

# U.S. Senator Ernest F. Hollings

## A Legacy of Visionary Progress and Courageous Leadership

From the beginning of his public service career over 50 years ago, U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings has been recognized as a bold leader with a far-reaching, forward thinking public policy vision and the courage to pursue it relentlessly.

A child of the depression, Fritz Hollings came of age during combat in WWII. After earning a Bronze Star and seven campaign ribbons, Army officer and Citadel graduate Hollings returned from war to lead South Carolina into an era of progress and prosperity that served as a model for other Southern states.

At age 26, he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. In only his second term, his peers elected him Speaker Pro Tempore, a post to which he was reelected in 1953. Two years later, he was elected Lieutenant Governor. In 1958, at age 36, he was elected to the highest office in the state, the youngest Governor of South Carolina in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

As Governor from 1959 to 1963, he balanced the state budget and earned the first AAA credit rating of any Southern state. He dramatically increased funding for K-12 public schools, created the South Carolina Technical College System, and led the peaceful integration of Clemson University. He aggressively recruited new industries to the state, and launched South Carolina's transformation from a low-skill agrarian economy to a high-value modern economy that is a magnet for investment from around the world.

In 1966, he was elected to the U.S. Senate to fill the unexpired term of Olin Johnston. Early in his Senate career, he focused on the poverty that still gripped much of the South and urban America, embarking in 1968 on a series of "hunger tours" to spotlight the issue. In 1970, he authored "The Case Against Hunger: A Demand for a National Policy," advocating programs to address persistent poverty. His efforts led to enactment of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Feeding Program, one of the nation's most highly-regarded programs to aid the nation's poor.

Sen. Hollings will complete his seventh and final term as Senator in January 2005. During his 37 years in the Senate, he has been Congress' most outspoken advocate of budgetary discipline and has advanced extensive legislation to improve the nation's finances. He has authored comprehensive laws to protect America's coastal environments and oceans, and to rescue South Carolina's unique ecological treasures. He has been the Senate's leading advocate of "competitive trade" policies to stem the erosion of America's industrial backbone. He has fought to strengthen and modernize the military to ensure a strong national defense; authored the legislation that transformed security at our nation's air and seaports to ensure safe transportation and commerce; and provided law enforcement the means to ensure safe neighborhoods. A lawyer by trade, he has been an untiring advocate of the American consumer and stalwart guardian of the public interest. He has championed aggressive federal investments in public health and the war on cancer, and he has delivered substantial federal resources to every corner of South Carolina, advancing its development and economic potential.

For five decades, Senator Hollings has worked tirelessly to protect and defend the people he has served. He's created opportunities for citizens to acquire the tools they need to build productive lives. He led innovative efforts to develop and cultivate his state and his nation's economic strength while recognizing -- and balancing -- the need to preserve precious natural resources and public lands. And he has passionately fought for fiscal accountability and responsibility at every level of government. A product of the Greatest Generation, Fritz Hollings' has dedicated his life's work to public service, defending American prosperity and ensuring opportunity for future generations.