

The Honorable Nikki R. Hailey
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Cynthia Sabb
125 Wilkinson Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-290-6225

Dear Governor Hailey,

The family of Robert Berry is writing to you seeking support on his behalf concerning his birth certificate, Social Security Benefits and widow's pension. Our father is a double amputee (both legs removed), a severe diabetic and has to have dialysis 3 times a week. He worked all his life as a baker until he became disabled. Currently he receives disability payments only. Our mother, Melvyn Janet Berry, was his caregiver until her death in July of 2014. He and his children are having a very difficult time trying to obtain this document and benefits.

We have not been able to obtain his birth certificate and are at a standstill as to what we do next. It is very important that we obtain this most important document seeing that our father's health is deteriorating and there are no records anywhere indicating an exact year of his birth. Our father is not able to give us an exact date of his birth and has never, to our knowledge, had a certificate of birth in his possession. Currently we believe his DOB is November 15, 1936.

He has been denied Social Security benefits for himself and now has been denied the widow's pension from our mother's death. The explanation given is, he is not eligible. We seek your help in securing this document and these benefits as we know you have insight into these matters.

Currently our father is in need of care that quite frankly we are unable to give him at home. He needs care that can only be obtained in a caregiving facility, such as a nursing home. He requires lifting into and out of his wheel chair and in and out of his bed. My father has only daughters and we are unable to accommodate him. Without resources, we are unable to submit application to a caregiving facility. We ask for information on resources available to be able to do so. If he was not in dire need of help we would not be seeking your help and assistance in these matters.

Respectfully,
Cynthia Sabb, Denise Pate, Janet Roundtree, Rita Haigler, Angela Jamison