



For Immediate Release
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Ralph M. (Maxie) Burns, III Receives 2006 Independent Banks of South Carolina Leadership Award

Ralph M. (Maxie) Burns, III received the 2006 Independent Banks of South Carolina (IBSC) Leadership Award at the association's 42nd Annual Convention in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. The award is presented to a non-CEO community bank executive who has demonstrated by action and deed those characteristics associated with the image, perception and high standards of community banking. The recipient of the award is an active participant in community education activities, community and economic development, and volunteerism. Through participation and leadership of projects the recipient demonstrates the values and benefits derived from a citizenry working together to achieve an improved quality of life and lifestyle. Through these activities a community will become a better place to raise a family and conduct commerce for a brighter tomorrow.

Burns graduated with a B.A. Degree from Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Upon graduation he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps as a lieutenant. He began his banking career in 1975. Over the years he has been promoted from Assistant Cashier and is currently serving as Executive Vice President/ Finance and Operations for The Palmetto Bank, in Laurens, SC as well as Treasurer of Palmetto Bancshares, Inc.

He has been active in many civic, charitable, and professional organizations such as the Department of Social Services, Laurens County Health Care Trust, Piedmont Technical College Board of Visitors, Leadership Laurens County and the American Heart Association. In his banking career he has also had the privilege to serve with others on the board of the Young Bankers Division of The South Carolina Bankers Association and The Independent Banks of South Carolina. He is a graduate of The Stonier Graduate School of Banking also has served as a Student Advisor for the school.

In his spare time you will probably find him at a car show with one of his toys. He owns and enjoys muscle cars. He enjoys playing golf, even though it is a lot more frustrating than working on an

old car. Finally, he enjoys spending time at Ocean Drive where he can do a little shagging, go to car shows, and play golf. He has been a member of First Baptist Church in Laurens since he was a young boy. He has been married to his wife, Susan, for 31 years. They have 2 adult children, Claire and Blake.

The Independent Banks of South Carolina is an association of 68 locally owned and operated banks in South Carolina that promotes the interests and general welfare of the independent banks within the state.