

The Press and Standard

OPINION

Taylor M. Smith III, Editor and Publisher
Hal Welch, General Manager
Charles Rowland, Editorial Page Editor
Katrena Smoak McCall, Production Editor

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

YOUR VIEW

Visit to Walterboro inspires a return trip

Dear Editor:

On my recent invited trip as a journalist for the Press Tour, organized by David Smalls and Donna Laird of the Walterboro-Colleton County Chamber of Commerce, I was overwhelmed by the Southern charm so graciously given to me while in town. My faith has been restored!

As a South Carolinian, now living in Florida, I found Walterboro brought me back home to "dripping moss," Southern sweet tea, friendly people and gracious living. I have missed those greetings of "Good morning," "How you doing?," "So glad to see you," "Welcome!," "Bless your heart," "Thank you," and "Come over to see me sometime." For some reason, in Florida we hear "Oh, it's you again," "You still alive?," "When you going North?," "What's up?," "This place is too hot for me!" and "I thought you were dead."

The friendship offered to me was like being home again and seeing all of my friends. Although I have never been to Walterboro, but passed by it many times, I will never make that mistake again. From the very comfortable Hampton Bed and Breakfast, my special tour through the Great Swamp Sanctuary, the very impressive Bachelor Hill Antiques, the beautiful Orange Grove Place, the downtown district of Walterboro and walking tour of historical sites, the exceptional Artisans Center, a county tour to Edisto Island and Botany Bay Plantation, the kick-off for Antiques, History and Arts Festival and the delicious barbecue and the fun of the tractor parade, I will remember each and

every moment and think back on them while sweltering away this summer in Flagler Beach, Fla.

From my first meeting with our mayor Bill Young, chief of police Otis Rhodes and city manager Jeff Lord, I became a citizen in my heart for the day. How lucky you are to have those elected officials and other chosen leaders who care and love their Walterboro.

As I said goodbye and drove out of town on my sad day, I will always look back and wonder, "What the heck was I thinking about when I had the idea that Florida was paradise?" Bring me back home and bury me in the Lowcountry.

Thank you, Walterboro. You are fantastic and I will be telling my readers about ya!

Glenn Arnette III
Daytona Beach, Fla.