



## S.C. Hall of Fame Transcript

### *Strom Thurmond*

Strom Thurmond was born December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1902 in Edgefield, South Carolina. Upon graduating from Clemson College, he taught school, coached, and was Superintendent of Education for Edgefield County.

Thurmond earned a law degree, was elected State Senator, and was appointed a circuit judge. Next came a call to military service...

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After the war, Thurmond was elected Governor of South Carolina.

During his term as Governor, he became involved in national politics...

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In 1954, Thurmond ran as a write-in candidate for the U.S. Senate and won—to protest South Carolina’s method of choosing a replacement after the death of a senator.

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Thurmond left the state Democratic Party in 1964 and became a Republican

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Thurmond maintained a staunch position of states’ rights throughout the sixties and fought federal civil rights legislation.

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In 1968, Thurmond helped craft the “Southern strategy” that elected Richard Nixon President.

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Thurmond settled comfortably into the life of a U.S. Senator, a position he would hold for nearly 50 years!

He assumed major roles of leadership and responsibility during the Reagan years.

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In addition to chairing the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thurmond was Chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

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Despite all Thurmond's success in the Washington establishment, one thing remained paramount in his mind... ["My goal is to serve..."]

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Strom Thurmond retired from the U.S. Senate in 2003 at age 100. He died June 26<sup>th</sup> that same year.