests and spouses learned about the state and the city, exploring the history of the famous Middleton Plantation and taking a tour of historic Charleston. All participants learned about the Gullah culture, an island people unique to South Carolina, from lunch speaker "Aunt Pearlie Sue." Aunt Pearlie Sue (aka Anita Singleton-Prather, an educator, historian and storyteller from Beaufort, South Carolina) used humor to share a message of hope, love and acceptance.

The State Legislative Leaders Foundation wishes to offer special thanks and recognition to Speaker Harrell and his staff. They were diligent in managing every detail of the program, demonstrating Speaker Harrell's love of South Carolina and respect for his colleagues around the country.

Photos from the Annual Meeting can be viewed at: www.pictage.com
Event name: 2011 National Speakers Conference
Password (event key): speaker



Fitzgerald



Donovan



Ocegüera



Gregg

Several Speakers Seeking Move to Washington in 2012

At present, we are aware of three sitting Speakers who have declared their intentions to seek higher office in 2012. In Wisconsin, Speaker **Jeff Fitzgerald** is seeking the Republican nomination for Wisconsin's seat in the United States Senate. He is facing former Governor Tommy Thompson, among other candidates for the nomination. In Connecticut, it appears that Speaker **Chris Donovan** is the odds on favorite to win the Democratic nomination for that state's 5th Congressional district and face the Republican nominee in an open seat race. The seat is currently held by Rep. Chris Murphy who is running for the United States Senate. Speaker Donovan is the most well-known and well-funded Democrat in the race. Finally, out west, Nevada Speaker **John Ocegüera** has announced his intention to run for Congress as a Democrat. However, because the state's redistricting plan is in flux at the moment, it is unclear exactly which seat he will be running for. Speaker Ocegüera is termed out of the Nevada Legislature after twelve years in the House.

Presently, there are seven former state Speakers in the United States Congress: Senators Ben Cardin (D-Maryland), Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Representatives Karen Bass (D-CA), Daniel Webster (R-FL), Albio Sires, (D- NJ) and Michael Simpson (R-ID).

And One Speaker Seeking Governorship

Former Indiana Speaker **John Gregg** has declared his intention to seek the Democratic nomination for governor. Current Governor Mitch Daniels is term-limited from serving again in office. Rep. Mike Pence and businessman Jim Wallace are seeking the Republican nomination. Gregg, Pence and Wallace have been campaigning throughout Indiana most of the year, supporting municipal candidates across the state.

Missouri and Oklahoma Choose 2013 Speakers

One of the many consequences of legislative term limits is that campaigns for leadership positions in term limited states are fast moving and intense. Members of the House majority caucus in two term-limited states, Missouri and Oklahoma, have already determined who will be Speaker in January, 2013, over a year from now.

Assuming Republicans win a majority of the House seats in the 2012 elections, Representative **Tim Jones**, a Republican first elected to the Chamber in 2006 will be the next Speaker in Missouri. Described by one colleague as a “GOP pit bull,” Jones is currently serving as the chamber’s Majority Floor Leader where he controls the flow of legislation in the House. As Speaker Designate, Jones is slated to replace current Speaker Steven Tilley in January, 2013. Jones is also a member of the Board of Directors of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation.



Jones



Shannon

In the Sooner state, the House Republican Caucus recently selected Representative **T. W. Shannon** as the Speaker-designate for the Oklahoma House of Representatives. If Republicans maintain their majority, Shannon would take over for current Speaker Kris Steele in January, 2013. If that happens, Shannon, an African American member of the Chickasaw Nation, would become the first African American Speaker of the House in the history of Oklahoma. Shannon, first elected to the Oklahoma House in 2006, previously worked for US Congressmen J.C. Watts and Tom Cole. In winning the post, Shannon reportedly defeated at least two other candidates.

We wish the best of success to Rep. Jones and Shannon and look forward to welcoming them to the NSC in 2013!

North to Alaska! 49th State Will Host 2012 Annual Meeting

On September 9, 2011 the Honorable **Mike Chenault**, Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives, officially became the 21st President of the National Speakers Conference and host of the 2012 Annual Meeting. Join your colleagues on August 19 - 23, 2012 in America’s 49th state for an annual meeting in a setting like no other.

Sessions will cover the upcoming 2012 elections and the Alaskan perspective on issues of national importance like energy and the environment. And we will have an opportunity to explore venues and sights like nowhere else in the world. Additional plans are still being developed, but activities will include a train ride from Anchorage to Seward to take a boat tour to one of Alaska’s vast glacier fields and a trip to the Seward Sea Life Center. Interested participants will have an opportunity to visit wildlife refuges to witness animals indigenous to the state in their natural habitats.

We also suspect that Speaker Chenault and his staff may have a few surprises up their sleeves. See you next August!

