John Drummond
(b. 1919)

Papers, c. 1944-2008

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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 405th 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 Gievville, 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 35th 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:

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:
    - 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
Awards and Honors
Biographical Information
Campaigns
Christmas Cards
Events:
- 1992, Honorary Breakfast
1999, 80th Birthday Party:
  General
  Greetings/RSVPs (2)
  Planning

Family:
  General
  Drummond, Holly Self:
    General

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

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
    405th Fighter Group Association:
      General
      Annual Meetings:
        1983
        1984
        1985
        1988-1990
        1991
        1992-1993
        1995-1996
        1997
        2001
      Combat Video
      Directory, 1998

510th Fighter Squadron Association:
  General:
    1982-1989
  Establishment of
  History, Publication of
  Newsletters
  Rosters
  P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Association
  World War II, c. 1944-1946

Topical:
  Friday the 13th 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: Box 3
Jan.-May
July-Aug.

1999:
Jan.-Feb.
Mar.
Sept.-Dec.

2000
2001:
Jan.-June
Oct. and c. 2001

2002:
Jan.-Apr.
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)

Audiovisual: Box 4
Audiocassettes:
“Remarks on flag, floor debate” [microcassette]

Photographs:
General (2)
Awards and Honors
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, 73rd Birthday Party
1993, Feb. 17, Video Poker Hearings
1999, Sept. 29, 80th Birthday Party
n.d., recorded greeting by Sen. Strom Thurmond for dedication of John Drummond Center at Erskine College

Clippings:

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
80th 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:**
“State Reorganization Commission, January 1, 1971-December 31, 1978”
“State Reorganization Commission, January 1, 1979-May 1, 1980”
“State Reorganization Commission Budget,” c. 1984-1987
“State Reorganization Commission Human Services, 1985”
APPENDIX: SPEECHES

1964, June 6, “Campaign Speech of John Drummond” and “Follow-Up Campaign Speech”
1985, Mar. 19, Chamber of Commerce Legislative Delegation Breakfast, Greenwood
  c. Jan. 1987, Floor remarks [?] on the state superintendent of education
1989:
  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, 80th 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 56th 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, 92nd 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, 30th 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, 40th 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)