



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
THE SENATE
COLUMBIA

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Dear Editor:

Charleston has a well-deserved reputation as a genteel city. We have been lauded for our area's hospitality and manners. Part of good manners is knowing when and how to say thank you. During the excitement and exuberance that followed the announcement of Boeing coming to our city, many legislative leaders and executive officials took well-deserved bows for doing their parts to make that dream a reality. However, part of saying thank you is saying it to those whose roles were indispensable but who performed them out of the spotlight.

One person whose role was vital to landing Boeing toiled day and night for months but kept his role quiet. His intelligence and civic pride fueled his drive to make sure that our city and state were successful in this historic endeavor, but his modesty directed that the acclaim go to others.

However, now is the time to set the record straight and allow us to properly thank him for his work.

Ric Tapp has long sought to serve our state and this area. He has volunteered his time for years on the State Infrastructure Bank and the Friends of the Hunley. Without his sharp legal mind and negotiation skills, the Hunley project would not have been as successful as it has been.

It was that work and my confidence in him that were the genesis for bringing together the team that was so successful in dealing with Boeing.

When Ric realized an unintended inference given to Boeing that the state of South Carolina might not be completely interested in negotiating for the Boeing expansion, he called together a group of senior legislative leaders to meet with a senior executive from the company.

That meeting showed we were serious about doing whatever we could to get Boeing. Boeing executives then knew that our state was on board and that the negotiations could begin in earnest.

Ric Tapp worked untold hours, including Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that everything was done and that there would be no slip between the cup and the lip. He did it not only for his client but also for his city and state. He knew, as we all do now, that this opportunity was too important to miss.

When there was an obstacle he would call me or my staff so that we could address it. Ric ensured that no glitch would derail this opportunity. The day before we announced that Boeing was coming to Charleston, it was Ric Tapp who tended to the last issue Boeing had so the deal could be completed in time.

Ric Tapp would be content remaining in the shadows and letting his work go unnoticed. He would say that Charleston and his client's success was recompense enough. His modesty aside, that is not right.

This event is too big and its ramifications are too great not to acknowledge what he did for Charleston and for our state. Our citizens now and our children in the future will benefit from his hard work.

He deserves to be thanked, and Charlestonians are too polite not to say, "Thank you, Ric Tapp, for a job well done."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn F. McConnell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "G" and "M".

Glenn F. McConnell