

December 18, 2015

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to express my extreme displeasure with your decision to remove the Confederate flag from the Veterans Memorial on the Statehouse grounds. The tragedy in Charleston had NOTHING to do with the Confederate flag. Your actions dishonored the memory and sacrifice of the tens of thousands of South Carolinians who fought to defend their homes during the War Between the States. During your legislative push to purge the Confederate flag, I felt helpless because the elected leaders would not listen to the people they represent. The whole SC House hearings were a sham with no intention of a compromise.

I took a day off work to come to Columbia and show my support for the flag. I spoke with my elected house and senate members (those who would listen) and they had already made up their minds. I went out on the north lawn of the statehouse near the Soldiers Monument and talked to the protestors. Most of the anti-flag supporters were from out of state. I met a guy from Canada, Florida and New Jersey – none from South Carolina. MoveOn.org was paying people to go out and protest. The petitions they brought were from out of state. You let outsiders influence your decision to dishonor our veterans.

Now that the Confederate flag has been removed from the Statehouse would you consider a compromise bill to appease the LARGE number of flag supporters in the state? Would you support a compromise allowing the Confederate flag to be flown at the Soldiers monument for Confederate Memorial Day? That is the least you could do! Other southern states such as North Carolina fly the Confederate Flag from the dome of their capital building on May 10 for Confederate Memorial Day. I strongly believe the veterans should be honored and their sacrifice not forgotten. Have you ever taken the time to read the inscription on the Soldier's monument at the statehouse grounds?

**Let the stranger,  
who may in future times  
read this inscription,**  
recognize that these were men  
whom power could not corrupt,  
whom death could not terrify,  
whom defeat could not dishonor;  
and let their virtues plead  
for just judgement  
of the cause in which they perished.

**Let the South Carolinian  
of another generation  
remember**  
that the state taught them  
how to live and how to die,  
and that from her broken fortunes  
she has reserved for her children  
the priceless treasure of their memories,  
teaching all who may claim  
the same birthright  
that truth, courage, and patriotism  
endure forever.

I would love to speak with you and discuss this very important issue. It is our duty to remember their service and sacrifice at the statehouse – not at a museum. I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

James R York

James York  
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Dear Governor Haley,

Wishing you a very  
Merry Christmas!

Ron York

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Cards By:  
Joyce

