

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)
Assistant to the Democratic Leader
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
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Rep. Spratt Awarded the Order of the Palmetto

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC), a native of York who has risen to the leadership of the Congress, today was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the state of South Carolina's highest civilian honor, at a ceremony in Washington.

Governor Jim Hodges presented the award, which recognizes lifetime achievement and service to the state and nation.

"John Spratt is a leader for South Carolina," said Hodges, "and now a leader for our nation. He has earned the Order of the Palmetto, and for him, it is long overdue."

Spratt was recently elected Assistant to the Democratic Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, making him one of the top ten leaders of the 435-member body. In addition, this week he was re-elected the Ranking Member on the House Budget Committee, a post he has held for the past six years. He continues to serve as the second-ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee.

"I am a native South Carolinian, and proud of it," said Spratt. "Naturally, I am honored to receive one of the highest honors my state bestows. But I am honored even more to receive this award from someone I admire greatly, Governor Jim Hodges. He has served our state exceptionally well."

Spratt has been the Ranking Member on the Budget Committee since 1996. He was one of the four budget leaders in Congress who hammered out the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which helped put the budget in the black for the first time in thirty years. *Politics in America* calls Spratt "a battle-tested leader for his party on fiscal matters," and identifies him as "one of a handful who shape defense policy in the House."

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Note: Photo is attached. Cutline: Rep. John Spratt receives the Order of the Palmetto from Gov. Jim Hodges.