

Title: **Childhood friends are proud of Haley's rise**
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Childhood friends are proud of Haley's rise

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORANGEBURG — The people who grew up with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said they are going to miss her when she moves to New York City to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, but they are proud to see how far she has come.

Haley grew up in Bamberg County and went to high school at Orangeburg Preparatory Schools. On Wednesday, she accepted President-elect Donald Trump's request to serve as an ambassador as long as the U.S. Senate approves.

"I hate that we're going to lose her in South Carolina, but I do see her looking out for America the same way. She'll also look out for us the best way she can — and as often as she can. She never forgets where she comes from," said Renee Jeffcoat, who

went to school with Haley in Bamberg.

Jeffcoat, who is a special education teacher in Bamberg, has stayed close to Haley, even after Haley moved to Lexington, became a state representative and later governor for six years. Jeffcoat is currently a committee

member for Haley's nonprofit organization, The Original Six Foundation.

"She was a leader, a good friend who was very loyal, trustworthy and somebody

you really wanted to be around. You always felt comfortable with her, and she's still that way today. She just tried to make you feel at ease ... and let you know that she really cared about you," Jeffcoat told The Times and Democrat of

Orangeburg.

Bamberg County Councilman Trent Kinard also went to school with the governor and said he accomplishments should help children in the county's schools realize they can be anything they want and go anywhere they desire in life.

"We're all proud of her honestly, but at the same time, some people will be disappointed that she's going to be unable to finish her term as governor of South Carolina," Kinard said.

Cox Industries CEO Michael Johnson was a high school classmate of Haley, and said he has seen firsthand how hard she works and how fast she analyzes situations. Johnson accepted Haley's request he serve as chairman of the State Workforce Investment Board and

vice chairman of the Original Six Foundation.

"She is a quick study and this will serve her well in the extremely fluid ecosystem of global politics," Johnson said. "She thinks about people first, and that has served South Carolina well. She will serve the citizens of the United States well."

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JOHN RAOUX/AP PHOTO

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley speaks in Orlando, Fla. President-elect Donald Trump nominated Haley to be the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Title: **Haley's support not as sweeping as Trump states**
 Author:
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Haley's support not as sweeping as Trump states

Will it be a great day at the United Nations? Gov. Nikki Haley has done some great things in this state, and some things not-so-great. We were impressed by how she blended assertiveness and serenity during Hurricane Matthew. In a time when other governors typically resort to rhetoric, Haley demonstrated she's an effective communicator in crisis situations.

Haley in general has developed a reputation for not being part of "the establishment," an approach that propelled Donald Trump to the presidency.

So we're not completely opposed to Mr. Trump's choice of Haley to become a U.N. ambassador, though she lacks foreign policy experience. Plus Trump's assertion that Haley is "one of the most universally respected governors in the country" contradicts not only her record, but also his own social media rants.

Haley doesn't enjoy sweeping support from members of the S.C. General Assembly, who've on occasion banded together to override some of her more baffling vetoes.

Readers may recall how in May state lawmakers voted to override Haley's veto of providing \$40 million in aid to South Carolina farmers following the October 2015 floods.

Thankfully, the General Assembly, including members of the Aiken County legislative delegation, voted to override the governor's veto.

Haley further ruffled Republican feathers during the June 2016 primary season when her political advocacy group campaigned heavily against fellow GOP Sens. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence and Luke Rankin, R-Myrtle Beach. Both veteran lawmakers went on to win re-election.

And, of course, who can forget the Trump-Haley social media food fight, when the governor dismissively responded with "bless your heart" after the president-elect tweeted that S.C. residents are "embarrassed" by Haley?

The primary responsibility of a U.N. ambassador is to represent U.S. interests. While we certainly think Haley cares about America, her propensity to buck the system could prove to be a liability not only during the confirmation process, but also on the job.

While we have expressed concerns about aspects of Haley's record, we are dismayed by comments made to stories posted conservative news organizations focusing on her role in lowering the Confederate battle flag from State House grounds. These comments oppose Haley's appointment because she pushed for the flag's removal.

Heritage vs. hate arguments have been debated ad nauseam for years. Simply put, the flag had to come down, and hanging the flag issue over Haley's head is undeserved.

If anything, her role in lowering the flag boosts her U.N. candidacy since she'd be tasked with representing the nation, not a subculture within it.

Title: **Trump picks S.C. Gov. Haley for UN ambassador**
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PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

Trump picks S.C. Gov. Haley for UN ambassador

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN
AND ANITA KUMAR

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley has been tapped to serve as Donald Trump's U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, his transition team announced Wednesday. The 44-year-old, who is in her second and final term, has accepted the position.

Despite her lack of direct foreign policy experience, Trump said he chose Haley because she is "a proven dealmaker" who will be a "great leader representing us on the world stage."

"Governor Haley has a proven track record of bringing people together regardless of background

FROM PAGE 1A

HALEY

foreign policy or diplomatic experience. Current U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power served on President Barack Obama's National Security Council, working as a special assistant to the president and senior director for multilateral affairs and human rights. Her predecessor Susan Rice, like many ambassadors to the U.N. before her, spent part of her career as a diplomat.

Trump's spokesman Jason Miller cited Haley's handful of "trade and recruitment missions" to draw foreign companies to South Carolina when asked by reporters about her diplomatic qualifications on Wednesday.

or party affiliation to move critical policies forward," the president-elect said in a statement on Wednesday.

The announcement of Haley's nomination was quickly followed by that of a second woman, school-choice activist and billionaire Betsy DeVos, to lead the Education Department. DeVos, from Michigan, is a longtime advocate for charter schools and school vouchers.

While some cheered Haley's selection, the DeVos choice faced criticism even before it was formally announced Wednesday, The

Associated Press reported. Conservatives warned that DeVos, a longtime Republican donor, previously supported the Common Core education standards that Trump railed against during the campaign.

Haley's appointment marks several firsts.

If confirmed by the Senate, Haley would be the first person to enter the role with no previous

SEE HALEY, 14A

MORE INSIDE

Haley's national reputation is that of healer-in-chief. **13A**

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. also pointed out her husband's tour in Afghanistan with the S.C. National Guard. "I'm confident she will be a strong voice for

reform and stand for American interests throughout the world," he said.

South Carolina Democratic Party chair Jaime Harrison said he hopes Haley "is a quick study."

"I must note with concern that every single previous U.N. Ambassador came to the job with previous foreign policy experience, which Governor Haley lacks," he said in a statement.

Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Commit-

tee said they would take a careful look at Haley's qualifications.

"Governor Haley deserves fair, thorough scrutiny before taking on this important role," Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said on Wednesday. "I look forward to digging into Gov. Haley's record, experience, and qualifications."

At this point Haley should have no trouble being confirmed by the Senate.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., Hillary Clinton's running mate and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said her leadership in South Carolina had prepared her for the post.

"As a former Governor, I believe that Governor Haley's executive experience would serve her well in the challenging role of negotiating with all United Nations member states," he said in a statement.

If confirmed, Haley would move to New York City for her new job. She would have the option of living at the U.N. ambassador residence, which is a suite of rooms on the 42nd floor of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel leased by the State Department.

The daughter of Indian Sikh immigrants, Haley was the first woman and the first minority picked for a Cabinet-level post in Trump's administration.

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CLIFF OWEN AP

President-elect Donald Trump says S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, his choice for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has accepted his offer.

Title: **Haley's reputation is healer-in-chief**
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TRUMP'S UN PICK

Haley's reputation is healer-in-chief

BY SEANNA ADCOX
 The Associated Press

COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley has developed a national reputation as a racial conciliator who led the charge to bring down the Confederate flag at the Statehouse and guided South Carolina through one of its darkest moments, the massacre at a black church.

Now the 44-year-old American-born daughter of Indian immigrants is about to take her role as the state's healer-in-chief to a world stage, as U.N. ambassador.

On Wednesday, Haley became the first woman and first minority chosen by President-elect Donald Trump for his Cabinet.

If the Senate confirms her, she could find herself in the awkward position of being the international voice for an administration that has belittled the United Nations, promised to build a wall along the Mexican border and endeared itself to the alt-right movement, even though Trump has repudiated such groups.

Haley may have offered a glimpse Tuesday of how she will approach the job.

"Faith with action and kindness and love will al-

ways take us where we want to go," the Republican governor said at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, where a white man gunned down nine black parishioners in June 2015.

Haley drew wide praise for her leadership after the attack, as she conveyed the state's grief and successfully led calls to bring down the Confederate flag that had flown on the Statehouse grounds for 54 years. The

shootings were motivated by "pure hate," she said then, and will "forever change the way I live my life."

On Tuesday, churches across the state honored Haley's request for prayer vigils amid the nearly simultaneous murder trials of the defendant in the church massacre and a white former police officer accused of fatally shooting a black motorist in the back.

Her handling of the racially charged events bolstered her national image, said longtime GOP operative Richard Quinn.

"It became a national example of how you can deal with racial issues

peacefully," he said.

Other crises Haley has grappled with include historic flooding in 2015, an elementary school shooting last September, Hurricane Matthew last month and wildfires that continue to rage in the state's northwestern corner.

Born Nimrata Nikki Randhawa in rural Bamberg, S.C., Haley was raised a Sikh. She says she converted to Christianity before marrying her husband, Michael, in 1996. They have two children.

Haley has recalled that as a youngster, she and her sister were disqualified from the segregated Little Miss Bamberg Pageant because organizers couldn't figure out whether the girls should compete in the white or the black contest.

Haley, the second U.S. governor of Indian heritage, is the first South Carolina governor who is not a white man. She is also the nation's youngest governor.

She brings limited international experience to one of the U.S. government's most important international assignments. Almost all of her exposure

on the world stage has been in pursuit of luring jobs to South Carolina.

Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental, Trelleborg and Giti Tire all have announced new or expanded operations in recent years, bolstering South Carolina's reputation as the nation's tire capital.

Her trips abroad to lure jobs include a 2015 secretive trip to Sweden, which was followed weeks later by an announcement that Volvo would build its first U.S. auto plant in South Carolina in exchange for more than \$200 million in state incentives.

In 2014, Haley took an economic development trip to India, her first visit to her parents' native country since she was 2. Her parents emigrated from India in the early 1960s.

Haley graduated from Clemson University in 1994 with an accounting degree. But she says her business experience started at age 13, when she became the bookkeeper of her family's clothing store, a job she returned to after college.

Title: **Haley's legacy will include responses to shootings and natural disasters**
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Haley's legacy will include responses to shootings and natural disasters

BY CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley rose from a political newcomer in her first term as governor to dominating national headlines for her handling of state tragedies.

The announcement Wednesday that Haley will be nominated for U.N. ambassador by President-elect Donald Trump means Haley's S.C. legacy is drawing to a close — for now, at least.

Haley, a Bamberg native and the daughter of Indian immigrants, was a state representative in 2010 when she beat out more well-known Republicans in that year's gubernatorial primary. That fall, she was elected the state's first female and minority governor.

Haley, 44, has been recognized for her compassionate handling of state tragedies — signing a bill requiring police officers to wear body cameras after a white North Charleston officer was charged with fatally shooting a black motorist, and successfully pushing to remove the Confederate flag from the State House grounds after the shootings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Her legacy will include industry recruitment, most

notably Swedish carmaker Volvo to Berkeley County and Giti Tire of Singapore to Chester County. Both companies are building major manufacturing plants.

Still, Haley didn't always build bridges, especially with legislators, with whom she often clashed.

BECOMING GOVERNOR

Just six years ago, Haley was a little-known state representative from Lexington.

"South Carolinians bestowed upon me the greatest honor of my life," Haley said in Wednesday's statement. "They took a chance on a little-known, 38-year-old, minority, female governor — something our state had never done before. I will be forever grateful, and I expect I will never again receive a higher honor."

In the GOP primary that year, an endorsement by former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin helped Haley win the most votes — 44.9 percent. She handily won the runoff with 65 percent of the votes against former U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett.

Haley went on to beat Democratic Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Kershaw County in the general

election, making history as South Carolina's first minority and female governor.

Haley later faced an ethics investigation into whether she misused her position as a state representative while consulting with the Wilbur Smith engineering firm. Those ethics charges were eventually dismissed by the state Supreme Court.

In 2014, Haley again beat Sheheen in the general election with a margin of more than 14 percentage points. Haley won re-election largely by securing out-of-state donations, making education a priority, and focusing on economic development.

'JOBS GOVERNOR'

Just last week, Haley's office announced an economic development milestone. A company committed to creating jobs in McCormick County, the final county to land additional jobs during her administration.

"We made South Carolina's economic development the envy of the nation and brought new jobs to every county," Haley said in her statement Wednesday.

Lewis Gossett, of the S.C. Manufacturers Alli-

ance, said that when Haley took office in 2011, she confronted the lingering effects of the Great Recession, which hit all of South Carolina's industries hard.

"She was and has been one heck of a salesperson for the state of South Carolina," he said.

LEGACY OF HANDLING TRAGEDIES

Haley's administration will perhaps be remembered most for her handling of several tragedies.

In June 2015, South Carolina was rocked by the killings of nine black worshipers at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, allegedly by a white supremacist, Dylann Roof of Columbia.

In response, Haley called for removing the Confederate flag from the State House grounds. After an emotional debate, the General Assembly agreed. A few months later, Haley led the state's response to historic flooding in several areas, including the Midlands.

Last month, weather again ravaged parts of South Carolina when Hurricane Matthew blew down trees and flooded many areas along the coast and in the Pee Dee.

"Our state has also

Title: **Haley's legacy will include responses to shootings and natural disasters**
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persevered through some of the most difficult times," Haley said in Wednesday's statement. "Nature damaged many of us with the thousand-year flood and Hurricane Matthew. Our hearts were broken for those we lost when tragedy struck . . . Yet through it all, the greatness of our people overcame those tragedies, even coming together to heal the old wounds represented by the Confederate Flag on the State House

grounds."

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEGISLATURE

As governor, Haley has often clashed with state lawmakers.

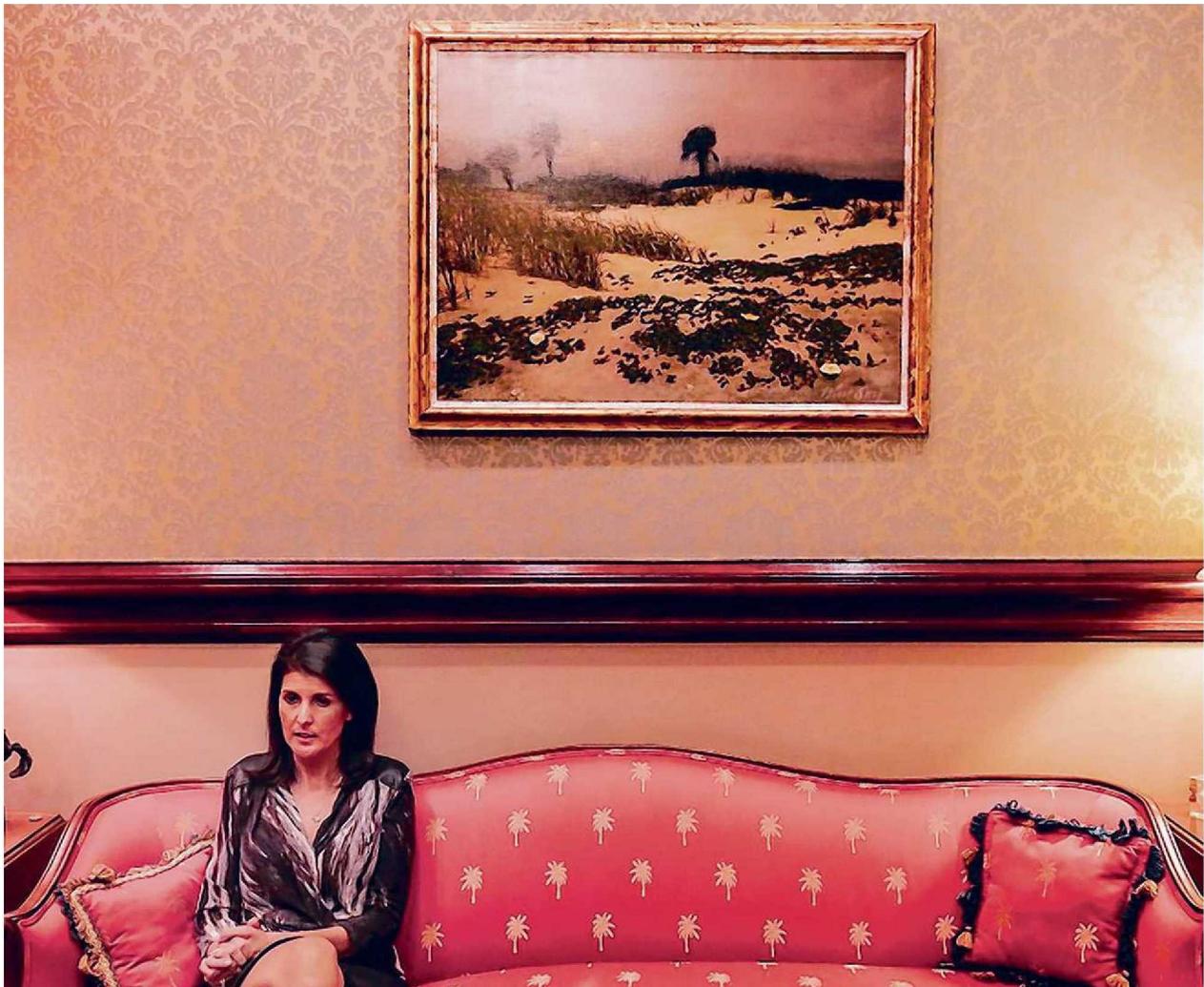
In her first term, Haley gave lawmakers report cards. She also once told a real estate group to "take a good shower" after visiting the State House, and she often takes to her Facebook page to urge lawmakers to vote a certain way on legislation.

This year, she targeted three sitting state senators in their primaries, successfully ousting one. That effort included an unsuccessful campaign against Senate leader Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence.

In an indication that Haley's priorities would have little weight in her last two years in office, Leatherman at his primary night victory celebration referred to Haley as not just a lame duck, but a

"dead duck."

Still S.C. politicians were singing Haley's praises Wednesday. State Rep. Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, who has often criticized Haley's stances, applauded her. "We've watched as she dealt with companies and dealt with the media (during tragedies) and always put a positive spin on South Carolina and seemingly put South Carolina's interest above her own," Rutherford said.



MATT WALSH / THE STATE

Gov. Nikki Haley sits in her office beneath a painting of a South Carolina beach and discusses Hurricane Matthew days after the storm tore through the state.

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Haley, flanked by former governors Dick Riley, Jim Hodges and David Beasley, and family members of the nine slain at a Charleston church, signs a bill to remove the Confederate flag from the State House grounds.

Title: **Haleychosento be Trump's UNAmbassador**
 Author: BY VERABERGENGRUEN AND ANITA KUMAR McClatchy Washington Bureau
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Haley chosen to be Trump's UN ambassador

■ South Carolina's governor will be the next ambassador to the United Nations, according to a Donald Trump transition official. Nikki Haley will take the job in the new Republican administration.

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN
AND ANITA KUMAR

McClatchy Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's appointment as U.N. ambassador marks several firsts.

The daughter of Indian Sikh immigrants, the 44-year-old is the first woman and the first minority picked for a Cabinet-level post in President-elect Donald Trump's administration.

If confirmed by the Senate, Haley would be the first person to enter the role with no direct previous foreign policy experience. Current U.N. ambassador Samantha Powers served on President Barack Obama's National Security Council, working as a special assistant to the president and senior director for multilateral affairs and human rights. Her predecessor Susan Rice, like many ambassadors to the U.N. before her, spent part of her career as a

diplomat.

Haley's international experience centers on her work with foreign companies to attract commerce and economic development to South Carolina. Her husband served a year in Afghanistan with the South Carolina National Guard.

Another first - Haley's appointment marks a turning point in Trump's transition, which up to now has mainly focused on rewarding the loyalty of those who supported his White House bid.

The South Carolinian was critical of Trump during the presidential campaign, even using her high-profile position delivering the Republican State of the Union response in January to urge her party to resist "the siren call of the angriest voices."

Haley also denounced Trump's call to temporarily ban Muslims from

entering the U.S., saying in the nationally televised address, "No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country."

Trump hit back in his usual style, tweeting, "The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!"

The governor endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., ahead of South Carolina's Republican primary in February before lukewarmly supporting the Republican nominee.

"This election has turned my stomach upside down," she said last month. "It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something that the country deserves, but it's what we've got."

Haley, who traveled to New York for a face-to-face meeting with the president-elect last week,

was initially said to be under consideration for secretary of state.

Haley was elected South Carolina's first female and minority governor in 2010. She became a nationally recognized figure after her steady handling of the mass shooting last year in Charleston, where a white gunman killed nine black parishioners, as well as a historic flood a few months later. After the shooting, she convinced the state Legislature to remove the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the capitol.

Born in Bamberg, Haley graduated from Clemson University with a bachelor of science degree in accounting. She served in the state Legislature, representing Lexington County, before becoming governor.

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CLIFF OWEN Associated Press

Gov. Nikki Haley

Title: **With McMaster as governor, who will be SC's second in command?**
 Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDÁN croidan@thestate.com
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With McMaster as governor, who will be SC's second in command?

BY CYNTHIA ROLDÁN
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Gov. Nikki Haley's appointment as U.N. ambassador sets up Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster to take over the state's executive office.

But a 2014 constitutional amendment, approved by voters, raises the question of who will be South Carolina's next second-in-command.

"I believe that the new law would require Gov. McMaster to choose a lieutenant governor and then have that person run the Senate," said Rep. Jim Merrill, R-Berkeley.

"The entire point of the legislation was to have a governor and a lieutenant governor run on the same ticket, and that was to start in 2018," Merrill

said. "This speeds it up by a few months, but it's not really that much of an unexpected change."

Under that interpretation of the law, McMaster would be the first lieutenant governor-turned-governor in state history who would get to pick his successor. McMaster, who

ran unsuccessfully for governor in the 2010 GOP primary, has said he will seek the governor's office in 2018.

But other state legislators interpret the law differently and argue that it was General Assembly's intent to have those changes take effect in 2018 - not before then.

Former Pickens Sen. Larry Martin, who co-sponsored the 2014 law, said it does not affect the current state executive office. He said even if the law is worded otherwise, it was not the Legislature's intent to have it take effect before 2018.

"Everybody understood that the changes we were voting on became effective during the 2018 general election," Martin said. "What is set in stone and what is operative is what we passed ... which clearly puts all of this in motion in the 2018 election."

Current state law calls for the Senate president pro tempore to ascend to lieutenant governor if the position is vacant. Though

Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, holds that position, the Senate is expected to elect a new president pro tempore when the chamber returns Dec. 6 for an organizational session.

Citing previous instances in which the Senate president pro tempore has ascended to lieutenant governor, House Judiciary Chairman Rep. Greg Delleney, R-Chester, also said that command structure should remain intact through 2018.

"You can take it to court and let the court determine the intent of the Legislature, but I think it's pretty clear," Delleney said.

"The old law would apply, where the president pro tem of the Senate automatically becomes the lieutenant governor."

In 2014, when then-Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell resigned to become president of the College of Charleston, then-Senate President Pro Tempore John Courson, R-Richland, was set to ascend. But

Courson, who did not want to lose his Senate seat, resigned the pro tempore position, triggering a scuffle over who would become the state's next second-in-command.

Former Democrat Yancey McGill ultimately volunteered to become the Senate's president pro tempore and, consequently, lieutenant governor. He was the fourth Senate president pro tempore to become lieutenant governor since 1870, according to state records.

But the office has gone vacant at least six times in its history, after lieutenant governors succeeded governors. The last vacancy happened in 1965, when Robert McNair ascended to governor but the Senate's president pro tempore, Edgar Brown, declined to become lieutenant governor.

The last South Carolina governor to resign was Donald S. Russell in 1965.

Staff writer Paul Osmundson contributed.

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Gov. Nikki Haley delivers her State of the State address in 2015 with Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster nearby.

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McMaster as governor and the 2018 race

■ The 2018 GOP primary was expected to be crowded. But now, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is to become governor, meaning he would run as an incumbent in 2018.

BY CASSIE COPE

ccope@thestate.com

The 2018 GOP gubernatorial field was expected to be crowded, with at least a half dozen candidates.

But if Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed as U.N. ambassador, one of those potential candidates — Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster — would run as an incumbent in two years. Incumbents have the benefit of name recognition, and a challenger would face an uphill battle, especially with McMaster having two years experience in the role.

“Henry was always going to be a formidable candidate,” said state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, adding McMaster has impeccable Republican credentials.

“If somebody was going to run, I think that their plans are the same now,” said Davis, who was a

chief of staff to former Gov. Mark Sanford.

Davis, who is a potential candidate, said he is weighing whether he can afford to put in the time necessary to successfully run for governor. He said he will assess next spring.

Meanwhile, the first candidate to officially announce a 2018 bid — House Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope, R-York — said he wouldn’t work against McMaster.

“I want to do anything I can to work with him for the betterment of this state,” said Pope. Pope added that he would watch as things evolve and see where he needs to be in 2018.

Another potential 2018 candidate, former Department of Health and Environmental Control chief Catherine Templeton of

Charleston, said Wednesday she had planned to make a formal announcement about the governor’s race in January.

“This does not change that because I want to serve the state in whatever capacity makes the most sense,” Templeton said.

Meanwhile, Templeton could rise in government much more quickly depending on how McMaster’s replacement as lieutenant governor is chosen.

On Wednesday, some state officials said they believed McMaster could appoint his replacement because of a 2014 state constitutional amendment that allows the governor and lieutenant governor to run on the same ticket. However, other officials say the Senate’s president pro tempore would become lieutenant governor.

Rumors circulated that if McMaster can choose his replacement, he might select Templeton.

But Templeton would not say if she had been approached by McMaster for the job.

Meanwhile, other potential 2018 candidates could be in limbo, including former Democratic Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill, who switched political parties to run in two years.

Other potential candidates rumored to be interested in running include: Columbia real estate developer Bill Stern and Republican officeholders U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney of Indian Land; U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of Charleston; and Attorney General Alan Wilson of Lexington.

Staff writer Cynthia Roldan contributed.

Title: **Trump diversifies cabinet with latest picks**
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Trump diversifies cabinet with latest picks

BY MARK LANDLER AND
MAGGIE HABERMAN

The New York Times

WASHINGTON

President-elect Donald Trump named two prominent Republican women to Cabinet posts on Wednesday, recruiting Betsy DeVos, a prominent Republican philanthropist and educational activist, as education secretary, and Gov. Nikki R. Haley of South Carolina as ambassador to the United Nations.

Moving swiftly to diversify his Cabinet, Trump was also nearing an announcement of Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon who ran an outsider's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, as secretary of housing and urban development.

DeVos and Haley would

be the first women in Trump's Cabinet, while Carson would be the first African-American. But none of these choices suggest a president-elect who is reaching beyond reliably conservative circles for his major policymakers.

A major Republican fundraiser from Michigan, DeVos, 58, is a passionate believer in school choice, a subject that she and Trump discussed last week when she met him at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey. She is a member by marriage of the DeVos family, the founders of Amway and one of the largest contributors to the Michigan

Republican Party.

"The status quo in education is not acceptable," DeVos said in a statement. "Together, we can work to make transformational change that ensures every student in America has the opportunity to fulfill his or her highest potential."

Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association, criticized the selection in a statement emailed to reporters, saying DeVos' work over the years had "done more to undermine public education than support students."

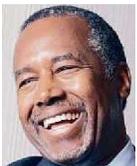
"She has lobbied for failed schemes, like vouchers - which take away funding and local control from our public

schools - to fund private schools at taxpayers' expense," Garcia said. "These schemes do nothing to help our most vulnerable students, while they ignore or exacerbate glaring opportunity gaps."

Until Wednesday, Trump's appointments had consisted of five white men: Stephen K. Bannon as chief strategist in the White House, Reince Priebus as chief of staff, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama as attorney general, Rep. Mike Pompeo of Kansas as director of the CIA, and Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn as national security adviser. He is rumored to be close to naming Gen. James N. Mattis as secretary of defense.



DeVos



Carson

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Wildfires prompt state of emergency in northern SC

GREENVILLE

Gov. Nikki Haley has declared a state of emergency in Pickens and Greenville counties because of a growing wildfire in the mountains.

The declaration allows the governor to request help from the National Guard and the State Guard.

The wildfire has burned more than 9 square miles on Pinnacle Mountain. Officials say it started about two weeks ago and is just over a third contained.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission says 250 firefighters are fighting the blaze and 60 more are trying to clear out dead leaves and branches in front of the fire to try and stop it from spreading.

The area is in an exceptional drought and there is only a slight chance of rain through the Thanksgiving weekend.

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