

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

STATE CAPITOL

OCTOBER 15, 1949

Governor J. Strom Thurmond today accepted a bronze plaque honoring the State of South Carolina for progress in safe-driving instruction in the State's high schools during the past year.

Presented by the Association of Casualty and Surety Companies as part of its annual Driver Education Award Program, at a brief ceremony in the Governor's offices, the plaque represents the Meritorious Award given for maintaining high standards of driving instruction in more than one-fourth of the State's secondary schools, with more than one-fourth of all eligible students enrolled.

The presentation was made by Thomas N. Boate, Public Safety Director of the Association's Accident Prevention Department. The ceremony was attended by H. E. Quarles, Jr., Director of the Motor Vehicle Division, and Lieutenant G. E. Hurteau, Jr., in charge of Safety Education, of the State Highway Department. Officials of the State Department of Education also attended.

Mr. Boate praised the efforts of the Highway Department in cooperating with the Education Department to bring about the impressively successful results of the South Carolina program. During the past year the number of schools offering driver training courses increased from 36 to 91, while student enrollment jumped from 1,576 to 4,560, he said.

Governor Thurmond, who has followed the driver-education program with deep interest, expressed congratulations to the participating schools, and to the State Highway Department and the Department of Education for the growing success of the program.

"Every serious-minded citizen should be concerned with the need for reducing the number of accidents on our highways," he said. "I am confident that our driver-education program in the schools is a far-reaching step in that direction."

As a means of stimulating greater interest in high school driver education programs, the Association of Casualty and Surety Companies two years ago offered awards to states in which high schools measure up to high standards of instruction. The winners are selected each year by a committee of nationally prominent educators and safety specialists.

In addition to South Carolina, 7 other states are qualifying for the Meritorious Award this year. They are: Connecticut, Michigan, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia.

Certificate reproductions of the bronze plaque will be distributed to each South Carolina high school which conducted a driver education course during the school year 1948-49.

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