

From: Veldran, Katherine

To: Veldran, Katherine (KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov) <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>

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Subject:

**Clementa
Pinckney**
1973-2015



The (Columbia) News

DEVASTATED

Gunman kills 9 at historic black church in Charleston

Suspect arrested in NC after all-night manhunt

By PATRICIA MAZZEI • Miami Herald

CHARLESTON — To commit the unholy of sins in the holiest of places, the young man with the gun spent almost an hour praying with the people who would become his victims. Then he opened fire.

Nine died. Three lived. One was injured. The man drove away in a black 2000 Hyundai Elantra GS, South Carolina tag LGF330.

The historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a congregation formed in 1816 and of such prominence that the faithful revere it as "Mother Emanuel" was left to tend to its despondent children.

Fourteen hours after the shooting, 250 miles away in Shelby, N.C., a florist who had heard about the mass killing and the 21-year-old suspected of carrying it out spotted the Hyundai on Thursday morning and called police.

Dylann Storm Roof was pulled over. He didn't resist arrest. "In America we don't let bad people like this get away with this dastardly deed," Charleston Mayor Joe Riley said.

• The shooter worshipped with the victims before opening fire.

• Fisher gave suspect Dylann Roof a gun as a birthday present.

• The suspect displayed white supremacist symbols on his clothing and license plate.

• State court records show a pending felony drug case and a past misdemeanor trespassing charge against the suspect.

• U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said the Justice Department has begun a hate crime investigation.

State Sen. Pinckney among the victims

By ZACH MURDOCK

zmurdock@islandpacket.com • 843-706-8167

Ordained at 18 and elected at 23, the late pastor and state Sen. Clementa Pinckney spent a lifetime lending his booming voice to the voiceless, friends and colleagues say.

In both professions, the Beaufort native and Lowcountry legislator kept the people he served in focus at all times.

Whether it was preaching from the pulpit on Easter Sunday or supporting police body camera legislation on the floor S.C. Senate, Pinckney's voice carried a weight that was heard and respected by all, they said.

"He was inspiring," said Emory Campbell, a renowned Gullah leader whose children grew up with Pinckney. "He had a voice that jarred the ears. He had a deep voice that would definitely awaken the congregation."

But that voice — and the voices of eight others in his congregation — were silenced Wednesday night.

• Felt called to preach at age 13

• Received his first appointment as pastor at age 18

• Elected to the State House at age 23

• Remembered as a "voice for the voiceless"

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