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Campus Salute Program During Homecoming Day Luncheon

Strom Thurmond

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For additional rights information, please contact Kirstin O'Keefe (kokeefe [at] clemson [dot] edu)

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Thank you General Summerall. It is a privilege and pleasure for me to be here this afternoon for your 1948 homecoming celebration. Even though I am a CLEMSON man myself, I have always greatly admired the CITADEL, and have always been more than happy to give both my vigorous support and hearty cooperation in all of its efforts. The CITADEL has an enviable record and a reputation of furnishing to the country, graduates who have been schooled, not only in academic subjects, but the important subjects of honor, loyalty, patriotism and leadership. You already have heard epitomized on this program, the history of the birth of the CITADEL. It is a history steeped in glorious tradition with its name carried through the years emblazoned on the banners of achievements of those who can proudly say ... I am a CITADEL man. The State of South Carolina is proud of its college. We are also proud of General Summerall, the CITADEL'S President, who, with his highly competent staff, has done so much during his tour here, to raise the accomplishments and traditions of the CITADEL to new and glorious heights. It was during General Summerall's administration that a precedent was broken.
For the first time in its long history, the CITADEL admitted to the school students who were not members of the Corps of Cadets. Veterans returning to civilian life from active duty, and not eligible for ROTC service were enrolled. The CITADEL did not wait for the G.I. Bill of Rights to be passed. When this legislation came into being, the CITADEL already had veterans enrolled. Now veterans and cadets work here side by side .... truly a striking example of tradition stepping aside to accommodate the exigencies of these changing times. Much is expected of CITADEL graduates for the future. Many of the cadets, upon entering the school, are thrown, for the first time upon their own resources. They are therefore taught to think for themselves ... to make sound and speedy decisions, and to organize their time. They become self-reliant, self restrained and imbued with an ever present sense of duty.

Position vacancies for great leaders continually occur. CITADEL men will continue to be numbered among the great. They will be well equipped with the necessary foundation of individual leadership that they have received through their CITADEL training ......... But now to the more urgent business at hand ....

This afternoon a fighting CITADEL football team deploys in the
new Johnson Hagood Memorial Stadium in Charleston to meet the unbeaten CLEMSON eleven. The CITADEL prides itself on the fighting qualities of its football teams. Forced to suspend Varsity football from its sports program during the war years, the CITADEL is struggling to restock its pool of lettermen, and again build a team, second to none. Coach Quinn Decker has been doing a wonderful job, and the spirit of the team today never was higher. The Bulldogs are always rated a team which will not quit ... so we can expect almost anything on the gridiron here today. As a CLEMSON graduate, and ex-officio, a member of the Board of Visitors, of the CITADEL I cannot afford to be numbered among today's prognosticators. I must of necessity fall back on that much used sports phrase ..... may the best team win. (Pause) I am glad to have this opportunity today to be able through CAMPUS SALUTE, to extend to all the CITADEL alumni who are unable to be here with us today at homecoming, the heartiest best wishes both for myself and for the people of the State of South Carolina. We know, that wherever you may be, either in the United States, or abroad, your thoughts are here with us today. Good luck, and God bless you.