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Subject: Backin' the Blue

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Backin' the Blue

Dear Friends:

Allow me to take a few moments of your weekend and share with you the news of several events this week.

Backin' the Blue

There was a wonderful outpouring of support today for South Carolina's law enforcement officers. The wives and family members of police officers, as well as their friends from around the state, rallied at the Statehouse on this -- 'National Thank A Police Officer Day'. We prayed for the safety of all our law enforcement officers and demonstrated we stand behind them. The rally also brought focus on the families of law enforcement officers. In today's dangerous environment they pray that their spouses return home safely every day. ([See more rally photos](#))

Standing with Amelyn Richardson,
the widow of slain Aiken Public
Safety Corporal, Scotty
Richardson

Speaking to the rally, "The #1 priority of
government is public safety. Our officers are critical
to that mission every day."

Developing Job-Ready People

It is the new focal point for economic development and job creation in Aiken County. Friday, the ribbon was cut on the new \$8.5 million 'Center for Energy & Advanced Manufacturing' at Aiken Tech. This Center will produce a highly skilled workforce trained in the latest technologies. That

workforce is critical in fulfilling manufacturing jobs now and in the future. The idea for this facility started a decade ago. The Center is debt free thanks, in part, to the generous contributions from local industry and citizens.

Honoring Rep. Bill Clyburn

The South Carolina Conservation Voters honored State Rep. Bill Clyburn (D-Aiken) with the "House Conservation Leadership Award". My colleague received the honor at the organization's annual Green Tie Awards luncheon. Bill has been a longtime leader in supporting rural infrastructure in SC. Congratulations, Bill!

Governance of Higher Education in SC

A House Committee began the task of determining how Higher Education can be best governed in SC. The special committee, which I chair, will meet regularly this fall to determine whether a Board of Regents is needed or if we just need to strengthen our current commission that coordinates our 33 public colleges and universities as well as our 16 technical colleges. We began by hearing from four national

education experts.

The Off-Session

The South Carolina General Assembly is out of session until January. In the interim, legislators continue to address constituent needs, prepare legislation and attend many committee hearings addressing critical issues.

I'm Available

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you in Columbia. If you need help navigating state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In your Service,

Bill Taylor

803-270-2012

Representative
South Carolina General
Assembly

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Photo of the Week

Job Well Done - Thank You! We celebrated the 45 years of service and achievements of Connie Shade. Connie retired this week with recognition from the House of Representatives. She most recently served as the Executive Director of the Council of Governments (COG) based in Aiken. She has been on the COG staff for more than four decades helping local governments and citizens.

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