



Georgetown County Government

July 13, 2020

Former longtime County Council Chairman Johnny Morant has passed away

It is with the utmost sadness that we inform you of the passing of Johnny Morant, former longtime chairman of Georgetown County Council. Mr. Morant passed away on Sunday, July 12, 2020. He was 69. He is dearly missed by his family, including his wife, Janice and their two children; countless friends and colleagues; and staff and elected leaders across all of Georgetown County Government.

Mr. Morant was a true public servant who cared deeply about his community and those who call it home. He served on Georgetown County Council for 25 years before retiring at the end of 2018. A retirement party at Choppee Recreation Center, one of the facilities constructed under his tenure, drew a packed house, and a plaque in the facility is dedicated to his leadership.

A resident of Plantersville, Mr. Morant along with his brother Louis was a partner in the law firm of Morant and Morant, LLC, in the City of Georgetown. He was a graduate of Savannah State University and the University of Illinois' law school. He was a member of Mt. Carmel United Baptist Church and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Mr. Morant was first elected to Georgetown County Council in 1993, and served as its chairman from 2008 until his retirement. In his time on Council he offered quiet, yet thoughtful leadership which helped Georgetown County navigate periods of intense growth and rapid change.

"There have been moments, I think, when people considered quietness to be a weakness. But Johnny, in his quiet way, let you know in no uncertain terms the route that we should take," recalled Austin Beard, a friend who served on Council with Mr. Morant. He added that Mr. Morant's leadership was invaluable to the county and improving the quality of life for its residents in the last decades.

"It's a true testament to his leadership that we were able to accomplish the kind of significant projects we did," said Sel Hemingway, former County Administrator and a longtime friend of Mr. Morant. They served on Council together before Hemingway was hired as



administrator. “I’ve admired his leadership and ability to remain calm in heated circumstances, even to the degree of calming me in some cases,” Hemingway said.

The loss of Johnny Morant is a blow to the entire Georgetown County Community, and those who knew him say he will surely go down in history as one of the county’s greatest leaders.

Upon his retirement from County Council in 2018, Mr. Morant listed his proudest accomplishments as those that improved the quality of life for communities – particularly the county’s rural communities. He named projects including bringing sewer access to communities in Browns Ferry, Choppee, Annie Village and Plantersville; as well as those that brought much needed parks and recreational opportunities to communities across the county, from the Waccamaw Neck to Choppee and Andrews.

As was his way, Mr. Morant brought the focus from himself back to the community in a speech during his retirement party. “The community has done a lot for me, has helped me throughout,” he told the crowd gathered to celebrate him at that time. “It isn’t about me or the council. We’re trying to do things that unite all of us. It’s about the community.”

We at Georgetown County offer our sincerest condolences to Mr. Morant’s family. Please keep them in your thoughts during this time of grief and mourning.

###