

**From:** Priester, Nicole <NicolePriester@gov.sc.gov>  
**Required:** Priester, NicoleNicolePriester@gov.sc.gov  
Symmes, BrianBrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov  
Godfrey, RobRobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov  
Adams, ChaneyChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov  
Pippin, ZachZachPippin@gov.sc.gov  
Glaccum, DavidDavidGlaccum@gov.sc.gov  
**Subject:** South Carolina Highway Patrol Graduation, Basic Class 97  
**Location:** Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, S.C.  
**When:** 12/17/2015 2:00:00 PM - 3:20:00 PM

---

Advance: Colin Duncan  
(803)260-0938

**APPROVED BY:** NRH

**EVENT:** S.C. Highway Patrol Graduation Ceremony - Basic Class 97

**DATE:** Thursday, December 17, 2015

**TIME:** 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, S.C.

**LOCATION SET-UP:** Rows of chairs, podium, stage, microphone

**ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:**

Sherri Iacobelli  
Communications Director  
SC Department of Public Safety  
803-896-8747 (work)  
803-331-7819 (cell)  
[sherriiacobelli@scdps.gov](mailto:sherriiacobelli@scdps.gov)

**SCHEDULING CONTACT:**

Bonnie Brooks  
Office of the Director  
S.C. Department of Public Safety  
803-896-7979 (Office)  
803-606-4080 (Cell)  
[BonnieBrooks@scdps.gov](mailto:BonnieBrooks@scdps.gov)

**PRIMARY STAFF:** Ashton Lee

**ADVANCE STAFF:** Zach Pippin

**PURPOSE:** Gov. Haley will attend the S.C. Highway Patrol Graduation Ceremony and address the 95 Patrol Basic Training Class.

**PRESS:** Yes.

**PUBLIC:** Yes.

**INVITED BY:** Director Leroy Smith

**INTRODUCED BY:** Director Leroy Smith

**LENGTH OF SPEAKING:** 5 minutes

**SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:**

2:00-2:04 PM	Presentation of Class and Transfer of Command	Captain E. J. Talbot
2:04-2:07 PM	Presentation of Colors	Highway Patrol Color Guard
2:07-2:10 PM	National Anthem	Lance Corporal Mike Looney
2:10-2:16 PM	Remarks/Master of Ceremonies	Col. Michael Oliver, Commander, SC Highway Patrol
2:16-2:22 PM	Intro of Keynote Speaker	Dir. Leroy Smith
2:22-2:28 PM	Commencement Address	Gov. Haley
2:28-2:30 PM	Oath for Peace Officers	
2:30-2:34 PM	Presentation of Physical Fitness Award	
2:34-2:38 PM	Presentation of Marksmanship Award	
2:38-2:42 PM	Presentation of Outstanding Achievement Award	
2:42-3:00 PM	Presentation of Patrol Commission	
3:00-3:04 PM	Retiring of Colors	
3:04-3:06 PM	Benediction	
3:06-3:16 PM	Class Video	
3:16-3:20	Dismissal	

**BACKGROUND ON SCHP BASIC 97:**

- 1,003 people applied for SCHP Basic 97
- 42 trooper trainees started SCHP basic training on July 29, 2015, with an additional 5 pre-certified joining on October 17, 2015
- 40 troopers will graduate on December 17, 2015
- Class demographic: 31 white males, 4 black males, 1 Hispanic male, 1 black female, 3 white females
- The SCHP Basic Training Program consists of 21 weeks of extensive law enforcement training in-residence
- After graduation, Troopers must complete additional field training: a minimum of 400 hours of field training

**SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**

Highway Patrol Graduating Class (40 troopers will graduate)

- Thanks for the kind introduction, Director Smith, and thank you for your exceptional leadership at the Department of Public Safety.
- Let me first say congratulations to the 40 graduates of Basic Class 97 here today . You've done it!
- Beginning in July, you started 21 week training program that wasn't easy for you or your family.
- I know first-hand what it is like for your spouse or sibling to leave for training, as I have watched my husband and brother spend time away in service for our country.
- So I also want to take a moment to thank your families for the support they show you every day. It's that love and support that allows you to do the brave work that you do.
- Over 1000 people applied for this class and only 40 of you are here today. That truly is an amazing accomplishment and this should be a day that you take the time to be proud of what

- you have achieved.
- This graduation symbolizes the beginning of a new chapter of your life as a member of the South Carolina Highway Patrol.
- You have proven that you are the best of the best, but with that comes added responsibility. As a member of this elite group of men and women, you will now be held to a higher standard and it's important that you represent the state and its people well.
- As your governor, I would like to thank you for the sacrifices you have already made, and for those that you will continue making as you serve and protect the people of this great state.
- I am proud to stand with you today to celebrate this great achievement, and on behalf of the entire state of SC – congratulations!