



Thomas B. Murphy Legacy Award

This award, formally known as the Longevity of Service Award, is presented to Southern state legislators who have distinguished themselves by dutifully serving their constituents during their years in the legislature and who have been active participants in the Southern Legislative Conference. Named in honor of the late Thomas B. Murphy, Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives from 1973 until 2002, making him the third longest-serving House Speaker of any U.S. state legislature.

YEAR	RECIPIENT, STATE	YEARS OF SERVICE	YEAR	RECIPIENT, STATE	YEARS OF SERVICE
1994	Senator Marshall Williams, SC	47	2008	Senator Douglas Henry, TN	41
1995	Senator Gene Stipe, OK	46	2009	Senator R.C. Soles, Jr., NC	40
1996	Representative Pete Turnham, AL	42	2010	Senator John A. Alario, Jr., LA	39
1997	Senator Hugh Gillis, GA	49	2011	Senator John Whitmire, TX	38
1997	Representative Charles W. Stewart, Jr., AR	43	2012	Senator Tommy A. Gollott, MS	44
1997	Representative Bill Lee, GA	41	2013	Senator J.T "Jabo" Waggoner, AL	39
1998	Representative Gene Copeland, MO	38	2014	Representative Tom Burch, KY	37
1999	Representative Liston B. Ramsey, NC	37	2015	Representative Calvin Smyre, GA	40
1999	Lt. Governor John S. Wilder, TN	37	2016	Senator Gerald O. Dial, AL	37
2000	Representative Jim Bruce, KY	36	2017	Lt. Governor Randy McNally, TN	39
2000	Senate Preseident Pro Tem Bill Sharpe, WV	36	2018	Representative Julia Howard, NC	30
2001	Speaker Thomas B. Murphy, GA	40	2019	SLC cancelled - no recipient	—
2002	Senator Wayne Goode, MO	40	2020	SLC cancelled - no recipient	—
2002	Representative Shelby Rhinehart, TN	37	2021	Senator Emmet Hanger, VA	35
2003	Senator Norman R. Stone, Jr., MD	40+	2022	Representative Howard Sanderford, AL	34
2004	Delegate Pauline Menes, MD	38+	2022	Speaker Pro Tempore Victor Gaston, AL	40
2004	Senator Curtis Person, TN	38+	2023	Senator Nikki Setzler, SC	46
2005	Representative Adrian Arnold, KY	31	2024	Speaker Mathew J. Shepherd, AR	14
2006	Senate President Pro Tem Emeritus John W. Drummond, SC	41	2025	Senator Hillman Frazier, MS	45
2007	Delegate Lacey E. Putney, VA	45	2026	Representative Dirk Deaton, MO	8