

Daryl A. Newton, #350972
Perry Correctional Institution
430 Oaklawn Road
Pelzer, SC 29669

December 26, 2015

Governor, Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor, 1st Floor
Columbia, SC, 29211

Dear, Governor, Haley

I am currently serving my fifth year of a 25 year prison sentence for charges of Voluntary Manslaughter and Armed Robbery. I understand that the mistakes that brought me to this point are decidedly and incontrovertibly grave; nonetheless, it is important that you know that these actions were not characteristic of my life before incarceration. A glance at my history will show what was otherwise an untroubled life.

Prior to my incarceration, I had intended to join the Army. I had already begun the enlistment process, but was stalled by one detail - the need for a high school diploma or GED. Recently, I acquired my GED through an adult education program here in prison. As it had always been my dream to serve in the Army, it has been a stinging irony to me that the very institution that helped me achieve the final piece of the puzzle for that dream is also the very institution that keeps me from realizing it. That said, please do not think that I hold the state or the government responsible for my captivity. I am mature enough to recognize the mistakes that I made, and understand that I alone am responsible for the consequences that have come from what I did.

I am writing to ask you to consider helping me find a way to serve the remainder of my prison sentence in the armed forces. I am aware that this request is somewhat unorthodox, but I am also aware that there is some precedent for it. I recognize that there are consequences for my mistakes, but if there is any way at all that I can bear those consequences while also serving my country - making my life have some meaning - then I would be immeasurably grateful. I would be willing to serve in whatever capacity my country would find most useful, and I am more than willing to accept whatever security measures are necessary to facilitate such an arrangement.

I am sorry for the mistakes I have made. I simply hope that through this request, there may yet be some measure of redemption for me. Please don't let my life be wasted simply because of one bad decision. Thank you for your attention to this request; I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Daryl A. Newton