

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
October 13, 2015

Governor Nikki R. Haley;

The recent decision of two thirds supermajority in both chambers of the house, requiring the Confederate Flag removal from the State House was courageous and monumental. I have had the opportunity to see the reaction of all South Carolinians in response to the removal of the flag. The mixed emotions run deep into American History which overlaps into one of America's deepest wounds "Slavery" and the obliteration of America's first Nations people. Some of your constituents such as Rep. Mike Pitts of Laurens vowed to fight the bill when it came to his chamber which he did successfully, he and flag supporters which proposed over sixty amendments during the debate. The nation watched as the victims of Emanuel AME Church were slain by an assassin who coveted the Confederate Flag proclaiming heritage and hate. As governor of the great state of South Carolina, with commitment and intestinal fortitude the flag was removed and our country watched the press conference that followed.

Tempers flared, which under those circumstances were unavoidable but your office amongst strong opposition persevered and the flag was removed. This part of American history can be viewed at the Confederate Relic Room just down the road from the statehouse where relics belong. Governor, as an American citizen you have shown true dignity and statesmanship during the historic event in Columbia, South Carolina. Hence, only a few months into the fall season South Carolina faces massive floods and tragedy which threatens many of the citizens around the state. You have provided leadership and communication for all citizens in South Carolina creating a template for resolving issues creating and preserving communities. Governor, you and house representatives, for and against removing the flag gave democracy a chance and have shown the world how a resolution can be resolved through the democratic process. Although race relations are still challenging in America, the example in South Carolina has questioned and confronted terrorism, racial inequality, bigotry, and hatred in the land we call United. New Jersey applauds this genuine and sincere effort from the representatives of South Carolina and its citizens.

Respectfully;

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