

March 6, 2015

Governor Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: Invitation to the 100th Celebration of
Victoria Riley

Dear Honorable Nikki Haley:

On April 28th, 2015 Victoria Riley celebrates 100 YEARS OF LIFE! She will be rejoicing with family and friends on Saturday, April 25th, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. located at 1500 Queen Street, Beaufort, SC 29902. Victoria Riley was born and raised in Burton, South Carolina. Today, she continues to enjoy the fruits of a full life by attending the church that her father helped to build, enjoying good food at local restaurants, shopping in Hilton Head, traveling with family members and ensuring that she gets manicures and pedicures regularly... As a proud resident of Burton, it would make her day memorable if you could come and greet her at this very special celebration.

Victoria Riley's parents had very little education, since attending school was still virtually impossible in the late 1800s. However, her father felt education was of paramount importance, and thus opted to sacrifice so that his children could attend. This importance of his determination was felt by Victoria Riley daily, since she had to walk 5 ½ miles to attend Robert Small High School in Beaufort. My Mother was able to attend school until the 10th grade, at which time she was forced to start working to help support the family after the death of her father. After looking for stable work in Burton, she determined that opportunities would improve by moving to New York City with her aunt. Upon arrival in New York, she was able to find steady work caring for a family in Manhattan. Over time, this allowed her to bring her mother to New York and care for her as well.

In the early years, she helped all of her siblings and other family members migrate to New York by providing them with a place to

live and nourishment with which to embark upon their new lives "up North." After the birth of her daughter, Ms. Riley decided to return to school in order to become a dietitian, with the intentions of increasing her financial stability, while allowing her more time to be at home with her newborn. After graduating from dietary school, she joined St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan as a Registered Dietician. While working at St. Vincent's Hospital she was able to raise her daughter and watch her flourish, get married and bring three grandchildren into the world.

Ms. Riley has always loved her grandchildren and been intimately involved in all of their life activities as they have grown up. After witnessing her eldest granddaughter graduate from Graduate School, her grandson graduate from college and her youngest granddaughter enter into college, Victoria Riley decided to retire and begin a new chapter in life. She returned home to Burton, South Carolina in 1983 where she began traveling overseas and enjoying her family and childhood friends in Burton. In recent years, Grandma Vicky has spent much of her summers in New York, enjoying the city as a tourist with her granddaughters and sons-in-law... eating in lots of restaurants, barbecuing and attending concerts and Broadway Plays. Today, she treasures Thanksgiving when the entire family travels back to Beaufort, SC and she gets the opportunity to enjoy her great grandchildren and view the wonderful young women they are becoming.

As Victoria Riley prepares for her 100th Birthday Party, she is understandably excited. She is looking forward to being with lots of family and friends in sharing her victorious celebration of living 100 years, and beyond. During these past 100 years, Victoria she has done much and has seen even more. In recent years she has stood in the rain for hours outside of Battery Creek High School in order to see and listen to then Sen. Barack Obama launch his campaign as candidate for President of the United States. From then on, she watched him on television endlessly throughout the entire campaign praying for his health and success. She rejoiced as she watched his inauguration as the 44th President of the United States.

Today, she still watches all of his speeches, and feels personal affection and love for him. Yes, Victoria Riley feels victorious...both in living with her daughter and son-in-law, as well as openly talking about her life. She talks not about the struggles, or endless acts of

racism she faced through the years. Instead she talks about the love she feels today from all those around her. Although she can no longer remember all the details of her life, she remembers enough so as to easily praise The Lord for His gifts to her... to laugh a lot... and to soak in all of the love she appropriately deserves and surrounds her. 100 Years of Life!!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ginger V. Bolden".

Ginger V. Bolden
Daughter of Victoria Riley
2225 Salem Drive East
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902
(843) 524-7533