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Order of the Palmetto Presented to SC Archives and History Foundation Board Chairman

COLUMBIA, SC – On Sunday, October 11, 2009, South Carolina Senator John Courson presented Dr. Rodger E. Stroup with the Order of the Palmetto on behalf of Governor Mark Sanford. The Order of the Palmetto is the highest civilian award given by the governor's office. Senator Courson presented the award at a retirement celebration for Dr. Stroup hosted at the South Carolina Archives and History Center in Columbia. Surrounded by long-time friends and colleagues, Stroup was recognized for his service to the Palmetto State as well as his work and leadership in his field.

Stroup is a familiar face among history circles in South Carolina. In addition to serving as the Director for South Carolina Department of Archives and History for the last twelve years, Stroup has also been the Director of Historic Columbia, the Director of Interpretation and Collections at the South Carolina State Museum and in the early stages of his retirement, you will find Rodger spending much of his time at the South Carolina Railroad Museum in Winnsboro.

The South Carolina Archives and History Foundation was pleased when Dr. Stroup accepted the nomination of Chairman to the Board of Directors this past August upon his retirement from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

“It is an honor to have Rodger as the Foundation Chairman. His passion and enthusiasm for our state's history and his knowledge of that history is rivaled by few. What is even more impressive, is the service he has provided to South Carolina through his leadership,” said Mary Katherine Marshall, SCAHF Executive Director.

Stroup received his undergraduate degree from Wofford College and his Masters and PhD from The University of South Carolina. He also served as an Army Officer in Korea. Dr. Stroup resides in Columbia with his wife Martha, who he credits for much of his success. They have a daughter, Paige of Annapolis, Maryland.

The South Carolina Archives & History Foundation is a private, non-profit organization providing financial support for the programs and services of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and cultural heritage of the Palmetto State. The Department is the caretaker of the South Carolina Archives, a collection of more than 300 years of historical documents recording the rich and diverse history of the people and government of South Carolina. In addition to preserving the documentary and cultural history of the Palmetto State, the Department also administers a variety of programs through the State Historic Preservation Office that help identify, recognize, and preserve the state's architectural and archaeological heritage.

For more information about South Carolina Archives and History Foundation, please call 803.251.0115 or visit www.palmettohistory.org.