

June 24, 2015
PO Box 2478
Easley, SC 29641

Governor Nikki Haley
State House, 1st Floor
PO Box 1773
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor:

The people of the state and especially of the Charleston area are mourning this senseless tragedy of the deaths of nine innocent, Christian people at the AME church. We must mourn their loss and comfort the families. Let's concentrate on them now. And then on the problems in this young man's life that he felt he should do this horrible thing.

The Confederate Memorial Flag did not cause this. Symbols can be used by many people in wrong ways. Whatever happens with the flag now will not prevent future tragedy in the same way that taking guns away from law abiding citizens will not prevent a person intent on evil from killing and hurting others.

Please keep flying the flag over the memorial to our brave Confederate dead. It honors all of our ancestors. The South suffered during and after the War Between the States....cities were burned, people were murdered, homes and lands were ransacked and laid to waste. The War Between the States was not fought simply because of slavery but resistance against a federal power that wanted to overthrow states' rights and constitutional liberties and over run and tear down our people.

The flag was flown during the Centennial on the Capital dome and should have been taken down afterwards; this I agree. However, a compromise was made. Our flag now flies above a historical monument to honor the brave soldiers, both Black and White, who fought in defense of their land. There is also on the Capitol grounds an African-American Memorial.

Where do the compromises end? Do we remove names of Confederate officers from roadways, cities, hospitals and educational buildings? Do we change the name of Clemson University? Do we destroy the monuments that are all around our state? We should not forget our history, the good and the bad. We should learn from it, but we cannot deny it.

Many of those who are attacking the flag are not native Carolinians and do not understand the pride we feel in the faithful men who defended our state. Don't allow those who are attacking the flag destroy the unity we in South Carolina have.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Hillyer Moore