

Governor

As I told Lee Hewitt and others to support you when you first ran, it was because you have the best instincts which I have seen. And I congratulate you on your numerous accomplishments. I know that we have been on opposite sides on issues. But as I leave the Senate & politics, I want to wish you and your family all the best in the future.

Sincerely Ray

Senator Raymond E. Cleary III

I first considered running for office shortly after America was attacked on September 11, 2001. Too old to go back into the service but determined to help make the American Dream come true for others as it had for me and my family, I hoped that my education and experience would serve my constituents well in the South Carolina State Senate. Like all who run for public office, I admit to having some fairly lofty ambitions about going to Columbia and changing the world!

I figured if I could fix teeth that had been long neglected, surely I could fix everything that's wrong with our government! All I would really have to do is to fulfill the needs of my constituents.

It didn't take long to realize that, just as is the case in my life as a dentist, husband, father and now grandfather, my success depended almost entirely on the remarkable people who would surround me for the next dozen years: my fellow legislators, staff members and so many others.

I formally thanked my constituents when I announced that I would not seek a fourth term ~ but I knew the day would soon arrive when I would have to say "Good-Bye" to the people who made all of this possible: YOU!

It has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime to serve with you and, working together, to make a difference in the lives of our fellow citizens.

Thank you for helping me serve those I promised to serve.