Nick Andrew Theodore
(b.1928)
Papers, 1960-1999

Volume: 6 linear feet
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**Biographical Note:**

Nick Theodore was born on September 16, 1928 in Greenville, SC to Andrew and Lula Theodore who had emigrated from Greece. In 1952, he graduated from Furman University with a Bachelor’s degree in Business. He married Emelie Demosthenes of Savannah, Georgia in 1955. They have three children, Drew, Angela, and Stephanie, and twelve grandchildren.

Theodore became interested in politics at a young age. He was elected president of his senior class at Greenville High School and was elected Master Counselor of the Order of DeMolay, an international fraternal organization for young men ages 12 to 21. Upon graduating Furman University with a Bachelor of Business degree, he opened an insurance business. He became active in the Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, Greenville Museum of Art, and the Little Theater. The Greenville Jaycees named him “Rookie of the Year.” In 1957-1958, he was president of the Greenville chapter and in 1961-1962, he was president of the South Carolina Jaycees. In 1962, Theodore was named Outstanding Young Man of Greenville and South Carolina. Theodore is also active with St. George Greek Orthodox Church, where he has served as a deacon. He served on the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina as well as the Boards of Visitors at Clemson University, Winthrop University, and The Citadel.

In 1963, Theodore became the first Hellenic-American elected to the South Carolina State Legislature. This began a twenty-four year tenure in state government before being elected Lieutenant Governor. He served in the House from 1963 to 1966 and 1970 to 1978 and in the Senate from 1967 to 1968 and 1981 to 1986. In the General Assembly, he held many posts including Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, Chairman of the Joint Legislative State Employees Committee, and Co-Chairman of the South Carolina Commission on Government Restructuring. Theodore authored several pieces of legislation to improve education, including the Education Finance Act of 1977, and helped establish the Restructuring of the Higher Education Commission. He also created the Crime Victims Bill of Rights and pushed the bills requiring mandatory jail sentences for armed robbers and allowing drivers to turn right on red.

In 1986, Theodore won the race for Lieutenant Governor and Carroll Campbell won the race for Governor. Campbell had beaten Theodore in a 1978 race for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, one of the first major victories for Republican strategist Lee Atwater. They were each re-elected in 1990. Though Campbell was a Republican and Theodore was a Democrat, they were able to work together effectively during their eight years in office.
Theodore won the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1994 over Charleston Mayor Joe Riley. However, he lost the general election to David Beasley, Campbell’s protégé. Theodore tried to regain the Lieutenant Governor position in 1998, but lost to incumbent Bob Peeler in the general election. In 2002, Theodore accepted an appointment as Interim Commissioner for the Public Service Commission.

**Scope & Content Note:**

The papers consist of 6 linear feet of material arranged in five series: Public, Personal, Speeches, Clippings, and Audio/Visual.

The public papers focus on Theodore’s time in the General Assembly. The largest category of topical material is education. Materials of interest are the Education Finance Act, which Theodore helped write in his time as Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, and the Education Improvement Act.

Personal papers are chiefly from his campaigns for Lieutenant Governor and Governor. Included are campaign memos, programs from fundraisers, and miscellaneous notes from the election. Also in this section are documents from his time in the Jaycees and his involvement in the Greek Orthodox Church.

Speeches are arranged chronologically, 1974 to 2007, with over 20 undated speeches as well. Most of the speeches are final drafts that Theodore gave to various organizations during his years as Lieutenant Governor, 1987 to 1994.

Clippings are arranged by topic, the bulk covering the 1994 election. Clippings from the 1986 and 1990 elections, activity with the Jaycees, and his time in the General Assembly are also present.

A significant portion of this collection is photographs. There are many from campaign events and fundraisers, photos of Theodore with Campbell at different events, such as the Mellow Yellow 500, and an album of photos from his visit to Sumter School District in 1987.
Box List:

Public:  Box 1
  General
  Child Care
  Child Protection
  Constitution Bicentennial
  Crime
  Economic Development and Budget (2 folders)
  Education:
    General (2 folders)
    Budget
    Charter Schools
    Education Commission
    Education Finance Act, 1977
    Education Improvement Act, 1985
  Environment
  Judiciary
  Medical
  Patriotism
  Restructuring:
    General
    S.C. Commission on Government Restructuring Working Draft “Modernizing South Carolina
    State Government for the Twenty-first Century”, 1991
 Seniors
  Women’s Rights

Personal  Box 2
  General (3 folders)
  Campaigns:
    Governor (3 folders), 1994
    Lieutenant Governor:
      1986-1995 (2 folders)
      1998 (2 folders)
    State Representative, 1968-1978
    State Senate, 1980-1984
  Greek Orthodox Church
  Jaycees:
    General
    Programs
  Publications:
    “Action”:
      1959-1961
    1962 (2 folders)
    “Spotlight”  Box 3

Speeches
  1975, Mar. 22  Greek Festival
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
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<td>Alcohol &amp; Drug Abuse Association, Pawley’s Island</td>
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<td>1984</td>
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<td>Committee on Aging</td>
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<td>1986</td>
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<td>Sertoma Club National Heritage Awards, Aiken</td>
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<td>Police Department Dedication Ceremony in Anderson</td>
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<td>Apr 6</td>
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<td>Apr 20</td>
<td>Hazardous Waste Task Force</td>
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<td>Apr 21</td>
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<td>July 21</td>
<td>Berkeley Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Sept 9</td>
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<td>Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Conference on Infant Mortality and Teen Pregnancy</td>
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<td>Simpsonville Lions Club</td>
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<td>York County Democrats “South Carolina Democrats Look to the Future”</td>
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<td>Florence West Rotary Club</td>
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<td>Spartanburg Municipal Association</td>
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<td>Men’s Club of Temple of Israel</td>
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<td>1988</td>
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<td>Democrat’s Workshop, Columbia</td>
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<td>Anderson Hospice Program</td>
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<td>Seneca High School</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>Bicentennial of the Ratification of the Constitution by South Carolina</td>
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<td>Rock Hill Kiwanis Club</td>
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<td>Hampton County Watermelon Festival</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
<td>South Carolina Hospital Association</td>
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<td>Newberry Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Aug 16</td>
<td>DSS Child Care Workers</td>
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<td>Aug 18</td>
<td>Savannah River Plant</td>
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<td>Southside High School Constitution Day</td>
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<td>Laurens County Literacy Council</td>
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<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Coastal Electric Cooperative, Walterboro</td>
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<td>Farm City Week Kickoff Luncheon</td>
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<td>1989</td>
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<td>Young Democrats National Convention, Columbia</td>
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<td>Freedom Shrine Dedication, Exchange Club, Greenville</td>
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<td>25th Anniversary of Beckman Mental Health Center</td>
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<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>South Carolina Council on Family Relations</td>
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<td>Dorchester County Economic Development Board</td>
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<td>Palmetto State Law Enforcement Association</td>
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<td>Sarah Nance Elementary School</td>
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<td>Golden State Vocational School</td>
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<td>Alcohol &amp; Drug Abuse on the College Campus</td>
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<td>Calhoun Convalescent Center</td>
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<td>Junior Scholars/Future Teachers</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Adopt-a-Library Contributors</td>
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<td>Liberty High School Annual Awards Banquet</td>
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<td>June 1</td>
<td>15th Graduating Class, Leadership Greenville</td>
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<td>West Minister Presbyterian Men’s Club</td>
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<td>Council on Military Education</td>
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<td>June 16</td>
<td>Palmetto Girls/Boy’s State Inauguration</td>
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<td>Woodmen of the World</td>
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<td>Blue Ridge Institute for Southern Community Service Executives</td>
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<td>Older Adults in Greenville County</td>
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<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Legal &amp; Legislative Conference</td>
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<td>Commission on the Future of South Carolina</td>
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<td>Dorman High School, Spartanburg</td>
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<td>South Carolina Association of Extension Home Economics</td>
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<td>Aug. 24</td>
<td>Dillon County Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Darlington Southern 500 Press Conference</td>
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<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Clinton AARP Group</td>
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<td>Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Chester Rotary Club</td>
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Leadership York County</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>H.B. Swofford Vocational Center</td>
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<td>American Association of University Professionals</td>
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<td>Hugo Impact on the Economy</td>
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<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>Press Meeting in Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Negative Campaigns</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Palmetto Leadership Conference</td>
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<td>1990:</td>
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<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>Solid Waste Management Task Force Public Hearing</td>
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<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Business &amp; Arts Partnership Awards</td>
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<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Carolina Eastern Ladies Night</td>
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<td>South Carolina Association of Auditors, Treasurers, &amp; Tax Collectors</td>
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<td>South Carolina Medical Association</td>
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<td>Wreath Laying Ceremony for George Washington’s Birthday</td>
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<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>South Carolina Association for Counseling &amp; Development</td>
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<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>Greenville “Million Dollar Club” Board of Realtors</td>
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<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>South Carolina Dairy Farmers Association</td>
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<td>Mar. 22</td>
<td>Ribbon Cutting at Florence Mall Recycling Center</td>
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<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon</td>
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<td>Mar. 29</td>
<td>Citizens with Seniority Conference</td>
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<td>Apr. 6</td>
<td>Inauguration of Citadel President</td>
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<td>Junior Scholars/Future Teachers Program</td>
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<td>South Carolina Public Service</td>
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May 1  Anderson School Districts 1&2
May 4  Adult Education Graduation at Greenville High
June 13 Education & Missionary Convention, Charleston
Aug. 14 Education Task Force/General Session, National Conference of Lieutenant Governors, Iowa
Aug. 22 Ethics Press Conference
Sept. 16 Mauldin’s Constitution Day Celebration
Nov. 6  Election Night
Nov. 16 Third Grade Class at Plain Elementary, Simpsonville
Dec. 2  Christmas Tree Lighting

1991:
Jan. 8  Opening Day of Session
Jan. 9  Exchange Club of Charleston
Jan. 24  “America Supports Americans” Rally, Great Falls
Jan. 30  South Carolina School Boards Association
Feb. 15  Hillcrest High School
Feb. 22  Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce
Feb. 22  Press Association Luncheon
Mar. 2  South Carolina Middle School Association
Mar. 22  State Convention for Student Councils
Apr. 5  South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology
May 17  South Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association
July 26  Roast Rebuttal
Aug. 12  Post Legislative Session Briefing
Sept. 14  Clover Fest Opening Ceremony
Sept. 15  Mauldin Constitution Celebration
Sept. 17  Citizenship Day Flag Raising
Sept. 17  Pendleton Place Children’s Shelter
Oct. 9  Columbia & State Chamber of Commerce
Oct. 15  Rotary Club of the Foothills
Oct. 21  National Pest Control Association
Oct. 24  Budget and Control Board

1992:
Jan. 16  South Carolina Associated Public Safety Communications Conference
Jan. 18  Pickens County Democratic Party
Jan. 30  Governor’s Conference on Tourism & Travel
Feb. 3  Charleston Lions Club
Feb. 19  South Carolina Association of Counties
Feb. 25  Farm Bureau Legislative Banquet
Mar. 3  Talking Points on State Government, “We the People”
Mar. 19  Kershaw County Education Association
Mar. 20  South Carolina Technical Education Association Spring Conference
Mar. 31  Ridgeland Rotary Club
May 12  Jasper County School Appreciation Night
May 16  South Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association
May 21  Old Ninety Six District Tourism Commission Appreciation Night
Aug. 22  Greenville County Democratic Party
Sept. 13  Hampton & Varnville United Methodist Churches
Oct. 29  Young Democrats Clinton-Gore Rally
Dec. 8  Politics and Mass Media Class at USC and Ft. Jackson

1993:
Jan. 16 Successul Manager Training Series
Feb. 7 “Theodore ’94: A Vision for Leadership,” Trident Chamber
Mar. 13 South Carolina Education Association
May 1 South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus
May 11 Democratic Caucus
June 27 Evrytanian Association of America
July 4 Greenville Symphony Fourth of July Concert
Sept. 13 Charleston Democratic Breakfast
Nov. 18 North Augusta Board of Realtors
Dec. 5 South Carolina School Board Association

1994:
Jan. 7 Chamber of Commerce Healthcare Issues Conference
Jan. 14 South Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association Board of Directors
Jan. 21 South Carolina Association of School Superintendents
Mar. 9 Environmental Awareness Awards
Apr. 6 State Government Restructuring Implementation
Apr. 11 Columbia Rotary Club
Apr. 25 Horry County Convention
Apr. 26 Jobs and Economic Development
June 20 Stump Speech, Gallivants Ferry
Aug. 3 Primary Care Association
Oct. 2 Congregation Beth Israel & Temple of Israel Men’s Clubs
Oct. 4 Charleston Visitor’s Center

Box 4

1997, May 2 Pickens & Greenville County Democratic Breakfast
1998:
May 1 Democratic Convention Dinner, Columbia
July 31 Hilton Head Island
Aug. 10 Myrtle Beach Jaycees

2000:
Jan. 28 Education Talking Points
Feb. 27 Greenville & Anderson Civic Clubs
Apr. 27 Education Talking Points, Quincy’s in Newberry

2001, Dec. 19 USC-Spartanburg December Convocation
2007, June 12 Department of Disabilities & Special Needs

No Date:
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Centers
Budget
Business and Education Partnership Advisory Council
Changes in South Carolina
“Changing Rural America”
Child Care / Children
Citizen Involvement
Economic Development
Grecian Festival
Health Care / 13th District Pharmaceutical Association
Hilton Head Island Recreation Center Dedication Ceremony
“How a Bill Becomes a Law” / Law Day
Liberty Booster Awards
Politics / “Public Relations and Politics as an Art Form”
“Service is the ‘Name of the Game’”
South Carolina School Board Association
South Carolina Seniors
Spartanburg Methodist College Commencement
Sunset Law
“Toward an Urban Policy”
Women’s Issues
Young Democrats Club
“Speaker’s Idea File”
Speech Material (2 folders)

Clippings:
General
Budget
Children
Crime
Economics
Education
Elections:
1986
1990
1994 (3 folders)
Environment
Hugo
Jaycees
Lieutenant Governor
Military
Restructure
State Representative
State Senate
Vetoes

Audiovisual
Cassette Tape, “Hugo the Horrible”
Photographs:
General:
1960-1970s

1980s
1990s
Am Vets, Grand Strand, 1990
American Textile Machinery Exhibition International (ATME-I), 1988
Awards
Beer Whole-sellers Convention
British Petroleum
Campaign Events
Campaign Rally, 1990
Celebrities
Children’s Place, Inc.
Citizens and Southern Corporation Grand Opening
Coastal Council Environmental Awards, 1994

Box 5
College Career Conference
Comptroller and Treasurer’s National Meeting
Dignitaries
Dry Summit, Charleston, 1990
Dukakis Visit, 1987
DuPont Meeting
FAIR Delegation Visit, 1993
Focus South Carolina
Fundraiser at the Mall
Gazes Center Banquet
Georgetown Memorial Hospital
Governor Campaign, 1994 (2 folders)
Grand Openings/Ground Breakings
Greek-American Reception, Atlanta, 1988
Greek Orthodox Church
Herb Granger Highway Dedication
Hugo
Inauguration, 1989
Jaycees
Knights of Columbus
Leukemia Society Dinner
Lieutenant Governor Billboards
Lieutenant Governor Conference, St. Johns, 1989
Lieutenant Governor Staff
Lieutenant Governor Writing Awards
Mellow Yellow 500
Mental Health Week

Miss South Carolina
Office Visitors
Other Campaigns
Palmetto Boys State, 1990
Parades
Pearlstine Distributors 125th Anniversary, 1990
Personal
Portraits
Rainbow for Hope
Republic Railroad
Roast for Union
Rotary Youth Exchange Group
Safe Kids
School for Deaf & Blind
School Visits (Folder & Album)
South Carolina Educational Television 13th Anniversary
Southern Oaks Dedication
Speaking Engagements
Sporting Events
State House in Session
State Representative, 1973
Strom Thurmond Institute
Symphony Auction

Box 6
Symphony Winter Festival
TCM Manufacturing USA Dedication
Television Appearances
Textile Association
Victims’ Bill of Rights
Winthrop College
Woodruff Mayor Swearing-In