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Thurmond for Reserve Officers Association President

Strom Thurmond

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For

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

COL. J. STROM THURMOND

Presented by

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Reserve Officers Association of the United States
WHEREAS, it is the well considered opinion of all members of the Reserve Officers Association that the National President should be a man of national prominence, a student of National Defense problems and a vigorous champion and defender of the welfare and rights of all Reservists, and

WHEREAS, Colonel J. Strom Thurmond has proven his ability as a soldier, a statesman and a citizen; and further, a man who has shown intense interest in the affairs of, and has actively participated in, the Reserve Officers Association for many years, and

WHEREAS, this is the year in which the Army Section of the Reserve Officers Association is entitled to select the National President,

BE IT UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED by the members of the Department of South Carolina of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States in Convention assembled at Columbia, South Carolina, this 28th day of April 1951, that the Department of South Carolina wholeheartedly endorses and supports Colonel J. Strom Thurmond for the office of National President of the Association and affirms the fact that its delegates to the forthcoming National Convention shall be instructed to, and will, work for the election of Colonel J. Strom Thurmond as National President of the Reserve Officers Association.

Resolution adopted unanimously, 28 April 1951.

ATTEST:

s/ Carroll J. Collins

Carroll J. Collins
Major, Inf., USAR
Secretary
Col. Thurmond has been a member of the Reserve Officers Association since 1924. During his term as Governor he was vitally interested in reserve affairs and participated in reserve meetings as regularly and as actively as Executive duties would allow. In his speech before the Southern Governors' Conference on November 27, 1950 he took a positive stand on Civil and National Defense and urged the adoption of a UMT program, and the coordination of foreign policy with military policy.

Col. Thurmond is Commanding Officer of the Military Government Area Hq., 360th ORAAU, and this unit has received the ROA Unit Citation for 100% membership in the Association. Thurmond is strictly a “grass-roots” member and has conducted himself as such under all circumstances. He is deeply concerned over declining membership and has recommended to the Department a proposed membership campaign. He is a member of the State and National Defense Committees of the American Legion. Thurmond is vitally interested in the resolving of those problems facing all reservists today and will be vigorous in his approach to achieving the ultimate objective.

BACKGROUND

J. Strom Thurmond, Lawyer and Farmer, born December 5, 1902, at Edgefield, S. C.; married Miss Jean Crouch, of Elko, S. C., November 7, 1947. Graduate of Clemson College, B. S., 1923. Studied Law at night and admitted to S. C. Bar 1930, awarded Doctor of Laws Degree in 1948. Admitted to practice before the various federal courts including the U. S. Supreme Court, and on occasions served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State. Thurmond was County Superintendent of Education from 1929 to 1933, and has served as County Attorney and City Attorney.

Strom Thurmond was elected State Senator in 1933. This office was held until 1938 when he was appointed Circuit Judge and retained this judgeship until 1946. (Served in Army on leave of absence in WW-II for 4 years during this period.) Upon release from the Army he returned to the Circuit Bench; resigned from this Bench when he announced for Governor on May 15, 1946 and was elected Governor of South Carolina over 10 opponents. Thurmond was a delegate to the National Democratic Conventions of
1932-36 and 1948. (Chairman S. C. Delegation and elected National Committeeeman.) Chairman of Southern Governors' Conference. States' Rights Democratic candidate for President of the United States in 1948, carrying 4 states and receiving 1,169,312 popular votes and 39 electoral votes.

MILITARY

Strom Thurmond has served in Officers' Reserve Corps since 1924 and as Officer in State Guard, 1941-42; volunteered for service in World War II the first day war was declared against Germany, obtained a leave of absence from his position of Circuit Judge and entered upon active duty April 17, 1942, member of the First Army and attached to the famous 82nd Airborne Division for the invasion of Europe, served in all battles of the First Army, which fought through France, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Czechoslovakia and Germany. Transferred to Pacific Theater after the war in Europe ended and was serving in the Philippine Islands when the war against Japan terminated. Discharged from service January 20, 1946, received the following decorations, awards and medals for his war service: Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services on the continent of Europe, Bronze Star medal for heroism on the field of battle in France, Army Commendation Ribbon for service of an exceptionally high order in both quality and volume of output, Purple Heart for injuries received in action against the enemy in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944 (D-Day), Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action in the initial assault on the Coast of France, Bronze Arrowhead for service as a member of the Assault Troops landing in enemy-held territory, France, on D-Day, Five Battle Stars for campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe, the Cross of the Officer of the Order of the Crown by the Belgian Government for services to the cause of freedom, Croix de Guerre, avec Etoile de Vermiel by the French Government for exceptional services of war rendered in the course of the operations for the liberation of France, medals for service in the American, European and Pacific Theaters, and the Victory Medal.

Strom Thurmond offers a vigorous and enthusiastic leadership, administrative experience and proven executive ability. A man of character who will not be dominated but will wholeheartedly fight for those things ROA stands for and he sincerely believes in.