

SC CAP Member Receives Order of the Palmetto

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Senior Member (SM) John Hodge (MER-SC-001) was awarded the highest honor that South Carolina can give, the Order of the Palmetto, presented on 21 May 2008 by Governor Mark Sanford.

SM Hodge, along with Bob Seigler and William Vartorella, received this award on behalf of his leadership in locating and raising the remains of a B-25C that crashed into Lake Murray on 5 April 1943 on a training mission. The crew escaped from the aircraft before it sank. Five such aircraft are believed to have crashed into this lake during practice bombing missions.

The aircraft is now in an Alabama museum. Given the poor condition of the aircraft, it will not be restored. Photos and a video on the raising of the World War II aircraft are on display at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.

A partially restored B-25, recovered from Lake Greenwood, is housed in the historic Curtiss-Wright Hanger at Columbia Downtown Owens Field (CUB).

SM Hodge is an attorney with Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd in Columbia.