

Joseph B. Fraser, Jr.

Joseph B. Fraser, Jr. was born in Hinesville, Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1949 with a bachelors degree in business administration. A retired builder and developer, Mr. Fraser's commitment to education in the Lowcountry has been steady and invaluable to the region.

Among his many accolades, he has been recognized as Citizen of the Year by Hilton Head Island's Presbyterian Men of the Church, South Carolina Home Builder of the Year, appointed to serve on the S.C. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Board, a former chair of the Heritage Classic Corporation - raising \$13 million dollars for charity during his leadership, a member of Lower Coastal Development Advisory Board and served on the Cultural Council of Hilton Head Island.

An army veteran and survivor of childhood polio, Mr. Fraser personified fortitude and determination by recovering to become a champion sprinter. Of Mr. Fraser, it has been said, "He exemplifies the very best in unselfish service to the community."

Mr. Fraser is widely credited with saving the Heritage golf tournament in the late 1980's and keeping the event on Hilton Head Island. He was instrumental in growing the golf tournament through the Heritage Classic Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, serving many local organizations (including USCB), and making the structure of the Heritage Classic Foundation a model for most all other PGA TOUR events. Mr. Fraser generously served as chairman of the Heritage Classic Foundation which recently helped fund the renovation of USCB classrooms for the University's new studio art program and it provided a state-of-the art tiered classroom and the art inspired by The Heritage golf tournament found within it.

Mr. Fraser began his career on Hilton Head Island in the early 1950's managing his father's sawmill in what is now Sea Pines Plantation, Wexford and Long Cove. In the 1960's he joined the Sea Pines Company as the first President of Sea Pines Homebuilders and later as President of Planning, Design and Construction and President of Sea Pines Plantation Company. From the mid 1960's to mid 1970's Mr. Fraser led the development of some of the most acclaimed residential and resort communities on the continent including Sea Pines Plantation, Hilton Head Plantation, Amelia Island Plantation and Kiawah Island.

Mr. Fraser and his development group were known for pioneering architecture and communities that blended with their environments, for their conservation-minded construction and protection of wildlife preserves and green space.

When the Sea Pines Company was sold in the 1980's, Mr. Fraser turned his attention to new development and philanthropic opportunities. Under his leadership in the 1990's, The Heritage golf event became one of the premier PGA TOUR events

which event has provided more than \$19 million to local and state charities through 2009.

Mr. Fraser and his wife Jean reside on Hilton Head Island. He is the dedicated father of five children, grandfather of sixteen and great-grandfather to two. He continues to be active in charitable pursuits.