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## 148 S.C.'s McMaster earns his moment in the GOP convention's spotlight

BY JAMIE SELF  
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### COLUMBIA

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster's political clout is about to grow stronger.

As Donald Trump's nomination as the GOP's presidential pick draws near, the billionaire businessman has asked McMaster to play a "prominent role" at this week's Republican National Convention in Cleveland, said Trump's

would play, except to say it would be in prime time early in the week.

"Mr. Trump is a very loyal man," said McMullen, president of a Columbia public affairs firm.

"He respects and appreciates what Henry did," being the first statewide official to campaign for Trump across South Carolina. "As a result, Henry will have a prominent role at the convention."

A convention role would repay the Columbia Republican for his support of Trump at a time when the businessman was facing a critical contest in South Carolina's first-in-the-South primary.

In January, McMaster became the first statewide elected official in the country to endorse Trump,

S.C. chairman Ed McMullen.

McMaster was not included in a list of convention speakers released Thursday by the Republican Nation-

al Convention. And McMullen, in New York last week helping plan convention details, did not provide details on what role McMaster

SEE MCMASTER, 3A

Early support of Trump earns S.C. lieutenant governor 'prominent role' on Republican National Convention's stage, Trump's S.C. chairman says

If Trump wins White House, spotlight could help propel McMaster to higher offices, including S.C. governor

'Would Henry be on the short list for (U.S.) attorney general? He probably would,' one S.C. Republican says

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# MCMMASTER

surprising South Carolina's political elite. Subsequently, McMaster attended Trump rallies across the state, introducing the candidate.

"I'm somewhat of a novelty," McMaster said last week of his early support of Trump, who won South Carolina's pivotal primary with 33 percent of the vote.

"We are headed to the ash-heap of history if we don't change," McMaster said. "That's why I'm supporting Donald Trump. He's the man for our time. He's uniquely equipped to do the kind of work and make the kind of decisions, and present the kind of image of strength and determination that we need."

Beyond a convention role, McMaster's early support for Trump could bear bigger fruit for the lieutenant governor if Trump wins the White House, S.C. political observers say.

After a failed gubernatorial bid in 2010, McMaster says he's interested in running for governor again in 2018.

Asked whether support from a President Trump would boost McMaster's gubernatorial ambitions, former S.C. GOP chair Karen Floyd responded, "Absolutely."

"Donald Trump will be the next president of the United States, and it certainly is helpful when the president has had someone come out as early as ... the lieutenant governor did."

Former S.C. GOP chairman Katon Dawson said McMaster also could get a job in a Trump Administration.

"Would Henry be on the short list for (U.S.) Attorney General?" Dawson said. "He probably would be. He'd be on the short list."

## AN RNC BOOST FOR SC AMBITIONS?

Whether Trump's backing

would help McMaster in the 2018 governor's race is uncertain, Dawson said.

The governor's race is "very personal" for S.C. voters. Candidates also have a hard time getting high-profile backers - including presidents - to campaign with them unless they're already leading in the polls, he added.

Having backed Trump could pay off or backfire for McMaster, Dawson added.

"If Donald Trump is successful, Henry will get some credit for it. If Donald Trump is not successful, Henry will get some blame for that because Henry is the point man for Donald Trump."

McMaster also has "historic obstacles" to overcome if he runs for governor again, said Scott Buchanan, a political scientist at The Citadel.

The lieutenant governor's office - which oversees the state's Office on Aging and presides over the state Senate - is not commonly a stepping stone into the governor's office, Buchanan said.

McMaster's age - 69 - also could present an obstacle.

"Historically, there's a tendency to elect younger people to the governor's office," Buchanan said, noting the "knock on Strom Thurmond way back in '46" was that "he was too old to be governor."

McMaster was a GOP establishment candidate in 2010 when he ran for governor. But he came in third in the Republican primary, trailing little-known Lexington State Rep. Nikki Haley, then 38, and then-U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett. Haley beat Barrett in a primary runoff to win the nomination.

If McMaster runs for governor again in 2018, he also could lean on some political alliances he nurtured this year.

McMaster backed several longtime GOP state senators - including state Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and Luke Rankin, R-Horry - in their June reelection bids against Republican challengers supported by Gov. Haley. McMaster's picks could return the support in two years.

McMaster said he has no plans to campaign for governor in Cleveland.

"My plan in Cleveland is to do everything I can to see that Donald Trump gets elected," he said. "If that does not happen - if we do not form the team and develop the energy to get him elected - then the nation's going to suffer, and if this nation suffers, the world suffers."

## ANOTHER CONVENTION HONOR

Whether a prominent role at the convention would outshine some of his other political highlights is debatable, McMaster said. "Every moment is a great moment."

McMaster's political resume is long.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina's law school, McMaster was the first U.S. attorney Ronald Reagan appointed after he won the White House.

In 1986, McMaster ran for U.S. Senate but was defeated by Democratic incumbent Fritz Hollings. In a debate, Hollings famously told McMaster he would take a drug test - as McMaster challenged - if his Republican opponent would take an IQ test.

McMaster lost that race, before Republicans dominated S.C. politics.

But with McMaster as S.C. GOP chairman - from 1993 to 2002 - Republicans took control of the S.C. House, state Senate and won back the governor's office.

If the Trump campaign

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awards McMaster with a role in Cleveland, it will not be the first time the Columbia Republican has received a convention honor from a GOP presidential nominee.

Then-GOP nominee John McCain made McMaster the 2008 national convention's sergeant at arms - a tip of the hat to then-Attorney General McMaster for his support in the S.C. GOP primary.

"He took it very much as a serious working position and actually worked it," said Trey Walker, a longtime McMaster aide and former S.C. GOP executive director,

recalling photos showing McMaster escorting people out of the convention hall.

McCain showed his closeness to McMaster in other ways, too, Walker said.

In 2009, the U.S. senator from Arizona invited McMaster, then weighing a run for governor, and his wife to Phoenix to meet his political donors and friends, said Walker, who also went on the trip.

Today, Walker wonders how McMaster's political future - and that of other high-profile McCain supporters in South Carolina, including U.S. Sen. Lindsey

Graham - would have turned out differently had McCain

won the White House, instead of losing to then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama.

"We can only be left to think about what the world would look like" if McCain had won, Walker said.

"You would wonder ... what would have happened for people like Lindsey Graham (and) Henry McMaster if John McCain had become president."

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WE ARE HEADED TO THE ASH-HEAP OF HISTORY IF WE DON'T CHANGE. THAT'S WHY I'M SUPPORTING DONALD TRUMP. ... HE'S UNIQUELY EQUIPPED TO DO THE KIND OF WORK ... AND PRESENT THE KIND OF IMAGE OF STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION THAT WE NEED.

*Ed McMullen, Donald Trump's S.C. chairman*

## S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster and the GOP

The longtime S.C. GOP loyalist is about to get a role at Donald Trump's GOP convention. A look at some of McMaster's political highlights:

- **1981:** First U.S. attorney appointed by newly elected GOP President Ronald Reagan

- **1993-2002:** Chairman of the S.C. Republican Party, a period of rising dominance for the state GOP

- **2002:** Elected S.C. attorney general, serving two four-year terms

- **2008:** Named sergeant at arms for the Republican national convention that

nominated John McCain for president

- **2014:** Elected S.C. lieutenant governor

- **2016:** Becomes first statewide elected official nationally to endorse Donald Trump for the GOP presidential nomination



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# 148 + 77 What happened to the pole that flew the Confederate flag?

Flag hangs in The Citadel chapel

Heritage Act, legislative inaction frustrates local leaders

BY RODDIE BURRIS  
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Here's a look some of the things that have happened around South Carolina since the Confederate flag was removed from The State House grounds a year ago.

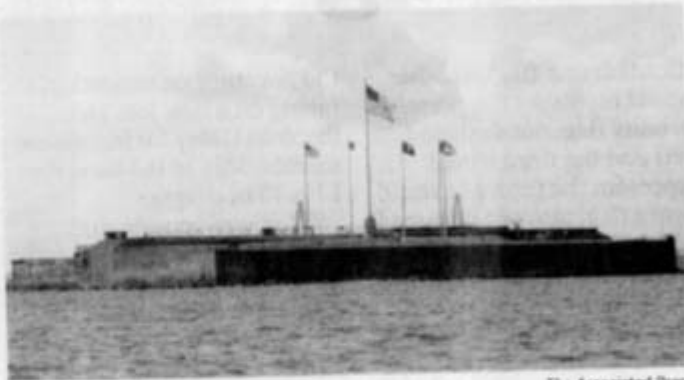
## THE FLAG POLE REMAINS IN STORAGE

On July 10, 2015, the flagpole that held the Confederate flag in front of the State House was transported to the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, according to Lindsey O. Kremlick, policy and public affairs director in the South Carolina Department of Administration. The flagpole is being stored in space owned by the South Carolina State Museum, according to officials with the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Museum.

The flagpole's future fate is undetermined at this point, those officials say.

## FLAG HANGS IN THE CITADEL CHAPEL

The Confederate flag still hangs in Summerall Chapel at The Citadel, just as it has since 1939. In April, the U.S. House of Representatives rebuffed an effort to force removal of the symbol by



The Associated Press

Fort Sumter in the harbor in Charleston is seen in this July 18, 2013, photo.

cutting off federal dollars to the institution.

The effort, initiated by U.S. Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., and championed by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, would have prevented the Defense Department from giving federal money to ROTC programs at schools that fly the Confederate flag.

The House Armed Services Committee rejected the legislation, even though The Citadel Board of Directors voted last year 9 to 3 to remove the flag after the Charleston shootings. S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley spurned federal intervention in removing the symbol from The Citadel, calling instead for the issue to be addressed through the state General Assembly.

## GREENWOOD WAR MEMORIAL

A memorial honoring World War I and World War II soldiers in Greenwood County still lists the names of fallen fighters by race -

black or white. But that may change, because keeping the memorial intact is under a court challenge.

Local efforts to combine the names of the black slain soldiers with those of the slain white soldiers on the monument have netted \$15,000, but leaders now need the state's blessings.

The memorial, like thousands of others around the state, is 'protected' by a law passed in 2000, the S.C. Heritage Act.

But local leaders have filed a lawsuit seeking removal of the restrictions. The complainants allege the state law imposes restrictions on the free speech privileges of local residents to modify their own monuments.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, state Attorney General Alan Wilson and S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, have asked Circuit Court Judge Frank Addy Jr. to dismiss the case, but Addy so far has not ruled on the motion.



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## CONFEDERATE FLAGS AT FORT SUMTER

Two Confederate flags and two historical United States flags that long flew over Fort Sumter in Charleston were temporarily removed from the Civil War site last year after the slaying of nine black worshippers inside Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

They were later re-located to a place inside the fort. The flags were removed from the Fort's outer wall to the parade grounds inside the Fort.

The flags, which were not protected or controlled by the state Heritage Act, remained down for a couple of months while the U.S. Park Service reviewed the display of the flags at Fort Sumter, where the first shots were fired in the Civil War.

## BEN TILLMAN'S MONUMENT AT THE STATE HOUSE

"Pitchfork" Ben Tillman is memorialized with an 8-foot bronze and granite monument in one of the most visible locations on the State House grounds, right beside the intersection of Gervais Street and Main Street.

Benjamin Ryan Tillman was an S.C. governor, U.S. senator, avowed white supremacist and key member of the Red Shirts, a violent group of the late 19th century known for murdering black people after the Civil War.

Buildings at Clemson and Winthrop universities are named for Tillman, who played a key role in creating both institutions. Discussions of changing the name of the buildings at both institutions increased in intensity after the Charleston killings, but both schools say they are at the mercy of the Heritage Act, which says on the General Assembly has the power to change the names.

## Joe Dennis Fitch

January 10, 1937 - July 7, 2016

### INDIAN TRAIL

Joe Dennis Fitch, 79, of Indian Trail, North Carolina, passed early in the morning of July 7, 2016, at his home.



Joe was born January 10, 1937, in Shelby, North Carolina. He retired in 2011 from Mid-South Consulting Engineers. Joe was a

member and devoted servant of Christ at Charlotte Gospel Chapel.

Joe was preceded in death by his daughter, Jane Fitch of Waxhaw, North Carolina.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Joanne Fitch; his children, Gretchen Birdwell and her husband, Buddy, of Birmingham, Alabama, Dennis Fitch of St. Joe, Florida, Deborah Best and her husband, Mitchell, of Stoney Point, North Carolina, and Dresden Grover of Oak Ridge, North Carolina; siblings, Brenda Page and her husband, Morris, Ken Fitch, and Thomas Fitch and his wife, Charlene, all of Shelby, North Carolina. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Jonathan Fitch and his wife, Carolina, Rachel Martin, Justin Martin, Trey Best, Jerrod Best, Dillon Best, Wesley Best, Jason Grover, and Sean Grover; his great-grandson, Jacob Fitch; and numerous nieces and nephews, all of Shelby, North Carolina. He was preceded in death by his parents, Boyce and Nida Fitch; brothers, James Dale and Coleman Fitch all of Shelby, NC.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 9:00 Sunday evening, at McEwen Funeral Service-Mint Hill Chapel, 7428 Matthews-Mint Hill Road in Mint Hill. A funeral service will be held 1:00 p.m. Monday, July 11, in the funeral home chapel. Entombment will follow in Forest Lawn West Mausoleum.

Arrangements under the direction of McEwen Funeral Service-Mint Hill Chapel, Mint Hill, North Carolina.

## Bette Ann Kurtz

MYRTLE BEACH

Bette Ann Kurtz age 78, died Thursday, July 7, 2016 at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, she was a daughter of the late William and Elizabeth Whitman. Mrs. Kurtz was a 20 year volunteer for "Help 4 Kids". She was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Robert E. Kurtz.

Survivors include her sons, Richard W. Kurtz of Myrtle Beach, Robert E. Kurtz of Denver, CO and Christopher Kurtz of New York, NY; grandchildren, Evan Robert, Katherine Rose and Maddox Robert Kurtz.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00PM Saturday, July 16, 2016 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel.

Sign an online guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries)

Memorial contributions may be made to: Help 4 Kids, [www.help4kidssc.com](http://www.help4kidssc.com).

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

