

growth of Isle of Palms, working hard to make sure the Isle of Palms Connector would be built and speaking at its dedication in 1993. Construction on the bridge, which spans the Intracoastal Waterway, connecting Mount Pleasant with the island, began in 1990, the year after Hurricane Hugo swept through the Lowcountry, destroying everything in its path, including many Isle of Palms homes and businesses.

Until the Connector was built, the only way to reach IOP by car was through Sullivan's Island.

"As mayor of Charleston, I had a regional responsibility," Riley said. "As the mayor of the largest city in the region, it was my job to help promote the entire community's success."

Riley, who began his first of 10 terms as mayor of Charleston in December 1975, turned 74 in January 2017. He still takes walks on the beach that has served as a playground for his family for more than 70 years.

"I loved IOP then and I love it now," he commented. "I spent part of every summer of my life on Isle of Palms." 🌴



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