

159 Swift Street  
Toccoa, Georgia 30577

July 10, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Nikki Haley:

I would like to start out by saying that you have been a great governor for South Carolina, but your proposal to take down the Confederate Flag from The State House was a bit irrational. You see, the Charleston shooter, Dylann Roof, wanted a race war. And by taking down the Confederate Flag because "it represents racism and slavery", you are giving the deranged shooter what he wanted.

To be completely honest, as a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student that is intrigued by history, I should tell you that the Confederate Flag does not necessarily represent racism or slavery. That flag represents the Confederate States of America (CSA), hence the name "Confederate Flag." The CSA used that as a symbol of unity. Yes, the south seceded because slavery was going to be abolished; however the plantation owners put every cent into the crops they had planted and when harvesting season came around, the farmers needed help with collecting the various crops. Since all of their money was into the crops, the plantation owners had no money to pay people to help harvest; that's where the slaves came in. In fact, the Confederate Flag has nothing to do with slavery and/or racism. The flag represents the south, and still does to this day.

You see, during the Civil War, the Confederate Flag was used to represent the CSA. Yes, some slaves were forced to fight for the Confederacy; however, during that time, there were more free African Americans in the south than there were in the union. But slaves weren't the only ones to be forced into fighting, free men were too, whether black or white. I understand that Dylann Roof was photographed with a gun and a Confederate Flag in his hand, but you have to look at the metaphorical meaning behind that. I heard on the news that he was interested by the Trayvon Martin case and the Ferguson Riots. I also heard the reporter say that he was racist, and by the shooter posing for that picture he was stating "The south will rise again" or in other words, he was pointing out that he was, in fact, racist.

Now that you have read my reasoning for finding your reasoning to take down the Confederate Flag unjustifiable, I hope that you and the State Senate rethink your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lm' or 'Larissa Meeks'.

Larissa Meeks