



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

June 2, 2008

Ms. Debra M. Sofield
1815 East North Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29607

Dear Deb,

On behalf of the people of South Carolina, I am pleased to award you the Order of the Palmetto – our state's highest civilian honor for service. This award is in recognition of all you have done to better our part of the world over the years.

A life well spent is a life that includes others. As President of your own Executive Presentation Coaching Company, your reputation for excellence is known not only here in South Carolina, but literally across the world. You are an outstanding community, civic and business leader and have touched the lives of many along the way. You have been tireless as an ambassador for numerous causes, and I am impressed just looking at the breadth of your devotion to others – your work with the South Carolina Federation of Republican Women, the International Republic Institute and its sister organization, the Women's Democracy Network; your service as a Commissioner of Public Works for the Greenville Water System, as a former member of the Greenville City Council, as the leader of Greenville's First Monday Club, on the Board of Directors of The Women's Campaign School at Yale University and as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity; your contributions to Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government Women in Public Policy Program, Clemson University, the University of South Carolina and the Board of the Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics - as well as countless other noteworthy causes too numerous to mention. You have given generously of your time and talents to these and many other worthwhile endeavors, and each has greatly benefited from your leadership, wisdom, encouragement and strong support. Your good works have had a positive impact on citizens across our state, and your efforts have made South Carolina a better place to live, work, learn, and play. How fitting are the words of one who wrote me on your behalf, "Deb truly loves South Carolina and her people."

You capture the essence of a lady who considers it an honor and privilege to serve others, and South Carolina is blessed by your faithful service. Thank you for upholding the highest ideals of servant leadership in everything you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MS", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford

MS/jbn