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At Dedication of Johnson Hagood Memorial Stadium

Strom Thurmond

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ADDRESS

By J. Strom Thurmond, Governor of South Carolina, at Dedication of Johnson Hagood Memorial Stadium, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina, Saturday, December 4, 1948.

It is a happy privilege to be with you here at The Citadel today for the dedication of this splendid stadium as a Memorial to Johnson Hagood. I am told that this great stadium is the largest in the State, and certainly it is an outstanding accomplishment. All those who have had any share in its erection deserve the highest commendation. The huge crowd here today is a clear testimonial to the need for a larger and finer stadium for The Citadel. As Governor, it was my pleasure and privilege to sign the bill which provided for its construction.

I know of no finer military institution in the land than The Citadel. I am told that more high-ranking officers of World War II came from this institution than from any other of similar size in the nation. It is certain that the 6,000 graduates of the college who served in the armed forces in the recent war acquitted themselves with high distinction in all parts of the world. Citadel graduates everywhere are recognized for their leadership and character.

I wish all those graduates could be here today to witness the contest between these two teams, both of which are known for their clean sportsmanship and for their courage on the
field. There is no question in my mind but that the new Johnson Hagood Stadium will never see a contest that is not distinguished by good sportsmanship and respect for the rules of the game.

It was my pleasure a few hours ago to review the Corps of Cadets, and as a veteran of World War II, I can say that I have never seen a more inspiring sight. General Summerall certainly deserves his reputation as one of the greatest military men in the United States, and the occasion for which we are gathered today is further evidence of his growing reputation as an educator.

I know that I express the sentiments of every South Carolinian when I say that we are proud of the new Johnson Hagood Stadium. It has been a pleasure to assist in its dedication.

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