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Senator Hugh Leatherman to Receive 2018 Global Vision Award

Columbia World Affairs Council Celebrates 25th Anniversary

COLUMBIA, S.C. (August 1, 2018)—The Columbia World Affairs Council is pleased to announce that Senator Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. will receive the 2018 Global Vision Award. Senator Leatherman will be honored at a black-tie gala at the Columbia Marriott on Thursday, November 29, 2018. This is the 25th year the Columbia World Affairs Council has presented the award to a leader whose contributions have made a significant impact on South Carolina to help project the state globally.

“Senator Leatherman has been a leader in enabling South Carolina to be one of the premier states for international investment, export growth, and international partnerships. Without his involvement, Boeing, Continental, and many other significant job creators would not have happened,” said Bob Coble, former Columbia Mayor and Chair of Columbia World Affairs Council Board of Directors. “He is also responsible for taking the on relationships in Asia, particularly Japan and Taiwan. And he has been critical to the success of the development of the Port of Charleston.”

Sen. Leatherman’s impact has been felt across the state as well as in his home region of the Pee Dee. Before it was in vogue, he was leading economic development missions to the Far East. He has been a steady, guiding hand in helping underwrite the infrastructure needed to attract investment. His leadership as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee has directly created thousands of new jobs over the past 18 years. Perhaps his greatest achievements were helping BMW Manufacturing grow into one of the largest exporter of vehicles in the country and for Boeing to create an ever-growing presence in the Lowcountry. To say his global vision has changed the lives of thousands of South Carolinians would be an understatement.

Hugh K. Leatherman was elected to the South Carolina Senate on November 4, 1980.

Sen. Leatherman was born and raised on a farm in Lincoln County, North Carolina, graduated from North Carolina State University with a BS in civil engineering, and settled in Florence, SC.

He began his career in public service in 1967, when he was elected to the Quinby Town Council. From 1971-1976, Sen. Leatherman served as Mayor Pro Tempore of the Town of Quinby.

Currently, Sen. Leatherman serves as chairman of the all-important Senate Finance Committee while also serving on the Senate Ethics, Interstate Cooperation, Labor, Commerce and Industry, Rules, State House and Transportation committees. He is one of the five members on the State Budget and Control Board, which oversees the state's financial dealings on a monthly basis.

He and his wife, Jean, have six children and five grandchildren.

“I cannot think of anyone who has helped transform South Carolina for the better more than Senator Leatherman,” said Fred Monk, CWAC Chairman Emeritus and Chair of the Global Vision Award Committee. “His work has attracted billions of dollars of investment and created tens of thousands of well-paying jobs in the State. His work has already benefitted, and will continue to benefit generations of South Carolinians.”

The Columbia World Affairs Council was established in 1993 to raise awareness of international activities in the Midlands, help people connect across the region, bring distinguished speakers and foreign diplomats to Columbia to address international issues, and create a bridge to build new international relationships. The Council administers the sister-city program for the City of Columbia and is a member of the Washington-based World Affairs Councils of America and Sister Cities International.

The Global Vision Award was established in 1994, and the first recipient was Governor Carroll A. Campbell. Last year, the honor went to former Charleston, SC Mayor Joe Riley. For more information about the Global Vision Award, please visit columbiaworldaffairs.org.

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