

Title: **State of grace? Not at the State House**

Author:

Size: 59.21 column inches

Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE STATE

State of grace? Not at the State House

IT FELT, FOR a too-brief time, like everything truly had changed.

After we were shocked by the horror of a pastor and eight members of his flock massacred in their church, for the sin of being black. After we stared into the face of pure evil — and then were bathed in redeeming grace as we witnessed, in those forgiving family members, deep and abiding faith. After our horror turned into compassion as we realized the faith that unites us is stronger than race or ideology or class or anything else that divides us.

After white South Carolina, inspired by that newly recognized kinship, was horrified anew to realize that out of our ignorance or indifference, we had caused pain to our fellow Christians, and our political leaders responded by removing the Confederate flag — the one the evil killer had wrapped himself in — from the grounds of our State House.

After all of that, we thought we were a new people.

People who understand the politics of South Carolina said they had to act immediately to remove the flag because waiting until January would be too long. This wouldn't last, at least not inside the State House. And a year after the massacre, it seems all too clear that they were right.

It was never realistic to think
 County: Horry

there would be policy changes beyond the flag, at least not in the short term. Even the politician who seemed the most deeply moved by the massacre, Gov. Nikki Haley, drew a very bright line between symbolism and tone on the one hand and public policy on the other.

She could have great empathy for the families of the Emanuel innocents; she could condemn a presidential candidate's inflammatory and divisive rhetoric. But in her worldview, expanding Medicaid was simply throwing good money after a bad program. Mourning the death of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, who considered expanding Medicaid a top political priority, would never change that.

In her worldview, the most dangerous thing about guns is that there aren't enough people carrying them. Her compassion for people whose loved ones were massacred with a gun that couldn't have been bought but for a loophole in federal gun laws wasn't going to change that. Nor would it change her support for tax cuts that Sen. Pinckney saw as stealing resources that could have helped the poor in other ways.

What did seem realistic following the massacre and the flag removal — a Kumbaya period that was extended by the grace-filled response to the

October floods — was that we might have a different kind of relationships and a different kind of dialogue. Relationships built on a willingness to consider the experiences and expectations and opinions of people

who have very different life experiences than we do. Dialogues that begin with looking afresh at assumptions we never really questioned.

After all, in the days after the Emanuel tragedy, our legislators reached across racial divides and talked and listened to each other in ways most of them never had before.

If that continued into 2016, it was subtle and sporadic at best. If white Republicans recognized that they had pursued policies that disproportionately injured black people, and rejected policies that would have offered a helping hand to those who need it most, they didn't let on. If black Democrats recognized that they had been too quick to assume deliberate racial motives on the part of Republicans, they didn't say so. If white and black, Republican and Democrat recognized that race is not always the motivation for others' actions, if they were willing to listen more openly and try harder to come to agreement on making South Carolina a better place for us all, it didn't show.

I don't suggest that lawmakers were extra divisive or went

out of their way to give or take offense. I mean they did not go out of their way to *not* give or take offense. There were no moments of insight, when they understood each other in ways they never imagined they could, no surprising new consensuses. They are no worse than they were a year ago. They are simply no better.

And what of the rest of us? Have we done any better than our leaders? Have we changed? Or have we scurried back to our safe places, where we have our opinions and assumptions affirmed by people who think like us and look like us and exist in the same echo-chamber as we do?

If we truly are people of faith and of good will, then the challenge remains as it ever has been: to love our neighbors as ourselves. To become people who are willing to apologize when we are wrong — and forgive when we are wronged. To become people who recognize that we sometimes do harm even when we mean no harm — and that others sometimes mean no injury even when they injure us.

We need to insist our elected leaders do the same — or else replace them with leaders who already have.

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Roads bill a small step forward

It took the entire legislative session, but South Carolina finally has a bill that will fund some needed infrastructure improvements. Unfortunately, the bill overwhelmingly approved by both houses last week does not go far enough.

So, while lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley applaud the funding and changes to the structure of DOT, the state essentially is where it was at the start of this legislative session: in need of a longterm, stable revenue source to bridge a tremendous gap in infrastructure funding.

Yes, the bill will do some short-term good. But it is far from a solution, and we should not let anyone sell it as such.

At the end of the day, the bill will send \$216 million in recurring revenue to infrastructure. That money will be used to leverage up to \$4.3 billion (including some existing money that will be freed) over 10 years for needed improvements. That's a lot of money, no doubt, but is a bit underwhelming in a state that needs more than \$700 million per year over 20 years.

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– Greenville News

Title: **Gov.Haley vetoes mo-ped safetybill**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 34.87 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



Gov. Haley vetoes mo-ped safety bill

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley has vetoed a mo-ped safety bill because it requires reflective vests for nighttime driving and helmets for drivers under 21.

The Republican governor says the mandates on adults represent government overreach.

People over 18 "should decide for themselves what they should wear for their personal safety," she wrote in her veto message, signed Friday.

Sen. Greg Hembree, R-North Myrtle Beach, said he believes mo-peds are the most dangerous vehicles for people to drive, partly because there are no regulations. He's been pushing for

safety legislation since his 2012 election.

"They're slower and you can't see them as well," Hembree said Monday about the need for vests. "That's how they get hit. They get run over at night."

According to the Department of Public Safety, 50 people died in moped crashes last year - 18 of those in Horry County. That's up from 32 moped deaths statewide in 2014 and 24 in 2013. At least 16 moped drivers and/or passengers have died so far this year.

In her veto letter, Haley said the proposed restrictions for mo-peds exceed those for motorcycle drivers.

But state law does require anyone under 21 who's

driving or riding on a motorcycle to wear a helmet. The motorcycle advocacy group ABATE - which stands for A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments - has long squashed any effort to require helmets for older riders.

But ABATE spokesman Chad Fuller said the group wanted legislators to add the helmet provision for mopeds.

"We supported them having the same regulations that we as motorcyclists have," he said. The group, of which Haley has been a member, took no position on the vest issue.

Legislators will decide later this week whether to overturn Haley's veto.

The moped bill would allow officers to charge intoxicated moped drivers with drunken driving.

"Literally, you can be stinking drunk on a mo-ped and can't be arrested," said Hembree, formerly the chief prosecutor for Horry and Georgetown counties.

That's because state law specifically excludes mopeds from the definition of a motor vehicle. Proposals to close that loophole have died repeatedly since 2010. People who lose their license due to a DUI conviction often use a moped to get around. In a state where public transportation is lacking, legislators didn't

SEE MO-PED, 10A

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MO-PED

want to prevent people from getting to work.

To solve that sticking point, the bill creates a special mo-ped license. People who lose their regular license, for whatever reason, can get the separate license, starting the point system

over. But a mo-ped license could be suspended too.

"If that happens, we're starting to lose sympathy for you. You're going to have to be walking," Hembree said.

The bill would require people to register their mo-

peds and attach a license plate, which the bill creates as a way to cut down on theft and identify mopeds in crashes. Mo-peds would still be exempt from property taxes and insurance.

The bill bars mo-ped drivers from traveling faster

than 35 mph. It requires them to drive in the farthest right lane on multi-lane roadways and makes it illegal for mopeds to be driven on highways where the posted speed limit is 55 mph or greater.

Title: **Three U.S. House races, legislative contests highlight primary**
 Author: BY BRUCE SMITH Associated Press
 Size: 35.03 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



Three U.S. House races, legislative contests highlight primary

BY BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press
 CHARLESTON

A record 3 million people are registered to vote in South Carolina, but don't expect any voting records to be set when voters go to the polls Tuesday in the state primary.

There are no statewide races, and in a relatively quiet campaign season, there are primaries in only three of the state's seven congressional districts. Across the state, 39 state legislators faces primary challenges.

A look at Tuesday's primary, in which polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.:

CONGRESSIONAL RACES

Incumbent Republican U.S. Reps. Mark Sanford and Mick Mulvaney face primary challengers on Tuesday.

Sanford, a former gover-

nor, faces state Rep. Jenny Horne of Summerville in the Lowcountry's 1st District in the congressional race that has attracted the most attention. Horne gained nationwide attention last year for her impassioned speech calling for the removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds in the wake of the shootings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

In the 5th District along the North Carolina border, Mulvaney, first elected six years ago, faces Ray Craig of Lake Wylie. In the other race in the 2nd District in the Midlands, Phil Black of Lexington meets Arik Bjorn of Columbia in the Democratic primary. The winner faces long-time incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson in the fall.

LEGISLATIVE RACES

The legislative races to watch are in the Senate, where Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is trying to oust several of its GOP leaders, while Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster and other Haley enemies are working to

re-elect them. Those targeted by Haley include Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman of Florence, Luke Rankin of Conway and Wes Hayes of Rock Hill.

Others facing tough challenges include Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin, R-Pickens, whose opponents include a former member of the state House.

GOP Sen. Lee Bright of Roebuck, who also faces three challengers, is the only incumbent publicly opposed by the state Chamber of Commerce. Its Good Government Committee is run-

FROM PAGE 3A

PRIMARY

ning radio ads against him.

In Charleston, former Democratic Sen. Robert Ford, who was convicted of misconduct in office and ethics violations, is trying to win his seat back from incumbent state Sen. Marlon Kimpson.

TURNOUT AND OTHER MATTERS

Chris Whitmire of the South Carolina Election Commission says the com-

mission doesn't make turnout projections, but notes turnout in past state primaries has ranged from 14 to 27 percent, depending on who and what issues were on the ballot.

The highest election turnout in state history was the presidential election four years ago, in which 1.9 million voters, or 69 percent of registered voters, went to the polls.

More than 1.1 million voters cast ballots earlier this year in the presidential preference primaries in the state, with almost 750,000 of those votes cast in the GOP primary.

Some voters will see driver license scanners at the polls Tuesday. Those devices allow poll workers to quickly identify voters so they don't have to punch in their names and look them up on computer screens.

Title: **Moped bill is 'overreach,' Haley says in veto message**
 Author: BY AVERY G. WILKS awilks@thestate.com
 Size: 17.05 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Moped bill is 'overreach,' Haley says in veto message

BY AVERY G. WILKS

awilks@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley has vetoed a bill that would require moped drivers younger than 21 to wear helmets and mandate all moped drivers wear reflective vests at night.

Haley wrote in her veto message Friday that the bill's requirements are inconsistent with laws for similar vehicles and constitute government overreach. "I believe that adults over the age of 18 – who are allowed to vote and serve our military – should decide for themselves what they should wear for their personal safety," she said.

State law already requires motorcycle drivers or passengers under 21 to wear a helmet.

Sen. Greg Hembree, R-Horry, who has pushed for moped safety measures since 2012, said the intent was to apply that requirement "to a vehicle that's even more dangerous, in my

opinion, than a motorcycle."

Hembree said lawmakers studying the issue found most people killed while driving mopeds were killed at night and were hit from behind. "They're riding on the highway going 30, and a car goes up behind them going 55 or 60 and, by the time they see them, they hit them," he said. Reflective vests are a solution, he said.

The bill also would require drivers to register mopeds with the state and follow the same traffic rules as all other vehicles. It would raise the minimum age to drive a moped to 15 from 14.

Haley said she supports parts of the bill. She said she wants to work to adopt a moped bill that "balances public safety with personal responsibility." Lawmakers will return to Columbia Wednesday to decide whether to overturn Haley's veto.

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After white South Carolina, inspired by that newly recognized kinship, was horrified anew to realize that out of our ignorance or indifference, we had caused pain to our fellow Christians, and our political leaders responded by removing the Confederate flag — the one the evil killer had wrapped himself in — from the grounds of our State House.

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It was never realistic to think

there would be policy changes beyond the flag, at least not in the short term. Even the politician who seemed the most deeply moved by the massacre, Gov. Nikki Haley, drew a very bright line between symbolism and tone on the one hand and public policy on the other.

She could have great empathy for the families of the Emanuel innocents; she could condemn a presidential candidate's inflammatory and divisive rhetoric. But in her worldview, expanding Medicaid was simply throwing good money after a bad program. Mourning the death of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, who considered expanding Medicaid a top political priority, would never change that.

In her worldview, the most dangerous thing about guns is that there aren't enough people carrying them. Her compassion for people whose loved ones were massacred with a gun that couldn't have been bought but for a loophole in federal gun laws wasn't going to change that. Nor would it change her support for tax cuts that Sen. Pinckney saw as stealing resources that could have helped the poor in other ways.

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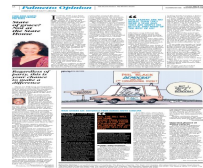


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– Greenville News

Title: **Mayor: Prayers of Charleston with those in Orlando**
Author:
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Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



Mayor: Prayers of Charleston with those in Orlando

CHARLESTON

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg says the prayers of Charlestonians are with those in Orlando after 50 people were killed there in the worst mass shooting in American history.

Tecklenburg says in a statement it was a year ago that Charlestonians came face-to-face with the same kind of evil that those in Orlando must now reckon with.

The anniversary of shootings of nine parishioners at Emanuel AME Church is Friday.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says her heart hurts at the news from Orlando shootings.

"We don't have to agree all the time but hate is never the answer," she said on her Twitter account Sunday. "Pray for the injured & the families of the victims."