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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Chapin Endorsement: Bill Dukes

Chapin, South Carolina – Dino for County Council issued the following statement announcing endorsement of longtime Midlands entrepreneur and philanthropist Bill Dukes.

“I am very pleased to support Dino Teppara for Lexington County Council,” said Bill. “I first knew Dino more than 10 years ago when he was a young attorney on staff to U.S. Congressman Wilson (R-SC). After serving as Congressman Wilson’s Chief of Staff and Counsel, he started his own public relations firm, served as assistant director of a cabinet agency in Governor Haley’s administration, and joined the military, now serving as a Public Affairs Officer in the U.S. National Guard Reserve.

Bill Dukes and Dino Teppara at the Blue Marlin Restaurant on Election Day, June 14, 2016. Bill has endorsed Dino in the runoff for Lexington County Council in District Six. The runoff will be held on Tuesday, June 28.

“As someone who has worked with elected officials for many years, one of the hallmarks of a good public servant is their constituent service. Dino has learned during his service in both federal and state government, the critical importance of providing top-notch constituent service. He is known throughout the Midlands as someone always on call, accessible, and receptive to constituent matters.

“Dino carried the Amicks Ferry precinct during the recent primary and as a resident of Amicks Ferry, I will be out on Tuesday, June 28 in the runoff to vote for him. I would strongly encourage my neighbors and friends in Chapin, Irmo, and Lexington to do the same,” concluded Dukes.

“I am honored to earn the endorsement of a longtime community leader who has dedicated his life to entrepreneurship and supporting our veterans,” said Dino Teppara. “Bill is loved and well respected by all because of his passion to improve our communities and support our military families and veterans. He is a giant among community leaders, not just in Chapin or Lexington County, but across South Carolina. I am honored to earn his support and look forward to working with him to improve our way of life in Lexington County,” concluded Dino.

Bill Dukes founded the Longhorn Steakhouse restaurant chain and started the Blue Marlin restaurant in downtown Columbia in 1995. He was involved in the planning to build the Coliseum Convention Center.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he founded Honor Flight South Carolina, a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring our WWII and Korean War veterans with free flights to Washington, D.C. to visit these veterans to visit the memorials dedicated to them.

To learn more about Bill Dukes, please read the June 2014 story in *Columbia Metropolitan Magazine* called "[Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy](#)."

Dino's previous endorsements:

- #1 – Ted McGee, businessman and Order of the Palmetto recipient from Governor Haley
- #2 – Hunter Wilson, businessman, Eagle Scout, and Operation Enduring Freedom veteran
- #3 – Anne Bull, former Lexington One teacher of the year and Governor Haley appointee
- #4 – Dr. Angela Bain, former Chief Human Resources Officer for Lexington-Richland School District Five
- #5 – Major Michael J. Smith, U.S. Army (retired), Iraqi war veteran whose family has served military since 1861.
- #6 – David Longstreet, Lexington County anti-DUI community activist
- #7 – Chapin resident retired Army Colonel Tom Fincher
- #8 – Lt. Murray Price, WWII hero who flew 40 bombing missions over the South Pacific

Connect with Dino's campaign on [Facebook](#).

(Dino Teppara is a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve. Use of his military rank, job titles, and photographs in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Department of the Navy or the Department of Defense).

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