

D. Paul Sommerville

March 23, 2016

Welcome Remarks

Landmark Conference for the Confederation of South Carolina Local Historical Societies

Hosted by the Beaufort County Historical Society

Good afternoon! Welcome to Beaufort County! I am Paul Sommerville, Chairman of Beaufort County Council, and on behalf of my colleagues, staff, and residents, I am delighted to welcome you to your 2016 Landmark Conference and our beautiful county.

We are pleased and proud that the Beaufort County Historical Society is hosting you here.

Please help me in congratulating them on their 77th year as a staple in our community and thanking them for all of their fine work in organizing this conference with a round of applause.

I want to especially thank you for returning to us. We are proud to be recognized as the first site for the Landmark Conference, held in 1965 in both Hilton Head Island and Savannah. It is always a special pleasure to welcome guests to Beaufort, where my family has lived for over 150 years.

The Confederation's mission statement encourages us to use our history as an inclusive way to build goodwill and a better community. Beaufort County is proud to have been celebrating its rich history for the past three centuries.

We are a special place that typifies the diversity of your membership, as we are home to many preservation groups, museums, and patriotic organizations.

Beyond our historic character and scenic location, Beaufort County's cultural heritage is recognized and preserved with National Historic Landmark Districts throughout our boundaries, from the Beaufort Historic District and Penn Center in the northern county to the Bluffton Historic District and the Daufuskie Island Historic District in the southern county.

We recognize that the importance of your work lies in the fact that while you serve your respective, local interests, your activities help to give our state and region a more complete picture in history, by promoting and preserving the past, for the future.

Congratulations to those of you from the more than 160 historic district treasures across the state, who do the important work of promoting the study and preservation of our rich history.

On behalf of Beaufort County Council, we wish you every success in your efforts and a very pleasant stay.