

6/8/2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing on behalf of my father-in-law who is currently incarcerated at Turbeville Correctional. His name is Tracy Daniels and he has served fifteen years of an imposed twenty six year sentence. He is currently 73 years old and in only fair health. He was convicted of voluntary manslaughter with an imposed 85% rule in which he must serve 85% of his sentence before consideration for release.

While he entered the system with a history of alcoholism, he is a Christian serving in multiple roles of leadership and service within the prison system. He has taught leadership classes as well as literacy classes. In addition, he is an excellent poet and it has been my pleasure to call him "Dad" since I married his daughter three years ago.

Tracy worked every day of his adult life and is a master plumber by trade. He is well respected by both the inmates and staff of the facilities and has progressed to level 1B status.

We attempted to seek a pardon on his behalf however the pardon and parole board rejected the application stating he did not meet "the most extraordinary circumstances" status in order to be considered. For the sake of brevity my plea would be for you to grant him an early release in order for him to rejoin society and his family. I know that there is a bill working its way through the house which would likely accomplish this goal however there is no telling how long this would take.

In order to give you an idea of what was submitted I have copied the pardon application for your reference. I know that you will only receive this if one of your staff screens it and deems it worthy of your attention and I leave that to God. The worst that could happen is that he remains incarcerated.

Sincerely,



Mark T. Self

Markself1286@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Board of Pardons & Parole,

In my 72 years of life (assuming I survive until October) I am the father of three children and the grandfather of two. I have seen the ravages of what alcoholism does to a family as I was the alcoholic who inflicted pain and suffering on them. I have seen my youngest son die as a result of suicide and been convicted of taking the life of someone I considered a friend. Since my incarceration I have buried two of my siblings and my son.

I entered the prison system a mean drunk, but when sober I was a self supporting master plumber who had no criminal record prior to conviction. In fact, I was a productive adult earning a decent wage. All of which changed literally in a few seconds when alcohol and a stupid disagreement mixed and ended what I thought was a pretty good lifestyle. I could still be that mean drunk but by the mercy of God and his Son's saving grace my life has been transformed and I serve my sentence by mentoring others through education, mentoring programs and teaching leadership classes. I have become an avid poet and been fortunate enough to have had some of it published. Most importantly I seek to be a Christian influence on my fellow inmates.

Yet in spite of it all, my family still loves me and supports me both financially and emotionally. I am blessed with the opportunity to have weekly visits from friends and family members. Having entered the prison system when most are anticipating retirement, I have had the fortune of seeing my two oldest children become productive wives and mothers. I have had the equally sad knowledge that my grandchildren have grown up visiting me at one of several prison facilities instead of being read bedtime stories by me.

I have now served 15 years of my imposed 26 year sentence. Sentenced under the "85%" rule this would make me eligible for release in late May of 2023. I would be 80 years old at that point having missed the opportunity to participate in many of the activities that grandparents get to participate in. My youngest grandchild will be 21 years old at that point and likely to be well on their way to being a productive adult.

My health is fair at this point in my life. I am requesting an opportunity to return to life as a productive part of society where I can be a positive influence on others. Incarceration is designed to rehabilitate the offender. I would submit that through the process I have been rehabilitated and would appreciate the opportunity to be something other than a financial drain on both my family and the State of South Carolina.

Respectfully,

Tracy W. Daniels
7-29-15

SWORN to and subscribed before me this
29th day of July, 2015
Tracy W. Daniels (L.S.)
Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 4-27-2016

**South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
Pardon Application Package**

Present Name Tracy Willard Daniels		Name Indicted Under Tracy Willard Daniels	
Social Security # 249-70-5248	Date of Birth 10/31/43	Daytime Phone #	Evening Phone #
SCDC # 274866 TCI SA 133 PO Box 252		Reason for Requesting a Pardon Having served 15 years of a 26 year sentence on a 1st offense without any criminal history prior to conviction. I was gainfully employed as a master plumber. Since incarceration I have served as a teaching assistant, mentor and leadership teacher. Currently serving as a mentor in the Character Based unit here at TCI. I am now a reformed alcoholic and Christian without disciplinary actions since my incarceration.	
Street Turbeville	State SC	Zip Code 29162	
City	State	Zip Code	

LIST ALL SOUTH CAROLINA CONVICTIONS (Do not list parking tickets or minor traffic offenses)

Conviction	Date	County of Conviction
Voluntary manslaughter	04/25/2001	Florence

LIST ANY PENDING CHARGES YOU HAVE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Offense	Date	County of Offense
None		

LIST ALL OTHER ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS NOT LISTED ABOVE (Convictions or pending charges in other states)
FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION MAY CONSTITUTE FRAUD AND INVALIDATE ANY PARDON GRANTED.

Offense	Date	State and County of Conviction
None		

ADDRESSES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Street	City	State
TCI PO Box 252	Turbeville	SC 29162

LIST ALL EMPLOYMENT FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS (If retired, student, or unemployed, give beginning/ending dates. Do not leave unexplained gaps)

Company	Address	Phone Number	Beginning Date/Ending Date
Incarcerated			

South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
Pardon Application Package

References: List three people, not related by blood or marriage, who support your pardon and attach a signed, recently dated statement from each that states their support for your pardon. These people will be contacted concerning your pardon application.

WRITTEN STATEMENTS FROM THREE (3) REFERENCES MUST BE ATTACHED OR APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED

Name	Address	City/State	Contact Phone Numbers
Rev. Fred Huth, Jr.	1640 Trinity Rd.	Lynchburg, SC	803 453-5727
Mr. Dave Lawson	1824 Osprey Dr.	Florence, SC	843 665-6260
Mr. Jerry Camell	7178 Francis Marion Rd.	Pamplico, SC	843 493-2024

I meet the pardon eligibility guidelines in that: (check appropriate box)

☐ I have been discharged from probation supervision and any or all restitution has been paid in full.

☐ I have been discharged from my sentence without having been on probation or parole and any or all restitution has been paid in full.

☐ I am a parolee and have successfully completed five years under supervision and any or all restitution has been paid in full.

☐ I have been discharged after successfully completing my maximum parole period and any or all restitution has been paid in full.

Check if applicable:

☒ I am an inmate not presently eligible for parole and can produce evidence comprising the most extraordinary circumstances. (Attach a list of the most extraordinary circumstances and the supporting evidence.) Inmates who passed their first parole eligibility date should not apply.

NOTE: Any restitution and collection fees must be paid in full on current offense and on any other offense.

☐ I was previously considered for pardon and rejected on _____ Date _____

☐ I, the applicant have attached certified statements from the appropriate authority reflecting that any and all restitution and collection fees have been paid in full.

General Release of Information

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby authorize any agent or other authorized representative of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services bearing this release, or copy thereof, within one year of its date, to obtain any information in your files pertaining to my grievance records, employment, military, credit, medical or educational records including, but not limited to, academic, job performance, achievement, attendance, athletic, personal history, and disciplinary records. I hereby direct you to release such information upon request of the bearer. This release is executed with full knowledge and understanding that the information will be used in connection with my pardon investigation by the bearer and will be disseminated to those individuals or agencies directly involved in this pardon determination or to fulfill other obligations imposed by law, regulation or executive order. I hereby release you, as the custodian of such records, and any school, college, university or other educational institution, hospital, or other repository of medical records, credit bureau, consumer reporting agency, personnel, both individually and collectively, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind, which may at any time result to me, my heirs, my family or associates because of compliance with this authorization and request to release information, or any attempt to comply with this release. A photocopy of this release shall be treated as an original. Should there be any question as to the validity of this release, you may contact me as indicated below.

Full Name (Signature) <i>Tracy W. Daniels</i>		Full Name (Printed) Tracy Willard Daniels	
Social Security # 249-70-5248		Date 7-29-15	Daytime Phone # Evening Phone #
SCDC # 274866		NOTARY (Required by all applicants, seal required if out of state)	
Street TCI PO Box 252		Sworn to me this <u>29th</u> day of <u>July</u> , 2015	
City Turbeville		Full Name (Signature) <i>Evelyn Hodge</i>	
State SC	Zip Code 29162	Full Name (Printed) Evelyn Hodge	
		My commission expires: 4-27-2016	

You are hereby advised the information contained on the pardon application will be verified. If any of it is of a sensitive nature which might lead to the damaging of your current status (such as contacting neighbors, employers, etc.) please advise in order that appropriate steps may be taken to minimize this risk. **NOTE: If applying on behalf of someone else, indicate your authority to file this application.**

I CERTIFY THAT ALL THE CONTENTS OF THE ABOVE APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

Signature <i>Tracy W. Daniels</i>	Date 7-29-15
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Mail Application to: SCDPPPS, P.O. Box 50666, Columbia, SC 29250
 Form 1118 (Template) (rev. 5/30/2013) Page 4 of 4

Tracy W. Daniels
c/o Sherry Coker
1471 Willie Coker Rd.
Turbeville, SC 29162

April 5, 2014

Dear Governor Haley,

I'm writing to you at the suggestion of a friend who visits me at the Turbeville Correctional Institution. He is a constable in Florence County, S.C., where I lived most of my life. He speaks highly of you and the job you're doing. In 2001, I was sentenced to 26 years because of what took place after an afternoon of drinking that turned into a nightmare, ending with a man losing his life. My appeals to this point have been unsuccessful in obtaining any reduction in sentence. In trying to leave no stone unturned, I am appealing now to you in case you could have some influence, either in your capacity of Governor, overseer of the Sentencing Guidelines Committee, or in ensuring the judicial process has indeed been carried out properly in my case.

Compared to other sentences in Florence County, my conviction of 26 years for Voluntary Manslaughter seems extreme, considering the other circumstances. While I accept responsibility for my poor judgment to continue drinking, with a faulty gun involved and both the other man and myself in a drunken state, either of us could have been killed. Based on her comments at my PCR hearing, even the victim's sister now feels my punishment has been sufficient. My family is frustrated by the fact that neither my trial public defender nor the appellate defender would seek a "reconsideration of sentence;" and they've been given no explanation as to why.

While spending the last thirteen years in prison, many changes have taken place in my life. Most importantly, I accepted Christ as my personal Savior and have kept the faith. I have written many poems and been blessed to have opportunities before chapel services to share them with the congregation. My desire is to influence others to accept responsibility for mistakes of the past and allow Christ to help them make a better future. I have enclosed some I hope might bless you.

While in prison I have served as a tutor in education and a volunteer in the testing room for placement of inmates to obtain a GED. After serving 10 years at four different level 3 facilities, I obtained a level 2 status and moved to Turbeville in 2012. I am proud of the fact that after all these years I have had NO write-ups or disciplinaries. I follow SCDC policies and encourage others to do the same, even having Corrections Officers tell me I don't belong in here. I have now reached the age of seventy, and would love to return home to my family and friends. Since I have appealed in court to no avail, I would be blessed if there is any way you might assist me. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to read this and the poems.

May God bless you in all things.

Tracy W. Daniels

Specific cases in South Carolina resulting in lesser sentences than 26 years:

4/27/2001

Robert Lavern Hilton, Florence, stabbed his neighbor twice with a kitchen knife, killing him during a dispute - sentenced to 15 years in prison. Originally charged with murder; Hilton pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter.

4/21/06

Dexter Crawford of Pamplico received an 18-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter in two 2004 shooting deaths. Victims were found in a car that had been crashed into a tree, both with gun shot wounds to the head, shot at close range, a drug deal gone bad. Originally charged with murder.

10/13/09 ANDERSON, S.C. (AP)

Sammy Ray Wilbanks A South Carolina man pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the death of his landlord was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Wilbanks originally was charged with murder in the 2006 death of his former roommate and landlord, Charles Worley. Wilbanks was arrested last year after autopsy results and a witness's testimony identified him as the man responsible for Worley's beating death. Wilbanks could have been sentenced to 30 years.

12/09/10

Brady Allen Johnson, 23, of Florence pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and the use of a firearm while under the influence of drugs or alcohol before Circuit Court Judge Thomas Russo, sentenced to only 7 years. Johnson originally was indicted on charges of voluntary manslaughter and using a firearm to commit a violent crime in connection with the Feb. 19 shooting death of 29-year-old Florence Police Officer Matthew H. Clayton. The officer was shot in the back with a shotgun while using the restroom.

Defendants attorney could have been describing the case of Tracy Daniels when he said this: "They were all drinking heavily that night," Herron said. "... Matthew Clayton is dead not because Brady Johnson intended to kill him but because Brady Johnson was negligent in handling a firearm while intoxicated. This was a stupid, tragic accident, but it was not a cold-blooded act committed by some animal."

Faith Bible Church

F. L. Huth, Jr., Pastor
4290 Narrow Paved Road
Lynchburg, SC
MAIL:

1640 Trinity Road
Lynchburg, SC 29080

INDEPENDENT

803-453-5727 – 843-495-0779

FUNDAMENTAL

July 29, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: RE: Mr. Tracy Daniels 274866

When Mr. Daniels was first arrested and in the Florence, SC, detention center, I was asked by his children to visit him. I was struck by his general attitude, his acquiescence in face of the charges against him. As a result of my visit, Mr. Daniels began a course of spiritual attitude that has matured to a degree I don't usually see in the course of my ministry.

Upon Mr. Daniels' release from detention, while awaiting trial, he was faithful in our church attendance, and gave real indication of spiritual growth.

I sat through his entire trial, and could not believe the Judge's directive to the jury and their ultimate decision. Of course, I heard quite a bit of testimony that the jury didn't hear, and that, along with my ignorance of the law in that particular, caused my immediate disagreement with the final decision.

From the time of Mr. Daniels' incarceration, I visited him regularly until he was assigned to Turbeville, where I am a volunteer on Tuesday evenings with Bible study. (As a volunteer on Tuesday Evening Bible Study at Turbeville I am not allowed to visit him.) From the very beginning, Mr. Daniels has stated that he was accepting the decision of the jury, along with his incarceration, as the will of our God for his life. I have never heard him complain, try to blame anyone except himself for his circumstances, or otherwise excuse his problem. I believe him to be fully honest in his acquiescence to the will of God for his life.

I have been told by a number of corrections officers and chaplains in each of the institutions where he has been that his behavior was exemplary. Several have mentioned his positive influence on other inmates. Not a few of his fellow-inmates have commented to me concerning Mr. Daniels' positive influence in their lives. To my knowledge, Mr. Daniels has never been "written up" for any infraction of institutional rules.

I have stated to our church folk how I wish that everybody I have dealt with in the course of my nearly 65 years of ministry would have shown such spiritual growth and been as faithful to their commitment to Jesus Christ as has been Mr. Daniels.

I am firmly convinced that just a cursory reading of the poetry Mr. Daniels has been writing would be a tremendous proof of the change that has occurred in his life. He is regularly asked to read some of it at each worship service.

I sincerely recommend a pardon for Mr. Daniels.

Frederick L. Huth, Jr.

David Lawson
1824 Osprey Dr.
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 615-3360

8/18/2015

SC Pardon and Parole Board

Tracy Daniels daughters have told me that Tracy is requesting a pardon. I am glad to hear the good news and that is the reason I am writing this letter.

I have known Tracy for almost 35 years. I hired him as a plumber to help me maintain rental property. Not only was he a part time sub-contractor, but we became friends as time went by.

Tracy's drinking wasn't a secret, but when he and his lady friend's son got into a drunken argument and they started fighting over a loaded shotgun that ended in a death, I was shocked. Incidentally, I have been a sworn law enforcement officer for about 20 years and have taken hundreds of individuals to jail over the years, all of which I thought belonged there. I felt the same in Tracy's case and that is why I was so disappointed in him.

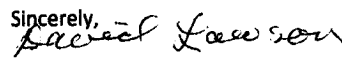
I have maintained communication with Tracy and visit him regularly. To put it mildly he continues to amaze me. His change of attitude was not the proverbial "jail house conversion" fabricated to fool you. He had an encounter with God that has changed his life drastically.

This change is apparent to all that have known him. Not only a change in behavior, but a change in attitude and outlook. He certainly regrets what he did, but realizes he might not have ever changed if it had never happened. Since he has been incarcerated he has been active in various ministries and is currently involved with mentoring other men through the prison's Leadership program.

The biggest indicator of what his heart and mind are focused on is through the reading of the many poems that he continues to write and share. They are written to encourage other inmates. They are uplifting and most have a strong spiritual value. They are a very good reflection of the man that wrote them.

It is my hope that you can see how much Tracy has grown morally and spiritually. He is a truly good man and given his freedom, he will be a productive citizen again. I will be honored to have him work for me once again.

It would be wonderful if he could get these "Poems from prison" published one day so they could be distributed all around the country.

Sincerely,

David Lawson



09-15-15

To Whom it may concern:

We have known Tracy Daniels for 40 years. He worked with us in our Business as our plumber prior to his incarceration in 2001.

During our visits with him, we have experienced his love for God, and Believe that he is a changed man.

Through his ministry in prison, and the poems he writes, he has witnessed To many inmates. It would only stand to reason that if he were released From prison, he could witness to and reach so many more people.

Prayerfully consider his full pardon, that he may be released from prison So that he may spread God's word.

Jerry E. Carnell
Patricia A. Carnell
Jerry & Pat Carnell

WE STAND ON TOP OF & BEHIND EVERY FLOOR WE SELL.
QUALITY, DEPENDABILITY, EXPERT INSTALLATION.

The Perils of Drinking

*Will you let me share with you
what drinking did for me?
It gave me lots of so-called friends,
then took my family.*

*Drinking robbed me of the money
I worked for every day.
It made me lose my self-respect
in each and every way.*

*It kept me up late hours;
it took my sleep each night.
It made it hard to figure out
what was wrong and what was right.*

*Drinking led me to this prison
that has become my home,
Where there's lots of company,
yet, you're still alone.*

*PLEASE let this discourage you!
And may you stop and think
Of all the pain that you will cause
when you begin to drink.*

- Tracy Daniels

October 26, 2003

*"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and
whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."
Proverbs 20:1 (KJV)*

In Time of Need

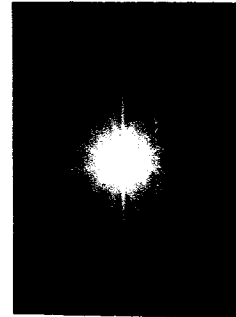
Did you know that by
helping someone
You could also be answering
their prayer?

They may have prayed hard for a
special need
That now seemed to have come from
nowhere.

By your being a light in the
darkness
And an answer to someone's prayer,
Your kindness can light up their
dark world
As they see that someone does care.

So, if it's ever within your power,
Never turn the needy away.
For, by blessing them, we, too, are
blessed,
As we care for others each day.

You never know what a small thing
can mean.
Though it may seem like nothing to
you,



It may be just the blessing someone
else needs,
Who felt they could not make it
through.

- Tracy Daniels
September 12, 2013

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the
throne of grace
that we may obtain mercy and find
grace
to help in time of need."
Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)

He Knows What's Best

I was so disappointed,
As I heard the news today;
For, I had prayed for better news
That God would send my way.

I had done my part and kept the faith,
And I now felt so let down.
For, I had so depended on
This new Friend I had found.

Do I give up and walk away,
Because of how I feel?
Or do I continue to serve Him,
Waiting on His perfect will?

I won't turn my back on Him,
For, I'm sure He knows what's best.
I'll just keep my faith in Him,
While my Savior does the rest.

- Tracy Daniels
December 22, 2013

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct thy paths."
Proverbs 3:6 (KJV)

BANK MONEY ORDER

001843

MARK SELF

Date 8/05/15

Pay to the
order of

SCDPPPS

EXACTLY **100 AND 00/100 DOLLARS

\$ 100.00



THE CITIZENS BANK

Robin Postn
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE



⑈0000001843⑈ ⑆053207339⑆ 3000311⑈

PURCHASER'S COPY OF BANK MONEY ORDER DRAWN ON BANK SHOWN HEREON
MARK SELF

001843

DATE: 8/05/15

PAID TO

SCDPPPS

EXACTLY **100 AND 00/100 DOLLARS

\$ 100.00



THE CITIZENS BANK

PROOF OF PURCHASE
NO REFUND OR REISSUE
WITHOUT THIS COPY

NOT NEGOTIABLE

SAVE THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS