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# **John Drummond**

*(b. 1919)*

*Papers, c. 1944-2008*

**Volume:** 5 linear feet

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**Provenance:** Donated by Senator John Drummond

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## **Biographical Note:**

“He’s the last of the old guard. He always does what he thinks is right for the state, and he’s never afraid of a fight. That’s for sure.” – *Senator Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, on John Drummond, 2007.* At the time of McConnell’s statement, Drummond was the most senior member of the South Carolina General Assembly, wrapping up a career of more than four decades in the state Senate, including service as president *pro tempore*.

Born September 29, 1919 in Greenwood, South Carolina, John Drummond was one of seven children of James William and Fannie Smith Drummond. He served as a fighter pilot in the 405<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group during World War II, including ten-months in a German prisoner of war camp after being shot down over France in 1944. For his service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, nine Air Medals, three Battle Stars, a Presidential Citation, and two Purple Hearts. In the 1990s, remnants of Drummond’s fighter plane were discovered in Gieville, France, where Drummond subsequently visited as an honored guest of the townspeople.



Returning to his hometown of Ninety Six after the war, Drummond married Holly Self. He began his career in business by selling doughnuts, and then purchased an oil distributorship, a business he still owns and operates in 2010. The Drummonds had three children: Brick, Bob, and Dick.

Drummond first entered public office in 1965, when he took a seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives as a Democrat. The next year he was elected to the South Carolina Senate, where he would serve for more than forty years. One of his most important roles was as chairman of the State Reorganization Commission, which attempted to streamline and cut costs in all facets of state government. Drummond became a strong supporter of public education, and was an active member of various committees, including Labor, Commerce, and Industry and Finance, which he eventually chaired. His love of the outdoors prompted him to become an advocate for natural resources.



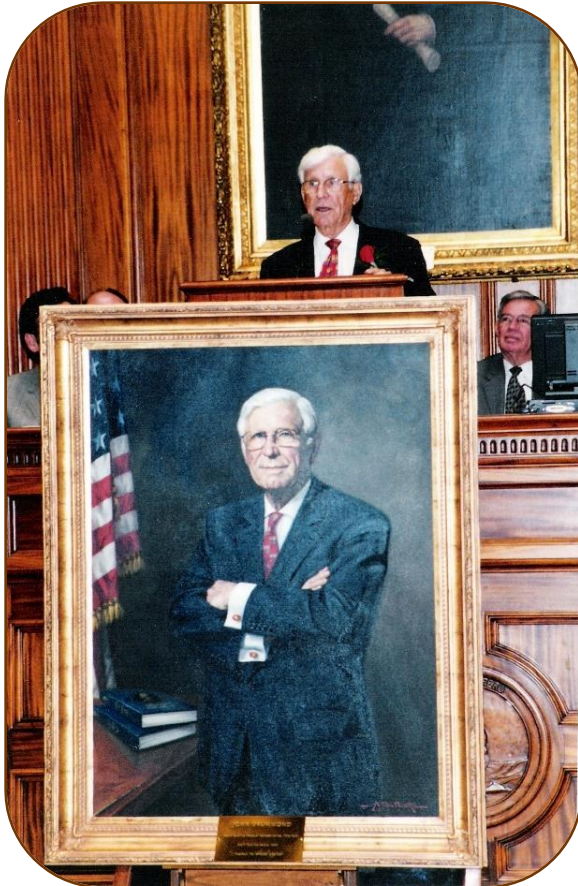
One of the hallmarks of Drummond’s career in the General Assembly was his maverick streak, which helped him to earn the nickname “Bulldog.” His inclination to look beyond party lines contributed to his reputation as one of the Senate’s “renegades,” and he took pride in having supported Republican Governor Carroll Campbell, whom he saw as a consensus builder and a forthright leader. He also led a “Democrats for [Strom] Thurmond” group.

On the Senate floor, he was known at times as “the filibuster king,” and enjoyed some spirited and well-publicized clashes with colleagues. Drummond valued the traditionally deliberative and cooperative nature of the Senate. Encouraging the spirit of bipartisanship among his colleagues was a recurring theme for Drummond, especially in later years.

In 1996, Drummond became the president *pro tempore* of the Senate, stating: “It is my hope, and my intention, to use whatever means are available to promote unity and fairness among members of this Senate.” The next few years, however, saw a number of party-line disputes over issues such as video poker and tax cuts. In 2001, control of the Senate went to the Republicans for the first time in 124 years. The immediate result was the end of the Senate tradition of allowing senior senators, regardless of party, to hold leadership positions. Drummond lost his positions as president *pro tempore* of the Senate, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and member of the State Budget and Control Board.



Drummond continued to work for his district and on subjects he considered significant, including the disabled, natural resources, and veterans’ issues. In 2002, he was honored with a portrait hung in the Senate chamber. In his remarks on that occasion, he said:



“As many days and years that I have spent in this chamber—and I think this is my 35<sup>th</sup> Senate—I never ceased to be thrilled to be in this chamber....I came to this Senate as something of a rebel, and I’ll confess to that....They called me one of the renegades in those days, and I suppose I was. The important thing to me was the opportunity to exercise individual judgment and opinions, and that’s what this Senate offered me, and all the other members...It was a place where differences could be discussed and debated. It was a place where people had respect for each other as human beings.

It was a place where change could be accommodated in a spirit of civility.”

In 2006, Drummond received the inaugural David Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership from Furman University. He retired from the Senate in 2008.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The papers consist of six series: Public, Opinion Editorials, Personal, Speeches, Audiovisual, and Clippings (including 8 scrapbooks). The public papers chiefly document the last few years of Drummond’s service in the Senate, particularly his work on veterans’ issues. Also of interest are three folders on the sister-state relationship of South Carolina and Queensland, Australia, including material pertaining to Drummond’s travel to Australia and correspondence with Australian leaders. Opinion Editorials date from 1992 to 2008.

Personal papers include materials relating to Drummond’s military service in World War II, as well as his activities in veterans’ groups and the reunions of his fighter squadron and group. The files include correspondence with other veterans, newsletters, and papers on the publication of a squadron history. Also present is information on Drummond’s return visits to Gieville, France, where he had been shot down in 1944. A few contemporaneous documents are present in the “World War II” folder.



Speeches, consisting mostly of speech texts, date primarily from 1998 to 2008. The bulk of the loose clippings date from the 1980s through the early 2000s. The Clippings series also includes eight scrapbooks documenting the work of the State Reorganization Commission, circa 1971 to 1987. Audiovisual materials consist primarily of photographs, including a significant number from Drummond’s travels to France.

## Collection Inventory

### **Public:**

#### Topical:

**Box 1**

#### General:

1980-2000

2001-2008 and n.d.

Confederate Flag (2)

Education

Environment/Natural Resources

General Assembly

Health Care

Highways and Roads:

General

William Bruce Ezell Memorial Highway Dedication [*See also: Photographs*]

Industry

Lake Murray B-52 Salvage

Queensland, Australia [Sister State] [*See also: Photographs*]:

General:

1999-2000 and c. 2000

2001-2008

n.d.

Visit, 2000

Southern Maritime Collection

State Employees

Taxes:

General

South Carolina State and Local Tax Study Committee

Veterans:

General

Armed Forces of the United States Veterans Monument Commission:

2002

2003 and n.d.

Committee to Study Certain Issues Affecting Veterans:

2001-2002

2004

Welfare

Voting Record, Bills Introduced (5)

### **Personal:**

#### General:

1984-1999

2000-2007 and n.d.

Awards and Honors

Biographical Information

Campaigns

Christmas Cards

Events:

1992, Honorary Breakfast

1999, 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party:  
General  
Greetings/RSVPs (2)  
Planning

Family:

General  
Drummond, Holly Self:  
General

Winthrop University Award, Proposed  
Drummond, James W. [Confederate Army]

**Box 2**

Military Service:

General  
*A Stormy Sky over Normandy: Summer 1944* [bound volume]  
D-Day [reference material]  
Gieville, France, Visits to  
Oral History Interviews/Research  
Recreation of Fighter Plane  
Veterans' Groups and Unit Reunions [*See also: Photographs*]:

General  
405<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Association:

General  
Annual Meetings:  
1983  
1984  
1985  
1988-1990  
1991  
1992-1993  
1995-1996  
1997  
2001

Combat Video  
Directory, 1998

510<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron Association:

General:  
1982-1989  
1990-2007 and n.d.

Establishment of  
History, Publication of  
Newsletters  
Rosters

P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Association

World War II, c. 1944-1946

Topical:

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> Club  
John Drummond and Holly Self Drummond Environmental Education and Conference  
Center  
John Drummond Physical Education Center, Lander University  
John W. Drummond Center for Political Leadership, Erskine College  
Retirement from the Senate, 2007-2008

**Opinion Editorials:**

1992-2001  
2002-2005  
2006-2008 and n.d.

**Speeches [see appendix for details]:**

1964-1989  
1990-1991  
1992

1993  
1994-1995  
1996  
1997  
1998:

Jan.-May  
July-Aug.  
Oct.-Dec.

1999:

Jan.-Feb.  
Mar.  
Sept.-Dec.

2000

2001:

Jan.-June  
Oct. and c. 2001

2002:

Jan.-Apr.  
Aug.-c. Oct.  
Nov.-Dec.  
c.2002

2003:

Jan.-Mar.  
May  
June-Oct. and c. 2003

2004

2005:

Jan.-Feb.  
Mar.-May and c. 2005

2006

2007-c. 2008

n.d. (2)

**Box 3**

**Audiovisual:**

Audiocassettes:

“Orangeburg 1968: Personal Narratives,” South Carolina Educational Radio  
“Remarks on flag, floor debate” [microcassette]

Photographs:

General (2)  
Awards and Honors

**Box 4**

Events:

Fuji Film  
William Grace Ezell Memorial Highway

Family

Fishing/Hunting

General Assembly:

General  
Committees  
Portrait Unveiling, Senate Chamber, 7 January 2002  
State Reorganization Commission

John Drummond Center, Erskine College

Lander University

Military Service and Unit Reunions

Portraits

Travel:

General  
Australia [?]  
France, 1999 (3)

Negatives

Videotapes:

1992, Sept. 29, 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Party  
1993, Feb. 17, Video Poker Hearings  
1999, Sept. 29, 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party  
n.d., recorded greeting by Sen. Strom Thurmond for dedication of John Drummond  
Center at Erskine College

**Clippings:**

**Box 5**

General

Awards and Honors:

General  
David Wilkins Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership

Budget/Taxes

Campaigns/Elections

Confederate Flag

Education

Energy

Environment/Natural Resources [includes Drummond Environmental Education Center]

Equal Rights Amendment/Women

Events:

General  
80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

Family

General Assembly

Grants

Health Care

Highways/Roads

Industry

John W. Drummond Center for Political Leadership, Erskine College

Judiciary

Lake Russell Project/Savannah River Authority

Law and Order

Lottery/Gambling

Military Service

Persons:

    McAbee, Jennings

    Thurmond, Strom

Senior Citizens

State Employees

State Reorganization Commission/Government Restructuring

Veterans

**Scrapbook**, c. 1983-1984 [photocopied pages]

**Scrapbooks:**

    “Human Services Demonstration Project 1980-1984, Rep. Herbert Kirsh, York County/Rock Hill”

    “State Reorganization Commission, January 1, 1971-December 31, 1978”

    “State Reorganization Commission, January 1, 1979-May 1, 1980”

    “State Reorganization Commission,” c. 1984-1987

    “State Reorganization Commission Budget,” c. 1984-1987

    “State Reorganization Commission Human Services, 1985”

    “State Reorganization Commission Projects,” c. 1981-1987

    “State Reorganization Commission Sunset,” c. 1980-1987

**APPENDIX: SPEECHES**

- 1964, June 6, "Campaign Speech of John Drummond" and "Follow-Up Campaign Speech"  
1978, July 18, "Ethics in State Government," South Carolina Baptist Convention Workshop  
1985, Mar. 19, Chamber of Commerce Legislative Delegation Breakfast, Greenwood  
c. Jan. 1987, Floor remarks [?] on the state superintendent of education  
1988, July 4, "Welcome Home Day," Concerned Vietnam Veterans, Piedmont Technical College  
1989:  
    July 4, "A Journey of Freedom," 4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Day, Piedmont Technical College  
    Nov. 7, Piedmont Agency on Aging, Greenwood  
1990:  
    May:  
        19, "Rededication of Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker and Armed Forces Day  
            Celebration," Greenwood  
        22, Rotary Club, Batesburg-Leesville  
    July 1, South Main Street Baptist Church, Greenwood  
    Nov. 8, Ladies' Night Dinner, Veterans Group, McCormick  
1991:  
    Feb. 15, Remarks on Desert Storm  
    Apr. 18, 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Observance, Rep. Patrick Harris, Anderson  
    Nov. 11, Veterans Day, Greenwood  
1992:  
    Feb.:  
        19, State Legislative Committee for the South Carolina American Association of Retired  
            Persons, Columbia  
        25, Greenwood Rotary Club, American Legion, Greenwood, on commission to improve  
            state government  
    May 22, Centennial Day Celebration, Connie Maxwell Children's Home, Greenwood  
    July:  
        5, Independence Day Observance, Holly Springs Baptist Church, Inman  
        20, Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce  
    Nov. 11, Veterans Day  
1993:  
    Apr. 6, Seminar on Tax Policy and Economic Growth, Tax Foundation, Columbia  
    May:  
        2, Dedication of Burt-Stark Mansion, Abbeville  
        5, Total Quality Management State Governance Quality Network National Conference,  
            Columbia  
    Dec. 2, Veterans of the Korean War, Abbeville  
1994, Oct. 21, South Carolina Student Legislature, Columbia  
1995:  
    Jan. 26, South Carolina Human Service Providers, Columbia  
    June 22, Abbeville Chamber of Commerce  
    Oct. 17, Union Rotary Club  
1996:  
    Feb. 13, Senate Democratic Caucus Fundraiser  
    Apr. 3, Groundbreaking Ceremony, Monsanto Company, Greenwood

- May 19, Cambridge United Methodist Church, Ninety Six  
Oct. 23, American Red Cross Conference, Greenwood  
Nov.:  
    11, Columbia Rotary Club  
    21, "Stabilizing State and Local Revenues: An Exercise in Friendly Persuasion," Harris Page Smith Memorial Lectures in Local Government, Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson
- 1997:  
Jan.:  
    14, Floor remarks on first day of legislative session  
    26, Baptist Men's Day, First Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Greenwood  
c. Jan., Notations for Remarks on Governor's State of the State Message  
Apr. 4, Annual Legislative Luncheon, Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce  
July 26, Leadership Camp Luncheon, South Carolina School for the Blind and Deaf, Spartanburg  
Oct. 21, Greenwood Sertoma Club  
Nov. 3, Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce
- 1998:  
Jan. 22, Grand Opening of Alzheimer's Research and Clinical Programs, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston  
Mar. 9, Piedmont Technical College, on "Opportunities and Challenges for Growth," Greenwood  
Apr. 4, Reunion of 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Eighth Air Force, Savannah, GA  
May 9, College of Charleston Commencement Exercises  
July:  
    1, Independence Day Observance, Greenwood State Park  
    19, Remarks on Benjamin Mays and Voting Rights Act, Greenwood  
    30, Piedmont Technical College Graduation, Greenwood  
Aug. 22, State House Re-Opening, Columbia  
Oct. 13, Dinner honoring Senator J. Verne Smith, Columbia  
Nov. 17, Grand Opening, Keepsake Program, Eden Gardens, Greenwood  
Dec. 10, Fall Conference, Agency Directors Organization, Clemson
- 1999:  
Jan.:  
    13, 92<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Ceremony, Columbia  
    19, "Business Speaks," South Carolina State Chamber of Commerce, Columbia  
Feb.:  
    5, The Maritime Association of the Port of Charleston  
    10, Mid-Year Conference, South Carolina Association of Counties, Columbia  
Mar.:  
    5, "Transportation Challenges Facing the Savannah River Valley"  
    5, Palmetto Conservation Foundation Conference, Greenwood  
    19, Graduation Luncheon, Executive Institute, Clemson University  
Sept. 17, Greenwood Kiwanis Club  
Nov. 12, Ceremony for Presentation of J. Verne Smith Humanitarian Award, Greenwood  
Dec. 11, Lander University Commencement, Greenwood
- 2000:  
Apr. 12, Floor remarks on Confederate Flag  
May:  
    8, Palmetto Business Forum  
    28, Veterans' Memorial Service, Lowndesville  
May 31 or June 1, Floor remarks on bipartisanship in the Senate  
June 10, Annual Meeting, South Carolina State Employees Association, Columbia

- Aug., Remarks during visit to sister state Queensland, Australia  
Oct. 17, Greenwood County Medical Society  
Dec. 7, "Conserving the Land: 'S.C.'s Beauty is our Birthright," South Carolina Executive Institute, Columbia
- 2001:  
Jan. 4, Floor remarks on bipartisanship in the Senate  
Feb. 5, Floor remarks on taxes  
May 19, "Jasper on the Move" Celebration, Jasper County Chamber of Commerce, Ridgeland  
June:  
    6, Holocaust Memorial Dedication, Columbia Memorial Park  
    14, Annual Membership Banquet, Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce  
c. Oct. 4-6, Reunion of P-47 Pilots [on September 11]
- c. 2001:  
Floor remarks on the late Floyd Spence  
Floor remarks on adjourning in memory of D-Day casualties
- 2002:  
Jan. 7, Drummond Portrait Unveiling, South Carolina Senate  
Apr. 24, Erskine College Commencement, Due West  
    Aug. 28, High Noon Sertoma Club, Greenwood  
Sept. 4, Observance of September 11, Greenwood Courthouse  
c. Oct., "Conservation of Our Natural Resources," Institute of Public Affairs, University of South Carolina, Columbia  
Nov. 12, Leadership Columbia  
Dec. 1, "The Greatest Generation: A Personal and Historical Perspective," Greenwood County Historical Society  
n.d., Cambridge Academy Graduation
- 2003:  
Jan.:  
    6, Dedication of John and Holly Drummond Conservation and Education Center, Lake Greenwood State Park  
    28, Greenwood County Hall of Fame, Induction of Howard Burns  
Feb. 25, Drummond Center Awards Dinner, Erskine College, Due West  
Mar. 13, Greenwood High School Chapter of National Beta Club Induction Ceremony  
May:  
    10, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance, Cooper Power Systems, Greenwood  
    16, Memorial Day, Greenwood  
    n.d., Floor remarks on bipartisanship in the Senate  
June 14, Flag Day Flag Disposal Ceremony, Greenwood  
Oct. 5, Dedication of City of Barnwell Historical Marker and Plaques in Memory of "The Barnwell Ring"
- c. 2003, Floor remarks on Iraq war
- 2004:  
Mar. 2, Introduction of Senator John McCain, Drummond Center Awards Dinner, Columbia  
May 7, Floor remarks on bipartisanship in the Senate  
c. Oct. 14-16, Veterans event  
Nov. 11, Palmetto Conservation Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2005:  
Jan. 14, Annual Dinner and Gala, Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, Greenwood  
Feb.:  
    16, Unveiling of Portrait of Senator Ernest F. Hollings, Senate Chamber, State House, Columbia

- 17, Grand Opening Ceremony, Fuji Photo Film, Inc., Greenwood
- Mar. 18, Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce, Greenwood
- Apr. 1, South Carolina Executive Institute Commencement, Clemson University
- May, Floor remarks on bipartisanship in the Senate
- c. 2005, Floor remarks on bipartisanship in the Senate and Senator James Waddell
- 2006:
  - Apr., Floor remarks, property tax-cutting proposal debate
  - Aug. 3, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood
- 2007, Jan. 19, Leadership South Carolina, Drummond Environmental Center, Lake Greenwood State Park
- c. 2008, Floor remarks on bipartisanship in the Senate
- No date:
  - May 29, Memorial Day Observance, Newberry
  - July 2, "Honor the Veterans," First Baptist Church, Greer
  - Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce
  - Committee on Tax Reform
  - Confederate and Black Liberation flags (floor remarks)
  - Francis Marion University Commencement, Florence
  - "Galloway" Methodist Church [?]
  - "Greenwood County Schools" [?]
  - Memorial Day
  - Remarks on Phil Grose
  - State Reorganization Commission (floor remarks)
  - Sumter American Legion on "John Drummond's List of Ten Reasons I'm Glad I'm a South Carolinian" (partial)
  - World War II service (partial)