



THE SOUTH CAROLINA MARITIME HERITAGE FOUNDATION

We are thrilled to announce the very first inductees into the South Carolina Maritime Hall of Fame, and we hope that you see the significance of this honor, which was bestowed on five individuals June 19, 2004 at the US Custom House in Charleston, SC.



Ingrid Welch, Senator Glenn McConnell, Mayor Joe Riley, Ted Turner, & Senator Fritz Hollings

South Carolina has a rich maritime past which has only been showcased to the public in slivers of exceptional work such as P.C. Coker's [Charleston's Maritime Heritage, 1670-1865](#). We would like to unearth the exceptional maritime leaders of the past and recognize those of the future, through creating the South Carolina Maritime Hall of Fame. Our cast of nominees runs the gamut from the shrimping industry to Capitol Hill. We will run this event annually, so there is time in the future for new nominees and new recipients.

This South Carolina Maritime Hall of Fame effort runs in unison with our mission to build the *Spirit of South Carolina*, the state's only tall ships to be devoted to the students of the Palmetto state. It will be a mobile classroom, putting classroom lessons of math and science to work in a practical environment, while focusing on the development of leadership qualities in our youth. It will revive South Carolina's maritime history, bringing important stories and characters of the past into our lives today.

Below you can review the 2004 charter inductees for the South Carolina Maritime Hall of Fame.



“I am honored to be named as a charter inductee to the South Carolina Maritime Hall of Fame. The Lowcountry holds a special place in my heart as I have spent many wonderful moments on the water – sailing, fishing, and appreciating the beauty of this unique locale. I am also excited to see the *Spirit of South Carolina* tall ship taking shape, as I know it will be a great platform for students across the state to explore their potential and gain skills in leadership, confidence and teamwork.”
Ted Turner

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The criteria for the award:

- A significant contribution to the maritime development of SC
- Conscientious effort to preserve coastal environments
- Support and nurturing of important maritime industries
- Economic development of the waterfront
- Enhancing education related to the sea
- Enabling students the chance to appreciate the sea
- Significant participation in maritime events and/or water related activities representing South Carolina

CHARTER INDUCTEES:

1. Ted Turner
2. Senator Ernest F. Hollings
3. William Donald Welch (received by Ingrid Welch)

Posthumously:

4. Joseph P. Riley, Sr. (received by Charleston Mayor Joe Riley)
5. The Crew of the Hunley (received by State Senator Glenn McConnell)

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CANDIDATES

Ted Turner:

Ted Turner has along racing history in Charleston Harbor - from childhood in Penguins to Hobie 18's to big boats. He sailed with and against some of South Carolina's finest sailors. He is a long time member of the Carolina Yacht Club and also worked with the US Coast Guard in Charleston. Turner has a very strong affiliation with the Citadel both in general support and in support of the sailing team. His generous contribution to the South Carolina Aquarium and his contribution to the preservation of marine wetlands and sensitive coastal areas through easements and financial contributions have made a profound impact on the Lowcountry's coastal environment. Turner has made his mark as one of the most influential philanthropists in the U.S., including a historic contribution of \$1 billion to the U.N. He has also represented the U.S.A. in major international yachting competitions; including his successful defense of the 1977 America's Cup, the 1979 Fastnet Trophy and four Yachtsman of the Year awards.

Senator Ernest F. Hollings:

Senator Hollings wrote legislation that helped create the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with the goal to develop, encourage, and maintain a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national program in marine science for the benefit of mankind, to assist in protection of health and property, enhancement of commerce, transportation, and national security, rehabilitation of our commercial fisheries, and increased utilization of these and other resources. He appropriates the necessary money for dredging the harbor - instrumental to shipping. He secured money for port security. He wrote the Coastal Zone Management Act, the primary federal environmental act protecting coastal areas. Hollings also started the Marine Center on James Island which performs stock assessments of saltwater fish and scientific research.

William Donald Welch

Done Welch was president of the South Carolina Port Authority during a stage of immense growth. His leadership oversaw the Wando Terminal development among other major initiatives and growth. Today the SPA has outstanding statistics thanks to the leadership of Don Welch and others: International trade through the SPA's facilities provides 281,660 jobs paying \$9.4 billion in wages to South Carolinians. In all, trade pumps \$23 billion into the state economy and generates \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes. The Port of Charleston is the busiest container port along the Southeast and Gulf coasts and ranks fourth nationally. On the entire East and Gulf coasts, only the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey handles more containers than Charleston.

Posthumously:

Joseph P. Riley, Sr.

Prominent civic leader, realtor, political advisor, and father of Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. He was active in charities and believed community service was a duty not a hobby. Riley was one of the port of Charleston's strongest supporters. During his eight-year tenure on the State Port Authority Board, he helped recruit top port professionals and pushed for the port of Charleston's expansion. He was named Member emeritus in 1977. Riley was the driving force responsible for the building of a cruise line passenger terminal. Riley was also one of the original organizers of Patriot's Point Authority and served as vice president of Patriot's Point Foundation. He is past president of the S.C. Navy League, past president and director of the Hibernian Society, past chairman of the United Fund, and past director of the Coastal Council of Boy Scouts. Awarded The Order of the Palmetto in 1976.

Crew of the Hunley

The Confederate mariners who completed the first successful submarine attack in military history, then failed to return from their desperate mission. The Hunley crew's journey was long, not in distance, but time. The men, volunteers for a mission of extreme danger, left from Breach Inlet and sunk the Union blockade ship Housatonic on Feb. 17, 1864. The Hunley and its crew disappeared that night and their fate remained shrouded in mystery for 131 years until a painstaking search resulted in its discovery. Five years later, the submarine was raised intact from the ocean's floor in a complex operation, and taken to a laboratory in North Charleston where the crew's remains were painstakingly removed from the sediment that filled the vessel.