

# Governor's Awards Nomination Form

## Nominee Information

Full Name: Dr. Levi S. Kirkland, Sr.

Street Address: [REDACTED]

City, State, Zip: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

## Award Category \*See Descriptions of Awards

Please check the award category for the nominee based on the awards descriptions:



The Order of the Palmetto



The Order of the Silver Crescent



The Certificate of Appreciation

## Nominator's Information

Full Name: Senator Karl B. Allen

Organization Name: SC Senate

Street Address: 610 Presette Bldg.

City, State, Zip: Columbia, SC 29202

Phone Number: (803)-252-6040 E-mail: Karlallen@SCSenate.gov

**Requested Presentation Date and Event Details** \*Please provide as many event details as possible including event description as well as location and time.

October 30, 2014 (see attached)

**Karl B. Allen**

**Senator**

Senate District 7 Greenville County

**Committees:**

Judiciary

Corrections & Penology

Rules

Transportation

Labor, Commerce and Industry



Senate Office Address:  
Suite 610-B Gressette Office Building  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
Telephone: (803) 212-6040  
Fax: (803) 212-6299  
Email: karlallen@scsenate.gov

District Office Address:  
108 Lavinia Avenue  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601  
Telephone: (864) 235-9049

October 9, 2014

The Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor  
State of South Carolina  
P.O. Box 12267  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor Haley:

It is my pleasure to humbly submit Dr. Levi S. Kirkland, Sr., M.D. as a candidate for the Order of the Palmetto award. A review of Dr. Kirkland's accomplishments demonstrates a long-term commitment to the citizens of our State, while providing medical treatment to countless persons who otherwise would not have received it. The service given by him was at a very challenging time yet he maintained a very high degree of character. As you are aware, the Greenville Hospital System, one of South Carolina's largest and most prestigious medical providers, is recognizing the monumental and historic contributions of this humble giant by naming a medical society and scholarship as a vital component within its medical school. Dr. Kirkland is a well-known successful doctor and is a pioneer in the health care area.

I can honestly say that Dr. Kirkland has committed his time, resources, and his life to making South Carolina a better place for everyone. He has worked tirelessly and passionately to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians. I have enclosed letters of recommendation that were sent to me on behalf of Dr. Kirkland. Please let me know if I need to provide any additional information, and I am thanking you in advance. With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl".

Senator Karl B. Allen

KBA/dc

MIKE FAIR  
CHAIRMAN

## Corrections & Penology Committee

LISA B. DIAL  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

CHAPPELL FENNELL  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
211 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202  
(803) 212-6420  
FAX: (803) 212-6299

October 15, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
Order of the Palmetto  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

It is both an honor and a privilege to support the nomination of a man whom I believe epitomizes the spirit of philanthropy and service within our state, Levi S. Kirkland, Sr., M.D., for the honorable Order of the Palmetto Award. As a native South Carolinian, Dr. Kirkland has had a stellar career in which he has contributed to the betterment of his God, Country, State, the City of Greenville, and his family, and I am happy to be given the opportunity to provide my own attempt at demonstrating Dr. Kirkland's merits.

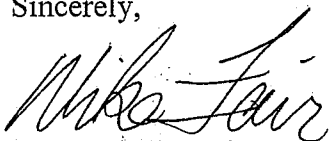
Once Dr. Kirkland completed his early education in Kershaw County at Mather Academy, he matriculated to Morehouse College with another remarkable freshman by the name of Martin Luther King, Jr. Both Drs. Kirkland and King graduated from Morehouse College in 1948. It is of note that his undergraduate education was interrupted after his freshman year for service in the United States Navy. After one year, he returned to complete his undergraduate degree.

Following graduation from Morehouse College, Dr. Kirkland continued his education at Howard University where he received his Master of Science degree. His original intent was to attend medical school in South Carolina, however to help maintain its segregated policies, the state of South Carolina provided funding for minority students to go to school out of state. This resulted in Dr. Kirkland attending medical school at the historically black, Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1954, Dr. Kirkland received his Doctorate in Medicine from that prestigious institution. After medical school, Dr. Kirkland entered residency at Jersey City Medical Center and completed an additional residency and preceptorship in surgery at Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. Upon completion of his preceptorship, Dr. Kirkland served as the Assistant Chief of Surgery at Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital from 1959 to 1961.

In 1955, Dr. Kirkland married Mary Lula Pratt of Newberry, South Carolina. The couple wished to return to South Carolina, but the options were limited in Newberry and Kershaw counties. Instead, he and his wife settled in Greenville, South Carolina. Dr. Kirkland began work at Greenville General Hospital, where he became the first African-American surgeon, an exceptional honor and distinction. In order to develop a referral base in Greenville County, Dr. Kirkland transitioned his practice to general and family medicine where he remained as a committed servant of the community until his retirement in 2005.

Dr. Kirkland's qualifications have been expounded upon throughout his life and career, leading to numerous awards and recognitions. However, the above listings represent just a brief overview of the greatness that Dr. Kirkland has been able to accomplish for the State of South Carolina. Therefore, it is with great honor that I highly recommend Dr. Levi S. Kirkland, Sr. for the Order of the Palmetto Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Fair". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Fair" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Mike Fair



Clinical University

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## About Levi S. Kirkland, Sr., M.D.

Levi S. Kirkland, Sr., M.D., was born in Camden, South Carolina on September 13, 1926. His early education was in Kershaw County at Mather Academy. Once he completed his studies here in South Carolina, he matriculated to Morehouse College with another remarkable freshman by the name of Martin Luther King, Jr. Both Drs. Kirkland and King graduated from Morehouse College in 1948. It is of note that his undergraduate education was interrupted after his freshman year for service in the United States Navy. After one year, he returned to complete his undergraduate degree.

Following graduation from Morehouse College, Dr. Kirkland continued his education at Howard University where he received his master of science degree. It is interesting to pause here and acknowledge that Dr. Kirkland's original intent was to attend medical school in South Carolina. To help maintain its segregated policies, the state of South Carolina provided funding for minority students to go to school out of state. This resulted in Dr. Kirkland attending medical school at the historically black, Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1954, Dr. Kirkland received his doctorate in medicine from that prestigious institution. After medical school, Dr. Kirkland entered residency at Jersey City Medical Center and completed an additional residency and preceptorship in surgery at Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. Upon completion of his preceptorship, Dr. Kirkland served as the assistant chief of surgery at Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital from 1959 to 1961.

In 1955, Dr. Kirkland married Mary Lula Pratt of Newberry, South Carolina. The couple wished to return to South Carolina, but the options were quite limited in Kershaw and Newberry counties. Instead, he and his wife settled in Greenville, South Carolina – specifically, Greenville General Hospital, where he became the first African-American surgeon, a dubious distinction marred by the attitudes of the time. Unfortunately, despite his training, service, and accomplishments, he was unable to develop a referral base in the Greenville County community in the mid-1960's. Dr. Kirkland transitioned his practice to general and family medicine where he remained as a committed servant of the community until his retirement in 2005.

Dr. and Mrs. Kirkland, Sr. have two accomplished children, Levi S. Kirkland, Jr., M.D., and Gail A. Kirkland-Briscoe, D.D.S., and five grandchildren. He is a life member of the NAACP as well as the Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Pi Phi (Boule) fraternities.

## Event RSVP

### Naming Ceremony of the Levi S. Kirkland Society

Thursday, October 30, 2014  
5:30-7:00p.m.

Greenville Memorial Hospital  
Community Room  
701 Grove Road  
Greenville, SC 29605

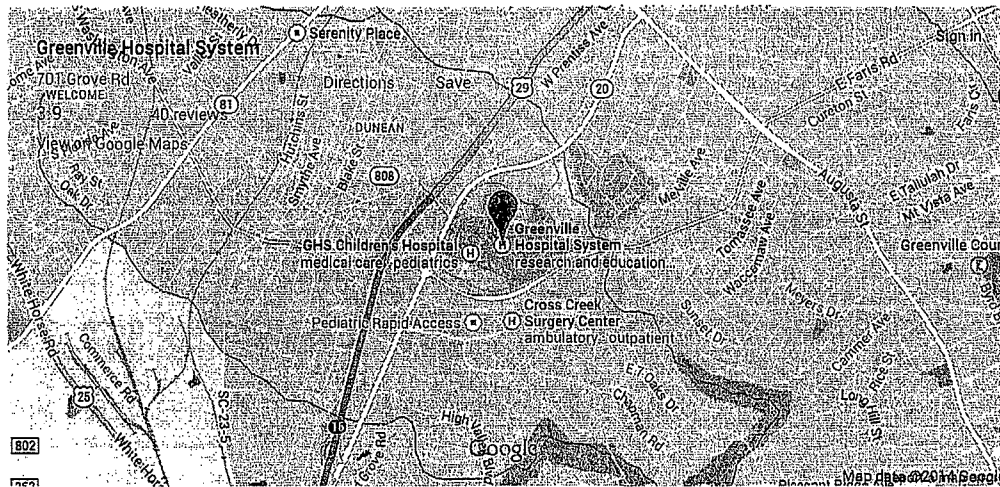
Name \*

RSVP \*

- ☐ Accept  
☐ Decline

Submit

## Directions



Find a Provider and Request an Appointment Online  
Search our database for a physician that fits your life.

Find a Provider MD360® Urgent Care

2013 Annual Report

Highlights from our milestone year of Advancing Health Care for Generations.

Explore the report

### Locations

Greenville Memorial Hospital  
Greer Medical Campus  
North Greenville Medical Campus  
Patewood Medical Campus  
Simpsonville Medical Campus  
Laurens Medical Campus  
Baptist Easley Hospital  
MD360 Convenient Care

### Patients & Visitors

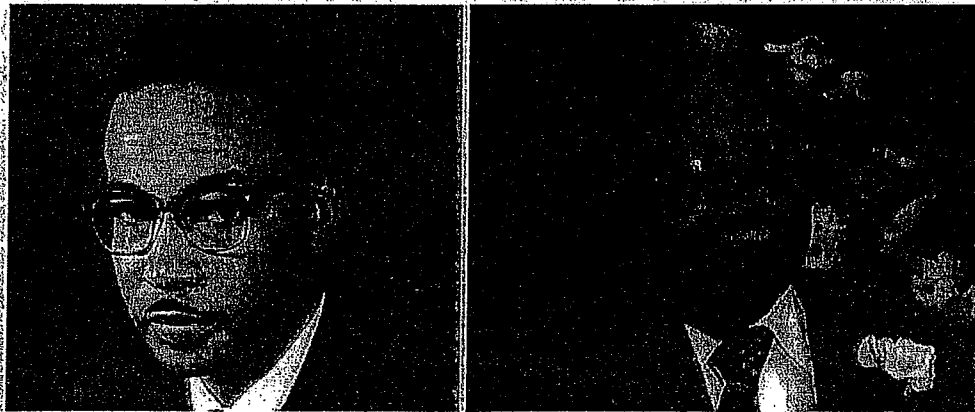
Online Scheduling  
Visiting Hours  
Patient Rights & Responsibilities  
Event Calendar  
Financial Information  
Care Partners  
Visitor Rules

### Healthcare Services

Behavioral Health  
Cancer Services  
Children's Hospital  
Heart & Vascular Institute  
Internal Medicine  
Orthopaedics & Neurosurgery  
Primary Care  
Radiology  
Department of Surgery  
Women's Health  
Business Health

### Medical Education

USCSOM Greenville  
Continuing Medical Education  
Healthcare Simulation Center  
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*Greenville Health System cordially invites you to attend the naming ceremony of  
the Levi S. Kirkland Society featuring a celebration of the accomplishments  
of Levi S. Kirkland, Sr., M.D.*

*Thursday, October 30, 2014*

*5:30-7:00p.m.*

*Greenville Memorial Hospital*

*Community Room*

*701 Grove Road*

*Greenville, SC 29605*