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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: SC governor: Removing Confederate flag will defy race hatred

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gf5iLk5Y

Seanna Adcox, Jeffrey Collins, Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's governor declared Monday that the Confederate flag should be removed from the Statehouse grounds as she acknowledged that its use as a symbol of hatred by the man accused of killing nine black church members has made it too divisive to display in such a public space.

Note: "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," Haley said, flanked by Democrats and Republicans, blacks and whites who joined her call.

Note: "My hope is that by removing a symbol that divides us, we can move our state forward in harmony, and we can honor the nine blessed souls who are now in Heaven," Haley said.

The State: Haley: 'The time has come'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article25203127.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope, Andrew Shain

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley called Monday for legislators to remove the Confederate flag from the grounds of the State House. Republican Haley, the state's first minority and first woman governor, acted in the wake of the massacre at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church last week, where nine people, including state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, D-Jasper, were killed by a 21-year-old white supremacist.

Note: "Today, we are here in a moment of unity in our state, without ill will, to say it is time to move the flag from the Capitol grounds," Haley said. "One hundred and fifty years after the end of the Civil War . . . the time has come."

Associated Press: Lawmakers' changing tone on flag follows 15 years of refusal

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tkUy8K5e

Seanna Adcox, Jeffrey Collins, Meg Kinnard

For 15 years, South Carolina lawmakers refused to revisit the Confederate flag on Statehouse grounds, saying the law that took it off the dome was a bipartisan compromise, and renewing the debate would unnecessarily expose divisive wounds.

Note: On Monday, Gov. Nikki Haley did what a previous Republican governor found to be political suicide. Herself a Republican, she not only called for the flag's removal but pledged to call legislators back to Columbia if they don't deal with it in a special session in the next few weeks.

Note: "My children saw what true faith looks like. My children saw that true hate can never, never triumph over true love. My children saw the heart and soul of South Carolina start to mend," she said.

Greenville News: Gov. Nikki Haley: Remove Statehouse Confederate flag

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/06/22/south-carolina-confederate-flag/29108665/>

Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday urged lawmakers to remove the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds, saying it does not represent the future of the state and has been used as a symbol of hatred.

Note: "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," Haley said to thunderous applause and cheers from more than 100 people who filled the Statehouse upstairs lobby and lined the railings above.

The State: Victims' families, church visit drove Haley to call for flag's removal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/article25206631.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

After a racially motivated massacre at a historic African-American church in Charleston last week, Gov. Nikki Haley said she would welcome a debate about removing the Confederate flag from the State House grounds. But that debate should wait until after the funerals for the nine victims.

Note: During the church service, Haley said her two children “saw what true faith looks like.” “My children saw that true hate can never, never triumph over true love,” the Republican governor told a press conference Monday. “My children saw the heart and soul of South Carolina start to mend.”

Call to action, time of healing: “The murderer, now locked up in Charleston, said he hoped his actions would start a race war,” Haley told a packed State House lobby.

Note: “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.”

TIME: South Carolina Governor Calls for Removal of Confederate Flag From Statehouse Grounds

<http://time.com/3930715/south-carolina-governor-nikki-haley-confederate-flag/>

Sam Frizell, Sarah Begley

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley called on Monday for the removal of the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds in Columbia, reshaping a heated debate over race and the flag’s meaning in a state devastated by last week’s massacre at a historic black church.

Note: “For many people in our state, the flag stands for traditions that are noble,” she said in a news conference at the state Capitol, in front of American and South Carolina state flags. “For many others in South Carolina, the flag is a deeply offensive symbol.”

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley joins call to remove Confederate flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150622/PC1603/150629833>

Cynthia Roldan, Schuyler Kropf

Gov. Nikki Haley and South Carolina’s two U.S. senators on Monday joined the growing chorus calling for removing the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds after a white gunman killed nine black people last week in Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Note: Haley declared during a Statehouse news conference that South Carolina had “stared evil in the eye” last week, and it is time to fold the flag for good.

Note: “Today, we are here in a moment of unity in our state, without ill will, to say it is time to move the flag from the Capitol grounds,” Haley said. “One hundred fifty years after the end of the Civil War ... the time has come.

Note: “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 the flag, while an integral part of our past, does not represent the future of our great state.”

Associated Press: GOP candidates embrace SC gov's call on Confederate flag

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dvgMBn72

Steve Peoples, Lisa Lerer

Republicans with presidential aspirations rushed Monday to embrace South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's call to remove the Confederate flag from the grounds of the state capitol, eager to move past a vexing issue that challenges the GOP's effort to win over the diverse coalition of voters it likely needs to win back the White House.

Sun News: Horry County state lawmakers split on future of Confederate flag at Statehouse

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/politics-government/article25185919.html#storylink=cpy>

Maya T. Prabhu

State legislators in Horry County are split regarding the possibility of removing the Confederate flag from the S.C. Statehouse grounds. Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday that the flag needs to be removed from the Statehouse grounds.

Note: “Today, we are here in a moment of unity in our state, without ill will, to say it is time to move the flag from the Capitol grounds,” Haley said in a news conference Monday afternoon. “My hope is that by removing a symbol that divides us, we can move our state forward in harmony, and we can honor the nine blessed souls who are now in Heaven.”

Island Packet: Beaufort legislators weigh in on Confederate flag takedown

http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/06/22/3806452_beaufort-legislators-weigh-in.html?rh=1

Rebecca Lurye

Last week's massacre at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, which left a state senator and eight other church members dead, reignited a decades-old debate over the flying of the Confederate flag on statehouse grounds. In a departure from past statements, Gov. Nikki Haley called on lawmakers Monday to take the flag down.

Note: "The fact that it causes pain to so many is enough to move it from the capitol grounds," she said in an afternoon news conference.

Aiken Standard: Aiken legislators react to Haley's call on Confederate flag

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150623/AIK0101/150629852>

Rob Novit

Moments after S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley forcefully declared that the Confederate flag must be removed from the Statehouse grounds, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., reached out and hugged her. Just a few feet away, S. C. House member Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken, the Congressman's cousin, was just as moved.

Index-Journal: Falling stars and bars

Leadership endorses bringing Confederate flag down at Statehouse

<http://indexjournal.com/news/Falling-stars-and-bars>

Colin Riddle

Standing in solidarity, a handful of state lawmakers, Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott called Monday for the Confederate flag located as part of a Confederate soldiers memorial in front of the Statehouse to come down. Toting her title as the state's first minority governor, Haley spoke on the group's behalf and called for the state Legislature to discuss the issue this summer.

Washington Post: Nikki Haley just showed her tremendous political upside

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2015/06/22/nikki-haley-just-showed-her-tremendous-political-upside/>

Chris Cillizza

When Nikki Haley was elected governor of South Carolina in November 2010, every Republican I knew told me that she would be on every GOP presidential candidate's VP short list in 2012 and could even be a potential frontrunner in her own right for the 2016 presidential nomination.

Rock Hill Herald: Rock Hill civil rights icons applaud governor's call to strike the Confederate battle flag

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article25194664.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Dys

Like an avalanche, its power now seemingly unstoppable, it appears that the Confederate battle flag will finally disappear from its place of honor on the Statehouse grounds. It only took 53 years – and, sadly, the deaths of nine black people at the hands of a white gunman who admitted he wanted to start a race war, using that rebel flag so prominently as one of his patches of hate.

Anderson Independent: Haley's proposal draws mixed reaction from Upstate legislators

http://www.independentmail.com/news/haleys-proposal-draws-mixed-reaction-from-upstate-legislators_67074521

Kirk Brown

Gov. Nikki Haley's call to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds met with a mixed reaction Monday from Upstate legislators. State Sen. Kevin Bryant said he will support Haley's proposal. "I think it's time to take it down," said Bryant, a Republican from Anderson.

Florence Morning News: Pee Dee legislators react to Haley's Confederate flag proposal

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_7b79fc58-1942-11e5-b3a1-238e71eadeba.html

Gavin Jackson

Several legislators from the Pee Dee weighed in on Gov. Nikki Haley's request to remove the Confederate flag from a war memorial on the Statehouse grounds Monday.

NBC News: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley Calls for Removal of Confederate Flag From State Capitol

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/charleston-church-shooting/south-carolina-state-leaders-urge-lawmakers-vote-take-down-confederate-n379801>

Elisha Fieldstadt

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called for the removal of the Confederate flag from the grounds of the state Capitol Monday, less than a week after a 21-year-old white man gunned down nine people at a historic African American church. Support for the flag to come down from leaders around the state and around the country has been steadily growing in the wake of the devastating attack

Note: "Today, we are here in a moment of unity in our state, without ill will, to say it is time to move the flag from the Capitol grounds," Haley said during a news conference attended by Republican senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, along with other state leaders.

CBS News: 2016 hopefuls react to Nikki Haley's call to move Confederate flag

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/2016-hopefuls-react-to-nikki-haleys-call-to-move-confederate-flag/>

Stephanie Condon

After South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday that it's "time to move" the Confederate flag away from the South Carolina statehouse, 2016 candidates -- Democratic and Republican -- said they agreed. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is expected to bring up the Charleston shooting that led to the flag debate at an event on Tuesday.

Politico: Inside the Republican reversal on the Confederate flag

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/06/republican-confederate-flag-reversal-119309.html#ixzz3dsv702DG>

Eli Stokols, Katie Glueck

The carefully staged announcement came at 4 p.m. Monday, when a bipartisan group of black and white South Carolina elected officials filed in behind their governor as she called for the removal of a Confederate battle flag from the state Capitol grounds.

Note: "It's time to move the flag from the Capitol grounds," Haley said. "That flag, while an integral part of our past, does not represent the future of our great state."

Greenville News: Death penalty on the table in Charleston shootings

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/06/22/death-penalty-charleston-shootings-roof/29125239/>

David Dykes, Tim Smith

As the investigation into the Charleston church shooting moves into the prosecution phase, the chief prosecutor hasn't disclosed if she will seek the death penalty. Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson told reporters last week she plans to consult with the nine victims' families before making a decision.

Note: "These are nine families that are struggling," Haley said. "This is a state that was hurt by the fact that nine people were innocently killed. We absolutely will want him to have the death penalty. This is the worst hate that I've seen and that the country has seen in a long time."

S.C. Confederate Flag News:

The State: Chambers of commerce, businesses join the call for Confederate flag's removal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article25193155.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

The Charleston, Greenville and Columbia chambers of commerce issued statements of support for the removal of the flag, and four of the state's largest companies – French tire maker Michelin, Hartsville-based Sonoco, airplane manufacturer Boeing and utility SCANA Corp. – also threw their weight behind the effort after her public remarks.

Note: "We fully support Gov. Nikki Haley's efforts and direction and have confidence that the General Assembly ... will ... make decisions in the best interest of us all," utility giant SCANA Corp. said.

Note: "Michelin applauds Gov. Haley's call to remove the Confederate flag ... and agrees that the flag must be immediately removed," Pete Selleck, chairman and president of Michelin North America, said.

Greenville News: Clemson's Clements wants Confederate flag to come down

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2015/06/22/clemsons-clements-wants-confederate-flag-come/29125401/>

Nathaniel Cary

Clemson President Jim Clements has joined the call to removed the Confederate flag from the South Carolina statehouse grounds. Just after Gov. Nikki Haley held a press conference to call for the flag's removal, Clements sent a tweet that read "I join Gov. Haley and other South Carolina leaders in calling for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the State House grounds."

Post and Courier: Survey finds divide, silence on Confederate flag issue in Legislature

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150622/PC16/150629790>

Glenn Smith

Deep, strong feelings exist on both sides of the Confederate flag debate, but a majority of South Carolina lawmakers dodged attempts on Monday to pin down where they stand on removing the flag from the Statehouse grounds. The Post and Courier reached out to all 170 House and Senate members in an attempt to determine how much support existed for removing the flag, as Gov. Nikki Haley has called on the Legislature to do.

The State: Rally to take down Confederate flag set for Tuesday at SC State House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article25187098.html#storylink=cpy>

A rally is planned Tuesday at the S.C. State House calling for the removal of the Confederate flag. The event is set for 11 a.m. It was announced in a Facebook post, Rally To Remove Confederate Flag from SC State House.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Bright will fight the 'Stalinist purge' of the Confederate flag

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20150622/ARTICLES/150629916/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Bright-will-fight-the-Stalinist-purge-of-the-Confederate-flag>

Chris Lavender

Some Spartanburg County lawmakers support removing the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds, but state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, characterized the movement to remove it and other Confederate monuments as a "Stalinist Purge."

Washington Post: Apple's Tim Cook: We should remove symbols that feed racism

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-switch/wp/2015/06/22/apples-tim-cook-we-should-remove-symbols-that-feed-racism/>

Andrea Peterson

Since taking the top job at Apple in 2011, Tim Cook has gone from a behind-the-scenes decision-maker to one of the most visible corporate activists on social issues. Cook is one of the few openly gay chief executives in the top echelons of the business world and has been vocal about LGBT equality, especially since publicly discussing his sexuality for the first time last year.

Note: Republican South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called for the removal of the flag Monday afternoon.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Lawmakers returning to vote on budget after negotiators hammer out a deal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150622/PC1603/150629792>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina's lawmakers are returning to Columbia on Tuesday to vote on the state's roughly \$7 billion budget. After being unable to reach an agreement on the spending plan for the fiscal year that begins July 1, lawmakers worked out a tentative deal during marathon negotiations last weekend, state Rep. Mike Pitts, R-Laurens, said Monday.

Aiken Standard: House speaker expects budget, key bills to pass

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150623/AIK0101/150629861/1004/house-speaker-expects-budget-key-bills-to-pass>

Derrek Asberry

Despite talks of a continuing resolution to keep the state government open, the Speaker of the S.C. House said he is confident the state budget and two other funding measures will pass during special session. Rep. Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, spoke about Week 2 of the session, which begins today, during a visit to Aiken on Saturday.

Post and Courier: Gay-rights objections torpedo past efforts to enact hate-crime law

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150622/PC16/150629798>

Bo Petersen

A black family's house, garage and truck were peppered with pellet holes near Hollywood. A man was beaten and robbed in Ladson by assailants who he said told him they did it because he was white. A cross-dressing man in North Charleston was shot dead. And now nine church members have been killed.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Index-Journal: Do what is right, bring flag down

<http://indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Do-what-is-right--bring-flag-down>

Editorial

Thank you, governor. And thanks also to other lawmakers who joined Gov. Nikki Haley in Columbia on Monday to call for state lawmakers to take up the issue of removing the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds. Were we all witness to a bit of saving political behinds? Absolutely.

Post and Courier: Time to furl the Confederate flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150622/PC1002/150629774>

Editorial

The Confederate flag was raised over the Statehouse dome in 1962 to mark the centennial of the Civil War. It flew there for nearly 40 years before being relocated to a nearby Confederate memorial as part of a hard-fought legislative compromise.

Note: On Monday, Gov. Nikki Haley gave her support to furling the flag. "We are not going to allow this symbol to divide us any longer," she said. A growing number of legislative leaders support the idea.

Aiken Standard: Call for flag removal looks beyond politics

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150623/AIK0201/150629877/1004/editorial-call-for-flag-removal-looks-beyond-politics>

Editorial

Calls on Monday for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the Statehouse carried a message that went beyond politics. This isn't about what is most expedient. This isn't about finding a way to spin this issue. This is about being a leader.

Note: Haley rightfully said that the Statehouse "belongs to all of us" and that while the flag is an integral part of our state's past, it "does not represent the future" of South Carolina.

Post and Courier: Better late than never: Farewell to the flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150623/PC16/150629804>

Frank Wooten

Another uplifting image of our community in the wake of atrocity: Despite sweltering heat, at least 10,000 people ascended the Ravenel on Sunday night to form a "Bridge to Peace Unity Chain."

Note: At least Gov. Nikki Haley, in an impressive, downright inspiring announcement Monday where she was flanked by other S.C. political big shots, finally called for the Confederate flag's removal from the Confederate memorial in front of the Statehouse.

The State: Honor Charleston's slaughtered innocents with changed hearts

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scopepe/article25180408.html>

Cindi Ross Scopepe

ON SUNDAY, I joined tens of thousands of Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians and others who use a common lectionary in listening to God's rebuke to Job for questioning why he had allowed such suffering.

South Carolina News:

The State: Court records: Accused killer came from broken but financially stable Columbia family

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/charleston-shootings/article25208728.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Accused Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof came from a Columbia family that was well off financially but rocked by divorce, an unsettling move to Florida in Roof's early teen years and alleged physical abuse, Richland County family court records say.

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