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Date: 12/15/2016 5:30:49 PM  
Subject: Prepared remarks

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Becca,

Here is a list of prepared remarks from the last two years, with full text or a video of each event below.

January 21, 2015- State of the State Address, South Carolina Statehouse

May 8, 2015- Governor Nikki Haley Delivers University of South Carolina Commencement Address

June 22, 2015- Gov. Haley Calls for the Confederate Flag to be Removed from Statehouse Grounds

September 2, 2015- Gov. Haley Addresses the National Press Club

January 12, 2016- Republican Address to the Nation

January 20, 2016- State of the State Address, South Carolina Statehouse

April 28, 2016- Gov. Haley Testifies Before U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security

November 18, 2016- Gov. Haley Addresses the Federalist Society

December 7, 2016- Gov. Haley Delivers Remarks to the Jack Kemp Foundation Annual Dinner

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January 21, 2015- State of the State Address

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the General Assembly, constitutional officers and my fellow South Carolinians:

Tonight, we have come together to discuss the state of South Carolina – the success we have enjoyed and the challenges we face. But we must first acknowledge, as we do every year, that without the selfless sacrifice of our men and women in uniform who have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedoms, this night would not be possible.

So now, please join me as we pay tribute to those who gave the last full measure of devotion in the service of their state and country:

Captain James E. Chaffin III, West Columbia

Staff Sergeant Girard "Jerry" Gass, Jr., Huger

Deputy Sheriff Joseph "Joe" Matuskovic, Summerville

Investigator Holmes N. Smith, Jr., Sumter

Patrolman First Class Robert Blajszczak, Summerville

Laurent "Larry" Britton, Charleston

Lieutenant John M. Burns, Myrtle Beach

Firefighter Paramedic Kellen A. Fleming, Chesnee

On behalf of all South Carolinians, to their families, know we will never forget.

Many of you enjoyed the festivities of last week. We want to thank you for making it a special time for our family and the state. We are thankful that Michael has been home from deployment for over a year now. He continues to be very involved with Youth Challenge, advocating for adoptive children, and managing the mansion grounds, all while keeping a smile on his face. Please help me thank the coolest First Gentleman ever, Michael Haley.

And what would Haley Family Fun Night be without two really fun kids. Michael and I realized recently that four years from now, they will have spent half of their childhood in public life. Rena and Nalin continue to take it in stride and make us both proud. They are 16 and 13 years old now. Rena is starting to tour college campuses and Nalin continues to tour basketball courts. Please help me welcome two little ones that make me proud to be their mom, Rena and Nalin.

One of my favorite parts of giving this speech each year is being able to recognize some of the people who have helped make South Carolina the special place that it is.

When we started our administration four years ago, we thought it was very important to highlight people in our state that make us smile. We will always have challenges in government. But for all of those challenges we have selfless people who, in the name of service and out of love for our great state, give South Carolina a good name.

I know there's been a lot of chatter about who Charleston's next mayor will be, but before we get too far down that road, we should take a moment, stop, and appreciate what we have. Here tonight is a man who has built a legacy of service in the Lowcountry and across South Carolina. He has served as the Mayor of Charleston for nearly 40 years and he has helped transform that city into the most popular destination in America, a crown jewel of not just our state, but of our nation.

He has decided to step down as mayor, but he will forever be remembered as one of South Carolina's great gentlemen and devoted public servants. I ask that you join me in welcoming Mayor Joe Riley, and thanking him for his lifetime of service to South Carolina.

Just a few short weeks ago, we lost a great South Carolinian with the passing of Governor James Edwards. As governor, as Secretary of Energy, and later as the president of MUSC, he spent a huge part of his life serving others and cemented a place in our state's history as a man we can all look up to.

But as we all know, it is nearly impossible to be as strong and significant as he was without the support of a loving family.

Tonight, I have the great privilege of introducing to you his incredible wife, Mrs. Ann Edwards. Mrs. Edwards asked that I thank you, the Members of the General Assembly, as well as the people of South Carolina, for the tremendous support you gave Governor Edwards during his full life and that you've given her since his passing. Mrs. Edwards, thank you for your service and for sharing your wonderful husband with us. You and your family will forever be appreciated by the citizens of South Carolina.

Nobody has represented us with more dignity than Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter. We were able to have his parents join us for this speech in 2012 when he was recovering from his injuries, but we are thankful to have him here today,

safe and healthy.

Last year, Michael and I were so proud to attend the ceremony where Kyle was awarded the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor during his deployment in Afghanistan.

I would like to take a moment to read a passage from the official citation recognizing his heroic actions.

"Lance Corporal Carpenter and a fellow Marine were manning a rooftop security position on the perimeter of Patrol Base Dakota when the enemy initiated a daylight attack with hand grenades, one of which landed inside their sandbagged position. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own safety, Lance Corporal Carpenter moved toward the grenade in an attempt to shield his fellow Marine from the deadly blast. When the grenade detonated, his body absorbed the brunt of the blast, severely wounding him, but saving the life of his fellow Marine."

It is rare that you are able to be in the presence of a true American hero, but that is exactly what we have with us today in Kyle Carpenter.

Please stand and join me in showing our deepest gratitude for his service to our country and his bravery that has made us all so proud.

South Carolina continues to be a major success story when it comes to recruiting jobs to our state. We make it very clear to the companies that choose to invest here that they are joining our South Carolina family. The businesses we are honoring tonight could have invested and moved anywhere in the country, and they chose to join Team South Carolina. We should never take that for granted.

Tonight, representatives of a few of those success stories, from all across the world, are here with us. As I introduce them, please hold your applause until the end – and then join me in giving them a warm South Carolina welcome.

Please stand when I call your name, and remain standing.

Representing 151 jobs in Fairfield County, from Enor Corporation, Mr. Steven Udwin

Representing 1700 jobs in Chester County, from Giti Tire, Dr. Enki Tan

Representing 270 jobs in Lancaster County, from Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Ms. Diane Garrett

Representing 175 jobs in Clarendon County, from Kent International, Mr. Scott Kamler

Representing 40 jobs in Chesterfield County, from Nestle Waters North America, Mr. Lance Tully

Representing 70 jobs in Greenwood County, from Portucel, S.A., Mr. Diogo da Silveira

Representing 500 jobs in Florence County from Ruiz Food Products, Ms. Kim Ruiz Beck

Representing 300 jobs in Dorchester County, from Scout Boats, Mrs. Sherrie Ferguson

Representing 2400 jobs in York County, from The Lash Group, Ms. Tracy Foster

Representing 65 jobs in Richland County, from The Ritedose Corporation, Dr. Umesh Dalvi

Representing 615 jobs in Aiken County, from Medac Inc., Mr. Bijon Memar

Representing 500 jobs in Spartanburg County, from Toray Carbon Fibers America, Mr. Toshiyuki Kondo

Thank you for making South Carolina your home.

Ladies and gentlemen, the state of our state is inspiring.

Over the last four years I have had the great privilege of travelling far and wide representing our state and her people. What I've learned is that we're not the only ones who love South Carolina.

Whether I'm in California or Connecticut, Montreal or Minnesota, the story of South Carolina's success is front and center. Everywhere we go there is excitement – and frankly, not a small amount of envy – over who we are and what we've been able to accomplish. It's a beautiful thing.

But last year I got to experience just how far that word is spreading.

In November, as many of you know, we travelled to India on a trade mission. India, of course, is the country of my parents' birth. I hadn't been there since I was two years old, so the trip was a special one for me – there are few things more impactful than seeing firsthand, for the first time, your own history.

But what was even more amazing to me was the connections I found between South Carolina and that far-off land.

I visited a workforce training center at Rayat-Bahra University in Mohali. Hundreds of students turned out for a talk I gave, and they had so many questions about South Carolina. But they didn't just know about South Carolina because we have an Indian-American governor. The skill development center at their university is modeled after ICAR in Greenville. Their school has signed an agreement with Clemson University to expand cooperation and allow their students to share in our educational opportunities, and vice-versa.

Everywhere I went in India – from students to business leaders to government officials – they knew what was going on in South Carolina.

Our state is getting noticed across the country and the world, and we're getting noticed for our triumphs, not our controversies. I couldn't be more excited. Or more proud.

Together we have built an environment where businesses can and will and want to grow. It is an environment that has enabled Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental and now Giti to manufacture tires in our state, with our workers. It has led international giants like GE and BMW and Toray to say yes, we want to call South Carolina home. It has created a better life for our people, a brighter future for our children.

We've worked hard to build a world-class, world-renowned business climate. And we must fight to keep it.

Any truly objective review of South Carolina's business landscape notes the benefit we get from the minimal role unions play in our state. In 2013 we had the third lowest percentage of union workers in America, with just 3.7 percent of South Carolina workers choosing to join a union.

I cannot express to you the extent to which this is a game-changer when we are trying to bring new businesses to our state. We have a reputation – internationally – for being a state that doesn't want unions because we don't need unions. And it is a reputation that matters.

Now, that reputation, and even more importantly, a South Carolina company, are under attack. And they are under attack by an organization that has proven it cares nothing for South Carolina or our workers.

Boeing's story – how they came here, their magnificent progress in Charleston since 2009, their commitment to their workers and to our communities – is one that certainly need not be told here. We all know it. We're all proud of it.

But in light of the fact that the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, one of the largest labor unions in the world, is gearing up to try and unionize the Charleston plant, their South Carolina story bears repeating.

In stark contrast to Boeing, which has invested billions of dollars and the future of what may be their most important project in the people of South Carolina, the IAM has never believed in us.

First, they flatly, publicly stated that South Carolina workers do not have the necessary skills to build airplanes. Our workers have proven them wrong, but no matter what the IAM says today or tomorrow, we should never forget what they really think about our state.

And then they sued us. They tried to shut us down.

So every time you hear a Seattle-union boss carry on about how he has the best interests of the Boeing workers in Charleston at heart, remember this: if it was up to that same union boss, there would be no Boeing workers in Charleston.

The truth is the IAM cares about one thing and one thing only – its own power. And the successes of Boeing in South Carolina, and more so, the successes of the non-union workers who populate its ranks, are a threat to the IAM.

Like bullies do, the union bosses will try to cover-up those truths and crush those threats. But we have beaten back the IAM before, and with the support of those of us in this room, and the good people all across South Carolina, I have every confidence that the Boeing workers in Charleston will see this play for exactly what it is and reject this union power grab.

While Boeing and the 787 Dreamliners rolling off the Charleston assembly line are an example of what real workforce training success can look like, we don't have those same stories everywhere in South Carolina.

I have challenged my entire Cabinet to get creative about how we put people back to work.

Whether placing employment offices in our prisons, as we did in Manning last year, so that offenders come out from behind the fence with a job, or moving families from welfare-to-work – we are about workforce programs that meet the real needs of real people.

Think about the single mom struggling to make ends meet that can't afford to pay for the training she needs. Think about the young man who just graduated college in liberal arts and can't seem to find a job. Think about the father of four whose ability to move up in his company is capped out. They all need opportunities. They all deserve a better life.

We are going to help them get there through a new initiative called SUCCEED South Carolina.

We have always offered training programs through readySC to train people who want to work in places like BMW, Boeing, and Continental. It's been tremendously successful, but we're going to expand it.

We will now begin working with other companies, companies of different sizes and in different industries, companies already in South Carolina, to create programs that will lead to a job.

The best part? If that single mom wants to get started, we'll pay for her training. And when she gets the job we've trained her for, which she will, she'll pay us back and pay it forward.

This new initiative will not only help those citizens who want to be retrained but also assist our smaller companies, those that represent 97 percent of our employers, by helping them get the workers they need to keep moving, and keep growing.

The economic gains we have made since the end of the Great Recession are no secret to anyone in this room, but it is not enough for us to simply celebrate them. We must keep driving on. The tens of thousands of new jobs announced in South Carolina don't mean anything if it's not our people who are filling them. The massive drop in our

unemployment rate over the last five years is amazing, but we must recognize there are still thousands out of work.

We can address these issues. We can make sure that, as a state, we are serving the single mom, the twenty-two year old graduate, the capped-out father – and that we are serving them well. We can make sure that any business – small, medium, or large – has a willing and well-trained stable of South Carolinians ready to fill all the jobs they can create. And we can make sure that South Carolina is a state not just of tremendous growth, but of real, true opportunity, for each and every one of our citizens.

The journey to that place of opportunity doesn't start with any of the three people just mentioned. No, like most things, it starts with their children. It starts with how we educate all our children.

Last year, I stood at this podium and asked a very simple question: are we willing to look South Carolina's children in the eye and tell them that their future will be largely determined by the circumstances of their birth and not the endeavors of their life.

And by your actions, you answered, resoundingly, "no."

I thank you for that. And, more importantly, years from now, the children of South Carolina will thank you for it. For the changes we made are real.

We invested in teachers. We invested in technology. We invested in reading. And, for the first time in our history, we acknowledged that it costs more to teach those children mired in poverty than those born into a secure economic situation.

We changed the face of South Carolina.

But as we said last year, this was not a silver bullet. The investment we made must be ongoing, it must continue, and it must touch every school district.

So in our budget we have doubled down on our investment in technology. We have expanded our commitment to reading coaches. We have devoted more to professional development, so our teachers are better equipped to teach in today's world.

And we've proposed a new initiative that will help our rural schools get, and keep, the kind of highly qualified teachers their students deserve.

First, if a student graduating high school is willing to spend eight years teaching in their underserved home district after college, we will pay for up to four years of tuition at a state school.

Second, if a teacher who has graduated from college and is burdened by student loans commits to teach in a rural district, we will contribute to their student loan repayment.

Third, if a teacher has less than five years' experience and begins teaching in an eligible district, he or she will receive a pay bump, advancing his or her salary to the level of a teacher five years further down the road.

Finally, if a teacher wants to attend graduate school at a state college or university, we will cover the cost of that education, again in exchange for a commitment to teach in a rural or underserved district.

And all of this will be done without spending a single new tax dollar.

These options aren't just available to new teachers. They are available to all teachers. We want that shining star teaching in Lexington to decide it's time to take on a new challenge and teach in Denmark. Because nothing can ignite a child's desire to learn quite like a great teacher. We need those great teachers going to our rural schools, touching our most at risk students, and we need them staying there. Now, we've given them an added incentive to do just that.

Last session you joined our call for reform, recognizing that the education of our children transcended the normal, sometimes foolish, constraints of politics and partisanship. I ask that you do the same this year, that you continue to raise the ceiling of opportunity for every child in South Carolina.

The spirit of cooperation, the commitment to moving our state forward that defined our shared efforts on education sadly did not extend to the reform of our ethics laws that South Carolina so desperately needs.

Many words have been spoken on this issue and much time wasted in these Chambers with no result. I believe I have said all I need to. You all know exactly where I stand. Reform our ethics laws, restore the public's faith in our government. Let's do it right, and let's do it now.

We have also seen our challenges over the last four years, in many cases due to the long-term neglect of some of our agencies. And so we went after that neglect.

We strengthened our mental health and drug abuse services. We focused not on dollars spent but services given to our most vulnerable, like those with disabilities. And we strengthened agencies that had been heavily burdened by changing and increasing populations. In every case, we have focused on results for those in greatest need.

One agency has been more challenging than most, the Department of Social Services. There is no question there were changes that needed to be made, and to understand just what those changes should look like, we went right to the source: our caseworkers.

They told us how painful, how difficult it can be to protect children from their own parents. Their frustrations became my frustrations, and their passion for children fueled our efforts to improve DSS.

We have since added caseworkers, changed processes, added second shifts, improved technology, forged partnerships with law enforcement, created new career paths for caseworkers, and so much more.

We have changed DSS for the better. It is in a far different place than it was a year ago, but there is also still work to do. We have found the person to lead that charge.

Susan Alford was recently quoted as saying "It's always challenging but we have to do it with openness, with integrity, with humility, and with a lot of determination." I couldn't have said it better. I have no doubt that for the Department of Social Services, its dedicated employees, and most importantly, the children they serve, there are brighter days ahead.

There is an important economic convergence going on in South Carolina today.

On one side, we have a growing economy, with more of our people working than ever before, with unemployment down to rates we haven't seen in many years, with people moving from welfare-to-work by the tens of thousands, and with new companies moving in or starting up all the time. It is indeed a great day in South Carolina.

How did we get here? There are several factors, including our business-friendly regulatory approach, our right-to-work laws, and our strong economic development and recruitment efforts. But there's also no question that our tax system plays an important part in our economy too.

Our economic competitiveness as a state is in really good shape, but the nature of competition is that just when you think you're doing well, your competitors are gaining on you. In order to continue our state's remarkable progress, we must take further steps to improve our standing.

We are competing for jobs internationally, nationally, and regionally. Where we stand compared to our neighboring

states matters.

Some southeastern and southwestern states – Tennessee, Florida, and Texas – have no income tax at all. Georgia's tax is a full percent lower than ours, and just last year North Carolina cut theirs by two full points, to below even that.

In that competitive environment, our state's 7% income tax rate stands out and puts us at a disadvantage. In order to keep the ball rolling in our economy, we must bring down our income tax.

At the same time, it is widely recognized that we have major infrastructure needs in our state.

We have a very real problem with the way our transportation dollars are spent. Our system screams out for reform and restructuring. The condition of our roads and bridges is a statewide concern and yet our dollars are being spent with zero statewide perspective.

The current system, with commissioners representing Congressional Districts and selected by local delegations, is the ultimate exercise in parochialism. Instead of fighting for the needs of South Carolina at large, they fight for the needs of their districts, which means they fight each other. I don't necessarily blame them – until we make wholesale changes to the system, doing so is in their best interests.

The problem is it is not in South Carolina's best interest. So I will not support more revenue for our roads and bridges until we restructure the Department of Transportation. Simply shipping more money into the current bureaucracy would be like blasting water through a leaky hose. Some of it would reach the right destination, but too much of it would end up in a mess on the ground. I won't do it.

That said, deficient roads and highways are an economic issue. That's why we supported \$1 billion in new road funds last year, which was the biggest infrastructure investment in a generation. It's why we proposed in our Executive Budget dedicating an additional \$61 million in auto sales tax funds entirely to roads. But we know that's not enough. We still have very substantial infrastructure revenue needs that have to be addressed.

We have studied every option.

Some have advocated raising the state gas tax. Yes, we do have the third-lowest gas tax in America. Gas prices are now down to their lowest level since 2009. Non-South Carolinians who visit our state would pay a portion of the tax. And we would boost the revenue stream that is dedicated to improving our roads and highways.

But there are also major problems with it. We have not gotten to where we are as a state, with our strengthening and growing economy, by raising taxes. Quite the opposite. If all we do is increase taxes, whether it's the gas tax, or some other tax, we will hurt our citizens, we will discourage job creators, and we will dampen our economy. As I've said many times, I will veto any straight-up increase in the gas tax. That's just not going to happen while I'm governor. It's the wrong thing for South Carolina.

So here's the deal. Let's do three things at once that will be a win-win-win for South Carolina.

Let's cut our state income tax rate from 7% to 5% over the next decade. That's a nearly 30% reduction in state income taxes. Nationally, it will take us from 38th in income tax competitiveness to 13th. Regionally, it will put our rate back below those of North Carolina and Georgia. It will be a massive draw for jobs and investment to come to our state.

And it will put more money in the pockets of every South Carolinian, letting them keep more of what they earn. It will reward work, savings, and investment – all the things we need to do to make our state stronger and our people more prosperous.

Next, let's change the way we spend our infrastructure dollars and get rid of the legislatively elected transportation commission so the condition of South Carolina's roads is no longer driven by short-sighted regionalism and political horse trading, and we stop wasting our tax money.



Finally, let's increase the gas tax by ten cents over the next three years, and let's dedicate that money entirely toward improving our roads. That will keep our gas tax below both Georgia and North Carolina, and we can do it without harming our economy, because when coupled with the 30% income tax cut, it still represents one of the largest tax cuts in South Carolina history.

Now, I hope everyone listened carefully to what I said. This is a three-part package deal. In order to get my signature on any gas tax increase, we need to restructure the DOT, and we need to cut our state income tax by two percent. If we do all of those things, we will have better roads and a stronger economic engine for our people. That's a win-win.

I'd like to personally say thank you to Speaker Jay Lucas for his leadership and his commitment to working with us on this and many other issues going forward. And I'd like to thank Chairman Brian White, Representative Gary Simrill and the other dedicated members of the House Transportation Committee, who have worked for months to find a solution to our crumbling road system.

I appreciate the House taking a formative, thorough lead on this issue. We can all agree that our state's Department of Transportation must be reformed in order to bring more jobs to South Carolina, and I look forward to working with both the House and Senate to solve this very real problem this year.

Between August of 2013 and this past November I spent my days and nights travelling South Carolina and talking with her people.

Campaigns are a lot of things, but above all they are an opportunity. An opportunity to hear from our citizens, who act as our state's conscience. An opportunity to look backwards, at where we were and what we've accomplished. And an opportunity to share a vision for where we want to go.

I have heard it said that the election results have given me a mandate. I have thought long and hard about what that might mean.

Webster's Dictionary defines the word mandate as "a command or authorization to act in a particular way on a public issue given by the electorate to its representative." The way the word has been used since November suggests to me that many think I have been given the authorization to act, effectively given permission to push through the agenda I desire.

That is not how I see it. I never saw the election as a referendum on me, but on all of us, on the direction we have taken South Carolina over the last four years. Likewise, I don't view the results as anything but a command, a command by the people of our state to continue along the path we have travelled together since I first took the oath of office as their governor.

That path has been one of complete commitment to the economic future of our state, where every action we take is one that makes it easier for our companies to do business, expand, and hire our people.

It has been one where we jump at every opportunity to restructure our archaic government so as to better serve our citizens.

It has been one where we opened our borders to new businesses and kept them shut to job-killing unions.

It has been one where we fight, every day, to give South Carolinians the honest, open government they deserve.

It has been one where bickering for bickering's sake between branches of government became a thing of the past.

It has been one where we placed the education of our children above our parochial and political self-interests.

And it has been one where we put South Carolina back on the map – for all the right reasons.

That is the path I believe in. It is the path the people of South Carolina overwhelmingly embraced ten weeks ago. And

it is the path I will continue to follow, for if we do, there is no telling the heights to which we can take the state we all love.

Thank you, God Bless you, and may He continue to bless the state of South Carolina.

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May 8, 2015- Governor Nikki Haley Delivers University of South Carolina Commencement Address

Video of remarks, [here](#)

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June 22, 2015- Gov. Haley Calls for the Confederate Flag to be Removed from Statehouse Grounds

All right, so normally I try to get ya'll ready and I'm just not going to try to do that with my thumbs up today so hopefully ya'll are ready to go.

This has been a very difficult time for our state. We have stared evil in the eye and watched good prayerful people killed in one of the most sacred of places. We were hurt and broken and we needed to heal. We were able to start that process, not by talking about issues that divide us, but by holding vigils, by hugging neighbors, by honoring those we lost and by falling to our knees in prayer.

Our state's grieving, but we are also coming together. The outpouring of love and support from all corners of people across this state and country has been amazing. Their expression of faith and forgiveness took our breath away. They truly have shown the world what South Carolina looks like at our best, and mother Emanuel Church reopened its doors yesterday. Michael and I were there, we took our two little ones, Rena and Nalin. My children saw what true faith looks like. My children saw that true hate can never triumph over true love. My children saw the heart and soul of South Carolina starting to mend.

I want to talk a little bit about the heart of our state; I want to talk about the people of South Carolina I'm so proud to serve. The country and the world have watched our strength and resilience over the last few days. We are strong people who love God, our families, and have a deep faith. We believe in neighbors helping neighbors. We are a state that has held tight to our traditions and continue to grow and change in ways that move us forward.

We were recently named the friendliest state in the country and the most patriotic too. American flags fly proudly from home to home in South Carolina. In just the last few months, the nation watched our state go through another time of crisis when we dealt with the betrayal of one of our own and the tragic shooting of Walter Scott. South Carolina did not respond with rioting and violence, like other places have. We responded by talking to each other, by putting ourselves in other people's shoes, and by finding common ground in the name of moving our state forward.

The result: Both Republicans and Democrats, black and white, came together and passed the first body-camera bill in the country. And I stand in front of you, a minority female governor, twice elected by the people of South Carolina. Behind me stands my friend, Senator Tim Scott, elected by those same people as one of just two African American members of the United States Senate.

Five years ago it was said, "In the last fifty years South Carolina is the state that has changed most for the better." That was true when I quoted it at my first inauguration in 2011; it's even more true today. We have changed for the times, and will continue to do so, but that does not mean we forget our history. History's often filled with emotion and that's more true in South Carolina than in a lot of other places.

On matters of race, South Carolina has a tough history. We all know that. Many of us have seen it in our own lives -- in the lives of our parents and our grandparents. We don't need reminders. In spite of last week's tragedy, we have come a long ways since those days and have much to be proud of, but there's more we can do.

That brings me to the subject of the Confederate flag that flies on the State house grounds. For many people in our state, the flag stands for traditions that are noble. Traditions of history, of heritage, and of ancestry.

The hate filled murderer who massacred our brothers and sisters in Charleston has a sick and twisted view of the flag. In no way does he reflect the people in our state who respect and, in many ways, revere it. Those South Carolinians view the flag as a symbol of respect, integrity, and duty. They also see it as a memorial, a way to honor ancestors who came to the service of their state during time of conflict. That is not hate, nor is it racism.

At the same time, for many others in South Carolina, the flag is a deeply offensive symbol of a brutally oppressive past. As a state we can survive, as we have done, while still being home to both of those viewpoints. We do not need to declare a winner and a loser here. We respect freedom of expression, and that for those who wish to show their respect for the flag on their private property, no one will stand in your way.

But the statehouse is different and the events of this past week call upon us to look at this in a different way. Fifteen years ago, after much contentious debate, South Carolina came together in a bipartisan way to move the flag from atop the Capitol dome. Today, we are here in a moment of unity in our state without ill will, to say it's time to move the flag from the Capitol grounds.

A hundred and fifty years after the end of the Civil War, the time has come.

There will be some in our state who see this as a sad moment. I respect that. But know this: For good and for bad, whether it is on the statehouse grounds or in a museum, the flag will always be a part of the soil of South Carolina.

But this is a moment in which we can say that that flag, while an integral part of our past, does not represent the future of our great state. The murderer now locked up in Charleston said he hoped his actions would start a race war. We have an opportunity to show that not only was he wrong, but that just the opposite is happening.

My hope is that by removing a symbol that divides us, we can move forward as a state in harmony and we can honor the nine blessed souls who are now in heaven.

The General Assembly wraps up their year this week, and as governor I have the authority to call them back into session under extraordinary circumstances. I've indicated to the House and the Senate that if they do not take measures to ensure this debate takes place this summer, I will use that authority for the purpose of the legislature removing the flag from the statehouse grounds.

That will take place in the coming weeks after the regular session and the veto session have been completed. There will be a time for discussion and debate, but the time for action is coming soon. I want to make two things very clear: First, this is South Carolina's statehouse, it is South Carolina's historic moment and this will be South Carolina's decision.

To those outside of our state the flag may be nothing more than a symbol of the worst of America's past. That is not what it is to many South Carolinians. The statehouse belongs to all of us. Their voices will be heard and their role in this debate will be respected. We have made incredible progress in South Carolina on racial issues, yes, but on so many others. The 21st century belongs to us because we have chosen to seize what's in front of us. To do what is right and do it together. I have every faith that this will be no different. It is what we do in South Carolina, it is who we are.

Second, I understand that what I have said here today will generate a lot of interest. What I ask is that the focus still remain on the nine victims of this horrible tragedy. Their families, the Mother Emmanuel family, the A.M.E. Church family, the South Carolina family; we all deserve time to grieve and to remember and to heal. We will take it, and I ask that you respect that.

We know that bringing down the Confederate flag will not bring back the nine kind souls that were taken from us, nor rid us of the hate and bigotry that drove a monster through the doors of Mother Emmanuel that night. Some divisions are bigger than a flag. The evil we saw last Wednesday comes from a place much deeper, much darker. But we are

not going to allow this symbol to divide us any longer. The fact that people are choosing to use it as a sign of hate is something we cannot stand. The fact that it causes pain to so many is enough to move it from the Capitol grounds. It is, after all, a Capitol that belongs to all of us.

July 4th is just around the corner. Soon we will once again celebrate . . . our freedoms. It will be fitting that our state Capitol will soon fly the flags of our country and of our state, and no others.

God bless. God bless the people of the State of South Carolina. Thank you.

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September 2, 2015- Gov. Haley Addresses the National Press Club

The first thing I want to say today is that I am the proud daughter of Indian immigrant parents, who reminded my brothers, my sister, and me every day how blessed we were to live in this country.

Why is that the first thing I tell you?

You might think it has something to do with the events this summer in Charleston and taking down the Confederate flag.

It doesn't. I have been saying it since long before this past June.

In fact, it was the first line in just about every speech I gave when I started running for Governor of South Carolina in 2009.

At that time, I was a 37-year old minority female who was not well known, running in the Republican primary against a Lieutenant Governor, an Attorney General, and a Congressman.

I tell you that now to say this: long before the racially charged events of this summer, I would not have been elected Governor of South Carolina if our state was a racially intolerant place. And I would not have won the Republican primary if we were a racially intolerant party.

With the grace of the aftermath of the Mother Emanuel church massacre, the world saw South Carolina as we are. What I want to tell you is that we've been that way for some time now - it's just that a lot of people outside of our state never noticed.

I was born and raised in Bamberg, a small town of just 2,500 people in rural South Carolina. We were the only Indian family in town – not white enough to be white, not black enough to be black.

I remember being a child taking a test, and being asked to check a box specifying my race. I didn't check 'white.' I didn't check 'black.' I checked 'other.'

We were the 'others.' We were different.

In a lot of ways, it didn't matter. My parents always taught us that our similarities were far greater than our differences, that we had far more that united us than divided us.

Here we were, my father wearing a turban, my mother wearing a sari, and while the people of Bamberg didn't quite know what to think about us, they welcomed us anyway.

We made a life there. It wasn't always easy. My parents, who led upper-class, comfortable lives in India, left everything and everyone they knew to come to America. They did it with just eight dollars in their pockets. They started from scratch.

We struggled, but we had each other, and we had the opportunity to do anything, to be anything, as long as we were willing to work for it – the opportunity that only exists in America.

But there were times our differences did matter.

We ended up in rural South Carolina because of my father's job – he was a professor of Botany at Voorhees, a small,

historically black college located just a few miles from our home.

I mentioned earlier that my father wore a turban. He still does, to this day. He is a tall, graceful man – not someone who blends into a crowd.

When I was about ten, he invited me to take a trip with him to Columbia. This was huge for a ten year old girl, a road trip to the big city. On the way home, Dad and I stopped at a local produce market, one of his favorite things to do. He loves to support local growers, always has.

As he was putting his produce in his basket, I noticed something start to happen. The couple working at the market was getting nervous. They were whispering. Then they got on the phone.

A few minutes later, two uniformed police officers showed up. They stood there and watched us. My father continued to go about his business, and they continued to watch him. He paid for his fruit. Then he shook the hands of the couple, and of the officers. He thanked them. And we went on our way.

Neither of us spoke the entire way home – Dad was hoping I didn't realize what had just happened. I, who understood exactly what had just happened, didn't want my dad to feel any worse than he already did.

That is what the rawness of racial discrimination can do to us – render us speechless.

The importance of that story, to me, is not in pointing out that my family and I have faced discrimination in the past. My mother always taught me not to talk about the things that are obvious.

It is to make this clear: a lot of people make the mistake of thinking the South is still like that today. It's not. I know. I lived through it.

Think of it this way: while that exact same farmers market exists in that exact same place today, South Carolina does not. I see that market frequently – I drive past it when I head to the airport, in fact, I drove past it this morning.

But now when I see that market, I see it not as a 10-year old girl suffering the humiliation of prejudice, but as the first female, first minority governor of my state.

Today there truly is a New South. It is different in many ways, perhaps most especially in its attitudes toward race. We are still far from perfect. We still have our problems. There's still a lot more to do. But the New South, in many ways, is a place to look toward, rather than away from, when it comes to race relations.

A lot of different things go into racial equality. I'm going to touch on several today.

To me, the single most important thing is the standard of living, and that is mostly driven by the opportunity to find good jobs that pay good wages.

Carroll Campbell, a predecessor of mine as governor of South Carolina, used to say that if you can find a person a job, you take care of a family. The jobs in the Old South were textile mills. The jobs in the New South are aerospace, automotive, and high tech.

We are leading the way in job growth and innovation, and taking care of a lot of families. Just look at South Carolina.

We build planes with Boeing. We build cars with BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and now Volvo. We have five – yes, five – worldwide tire companies with Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental, Giti Tire and now Trelleborg.

The first American-made flat screen televisions? You'll find them in rural Winnsboro, South Carolina, with Element Electronics.

And for those who said bicycles will never again be made in the United States? Look no further than Kent International, a New Jersey bike manufacturer we brought back from China to rural Manning, South Carolina.

More than 70,000 new jobs and almost \$17 billion in investment have been announced in South Carolina over the last five years. Unemployment has dropped from 11.1 percent in early 2011 to 6.4 percent today. We've moved more than 25,000 people from welfare-to-work. And more South Carolinians are working today than ever before in our

state's history.

These developments have a clear connection to racial equality.

These jobs are going into places like where I grew up, and many of them will go to African-Americans and other minorities.

We've announced jobs in 45 out of our 46 counties, rural and urban. These are generational jobs. We're creating opportunity for everyone. That makes a huge difference in racial advancement, and I couldn't be more proud. That is the New South.

Another big difference between the Old North and the New South is that we don't have anything like the public pension debts that exist in the north. That means our state budgets don't have the kinds of strangleholds on them like you see in places like Illinois and New York.

It means we don't have the job killing tax increases that are needed to finance those debts. It means our budgets are balanced and our credit ratings are good.

In addition to helping attract companies and generate new start-ups, that healthy fiscal picture also means we have the resources to invest in our future.

There's nowhere that that investment is more important than in public education. In South Carolina, we've lagged behind in education for a very long time. We're still behind. But we're changing that.

My first year in office I received a letter from an eighth grade girl who was contemplating suicide. She was being bullied at school and didn't know where to turn. I'm grateful I got the letter – I was able to talk to this young lady, full of potential, and we struck up a friendship. She's now, I'm proud to say, a happy, fun-loving, hard-working college freshman.

But I realized she wasn't alone, and so I started going to schools around the state to talk about bullying.

It was a wake-up call.

My daughter Rena attends a brand new public high school in Lexington, where every classroom has a flat screen tv and every child a tablet. It would be easy to mistake River Bluff for a small college. Yet when I went back to my hometown of Bamberg, they didn't even have the equipment to play a simple video.

That is wrong. It is immoral. And it is changing.

More than two years ago I started a conversation about education in South Carolina. I met with principals and teachers, superintendents and university deans, business leaders and legislators, Republicans and Democrats.

I listened. I learned. And I realized the biggest challenge facing South Carolina's education system was our failure to acknowledge that it simply costs more to teach a child who lives in poverty.

We acknowledge it now.

We changed our funding formula to send additional state dollars to children who are on Medicaid or receive free-and-reduced lunch.

We now provide reading coaches for every elementary school in South Carolina and we've ended social promotion, because we know if a child cannot read by the end of the third grade, he or she is four times less likely to graduate high school on time.

We are investing in technology: internet to the schools, internet inside the schools, and the tools – computers, tablets, instructional materials – to get every South Carolina child up to speed with the world as it today, not as it was three decades ago.

We did it with accountability. And we did it all without raising taxes.

I didn't choose to focus education resources into high poverty areas for racial reasons. I did it because I firmly believe that every child deserves a great education, regardless of where they are born and raised.

But in doing so, there's no question that it has a racial impact, because of the high correlation between poverty and race. That is the future of education in South Carolina, and it's a bright one.

So there's jobs, and there's education. If we get those two things right, and nothing else, we make enormous progress for all people, most especially for those at the lower end of the economic scale.

But let's be honest. Jobs and education are huge elements for creating opportunity for all. Jobs and education are the keys to the opportunity agenda. But when it comes to African-American communities in particular, there's also an equality agenda that goes further.

There still remain the unfinished goals of the civil rights movement. And the civil rights movement is a critical part of the American movement, and the American story.

It's a movement in which every person, regardless of their skin color is treated equally under the law.

Here again, the New South is an example for the rest of the country.

Before the tragedy of Mother Emanuel in June, there was the tragedy of Walter Scott in April.

Most of you will recall what happened in that case: Mr. Scott, a 50 year old black man, was stopped by a white North Charleston police officer for having a broken taillight. What ensued was caught on video for all the world to see: Mr. Scott began to run from the officer, who shot him repeatedly in the back, tragically ending his life.

Now, in the last year, we've seen similar situations elsewhere. In New York City, in Baltimore, and of course, in Ferguson, Missouri, there were incidents involving white police officers and unarmed black victims. In all three of those cases, there was civil unrest at truly awful levels. The riots in Ferguson and Baltimore were senseless.

You know what: black lives do matter.

Most of the people killed or injured in the riots in Ferguson and Baltimore were black. Think about it.

Most of the small businesses or social service institutions that were destroyed and looted in Ferguson and Baltimore were either black owned or served heavily black populations.

Most of the people who now live in terror because local police are too intimidated to do their jobs are black.

Black lives do matter, and they have been disgracefully jeopardized by the movement that has laid waste to Ferguson and Baltimore.

In South Carolina we did things differently.

After the horrendous death of Walter Scott, we didn't have violence. As a state, we came together, black and white, Republican and Democrat.

We communicated constantly – with religious leaders, with political leaders, with community leaders.

We saw the need for justice and immediately brought charges against the offending officer.

But we went further than that.

Two months, to the day, after the shooting of Walter Scott, our Republican-controlled General Assembly passed a

body camera bill. A few days later, Mr. Scott's family stood with me when I signed the bill into law.

South Carolina is the first state in the country to approve statewide body cameras for police.

There's an important lesson in this. In many parts of society today, whether it's in popular culture, academia, the news media, or certainly in politics and government, there's a tendency to falsely equate noise with results.

Some people think that you have to yell and scream in order to make a difference. That's not true. Often, the best thing we can do is turn down the volume level. When the sound is quieter, you can actually hear what someone else is saying.

And that can make a world of difference.

That brings me to the shootings in Charleston and the removal of the Confederate flag.

When I first got word of the shootings, I knew this was going to be unbearably painful for my state. Nine shooting deaths in a church, at Bible study? A state senator and a leading figure in the local black ministry shot to death?

We'd never imagined something this horrifying.

Each new piece of information was another kick in the gut.

The next morning, we captured the killer, and it immediately became clear that this was the act of a racist, motivated not by mental illness, but by pure hate.

Our state suffered a devastating wound. The first thing we needed to do was to lift up those families and celebrate the lives of the victims.

I decided to attend each funeral. I met the families. I heard their stories. And through it all, I had the privilege to get to know nine amazing souls.

After each funeral, I would head home and sit down with my two kids, Rena and Nalin. And I would introduce them to the person I had met that day.

I introduced them to Ethel Lance, who, despite losing her daughter to cancer two years ago, was a woman of love and joy who constantly sang her favorite song, "One day at a time, Sweet Jesus, that's all I'm asking of you, just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do."

I introduced them to Tywanza Sanders, our youngest victim, a twenty-six year old budding entrepreneur anxious to open his own barber shop, who that night stood in front of his eighty-seven year old aunt Susie, and spoke his last words to the murderer: "You don't have to do this, we mean you no harm."

I introduced them to Cynthia Hurd, whose life motto was "be kinder than necessary."

It is now my life motto.

Every opportunity I have, I mention the Nine, as I mention them here today. I don't want it to be just their families who know the love, the compassion, the greatness of those people, I want the whole world to know them, as my children do, as I do.

The second thing that needed to happen was removing the Confederate flag from our statehouse grounds.

Now, like a lot of things about the South, the flag is often misunderstood by people who are from somewhere else. There are many wonderful, decent, honorable people in our state who revere that flag. They are not racists. They are the same people who elected an African-American U.S. Senator, and twice elected an Indian-American Governor.



As I said when I announced my intention to bring down the flag, this was a debate that did not need to have winners and losers. Those who revere the flag for reasons of ancestry and heritage retain every right to do so.

But what happened in Charleston shed a different light on an issue our state had long struggled with.

What we saw in the extraordinary reaction to Charleston was people of all races coming together. We didn't have riots, we had vigils. We didn't have violence, we had hugs.

The Statehouse belongs to all people, and it needed to be welcoming to all people. That was not possible with that flag flying.

When it came to the removal debate, we had legislators who truly listened to each other. They walked in each other's shoes, and that made all the difference.

That willingness to listen allowed all of us to see each other in a way that doesn't always happen - with love and grace and compassion.

It's a love that we learned from the Emanuel Nine, who took in someone that fateful night who didn't look like them, didn't sound like them, didn't act like them, and they pulled up a chair and prayed with him. For an hour.

It's a grace we learned from their families, who incredibly, stood in front of the murderer just two days after this tragedy and offered him their forgiveness.

It's a compassion we learned from the people of South Carolina, who wrapped their arms around those families, that community, and each other in a way we've never seen before.

The flag came down. And South Carolina moved forward.

So where do we go from here?

Well, I'm going to keep talking about the Charleston Nine, and I'm going to keep talking about how we can improve race relations in our state.

You know, an interesting thing happened during the funerals. At one of them, Reverend Al Sharpton spoke, as did I. I had never met Reverend Sharpton before, but he took it upon himself to try to stir things up a bit.

In his remarks, he made a point of mentioning me, and said that the only time I would have seen him was through the window of my office when he was outside leading a protest.

So when it was my turn to speak, I addressed Reverend Sharpton directly, and I said, "If you were protesting outside my window, if you would have come inside and held out your hand, I would have hugged you."

Communication has to flow both ways.

One of the lessons of the flag controversy is that if we stop shouting and start listening, we get more accomplished. We should all listen to each other more – we will all benefit from walking in someone else's shoes.

A good example in the civil rights arena is in voter ID laws. There are those who act as if any effort whatsoever to maintain the integrity of the voting process is a racist attack on civil rights. Well that's just not so.

Requiring people to show a photo ID before they vote is a reasonable measure. It's not racist. If everyone was willing to stop shouting, and stop trying to score race-baiting political points, we could reach common ground.

I want everyone who is eligible to vote, to vote. I now count Reverend Jesse Jackson as a friend. I got to know him through the funerals. He's a native South Carolinian, who has done some amazing things in his career with voter registration.

I will say this: any time Reverend Jackson wants to do a voter registration drive in South Carolina, I will stand

shoulder-to-shoulder with him. I want to make it easy for everyone who is rightfully eligible to vote to do so. For most people, showing a picture ID is no burden. But I recognize that it is a burden for some. And those people are disproportionately poor, elderly, or disabled – which is why in South Carolina we offered rides to any citizen, anywhere in the state, to get to a local DMV and get a free picture ID.

So let's not throw out voter ID laws – the integrity of our democracy is too important for that. But let's figure out ways to make it easy and cost-free for every eligible voter to obtain a photo ID. That way, everyone who wants to vote, can vote.

Finally, I want to touch on how all of this relates to the Republican Party. As a conservative Republican myself, I have no doubts that when it comes to jobs, education, health care, and many other policy areas, Republican principles are the right ones for lifting up all people.

The problem for our party is that our approach often appears cold and unwelcoming to minorities. That is shameful, and it has to change.

This is not just a black and white thing. For Indian and Asian-Americans, for Jewish-Americans, for Mexican-Americans, our party and our principles have so much to offer. It's on us to communicate our positions in ways that wipe away the clutter of prejudices.

For African-Americans in particular, whether it's more jobs, better focused educational resources, police body cameras, and the like, Republicans have a great deal to offer. But we have to change our approach.

I recently went to worship with my family at Mother Emanuel Church, off the record. I didn't tell my staff – no reporters were notified, at least not by me. The press was not why I went.

In part, I went to that Sunday service for me – I wanted to be at Mother Emanuel on a 'normal' Sunday. I wanted to see it as it was intended to be, a place of comfort, a place of hope, and most of all, a place of worship.

But I also went for that church community. I went because I wanted them to know that they won't only see me when bad things happen. They will see me as we heal. They will see me as we move forward. Their children will know me as someone they can relate to and feel comfortable around. They will know me.

As I walked in to that service that Sunday, I came to the realization that so much of why this community sees me differently and has accepted me so warmly at the church and other places over the last few months is because I have been willing to come to them. To their places. I was at their church, in their environment, where they were comfortable, where I could listen.

How are we going to develop trust and relationships with each other if we continue to stay in our separate corners?

We can't. And so I won't.

If we are going to be true to this charge of moving South Carolina and our nation forward, the actions have to move through each of us. If we want to bring opportunity to every American, we will have to work together. That requires commitment, open mindedness, and a willingness to think differently by all of us.

If we can do this in South Carolina, under the most trying of circumstances, the sky is the limit to what we can do in our country. If we scream less, and listen more, we can make a lot of progress.

We can do it together.

And I couldn't be more proud that it is the New South – my South – that is pointing us in the right direction. Thank you.

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January 12, 2016- Republican Address to the Nation

Good evening.

I'm Nikki Haley, Governor of the great state of South Carolina.

I'm speaking tonight from Columbia, our state's capital city. Much like America as a whole, ours is a state with a rich and complicated history, one that proves the idea that each day can be better than the last.

In just a minute, I'm going to talk about a vision of a brighter American future. But first I want to say a few words about President Obama, who just gave his final State of the Union address.

Barack Obama's election as president seven years ago broke historic barriers and inspired millions of Americans. As he did when he first ran for office, tonight President Obama spoke eloquently about grand things. He is at his best when he does that.

Unfortunately, the President's record has often fallen far short of his soaring words.

As he enters his final year in office, many Americans are still feeling the squeeze of an economy too weak to raise income levels. We're feeling a crushing national debt, a health care plan that has made insurance less affordable and doctors less available, and chaotic unrest in many of our cities.

Even worse, we are facing the most dangerous terrorist threat our nation has seen since September 11th, and this president appears either unwilling or unable to deal with it.

Soon, the Obama presidency will end, and America will have the chance to turn in a new direction. That direction is what I want to talk about tonight.

At the outset, I'll say this: you've paid attention to what has been happening in Washington, and you're not naive.

Neither am I. I see what you see. And many of your frustrations are my frustrations.

A frustration with a government that has grown day after day, year after year, yet doesn't serve us any better. A frustration with the same, endless conversations we hear over and over again. A frustration with promises made and never kept.

We need to be honest with each other, and with ourselves: while Democrats in Washington bear much responsibility for the problems facing America today, they do not bear it alone. There is more than enough blame to go around.

We as Republicans need to own that truth. We need to recognize our contributions to the erosion of the public trust in America's leadership. We need to accept that we've played a role in how and why our government is broken.

And then we need to fix it.

The foundation that has made America that last, best hope on earth hasn't gone anywhere. It still exists. It is up to us to return to it.

For me, that starts right where it always has: I am the proud daughter of Indian immigrants who reminded my brothers, my sister and me every day how blessed we were to live in this country.

Growing up in the rural south, my family didn't look like our neighbors, and we didn't have much. There were times that were tough, but we had each other, and we had the opportunity to do anything, to be anything, as long as we were willing to work for it.

My story is really not much different from millions of other Americans. Immigrants have been coming to our shores

for generations to live the dream that is America. They wanted better for their children than for themselves. That remains the dream of all of us, and in this country we have seen time and again that that dream is achievable.

Today, we live in a time of threats like few others in recent memory. During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices. We must resist that temptation.

No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country.

At the same time, that does not mean we just flat out open our borders. We can't do that. We cannot continue to allow immigrants to come here illegally. And in this age of terrorism, we must not let in refugees whose intentions cannot be determined.

We must fix our broken immigration system. That means stopping illegal immigration. And it means welcoming properly vetted legal immigrants, regardless of their race or religion. Just like we have for centuries.

I have no doubt that if we act with proper focus, we can protect our borders, our sovereignty and our citizens, all while remaining true to America's noblest legacies.

This past summer, South Carolina was dealt a tragic blow. On an otherwise ordinary Wednesday evening in June, at the historic Mother Emanuel church in Charleston, twelve faithful men and women, young and old, went to Bible study.

That night, someone new joined them. He didn't look like them, didn't act like them, didn't sound like them. They didn't throw him out. They didn't call the police. Instead, they pulled up a chair and prayed with him. For an hour.

We lost nine incredible souls that night.

What happened after the tragedy is worth pausing to think about.

Our state was struck with shock, pain, and fear. But our people would not allow hate to win. We didn't have violence, we had vigils. We didn't have riots, we had hugs.

We didn't turn against each other's race or religion. We turned toward God, and to the values that have long made our country the freest and greatest in the world.

We removed a symbol that was being used to divide us, and we found a strength that united us against a domestic terrorist and the hate that filled him.

There's an important lesson in this. In many parts of society today, whether in popular culture, academia, the media, or politics, there's a tendency to falsely equate noise with results.

Some people think that you have to be the loudest voice in the room to make a difference. That is just not true. Often, the best thing we can do is turn down the volume. When the sound is quieter, you can actually hear what someone else is saying. And that can make a world of difference.

Of course that doesn't mean we won't have strong disagreements. We will. And as we usher in this new era, Republicans will stand up for our beliefs.

If we held the White House, taxes would be lower for working families, and we'd put the brakes on runaway spending and debt.

We would encourage American innovation and success instead of demonizing them, so our economy would truly soar and good jobs would be available across our country.

We would reform education so it worked best for students, parents, and teachers, not Washington bureaucrats and union bosses.

We would end a disastrous health care program, and replace it with reforms that lowered costs and actually let you keep your doctor.

We would respect differences in modern families, but we would also insist on respect for religious liberty as a cornerstone of our democracy.

We would recognize the importance of the separation of powers and honor the Constitution in its entirety. And yes, that includes the Second and Tenth Amendments.

We would make international agreements that were celebrated in Israel and protested in Iran, not the other way around.

And rather than just thanking our brave men and women in uniform, we would actually strengthen our military, so both our friends and our enemies would know that America seeks peace, but when we fight wars we win them.

We have big decisions to make. Our country is being tested.

But we've been tested in the past, and our people have always risen to the challenge. We have all the guidance we need to be safe and successful.

Our forefathers paved the way for us.

Let's take their values, and their strengths, and rededicate ourselves to doing whatever it takes to keep America the greatest country in the history of man. And woman.

Thank you, good night, and God bless."

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January 20, 2016- State of the State Address

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the General Assembly, constitutional officers and my fellow South Carolinians:

Each year we come together to discuss the state of our state, and each year we begin by acknowledging those who lost their lives in the service of our state and of our nation.

By the grace of God, this will be the first year I do not list a single active duty member of our armed forces who was taken from us. That is a blessing.

But the men and women of our military are not alone in their willingness to sacrifice for us and in their dedication to keeping us safe.

So now, please join me as we pay tribute to those who gave the last full measure of devotion in the service of South Carolina and her people:

Officer Gregory Thomas Alia, Columbia;

Officer Stacy Lynn Case, Columbia;

Deputy Sheriff Delton Daniels, Bennettsville;

Firefighter Stuart Gregory Hardy, Beaufort;

Firefighter Kenneth Michael Stanton, Sr., Pendleton;

Firefighter Tyron Weston, Columbia.

On behalf of all South Carolinians, to their families, know we will never forget.

I have always felt blessed to have the support of my family. Michael has always been my most trusted advisor. This year, that was even more true. He supported me through the grief, the decisions we made, and the prayers as we

moved forward through South Carolina's tragedies. A public servant is only as strong as the strength she has at home. Please help me welcome my strength, my partner, and the coolest First Man ever, Michael Haley. It is hard to believe how much my little ones have grown. They have spent so much of their lives in the public eye, and these two handle it in a way that makes us so proud. This is Rena's last year at home before she ventures off to college, which breaks my heart, and Nalin is finishing his last year in middle school. Please help me welcome my pride and joy, Rena and Nalin.

Recently, we lost a senator whose warmth and graciousness touched so many here at the Statehouse and across his district. Billy O'Dell was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. For more than 25 years, his work for the people of his district made South Carolina a better place, and along with his wife, Gayle, his son and daughter-in-law, Chip and Angela, and his daughter, Michelle, we mourn his passing. Mrs. O'Dell, your husband was loved by those within this chamber and by so many more outside of it. Thank you and your family for being here and for your service to our state.

This has been a different kind of year for South Carolina, a year that warrants a different kind of speech. While there is plenty to celebrate in our state, it would be neither honest nor productive to ignore the great challenges that were thrust upon South Carolina in 2015.

Ladies and gentlemen, the state of our state is bent but not broken.

As I look around this distinguished chamber tonight, there is a hole. It is a hole felt far beyond this Statehouse, a hole that tore deeply through the very soul of South Carolina.

Senator Clementa Pinckney served the people of South Carolina, in this very building, for eighteen years. He should be sitting with us tonight. Sadly, he is not.

This is an infinitely dimmer room because of it.

But his legacy lives on. It lives on in his works. It lives on in his church. It lives on in his friends. It will soon live on in the portrait that his colleagues will raise in the Senate Chamber, just across the hall. But most of all, it lives on in his family, in his wife, Jennifer, and their two beautiful daughters, Eliana and Malana.

They are here tonight.

Please join me, and all of South Carolina, in paying our deep respect to the Pinckney family.

Thank you for taking the time to be with us. This is an infinitely brighter room because you are here.

In the days following the tragedy at Mother Emanuel, and in the many months since, I have thought a great deal about Senator Pinckney.

I did not know him well, but what I knew was that in every interaction we had, he was always kind and respectful.

I knew him to be a goodhearted public official. I knew him to be a senator who spoke infrequently, but when he did, it was with great intensity and even greater authority. I knew him to be a man who never seemed to speak against anyone or anything but, instead, to advocate for the people and the ideas that he believed in.

The building we sit in invites disagreement. That is a good thing, a healthy thing – we should not pretend to all believe the same things nor should we be silent about where and when we differ.

But disagreement does not have to mean division. Honest policy differences do not need to morph into personal dislike, distrust, and disillusion. After all, to paraphrase something I read last June, we are more than just members of warring political tribes but brothers and sisters and fellow South Carolinians.

Senator Pinckney was more than just a senator; he was a father, a husband, a brother, a son, a reverend.

We should all spend a little more time getting to know the people behind the policies.

Before the tragedy of Mother Emanuel in June, there was the tragedy of Walter Scott in April.

We all recall what happened in that case: Mr. Scott was stopped by a North Charleston police officer for having a broken taillight. What ensued was caught on video for the entire world to see: Mr. Scott began to run from the officer, who shot him repeatedly in the back, tragically ending his life.

We were betrayed by one of our own.

The vast, vast majority of police officers in this nation are honorable men and women. They keep us safe.

But, unfortunately, what happened in North Charleston on April 4th was not a unique event in America today.

What happened after was.

In the face of overwhelming video evidence that something had gone terribly wrong, South Carolina did not erupt in riots or violence.

Instead, we focused on justice and progress.

Justice for Walter Scott and his family. Progress for our state.

That focus meant everything to South Carolina. And it began with the Scott family.

They started the calming of our community. Their words and actions allowed South Carolina the chance to right this wrong, the best we could, without the influence of outsiders.

Their response drove ours. And just two months after Mr. Scott was senselessly killed, I stood with his family and signed into law the first body camera bill in America.

I was proud to stand with the Scott family that day. I am proud to recognize Mr. Walter Scott, Sr., his wife, Judy, and their son and daughter-in-law, Rodney and Jenarious, who are here with us tonight.

Thank you for your graciousness in a time of unimaginable sorrow. South Carolina will forever grieve the loss of your son and be forever grateful to you and your family for helping us learn from your tragedy, grow from it, and take action to make sure, to the best of our ability, it never happens again.

South Carolina was devastated by man-made tragedies in 2015.

As if that wasn't enough, last year also saw the biggest natural disaster our state had endured since Hurricane Hugo.

Starting my first year in office, we have conducted emergency tabletop exercises that allow us to go through disaster situations in real time. Each year we work to improve our planning and our preparation. The disaster we always thought we were preparing for was a hurricane. Thankfully, that hurricane has not come this way.

What did, in 2014, were two winter storms that challenged our infrastructure, our utility companies, and our resources. South Carolina shined through those storms.

But this year was something neither we, nor the weathermen, could ever have imagined. Rain at unbelievable levels, pouring from the sky for hours. Enough rain, according to one report, to give each American one bottle of water every day for the next 182 years.

October's 1,000-Year flood was one that challenged our state in a way few natural disasters ever have.

I cannot give enough credit to General Bob Livingston, Director of Emergency Management Kim Stenson, Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall, and the other leaders of our agencies who understood that can't is not an option.

This team knew they couldn't sleep until we made sure we had done everything in our power to keep people safe, provide aid to those in need, and strengthen our citizens with the information and the resources to move forward. Please help me thank a group of people who didn't back down from a historic challenge, one I am proud to call Team South Carolina.

With good reason, we talk a lot about the things South Carolina does well, the records we are breaking, the rankings that show us rising to the top.

Number one in foreign investment. The number one exporter of tires. One of the fastest growing economies on the east coast. The friendliest state in the country. The most patriotic.

All of South Carolina should take pride in those facts.

There are others, however, we talk about less. And that we should never be proud of.

There is no excuse for South Carolina to rank as the state in America with the highest percentage of women killed by men.

Domestic violence is an issue that has plagued us for far too long. Tonight, I say it will plague us to that extent no more.

Last year, the General Assembly passed a very real, very important bill to help rid South Carolina of the poison of domestic violence. Thank you for all the work that went into sending that bill to my desk.

But we also know that our domestic violence epidemic is not going to be fixed by legislation alone. In order to truly solve this problem, it will take a complete culture change.

So a year ago, we established a domestic violence task force, made up of 135 members representing 65 organizations

across South Carolina. We committed to educating ourselves and each other about every aspect that a survivor goes through and all the contact points touched when a situation occurs, contact points that could be opportunities to save a life. We looked at not just the root causes but also how these cases were being handled, county by county, throughout our state.

We learned a lot. And we're taking action.

First, victims are not victims – they are survivors. We know that domestic violence is a choice the abuser makes, not the survivor. We need a culture of empowerment, rather than one of re-victimization.

Second, those survivors need to know that we have their backs – they need lawyers, not law enforcement officers, prosecuting domestic violence crimes. We need officers to be officers out in the field, and we need prosecutors to be prosecutors in the courtroom. South Carolina is one of only three states that allow law enforcement officers to try domestic violence crimes. That ends this year.

My Executive Budget includes additional prosecutors to fix this problem. No survivor deserves to show up in court and see a legally untrained police officer arguing his or her side, while a highly-paid defense lawyer argues on behalf of the abuser. If you join me, in South Carolina, no survivor ever will again.

There is more that we have done and still more to do. That's why I have extended the task force. But after the action we have taken together this past year, survivors of domestic violence across South Carolina can take comfort knowing that their government and the people of our state see them, hear them, and that they are no longer alone. You've heard me say it before – growing up in Bamberg, we didn't know what we didn't have.

For me, that's not the case anymore – I know exactly what we didn't have. And after visiting hundreds of schools across our state, I know exactly what many of today's kids don't have.

I have seen the disparities, and I won't stand by and allow them to continue.

We want to raise our children to know they are worthy of a good education. We want to raise our children with the confidence and the resources so they believe the sky is the limit.

Our focus for the last three years has been to right some wrongs. All of us did that together.

Thanks to your support, we changed the funding formula so that no one can ever say again that we educate children based solely on where they are born and raised.

Thanks to your support, we have put reading coaches in every elementary school and will no longer pass a child out of the third grade if they can't read.

Thanks to your support, wealthy districts are not the only ones investing in technology anymore – meaning wealthy districts are not the only ones that teach their students for the future, not the past.

And thanks to your support, we did it all without raising taxes.

But we're not done.

First, we need to let the voters of South Carolina decide if they want the Governor to appoint the Superintendent of Education. Education must be a priority for every governor – and to be successful, every governor must have a partner in the Education Department.

Superintendent Spearman has been a great partner since her election. But the history of South Carolina shows that has not always been the case, and our children have suffered as a result.

This is a change that will not take place until after I'm long gone from the Governor's Office, so it is not for my benefit that I ask you to support this initiative. It's for our children. And for theirs.

Second, in South Carolina we have high turnover of teachers in rural and challenged school districts. That affects a child, as they don't have consistency in their teachers. And it affects teachers, who are either constantly adapting to new environments or constantly watching their colleagues leave.

So this will be the first year we aggressively start recruiting teachers to rural districts and, just as aggressively, incentivizing them to stay there.

If a student agrees to teach in a challenged district for eight years, we will cover the full cost of their education at a state university. For recent graduates who agree to the same commitment, we will repay their student loans. For career educators who want to grow professionally and teach in these challenged districts, we will cover the cost of



their graduate coursework. And we will support mentorship programs for all of the above. Children deserve to know that teachers believe in them enough to stay. We have to slow this revolving door. I know we can, and now, I know we will.

Finally, we cannot continue to ignore that in much of our state, we have a facilities problem. Children can't learn as well when the walls of their classrooms are crumbling around them. Teachers can't teach as well when the hallways they walk are littered with puddles. Our students and our teachers deserve no less than to go to school each day in a place that is safe and clean.

Over the last year, there has been much discussion about floating a bond bill.

I am not unilaterally opposed to using South Carolina's bonding capacity to serve the most critical needs of our state. There are times it makes sense. It is why I signed a bill in 2012 to use that capacity to invest \$1 billion in our roads. It is why I have supported using that capacity for extraordinary economic development projects.

It is also why I opposed last year, and will oppose this year, any effort to bond out hundreds of millions of dollars to fill a wish list for our already bloated higher education system. No one can look at the tuition hikes parents and students have seen over the last decade and tell me that higher education doesn't have enough money. And no one can drive the campuses of Clemson, South Carolina, and so many others, see the brand new facilities and massive new construction projects, and tell me that they represent our greatest need.

That is not true of elementary, middle, and high schools in Denmark. Or Clarendon. Or Abbeville.

So here is what I propose: Let's pass legislation permanently dedicating up to one percent of our state's bond capacity to K-12 education facilities.

Now, I do not propose that all school districts in South Carolina are eligible for state support. Nor do I propose that the school districts themselves determine whether or not they qualify. This must be a thorough, priority-based process by which those districts that truly need our help get it, and those that don't, don't.

It starts with a complete evaluation of the facilities in which our children are currently attending school.

It includes the development of a strict set of building standards so that school districts will be able to build age and size-appropriate schools but not break the bank or waste millions of dollars on architects and blueprints, dollars that would be far better spent if that money actually touched a child and a teacher.

And finally, it includes restrictions on local governments – we are not helping school districts construct a school so that they can turn around and raise taxes on their people to build another one, or worse, a more extravagant one.

We have the opportunity to help those children in South Carolina who need it most. We have the opportunity to give dedicated teachers a safe place that allows them to do what they've always wanted: Impact the lives of their students. We have the opportunity to do it responsibly and without raising taxes.

We can waste that opportunity, if we so choose, on high-rise dorms, sparkling new graduate centers, and world-class administrative buildings. But if we don't focus on K-12, and focus on it now, higher education won't even be a possibility for far too many South Carolina children.

Last year, I told you I didn't know what else to say about ethics reform, that we'd talked about it for years and that we weren't asking that much, just for some simple, common sense, good government changes. Yet here we are again. Our two main priorities haven't changed: Requiring public officials to disclose who pays them and having independent investigators oversee legislators, just like they do for every other elected official in the state.

The House has passed both. Repeatedly. South Carolina thanks you for that.

The Senate has refused to even vote on either. Repeatedly.

It should not be this hard. We should not still be having this conversation four years in. We owe our people better.

We owe them an up or down vote. Give it to them this year. And then we can celebrate.

As you may have noticed, I love to celebrate. We build things in South Carolina. We build planes with Boeing. We have five international tire companies. We are the BMW capital of the world. We broke ground yesterday on a billion dollar investment by the largest producer of carbon fiber in the world, Toray Industries.

This past year our South Carolina family continued to grow, and we will soon be building more automobiles than ever before.

Mercedes-Benz Vans will soon be manufacturing Sprinter and Metris vans in South Carolina. Their custom automobiles are designed for commercial and freight transport and for executive purposes, with swivel chairs, cup warmers, coolers, and more options than you can imagine. They truly are the coolest vans you'll ever see, and we want every company across South Carolina and the world to buy these American-made vans.

Daimler also has Freightliner Custom Chassis operations in Cherokee County, and today, they announced an

expansion there with a \$22 million investment.

Please help me welcome Michael Balke and Roger Nielsen as we give our total support to Mercedes-Benz Vans and Daimler.

In May, I sat with Secretary Bobby Hitt and our teams in the Governor's Mansion library with Carroll Campbell's portrait looking over us. We took a long-awaited call that Volvo Cars had chosen to partner with South Carolina as they begin their journey of manufacturing in America.

Volvo is known for its reputation of quality and safety. We are so proud that they trust South Carolina to help them continue to deliver to their customers. To our friends at Volvo, I have total faith in our workforce. We won't let you down. Please help me welcome Katarina Fjording and Katherine Yehl of Volvo Cars.

And there is more to celebrate over the last year than those two major additions to the South Carolina family.

South Carolina's unemployment rate sits at 5.5 percent, the lowest since 2001.

In the last two years, we've saved businesses more than \$151 million in unemployment taxes.

We have cut our debt service by almost half over the last five years, while at the same time doubling our General Reserves.

We've moved almost 30,000 people from welfare-to-work.

The most recent data shows the rate of released inmates returning to prison has decreased by more than 25 percent. 2015 was the third year in a row with record-breaking tourism.

And there are more people working today than ever before in the history of South Carolina.

These things don't happen by accident. World-class manufacturers don't make multi-billion dollar decisions to call South Carolina home on a whim, and our historic employment levels are not the result of a great string of luck.

We have worked for our successes. We have been smart; we have paid attention to the changing world around us and to the growing competition for good jobs that pay good wages. We have kept our fiscal house in order and protected our credit rating. We have invested in our ports, in our workforce, and in our children's futures. It is a great day in South Carolina. But as I learned a long, long time ago, good times don't last if we squander them. So let's continue to be smart, to work together, so that we grow our success and not sit back, complacent, and watch it drift away.

To that end, transportation has been a topic of great interest and even greater discussion of late, so I will be brief, and also, I hope, clear: I think no differently of our roads situation than when I stood before you one year ago. I will not sign any piece of legislation that raises taxes – not in year one, not in year five, not in year ten. I will not sign any piece of legislation that does not include real reform to the Department of Transportation – the days of horse-trading South Carolina roads have to end. And I will not buy into the idea that we somehow cannot afford to cut income taxes for our people.

In December, a University of South Carolina economist said, "In 28 years of forecasting our state's economy, rarely have I seen [it] in such good shape and on such steady footing." We had \$1 billion in new revenue last year. We have \$1.3 billion in new revenue this year. My Executive Budget includes every dollar needed to pay for this year's tax cut. Next year's will too.

This is not our money. It belongs to the taxpayers. We can and we should return it to them.

Pass legislation that cuts our taxes, reforms our flawed transportation system, and invests in our roads, and I will sign it.

Pass legislation that does not do all three of those things, and I will veto it.

The choice is clear, and it's all yours.

I cannot end a speech about where the state of South Carolina stands in January of 2016 without first talking about the most impactful experience of this past year: The Mother Emanuel tragedy.

Sharonda Coleman-Singleton;

Depayne Middleton Doctor;

Cynthia Hurd;

Susie Jackson;

Ethel Lance;  
Clementa Pinckney;  
Tywanza Sanders;  
Daniel Simmons;  
Myra Thompson.

The nine we lost in the most sacred of places. Their memories will forever be with us. My family and I pray for them and for theirs. Every day.

When I speak of the tragedy, I no longer speak of the "Emanuel Nine." I speak of the "Emanuel 12."  
Why?

On June 17th, there were twelve men and women who went into that Bible study.

I have said it before, but I imagine I will say it until I no longer have the capacity to speak at all: Those twelve people did what so many South Carolinians do on a normal Wednesday night. They went to Bible study, to profess and to grow their faith.

But that was not a normal Wednesday night. That night someone else joined them. He didn't look like them, didn't sound like them, and didn't act like them. They didn't call the police. They didn't throw him out. Instead they pulled up a chair and prayed with him. For an hour.

For reasons only God knows, we lost nine amazing souls that night.

So too, for reasons only He knows, God decided He wasn't ready to take three more, that He still had work for them to do.

I ask that you join my family as we pray for Mrs. Felicia Sanders, for her eleven year-old granddaughter, and for Mrs. Polly Sheppard, as they continue to live with that memory.

Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Sheppard are here, joining us in the chamber tonight.

I am so grateful that they are.

Just as the nine we lost inform my belief that angels must exist in Heaven, these two women, and the precious little one who was with them that night, are proof that we have angels living here on Earth.

Please join me in expressing to Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Sheppard the warmth, gratitude, and above all the love that the entire State of South Carolina feels toward them.

Ethel Lance, who despite losing her daughter to cancer, was a woman of love and joy, known for constantly singing her favorite song. "One day at a time, Sweet Jesus, that's all I'm asking of you," she would sing. "Just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do."

Just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do.

We are a different South Carolina than we were one year ago. Of that there can be no doubt. A place, a people, cannot go through what we have gone through and not come out changed on the other side.

The questions we in this room must ask ourselves are: What does that mean? What do we do with it?

My hope is that we follow the example set by those around us.

Those twelve who prayed with a stranger.

Their families who forgave a murderer.

That community that came together.

Our state that inspired a nation.

There is greatness in South Carolina, a greatness embodied by our people, a greatness unequalled in our country. We have all seen it. We all know it.

It is my fervent wish that, in this year, we, as the representatives of those people, act in a manner that is worthy of that greatness.

For if we do, there is no limit to where we can take our state.

So I will continue to work toward a brighter future.

I will continue to believe in a stronger South Carolina.

And I will continue to pray that God gives me – and you – the strength to do every day what we have to do.

Thank you, God bless you, and may He continue to bless the great State of South Carolina.

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April 28, 2016- Gov. Haley Testifies Before U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security

Video of remarks, [here](#)

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November 18, 2016- Gov. Haley Addresses the Federalist Society

Video of remarks, [here](#)

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December 7, 2016- Gov. Haley Delivers Remarks to the Jack Kemp Foundation Annual Dinner

Video of remarks, [here](#)