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**REV. DR. CLEMENTA CARLOS PINCKNEY POSTHUMOUSLY INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME**

WASHINGTON, DC (October 12) – Rev. Dr. Clementa Carlos Pinckney was posthumously inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on October 12 for his lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H.

Honored by Clemson University and the South Carolina 4-H Youth Development Program, Pinckney was one of 20 people inducted during the ceremony held at the Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Jennifer Pinckney of Columbia, South Carolina, wife of the late Rev. Dr. Clementa Carlos Pinckney accepted the recognition.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council; the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4-HYDP); or the Division of Youth and 4-H, United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA)National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

Honorees were presented with a National 4-H Hall of Fame medallion, plaque, and memory book during the ceremony. The National 4-H Hall of Fame was established in 2002 as part of the Centennial Project of National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in partnership with National 4-H Council and National 4-H Headquarters at USDA.

“We are proud to recognize the 2021 National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees for the passion, dedication, vision, and leadership they have shown toward young people during their many years of service to 4-H,” says Jeannette Rea Keywood, National 4-H Hall of Fame Committee Chair.

Clementa Carlos Pinckney began his 4-H career at the age of 9 and his main projects were public speaking and debating. He served as club president and also ambitiously participated in citizenship activities, the corn muffin contest, the poultry barbecue contest, leadership activities, and other 4-H projects. He was the State Winner in the 4-H Public Speaking Contest. His 4-H Agent characterized Senator Pinckney as extraordinarily kind-hearted; she believed his kind-heartedness was embedded in his genes. In 1996, Pinckney became the youngest African American man elected to the [South Carolina General Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Carolina_General_Assembly) in the House at the age of twenty-three. He was elected to the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Carolina_Senate) in 2000, where he served until his death. While serving in the General Assembly, Pinckney was a strong advocate for [black rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_rights) throughout his career. Every year during the 4-H Legislative Day, Senator Pinckney would always ask to share with the youth. He attributed to 4-H his leadership and public speaking skills. He would tell groups the 4-H Motto, “Learn By Doing” and how it helped him. He never forgot his 4-H experience and remained a great 4-H supporter. On June 17, 2015, Pinckney was murdered by [Dylann Roof](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dylann_Roof) in [a racially motivated mass shooting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charleston_church_shooting) at an evening Bible study at the church. Upon his death, the 4-H Pinckney Leadership program was founded by the State Legislators. The 4-H Pinckney Leadership program is designed for middle and high school students to develop their leadership abilities and awareness in civic engagement and set forth the standards and principles valued by Senator Pinckney. The goal is to empower youth to serve with compassion, lead with humility, and inspire others through integrity equipping them to be strong leaders, positive role models and engaged citizens ensuring Senator Pinckney’s legacy continues.

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