

Title: **Another insurer leaves S Carolina's health exchange market**
 Author: SEANNAADCOX Associated Press
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Another insurer leaves S Carolina's health exchange market

SEANNA ADCOX
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Health insurer Aetna's decision to leave the federal health care exchange in 11 states means 8,000 South Carolinians will need new health insurance coverage in 2017.

State Insurance Director Ray Farmer said Tuesday he was surprised by Aetna's withdrawal, as his agency was still reviewing the company's application for 2017 coverage and rate plans.

"We were at the tail end of that process," Farmer said.

Aetna, the nation's third-largest insurer, announced plans late Monday to leave nearly 70 percent of the counties nationwide where it currently sells Affordable Care

Act policies, saying it's been swamped with higher than expected costs. Next year it will offer coverage in only four states.

This year, Aetna sold policies through HealthCare.gov in just 14 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Those customers represent about 4 percent of the 216,000 residents covered through the exchange, according to the state insurance agency.

Currently, that leaves just BlueCross BlueShield, and its HMO subsidiary, BlueChoice, selling the private, taxpayer-subsidized policies. They already were the only companies offering plans statewide.

Farmer declined to discuss potential new entries in the marketplace in 2017. His agency expects to announce approvals and rates in early October.

UnitedHealthcare, which newly jumped into South Carolina's exchange this year, announced its pullback plans several months ago, affecting about 500 people in five counties.

The moves by Aetna and UnitedHealthcare follow decisions last year by Assurant Health to exit the health insurance market altogether and by Consumers' Choice to fold. The latter is among more than a dozen nonprofit insurance co-ops created by the federal health care law to shut down.

The companies' exit shows "the Affordable Care Act is not working and has not worked under this current structure," said Farmer, whose boss, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, staunchly opposes the federal law.

The fourth year of sign-ups for coverage through HealthCare.gov begins Nov. 1.

Title: **Brose plans to expand Add 60 new jobs in Duncan**
 Author:
 Size: 40.76 column inches
 Greer, SC Circulation: 9589



Brose plans to expand Add 60 new jobs in Duncan

BY BILLY CANNADA
EDITOR

Brose North America, Inc. is bringing 60 new jobs to Duncan with its \$6 million expansion planned for 2017.

Known for its integration of mechanics, electrics and electronics, Brose North America will move into a 77,000-square-foot facility, which is expected to be fully operational by third quarter of next year.

"Announcing our fourth facility in the United States is a proud moment for the company and a testament to the value and quality products Brose provides its customers," said Mike Brosseau, president of Brose North America. "We take pride in our products as well as our commitment to streamlining logistics and providing high-quality customer service - this facility supports all of the above."

SEE BROSE | A6

"The company's investment... validates our region's skilled workforce, educational resources, and business ecosystem..."

John Lummus

Upstate SC Alliance President and CEO

BROSE: To open new facility in 2017

FROM PAGE ONE

Brose is currently occupying 10 office spaces in Spartanburg Community College's Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Development (CBED).

"We are pleased to welcome Brose's integrated electronics and mechatronics manufacturing facility to the Upstate automotive community," said John Lummus, Upstate SC Alliance President and CEO. "The company's investment in Spartanburg

validates our region's skilled workforce, educational resources, and business ecosystem, and we look forward to their growth and continued success."

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cess.”

The company will produce door systems and systems for on-demand control of cooling air sup-

ply for its customers. Hiring for the positions is ongoing, and applicants may apply online.

“We are exceedingly pleased that Brose North America chose to locate a new operation in Spartan-

burg County and welcome them to our community,” said David Britt, Chairman of the Spartanburg County Economic Recruitment Committee. “As a partner to the international automobile industry, the choice of a Spartanburg location reinforces Spartanburg’s reputation to attract quality international manufacturing. This success was made possible through the collaborative

work of our public-private partners: a property developed by Scannell Properties and represented by Colliers International, Spartanburg Community

College Tyger River Campus, the Economic Futures Group and Spartanburg County Council.”

Brose is a producer of mechanical systems and electric drives for automo-

tive manufacturers.

“Our automotive industry is truly one of the driving forces behind South Carolina’s economic growth, and we couldn’t be more excited to welcome Brose to our family,” said South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. “This investment... will make a huge difference in the Upstate and is a reason to celebrate across the state.”

Title: **SCA Advisor Leads Delegation**

Author:

Size: 15.19 column inches

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SCA Advisor Leads Delegation

Barnwell businessman Mahesh "Mike" Patel, who is the South Carolina Regional Director of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) and serves on the Advisory Board for Southern Carolina Alliance, led the AAHOA delegation during their recent State Capital Day, meeting with members of the state legislature and the governor. During the visit, they met with elected officials to discuss issues of concern to business owners including minimum wages, unions, joint employer issues and the state's travel tourism budget. The AAHOA is a 16,000-member association, representing 40% of the hotels located in the United States, a \$40 billion investment and a \$10 billion payroll.

Pictured here, from left: Brandon Vallrado, AAHOA Government Affairs; Chetan Patel, AAHOA Ambassador; Dharmesh Patel, AAHOA Member; Mahesh (Mike) Patel, AAHOA SC Regional Director; Gov. Nikki Haley; Atul Patel, AAHOA Ambassador; John Durst, SC Restaurant and Lodging Association President & CEO; and Susan Walters, SCRLA Director.



Title: **SC Economic Ambassador Meets With Governor**
Author:
Size: 13.33 column inches
Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950



SC Economic Ambassador Meets With Governor

Vittorio Musso, CEO of Meter Bearings and Colleton County's 2016 Economic Ambassador, met with Governor Nikki Haley recently at the State House to thank her for his recognition as one of S.C.'s Economic Ambassadors.

A manufacturer of ball and cylindrical roller bearings, Musso located his U.S. operations in Walterboro, South Carolina, in 2014, resulting in a \$4.5 million investment and the creation of 50 jobs.

Mr. Musso was instrumental in another Italy-based company, BUSCOT LLC, locating in South Carolina. His decision to expand Meter Bearings to the U.S. greatly influenced BUSCOT LLC to announce their decision earlier this year to establish manufacturing operations in Colleton County as well, investing \$1.15 million and creating 10 additional jobs.



Title: **Swiss GCrono Breaks Ground for \$230 MiBBooru HDP Facility on Barnwell, S.C.**
 Author:
 Size: 96.87 column inches
 Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950

Swiss Krono Breaks Ground for \$230 Million HDF Facility in Barnwell, S.C.

Swiss Krono Group, one of the world's leading producers of laminate flooring, and its American subsidiary, Swiss Krono SC, LLC, held a groundbreaking ceremony on July 13, 2016, for its \$230 million high-density fiberboard (HDF) mill and laminate flooring production expansion. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and Ms. Ines Kaindl, President of the Swiss Krono Group Board of Directors, joined local leaders for the special celebratory event.

Swiss Krono anticipates adding 105 new highly-skilled technical and management jobs to the Barnwell area, increasing its total employment to 275 employees. The project commences this summer and HDF operations will likely begin by the summer of 2018.

This expansion will allow Swiss Krono to produce 300,000 cubic-meters of HDF per year, which the company will use for

(continued on page 2)

Swiss Krono *(continued from page 1)*

laminate flooring manufacturing operations and sell to furniture, cabinet, fixture, door and other wood-based manufacturers. In total, the project will increase the company's annual laminate flooring capacity by an additional 8 million square-meters.

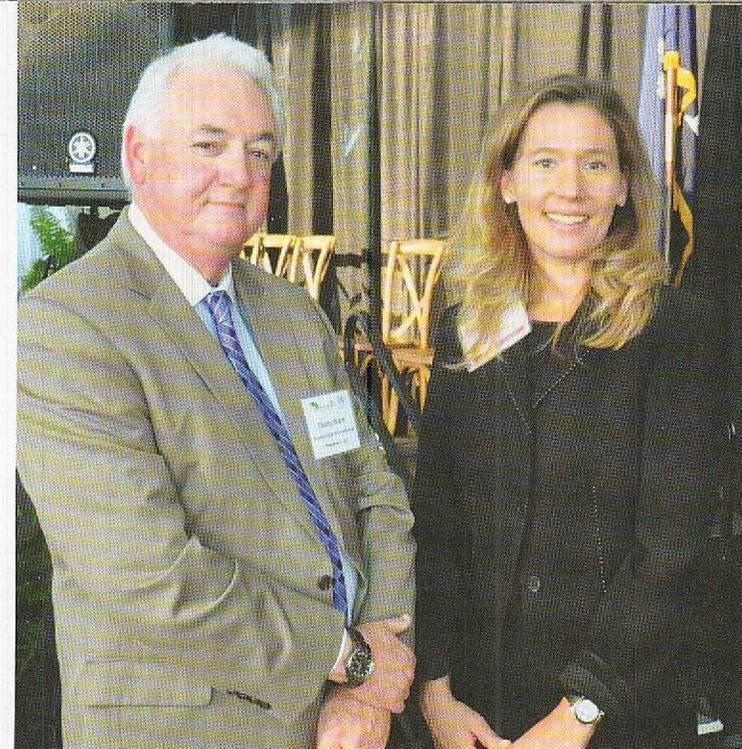
"Strong consumer demand for our quality laminate flooring drove our decision to expand," said CEO Zeb Portanova. "And our strong retail partners who choose to sell our innovative products are the real foundation on which this expansion is built."

According to Portanova, "The company gratefully acknowledges the collaborative efforts of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance and various Barnwell County governmental agencies. Their patience, perseverance and continuous support have been and will continue to be instrumental in the future success of this project."

The SWISS KRONO GROUP has its origins in a company founded in Menznau, Switzerland in 1966. Today it is one of the world's leading producers of engineered wood products with more than 4,500 employees working in Switzerland, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Russia as well as in the United States.

Further information is available at www.swisskronoUSA.com.

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Danny Black, CEO of SCA is pictured with Ines Kaindl, Chairwoman of Swiss Krono Group



Zeb Portanova, CEO of Swiss Krono addressed the crowd at the groundbreaking ceremonies on July 13. Joining him on stage are (L-R): Keith Sloan, Barnwell County Councilman; Representative Lonnie Hosey, SC District 91; SC Governor Nikki Haley; Ines Kaindl, Chairwoman of Swiss Krono Group; Senator Brad Hutto, SC District 40; and Danny Black, CEO of Southern Carolina Alliance.

Title: **Swiss GCrono Breaks Ground for \$230 MiBBooru HDP Facility on Barnwell, S.C.**

Author:

Size: 96.87 column inches

Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950



Title: **JGBR Brings Manufacturing Operation to Walterboro®**
 Author:
 Size: 36.89 column inches
 Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950

JGBR Brings Manufacturing Operation to Walterboro

JGBR, a manufacturing company headquartered in Rugao, China, has announced the establishment of its South Carolina operations. The company is investing \$7.2 million to establish a facility in Colleton County, creating 65 new jobs.

"We looked at sites globally and selected Colleton County, South Carolina because we believe it is the perfect location to serve our existing customers in South Carolina and to grow our North American business," said JGBR Walterboro Corp. Vice President of Operations Billy Strickland.

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome JGBR to the South Carolina family. Another great win for one of our state's rural communities, this \$7.2 million investment, and the 65 new jobs it means for Colleton County, will have a real impact on the local community and is a real reason to celebrate across our state," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Supplying a global market, JGBR manufactures high-precision steel balls and ball bearings with a focus on the mechanical and automotive markets. The new Colleton County operation will serve not only North America, but the Mexican and South American markets as well.

"Southern Carolina Alliance welcomes JGBR to our region

(continued on page 2)

JGBR *(continued from page 1)*

and congratulates Colleton County. We are proud that this global manufacturing company has chosen Walterboro's workforce and business friendly community," remarked Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black. "Every good job created changes the future of a family here, and we appreciate JGBR's commitment to our people. We look forward to working with JGBR and Colleton County for many more years to come."

"We are proud that JGBR has chosen Colleton County for their North American location. This decision is a great indicator that Colleton County can compete globally and be successful. We look forward to a long and strong business relationship with JGBR," said Colleton County Council Chairman Steven Murdaugh.

According to Bill Workman, Chairman of the Colleton County Resource and Development Board and a Vice Chairman of SCA, "The jobs created by JGBR will have a positive economic impact on Colleton County. Our county, regional and state officials have done an excellent job in meeting JGBR's business needs with a solution that benefits JGBR, Colleton County and South Carolina."

Located at 1310 N. Jefferies Boulevard in Walterboro, S.C., the 240,000-square-foot facility, formerly known as the Asten Johnson Building, will be situated across nine acres. The company plans to begin operations in Colleton County later this year with a goal of full production by early 2017. Once fully operational, JGBR plans to produce 400 tons of steel balls every month at the Walterboro facility.

For more information on the company, visit www.igbr.com/cn.

Title: **JGBR Brings Manufacturing Operation to Walterboro©**

Author:

Size: 36.89 column inches

Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950



JGBR has purchased the former Asten Johnson facility in Walterboro.

Title: **Masonite International Expanding Bamberg County Operations**
 Author:
 Size: 44.79 column inches
 Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950



Masonite International Expanding Bamberg County Operations

Company expanding operations with additional workforce

Masonite International, one of the world's leading manufacturers of decorative interior doors and entry door systems, is expanding its existing Bamberg County operations. The expansion will result in the creation of 50 new jobs over the next year, with additional growth expected in the years to come.

Featuring a wide array of patented designs for frames, stain kits and building materials, Masonite International operates more than 70 locations around the world--with 37 sites in the United States alone. Headquartered in Tampa, Fla., the company employs more than 10,000 people worldwide.

"South Carolina continues to build on its reputation as a leader in manufacturing, and Masonite's decision to expand in Denmark is another big win for our state. It's special any time we see a company succeed and grow in one of our rural communities, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate the 50 new jobs this expansion means for Bamberg County," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

"The success that we've seen in economic development in South Carolina is due to great companies like Masonite International, which continue to invest in our communities and people. We look forward to watching this company continue to grow and support the Bamberg community," commented Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"Masonite is a fine company that has been an asset to our county," said Bamberg County Council Chairman Isaiah Odom. "Every good job they provide in our area creates a better future for a family here, where Masonite continues to expand. We congratulate the company and want to help Masonite flourish in Bamberg County."

"We appreciate Masonite's continued investment in our region, where they already employ nearly 200 people. We are proud of the fact that our workforce has been a part of Masonite's success at the Denmark facility, where Masonite continues to produce the world's finest products in the industry. We extend our gratitude and our pledge to continue to support Masonite's success in any way that we can," added Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black.

The 50 new positions will allow Masonite's Denmark, S.C. facility to add another auto line shift. Additional growth and capacity increases are expected to take place through the first quarter of 2017. There are also plans for the creation of a weekend shift, which will require additional staffing in auxiliary

support departments.

If you are interested in applying for any of the new positions, visit the company's careers page online for more information. Applications must be submitted in person at the facility, which is located at 1349 Locust Avenue in Denmark.

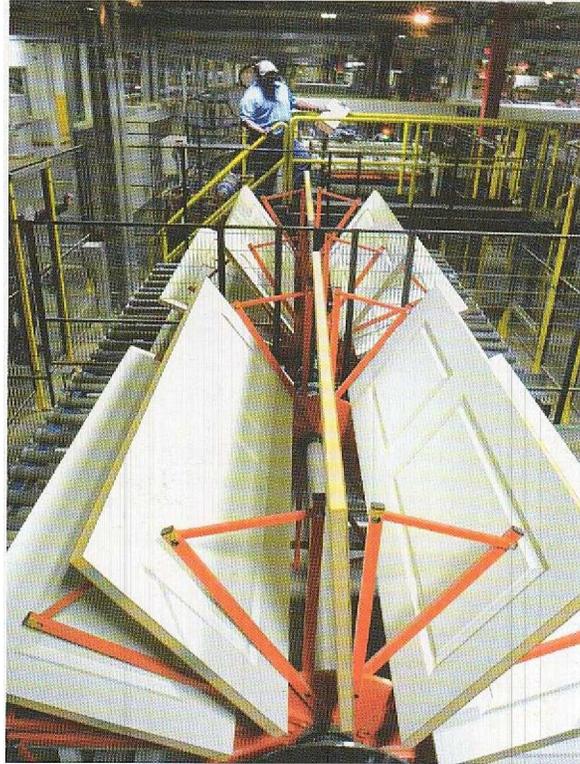
For more information on Masonite International, visit www.masonite.com.

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Title: **J&L Wire Locating in Colleton County**
 Author:
 Size: 36.89 column inches
 Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950



J&L Wire Locating in Colleton County

Company investing \$2.5 million to establish first South Carolina operations

J&L Wire, headquartered in St. Paul, Minn., has announced the establishment of its first South Carolina operations. The company is opening a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in the former Press Printing building in Colleton County. Located at 387 Mable T. Willis Boulevard in Walterboro, S.C., the 31,000-square-foot facility is situated on 5.1 acres. The company is investing \$2.5 million in the project, which is expected to create 50 new jobs.

"We are excited about the market opportunities in the Southeast and believe the South Carolina site will position us to profitably expand our core business," said J&L Wire General Manager Gary Hyde.

"It's exciting to see a company like J&L Wire, which is dedicated to making products right here in the U.S., make the decision to establish operations in South Carolina. J&L's \$2.5 million investment and the 50 new jobs it means for Colleton County are real reasons to celebrate in Colleton and across our entire state," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

"South Carolina continues to lead the nation's manufacturing renaissance, and today's announcement by J&L Wire reinforces that notion. We congratulate the company on all of their success and look forward to supporting them as they establish operations in our state," added Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"We are pleased to welcome J&L Wire to South Carolina. We are confident that their investment in Colleton County will prove beneficial not only to their customers, but also to the citizens of Colleton County. J&L Wire has a proven record of success and

we are delighted to have the opportunity to help carry that forward in the years to come," commented Colleton County Council Chairman Steven Murdaugh.

"We are proud J&L Wire has chosen Colleton County for their expansion. Our economic development professionals on the local, regional and state levels work diligently toward this kind of growth. We will continue to support J&L Wire as they become an established South Carolina manufacturer," remarked Bill Workman, Chairman, Colleton County Resource & Development Board and Co-chair of the Colleton County Economic

Alliance.

"We appreciate the 50 direct jobs that J&L Wire will bring to Colleton County, as well as the economic impact that these jobs and this investment will ultimately have on Colleton County and the surrounding region," said Danny Black, President and CEO of SouthernCarolina Alliance. "At SouthernCarolina Alliance, we believe that good jobs build communities and opportunities, and we look forward to working with the company to improve

Title: **J&L Wire Locating in Colleton County**

Author:

Size: 36.89 column inches

Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950

the quality of life for our residents through their success and job creation.”

J&L Wire is a leading manufacturer of galvanized wire decking and shelving used in warehouse storage, material handling and logistics. The established product line includes Galva-Deck® wire decking and Boss Hog™ woven wire flooring for agricultural confinement panels.

For additional information on the company, visit www.jlwire.com.



Title: **Carolina Metal Castings Expanding Operations in Jasper County**
 Author:
 Size: 37.66 column inches
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Carolina Metal Castings Expanding Operations in Jasper County

Expansion projected to bring more than \$3 million of new investment

Carolina Metal Castings, a full-service provider of aftermarket metal castings located in Hardeeville, South Carolina, is expanding its manufacturing operations in Jasper County. The project will result in 13 new jobs and an investment of more than \$3 million over the next five years.

"Carolina Metal Castings' decision to expand its South Carolina operations is a huge win for the company and for our state as a whole. We're excited to congratulate the company on the success they've found here, this \$3 million investment, and the 13 new jobs it means for Jasper County," said Governor Nikki Haley.

In operation for more than 40 years, Carolina Metal Castings is a full-service jobbing foundry that specializes in custom and limited production work. Producing its own tooling in-house, the company also completes its own moldings, castings and heat treatments in-house.

According to Carolina Metal Castings President Jim Harwood, "We are very excited to take this next step in our development. The SC Department of Commerce along with other government agencies have been very helpful in making this expansion possible."

"While the recruitment of new businesses to our state is a major part of our economic development strategy, the success of our existing industries is just as important. Today, we celebrate the achievements of Carolina Metal Castings in Jasper County and look forward to their continued success in the future," added S.C. Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Buddy Phillips congratulated the company, "Jim Harwood and Carolina Metal Castings have invested in our workforce and our community, and we appreciate his commitment to growing the business in our region."

"Every job created makes a difference for a family in our county," said Jasper County Council Chairman Marty Sauls, who also serves as Vice Chairman of Southern Carolina Alliance and Chairman of the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce.

Title: **Carolina Metal Castings Expanding Operations in Jasper County**

Author:

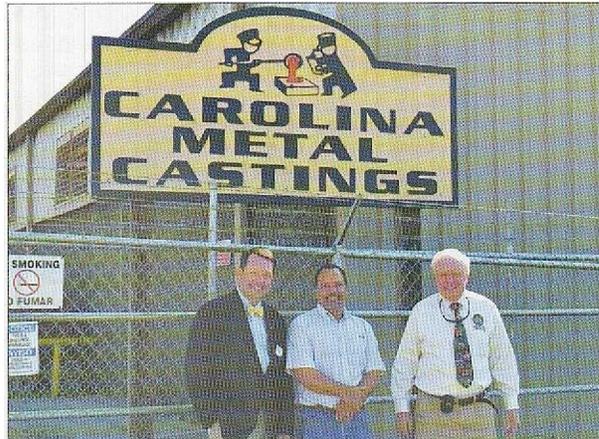
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"Carolina Metal Castings brings excellence in craftsmanship and manufacturing to every job, and we are proud to see their products manufactured in our community."

Located at 354 Industrial Park Road in Hardeeville, S.C., the project will double the facility's production capacity and consolidate the company's operations into one location.

For more information on Carolina Metal Castings, visit www.carolinametalcastings.com online.



Pictured L-R: Jasper County Council Chairman Marty Sauls, who also serves as Vice Chairman of Southern Carolina Alliance and Chairman of the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce; Carolina Metal Castings President Jim Harwood; and Jasper County Council Vice Chairman Tom Johnson

Title: **Congressman Duncan Announces Guests and Theme for his 6th Annual Faith & Freedom BBQ**
 Author:
 Size: 28.52 column inches
 Williamston, SC Circulation: 3764



Congressman Duncan Announces Guests and Theme for his 6th Annual Faith & Freedom BBQ

Congressman Jeff Duncan announced his special guests and theme for his 6th Annual Faith & Freedom BBQ, an event that has grown to become the largest annual gathering of conservatives in South Carolina. The event will be Aug. 22 at Anderson Civic Center

Congressman Duncan announced that this year's theme is "honoring those who protect us both at home and abroad," which will include a ceremony honoring all veterans, guardsmen, active duty military, reservists, and first responders.

Additionally, Duncan announced that 'America's Toughest Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Arizona, Congressman Mark Meadows of North Carolina, and South Carolina Congressman Mick Mulvaney will be this year's special guests.

"As you know, Sheriff Arpaio has built a reputation for being one of America's toughest sheriffs. Like myself, he has consistently brought attention to the need to secure our borders and combat illegal immigration. He also knows that Blue Lives Matter, and is all too familiar with the dangers that law enforcement faces on a daily basis.

"Congressman Mark Meadows and I both voted against John Boehner for Speaker of the House in January of 2015. Later that year, a United States Congressman filed a motion of the floor of the House to remove John Boehner from his leadership position. That motion led to Speaker Boehner stepping down and retiring from Congress. The Congressman who filed that motion was Mark Meadows.

Mark is a dear friend, a fellow conservative ally, and a man of great faith and conviction. I am honored to have Mark participate in this year's event and I look forward to hearing what he has to say."

"Mick has been a strong conservative in Congress and a great spokesman for the conservative movement. He has constantly been willing to go in front of the likes of MSNBC and the New York Times to spread the message of limited government, free markets, and individual liberties. Mick has been a good friend and is always standing up for the people of South Carolina."

Tickets for the event are available for purchase at www.JeffDuncan.com. Ticket prices are \$35 per person, \$60 for a couple, while children under the age of 12 eat for free. Veterans, guardsmen, active duty military, reservists, first responders and their families can all attend the event free of charge by contacting the event staff at 803-413-5951 or by e-mailing Drea@JeffDuncan.com.

Previous speakers at this event include Senators Jim DeMint, Tim Scott, Senator Rand, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Governor Scott Walker, Governor Nikki Haley, and Dr. Ben Carson.