

February 11, 2016

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

Please let me call to your attention the anticipated 100th birthday celebration of Mrs. Lillie Alma Patton Devlin on April 9, 2016. I write to respectfully request that you please honor my mother on this special occasion for her and our family by providing a letter of recognition, resolution, a note from the Governor or whatever form of recognition you normally use for such occasions. Please find some information below that could possibly assist you in this process.

Mrs. Lillie Alma Patton Devlin, (“Miss Lillie”), a lifetime resident of Greenwood County, was born April 13, 2016 (but will celebrate her birthday on April 9, 2016).

She is an excellent homemaker, loyal church member, and devoted friend who has made a difference in the lives of those she has touched. She and her late husband were determined to raise their family properly with the strong determination that their children would have a better life than theirs and have a greater opportunity to enjoy the American dream. In this effort, John C. and Lillie Devlin were successful. Of their surviving children, six earned college degrees. Of the six, three earned master degrees and one earned a Ph.D. degree, Yet what her children accomplished can never compare to what she did; they only stood upon the shoulders and achievements of this remarkable woman and mother.

“Miss Lillie”, a remarkable lady was born into a world that was not very friendly to her, but she made a way “out of no way” leaning heavily on an unwavering faith and belief that her children and grandchildren would enjoy a better life than she could ever imagine.

Educational opportunities for African Americans were limited during Ms. Lillie’s formative years in general and more so for the rural and poor. However, Professor Lillie used what she had in order to teach mathematics without a license or formal training by adding the values of love and hard-work to her life, subtracting a can’t do attitude from

her mind, multiplying these concepts in her home, church, and community and dividing them among her children.

Mrs. Devlin has been a stalwart example of dedication and service to her church. Her faith has embolden her through the good times and sustained her during the difficult ones. She believes that through all times “you have to take things as they come.”

Miss Lillie used her ability to serve her community especially at the former Promised Land Elementary School as a delegate to the State Education Association. Her reports to the PTA were works of beauty, defied educational achievement and were just another example of her strong belief that hard work creates achievement.

Miss Lillie is a truly amazing woman of courage and conviction who has devoted her life to her church, family, and community, and throughout her life has been sustained by the power of prayer and faith. Miss Lillie’s family expresses deep and abiding love to her because she has not given out of necessity but rather she has given **ALL** that she had to her children, church, friends, and community.

She will be honored at a birthday celebration on April 9, 2016, and this birthday will reflect upon and honor her life as a pillar at home, in the church and around the community.

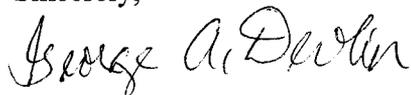
I hope that these notes will be helpful to you regarding this request. If you are able to do so, my mother will be honored and her family will be grateful.

Please feel free to contact me at 803.669.5400 if you have any questions or concerns or write me at:

2226 Margurette Street
Columbia, SC 29204

For the Devlin family, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George A. Devlin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George A. Devlin