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Subject: Distinguished Commerce staffer retires, receives Order of the Palmetto

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## - NEWS RELEASE -

For Immediate Release  
February 1, 2017

### Distinguished Commerce staffer retires, receives Order of the Palmetto

*Robert Marriott awarded highest civilian honor for more than five decades of service*

COLUMBIA, S.C. - [The S.C. Department of Commerce](#) today announced that Robert E. "Bob" Marriott, a longtime public servant, is retiring after 53 years of employment with the state. To recognize his contributions to the state of South Carolina, former Governor Nikki Haley has awarded Mr. Marriott the Order of the Palmetto.

The Order of the Palmetto is South Carolina's highest civilian honor awarded to citizens of South Carolina for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance. Given solely at the discretion of the Governor, the award was established by former Governor John C. West in 1971.

"For more than 50 years, Bob Marriott has dedicated himself to improving South Carolinians' quality of life by promoting economic growth and recruiting businesses," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "I can find no one more deserving of this prestigious award, and I thank Bob for all he has done to make South Carolina a competitor on a global scale."

A state employee since 1964, Marriott has worked through the administrations of 10 different governors, first at the S.C. Department of Transportation before moving on to the S.C. Department of Commerce - then known as the State Development Board - in 1968.

During his years as a project manager at S.C. Commerce, Marriott was responsible for recruiting countless significant investment from globally-recognized firms, such as Cummins, Daimler, Michelin, Mitsubishi Polyester Firm, Otis Elevator and TaylorMade. In total, his projects brought \$8 billion in capital investment and approximately 30,000 jobs to South Carolina.

#### *About S.C. Department of Commerce*

*As South Carolina's leading economic development agency, the Department of Commerce works to recruit new businesses and help existing business grow. Commerce has recruited world-class companies to South Carolina such as BMW, Boeing, Continental, Giti Tire, LPL Financial Holdings, Mercedes-Benz Vans, Toray and Volvo Cars and also supports startups, small and existing business, innovation and rural development initiatives. Commerce partners with the [S.C. Technical College System](#) via [readySC](#) to support workforce training and recruiting, and with the [S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce](#), which provides worker training and employment opportunities within the state. IBM-Plant Location International reports in 2012, 2013 and 2015 ranked South Carolina first in the nation for attracting jobs through foreign investment. The state won the Gold Shovel Award and the Project of Year Award from Area Development magazine in 2012, 2014 and 2015. For more*

information, visit [www.SCcommerce.com](http://www.SCcommerce.com).

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