



JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

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CHARLESTON VISITOR CENTER TRANSIT MALL DEDICATED IN HONOR OF HOWARD R. CHAPMAN

Charleston, S.C. – Today, Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. and members of City Council dedicated the Visitor Center Transit Mall in honor of Howard R. Chapman. Family, friends and former colleagues joined Howard Chapman in celebrating the dedication.

City Council voted in favor of a resolution dedicating the transit mall in honor of Howard Chapman on August 16, 2011, after he announced his retirement as the executive director of CARTA, after 42 years of public service.

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. said, “Howard’s service to the city has been extraordinary. He was very much involved in the Visitor Reception and Transportation Center planning, funding and development. He helped create the DASH system, which the city developed and operated before CARTA was formed. The DASH system and the Visitor Center have been of extraordinary benefit to the city and our community. Howard also was very much involved in hurricane preparation and recovery. His work during Hurricane Hugo in 1989 was of extraordinary value.”

Howard Chapman is a Registered Professional Engineer and has served the Charleston Area in a multitude of transportation roles where he has overseen the changeover of Charleston’s Transit System from S.C.E.&G. to CARTA. On July 1, 1999, he became the Executive Director of the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority/CARTA after serving as the Interim Executive Director for the agency since its 1997 inception. He was the Director of the Department of Traffic and Transportation in Charleston, SC from 1971 to 1999 except for approximately one year as the City Engineer and Traffic Engineer in Boca Raton, Florida, between February, 1977 and March, 1978. He also served as Chairman of the Charleston County Transportation Committee from 1999 to 2006. He currently serves as a member of that Committee and is currently also a member of the Mount Pleasant Planning Commission.

In September 1999, he served on a 3-man committee appointed by South Carolina Governor James H. Hodges to investigate the SC Evacuation Program for Hurricanes after Hurricane Floyd. That committee developed the concept currently in use regarding highway reversals to facilitate faster emergency evacuations.

During the period of September 21, 1989, after Hurricane Hugo until August 1990, he assisted with distribution of food, clothing, and building supplies throughout the Lowcountry area of South Carolina. He served as Director of Emergency Operations for the City of Charleston until 2005. He has also worked with the South Carolina Downtown Development Association on a number of Main Street programs throughout South Carolina.

In August of 1992, the day before Hurricane Andrew, Mr. Chapman was dispatched to Florida and served as a Special Assistant to Lieutenant Governor Buddy McKay, as well as being part of the President's Task Force with Secretary of Transportation Andrew Card, providing special services to the hurricane victims in Florida. During the 1993 base closure round, he assisted with developing the plan for closure and realignment of several naval facilities in the Charleston area. He was cited by the Commission for his efforts and given the distinction of Honorary Member of the Commission.

He received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from The Virginia Military Institute and his Master's Degree from the University of South Carolina and is a Lieutenant in the US Air Force Reserves/Retired. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. As a Fellow with the Institute of Transportation Engineers, he has served through officer ranks, including President for the Southern Section Institute of Transportation Engineers, which is the predecessor of the District 5 organization. He was named Transportation Engineer of the Year in South Carolina, 1983, and is an active participant in legislative issues in South Carolina. Mr. Chapman is listed in a number of "Who's Who" publications, including "Who's Who in America". In 1990, 1991, and 1992 he was a finalist in the American Public Works Top Ten Leaders program. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Fraternity. He has served as President of the State Safety Council and was on their board as an officer when the State Safety Council was created. Mr. Chapman was a founding member of the Mount Pleasant Tree Commission and has authored a number of publications.

Mr. Chapman continues his active community service as a 2011 recipient of the ITE/Southern District John F. Exnicios Government Employee Outstanding Service Award and with his June 2013 induction into the South Carolina State Guard as a Captain.

FOR MORE INFO:

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