

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman
March 18, 2005
Recognition of Leadership

Good evening and welcome to a Recognition of Leadership in the Lowcountry. I'm Weston Newton, Chairman of Beaufort County Council.

Despite our various jurisdictional boundaries, we all share one common blessing – we are residents of Paradise. I'm sure you all agree that the Lowcountry of South Carolina is the most beautiful region in the finest state in the greatest nation in the most wonderful of worlds. And in spite of the individual distinctions of our various jurisdictions – I know that each and every one of us cherishes our Lowcountry home. Who wouldn't?

This Recognition of Leadership in the Lowcountry is a celebration of our mutual good fortune as residents of Paradise. It's an opportunity for face time – for one on one communication in an informal atmosphere. A time to talk with one another about the challenges we all share as our beloved Lowcountry Paradise faces the challenges of growth and development – bringing our boundaries closer and closer – often blurring them as we forge new partnerships and goals.

We need to stand together with a shared vision as we face the future, which appears to approach us with increased velocity every moment. We need to continue to work together on a blueprint for the year 2020 and beyond through our joint regional planning efforts. The success of those efforts will be ensured by the strength we find in our willingness to work together. As we advance toward our shared vision we will forge additional bonds and create more new relationships – all for our mutual benefit and the good of the people of Paradise.

This recognition of leadership is a time for getting to know one another better. It's a time for reaching out and addressing our common issues. It's a time for forging bonds that will help us all look the future squarely and proudly in the eye.

I look forward to speaking with you individually tonight. Thank you for coming. Please enjoy yourselves.