

Pamela Martin PSC215A01

A few days before my eighteenth birthday, my Grandmother gave me a precious gift. It was a broach that she received as an award from the Order of the Eastern Star. She had participated in a debate in 1909 for women's right to vote. It was not until August 26, 1920, that women were granted the full right to vote in all states of the United States. When she gave the broach to me she asked that I vote at every opportunity and to wear it in honor of the women who worked so diligently to gain the right to vote. I have done as she requested proudly.

With the state and national elections coming up in November, I would like to encourage everyone to register and to exercise their right to vote. It is a fairly simple process to register but there is a deadline of October 10, 2008, to be able to vote in the November election.

Some of the information on the voter registration form includes Social Security number, choice of party, race/ethnic group, and signature. To register in South Carolina you must be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 by November, be a resident of South Carolina. Also, you have to be mentally competent and not to have been convicted of election law offenses. First time registrants may need to provide proof of residency documentation.

Please visit [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org) for complete voter registration information as well as links to County Boards of Voter Registration. This site can also be used to update your registration information in case of a name or address change within the same county.

Your voice is very important and I hope that you will exercise your right to vote in the state and federal elections with honor.