

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF DARLINGTON)

RESOLUTION NO. 803

CONGRATULATING *THE NEWS & PRESS* ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, in 1875, J.W. Hammond founded *The Darlington News* as a weekly publication committed to serving the citizens of Darlington; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1906, under the editorial leadership of A.J. Bethea, *The Darlington News* was rebranded as *The Darlington Press*; and

WHEREAS, throughout the early 20th century, *The Darlington News* and *The Darlington Press* each played pivotal roles in the local media landscape, often taking opposing views on issues to provide readers with a well-rounded perspective on community concerns; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 1909, the two newspapers officially merged to form *The News & Press*, a consolidation led by community leaders J. Monroe Spears, Thomas H. Coker, Jr., S.C. King, T.E. Stokes, and founding publisher J.W. Hammond, each of whom was instrumental in shaping the newspaper’s direction and purpose; and

WHEREAS, *The News & Press* has been woven into the fabric of Darlington County, dedicating itself to informing, engaging, and connecting the community while chronicling significant events and stories that define the area; and

WHEREAS, The newspaper’s ownership has reflected deep community ties, from Sarah Coffee’s sale of the paper in the 1950s to Morrell L. Thomas, Jr., who served as owner and publisher until his retirement in 2002; to his daughter, Ann Boyd Thomas, who continued as publisher until her passing in 2008; followed by his son, Morrell “Morrey” Thomas, III, who continued the family legacy until selling the newspaper in 2020; and

WHEREAS, *The News & Press* is now owned and operated by the Herald Publishing, which also manages *The Dillon Herald* and *Golden Life* magazine; and

WHEREAS, as *The News & Press* celebrates its 150th anniversary, it remains steadfast in its original mission to serve the people of Darlington County with journalistic integrity and community spirit.

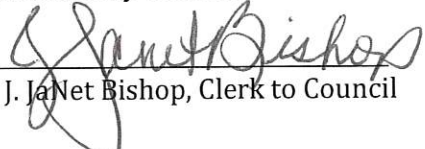
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of Darlington County, South Carolina, the Darlington County Council, to hereby congratulate *The News & Press* on its 150 years of service to Darlington County, honor its longstanding service and contributions to the community, and extend best wishes for its continued success for generations to come.

Adopted by the Darlington County Council on September 8, 2025.





Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Attest: 
J. Janet Bishop, Clerk to Council