

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** with its roots in associations of stone masons in the Middle Ages, Freemasonry is the oldest fraternal organization in the world, promoting care for the less fortunate, citizenship, and good character among its members; and

**WHEREAS,** there are 293 Masonic lodges under the guidance of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina, with the first having been established in 1735; and

**WHEREAS,** as a philanthropic organization, Masonic lodges across the Palmetto State support local charities, including VA centers, juvenile diabetes, and breast cancer research; and

**WHEREAS,** Masons in South Carolina are celebrating 279 years of Masonry in our state.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 23, 2015, as

### SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND LODGE OF MASONS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize our Masons for their contributions to the Palmetto State through their acts of good works and goodwill.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**NIKKI R. HALEY**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**