

South Carolina Political Collections
University of South Carolina Libraries

Charles Traynor “Bud” Ferillo, Jr.
(b. 1945)
Papers, 1950-2010

Volume: 1.5 linear feet

Processed: 2009-2010 by Virginia Blake

Provenance: Donated by Charles Traynor “Bud” Ferillo, Jr.

Citation: Charles Traynor “Bud” Ferillo, Jr. Papers, South Carolina Political Collections, The University of South Carolina

Copyright: Copyright has been transferred to the University of South Carolina.

Note: Additional personal papers, chiefly relating to Ferillo’s service in Vietnam, are held by the College of Charleston.

Biographical Note:

Charles Traynor "Bud" Ferillo's life has been consumed by politics since his high school years. He served as a key staff member to South Carolina State Senator Isadore Lourie, Speaker Rex Carter, and Lieutenant Governor Mike Daniel and worked on several campaigns including Charles "Pug" Ravenel's run for governor in 1974. He is still active in politics today and one of the issues that he focuses on is education. In 2005, he produced and directed the documentary "Corridor of Shame" where he looked at the conditions of schools in certain counties of South Carolina.

Ferillo was born on November 2, 1945 in Charleston, South Carolina. He graduated from Bishop England High School in 1962, where he was active in the theater department. While in high school, Ferillo was the chairman of the Students for Kennedy and the Youth for Johnson groups of Charleston County. In 1963 he was president of the Young Democratic Volunteers of South Carolina. He attended the University of South Carolina from 1964 to 1967 and was president of the USC Young Democrats Club and the International Relations Club.



In 1967, Ferillo was drafted into the U.S. Army. He completed basic training at Ft. Jackson in Columbia and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Polk in Leesville, LA. He completed Non-Commissioned Officers School at Ft. Benning in Columbus, GA. He earned the rank of Sergeant E-5 and saw action in South Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Vietnam Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and two Combat Unit Badges. He was honorable discharged in 1973.

Upon his return from Vietnam, he enrolled at the College of Charleston. In 1972, he graduated with a B.S. in Government. While in college, Ferillo was the Assistant Director of the Charleston County Youth Development Program. From June to December 1973, he worked for State Senator Isadore Lourie as a Legislative Aide. After that, he became a Legislative Assistant to Rex Carter, Speaker of the House. In 1974, he was appointed Executive Director of the Office of House Research and Personnel. In 1982, Lieutenant Governor Mike Daniel appointed Ferillo Deputy Lieutenant Governor; Ferillo served in that position until 1987. He also served as an adviser to Governor Dick Riley, Charles "Pug" Ravenel, and Joe Riley, Jr.

In 1987, Ferillo founded Ferillo & Associates, Inc., a public relations and advertising firm based in Columbia. His firm has coordinated numerous state and local political campaigns. In 2005, Ferillo directed and produced the documentary "Corridor of Shame: The Neglect of South Carolina's Rural Schools," which focuses on the education equity case of *Abbeville v. State of South Carolina*. The plaintiffs in this case were 36 school districts arguing that the state did not provide adequate teacher quality and facilities and that the legislature did not provide adequate education to all students. This trial lasted for 102 days and on December 9, 2005, it was ruled that the state had not met its constitutional responsibility to provide a "minimally adequate" education for students through grade three. However, the Court also ruled against the plaintiffs on the claims of providing inadequate teacher quality and facilities. In 2007 these school districts voted to appeal their case to the SC Supreme Court and a decision is pending as of 2008. For his work on "Corridor of Shame" Ferillo was given the Harvey Gantt Triumph Award on January 17, 2010.

Description:

The Ferillo Collection consists of 1.5 feet of papers, c. 1950-2010, arranged in five series: General Papers, Campaigns, Speeches, Clippings, and Audio-Visual material. Papers and clippings concerning campaign work from the 1960s and 1970s make up the bulk of this collection.

General Papers run from the 1950s through 2010. Papers from the 1960s include letters from Lady Bird Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Adlai Stevenson, Olin D. Johnston, Nelson Rockefeller, and Fritz Hollings, and a copy of Senator John Pastore's keynote address from the 1964 Democratic National Convention sent to Ferillo by Pastore. The papers from the 1970s include correspondence from Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers thanking Ferillo for helping the Grape Boycott. Also included are letters concerning various gubernatorial and presidential campaigns.



The Campaign series consists of four folders. One covers Phil Lader's run for governor in 1986. One folder documents Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign. A follow-up folder includes invitations and tickets to the inauguration and several inaugural balls. The last folder contains documents and speeches from Pug Ravenel's 1974 campaign for governor.

Speeches, 1965 to 1974, include a speech nominating Olin D. Johnston for Democrat of the Year, remarks about William Jennings Bryan Dorn when Dorn was named South Carolina's Democrat of the Year in 1965, and remarks about Ravenel to the Alliance of Concerned Citizens for Better Government. Ferillo also addressed groups such as the South Carolina Young Democrats and the South Carolina Teenage Democrats.

Clippings are divided into general and topical. The Ferillo folder includes book reviews and letters to the editor that he wrote in the 1960s. Also included are files on the 1974 and 1986 gubernatorial campaigns of "Pug" Ravenel and Phil Lader, respectively, and a 1967 file on General William Westmoreland.

Audio-visual materials include an album of photos from Ferillo's childhood and teenage years, photos from his army service and of elected officials, and a copy of the DVD "Corridor of Shame." Also included is a documentary titled "A Legislative Primer," circa 1979 to early 1980s. This movie shows how the Statehouse works and includes interviews with Rep. Keyserling, Rep. Blatt, and Governor Riley, among others.

Box List

Biographical Information

General:

- 1950s
- 1960-1963
- 1964-1966
- 1967-1969
- 1970-1973
- 1974
- 1975-1977
- 1985-1986 and 1995
- 2007-2010
- no date

Campaigns:

- Lader, Phil, Gubernatorial Campaign, 1986
- Obama, Barack, 2008-2009 (2 folders; one folder focuses on inaugural events)
- Ravenel, Charles "Pug," Gubernatorial Campaign, 1974

Speeches:

- 1965:
 - Feb 4: Nomination of Olin Johnson for South Carolina Democrat of the Year
 - Apr 6: "What Freedom Means to Me"
- 1966:

Mar 16: Introduction of Bryan Dorn as South Carolina Democrat of the Year

Apr 28: Introductory remarks at South Carolina Young Democrats

May 14: Address to the State Convention of South Carolina Teenage Democrats

1970:

Apr 7: Speech to the South Carolina Commission for Farm Workers

Apr 15: Speech to the Business and Professional Men's Association

July 26: Speech to the Citizens Commission

1974:

Sept 14: Introductory remarks for Charles "Pug" Ravenel to the Alliance of Concerned Citizens for Better Government

no date:

Speech to South Carolina Young Democrats

Introduction to speech on Legislative Reform

Clippings:

General:

1960s

1970s

1980s

2000s and n.d.

Ferillo, Charles Traynor "Bud"

Lader, Phil, Gubernatorial Campaign, 1986

Ravenel, Charles "Pug", Gubernatorial Campaign, 1974

Westmoreland, General William Childs, 1967

Audio-visual:

Box 2

Photographs:

General

Album, 1957, 1960-1962

DVD:

"Corridor of Shame: The Neglect of South Carolina's Rural Schools"

"A Legislative Primer"