



CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 29, 2015

Honorable Greg Hembree
P.O. Box 142
Suite 604, Gressette Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Hembree:

Attached is a copy of a Resolution approved unanimously this morning by the Myrtle Beach City Council supporting the call by Governor Haley, Senators Graham and Scott, Representative Rice, and many other leaders of our State to remove the Confederate Flag from the flagpole on the State House grounds. In supporting this position we recognize the historical significance of this flag, but in our opinion, the flag has become a divisive symbol to many Americans.

We agree with the Governor and so many others that it is time to remove this flag. As proud South Carolinians we respectfully call upon our local legislative delegation as well as all the members of the General Assembly to support this courageous call to action.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Rhodes", is written over a horizontal line.

John Rhodes
Mayor

cc: Governor Nikki Haley
Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster
President Pro-Tem Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.
Speaker James H. Lucas
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Tim Scott
Representative H. Tom Rice
Pam Bennet
Brant Branham

RESOLUTION R2015-39

CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH
COUNTY OF HORRY
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETIRING
THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG FROM
THE STATE HOUSE GROUNDS IN
COLUMBIA

WHEREAS, Residents of the City of Myrtle Beach mourn with all South Carolinians the tragic deaths this month of nine people in the senseless shooting at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church in the historic City of Charleston; and

WHEREAS, Through the leadership of Governor Nikki Haley, South Carolina's top elected officials, including U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senator Tim Scott and Seventh District Representative Tom Rice, have called upon the General Assembly to remove the Confederate flag from its place of honor on the State House grounds; and

WHEREAS, The current placement of that flag, adjacent to the State House, is perceived as a sign that South Carolina lacks respect for its citizens and visitors, many of whom view that particular flag as a divisive symbol; and

WHEREAS, The time has come for the State of South Carolina to look ahead, not behind, and to remove from public display on government property a flag that today is viewed by many as an ugly reminder of unpleasant times; and

WHEREAS, Governor Haley courageously has called upon legislators to act swiftly to retire the Confederate flag to a museum setting, where it will remain a part of our history, but will no longer be perceived as an active symbol of South Carolina's current government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Myrtle Beach City Council hereby praises and repeats the call of Governor Nikki Haley, Senators Graham and Scott, Representative Rice and other leaders who have asked the South Carolina General Assembly to remove the Confederate flag from its place of prominence, out of respect to all South Carolinians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Myrtle Beach City Council calls upon members of the General Assembly to act swiftly on this matter, as removal of the Confederate flag from the State House grounds will show residents of our state, as well as the nation and the world, that South Carolina is fair and welcoming to all.

SIGNED AND SEALED this 29th day of June, 2015.

ATTEST:


JOAN GROVE, CITY CLERK


JOHN RHODES, MAYOR