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Remarks of Fred Herlihy on presenting wood mosaic portrait to Thurmond

Strom Thurmond

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Governor Thurmond, a great many folks in this section of the State think a lot of you. They admire the manner in which your office has been conducted.

Anticipating this occasion and as a token of the high esteem in which you are held, a group of citizens of Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg and Dorchester counties as well as a few friends in the Piedmont commissioned James B. Mason to do a portrait of you.

You will note I said "do a portrait of you". This portrait is not a painting but is a WOOD MOSAIC. It is made of over 500,000 minute pieces of inlaid woods of many kinds, both domestic and imported, skillfully blended together to form your likeness. All woods are in natural coloring and no tints, stains or dyes are used. The frame is of walnut and gold leaf.

Mr. Mason has made portraits of many famous men including the governors of several states. His wood portrait of Jefferson Davis in the Confederate War Memorial Building in Mississippi is an outstanding work of art. As Jefferson Davis believed in, and fought for States' Rights, we thought it fitting and proper that a portrait by the same artist, should be presented to the man still believing in such principles.