



Diversity and Inclusion

June 28, 2016

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor
State of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street, West Wing
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor:

I want to commend you for your most recent remarks at the June 17th memorial service at the T. D. Arena on June 17th observing the first year anniversary of the Emanuel Nine tragedy. I was honored to be a guest of Bishop Norris and Pastor Clark and I thank you so much for your heart warming recognition of those who were lost and your spot on recognition of each family member. Bringing the funeral programs from last year's services was incredibly powerful and showed authentic compassion.

I was standing near you last year in Charleston when you spoke to the news media in Charleston after the tragedy, and I attended your news conference in the State House rotunda when you called for removing the Confederate flag from the State House grounds and I watched you choke up during the State of the State message in January. You are a person who learns from

experiences and that is a gift beyond measure. Tears are a gift. Remember that.

The proximity to the suffering of others leads to empathy, which is so much more valuable than mere sympathy because it means that you are taking on the pain of others. That leads to understanding, forgiveness and, ultimately, to reconciliation. You moved through each of these phases with grace, dignity and courage.

I want you to know how proud I am of your strong leadership for healing in our state and trust that you will continue to walk the walk.

My thanks, again, and congratulations for the empathy and courage you have given us all. This is what you will be remembered for.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bud Ferillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bud Ferillo,

Coordinator

South Carolina Collaborative

For Racial Reconciliation

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