

**F****D****I****FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN IRAN****Former South Carolina Governor Joins FDI Board**

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Former South Carolina Governor David M. Beasley has been elected to the Board of the Foundation for Democracy in Iran, FDI chairman Nader Afshar announced today.

“Governor Beasley brings a wealth of political experience and international contacts to FDI. We are especially pleased that Gov. Beasley has agreed to make room for the people of Iran and their aspirations toward freedom in his busy schedule,” Afshar said.

As Governor of South Carolina from 1995-1999, David Beasley was best known for combining Christian ethics with conservative economics. Since leaving office, Gov. Beasley has been a senior advisor to Merrill Lynch, managed a family-owned bank, and incorporated the Center for Global Strategies, Ltd., an investment group that promotes ethical development in the Third World. He has worked with war refugees in Sri Lanka, Kosovo and Darfur, and in recent years has worked extensively in the Middle East. In 2003, he received the prestigious Profile in Courage award from the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

“I look forward to working with FDI on their important mission of empowering the Iranian people to achieve freedom and democracy,” Beasley said.

During his term in office, Governor Beasley led delegations on economic development and trade missions to countries throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa. His economic development efforts resulted in the recruitment or expansion of more than 400 large corporations in South Carolina, including BMW, Honda, Fuji, Bose, Michelin, and Bridgestone/Firestone.

In 1997, the nation’s 32 Republican governors elected David Beasley chairman of the national Republican Governors Association. Under his leadership in that position, the Association set fund-raising records and the Republican Party continued to dominate the nation’s Statehouses.

“I am thrilled to be working with Gov. Beasley to expand FDI’s reach,” FDI president Kenneth R. Timmerman said.

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