

February 17, 2015

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

Dear Governor Haley,

On April 11, 2015, we will celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of our family matriarch, Ruby Loretta Ivey Henderson, and wife of a **Pearl Harbor Veteran**, Robert Andrew Henderson, a woman who truly represents our country's greatest generation.

Ruby Loretta Ivey Henderson was born in 1925 and raised on a farm in Cornelia, Georgia. With the help of one of her seven siblings she began pen pal correspondence with Staff Sergeant Robert A Henderson who served our country as a proud marine from 1940 to 1945 and on December 7, 1941 was on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu serving as a 22 year old corporal on Admiral Nimitz security detail when the Japanese attacked our country. Over the years our family learned of the importance of those letters of home, family and hope. Even though they had never met in person, just after Bob returned from the war in 1945, Ruby married her pen pal and the man she had continuously supported during his military service and duties in time at war. Robert A Henderson of Superior, Wisconsin and Ruby Loretta Ivey of Cornelia, Georgia were married on January 30, 1946. This year they celebrated 69 years of marriage, again displaying family value to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Ruby raised the family as Bob worked to support his family.

Ruby's faith has been the cornerstone of the family, serving tirelessly with the local churches.

I am grateful to have married Janet, Ruby's eldest daughter and a nurse, on November 28, 1970. Bob and Ruby's other children are Brenda Henderson Hassler, a school teacher, and Robert A Henderson Jr., who retired as a special agent for the FBI.

Bob and Ruby have six grandchildren, Kristjana Knight Cook, Kimberly Knight Barker, Kelly Hassler Fuller, John Hassler, Barbara Ann Henderson Kinney, and Ben Henderson.

They also have seven great grand children; Kaitlyn Elizabeth Barker, Kristin Rebekah Barker, Olivia Jean Fuller, Kenneth Knight Cook, Cooper George Cook, Charles Campbell Cook, and Kyan Daniel Krenik. The legacy Ruby has begun will go on for generations to come.

**I would like to ask you to be part of our family's celebration of Ruby's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by sending a card or if you would be so kind, a proclamation acknowledging her significant life accomplishments.**

Ruby's home address is 273 Hollis Drive, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29307.

**PLEASE** send response care of: Robert J. Knight, 2845 Cox Neck Road, Chester, Maryland 21619 where the birthday celebration will take place. My cell phone is 410-570-3205. Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely,

  
Robert J. Knight