

October 23, 2015

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

Dear Governor Haley,

What are some of the things you're thankful for this year? As the Thanksgiving holiday swiftly approaches us we begin to reflect on the people or things we are thankful for. Some of the things I am thankful for includes but are not limited to: God's grace and mercy, my life, health, strength, family, friends, my academic accomplishments, and my ability to be the best defensive guard and tight end on my JV football team. Governor Haley I have many things I am thankful for but there's just one more thing I would love to be able to add to my list and that one thing is my father's "**Freedom**".

Governor Haley I would first like to commend you for doing a great job as Governor of the state of South Carolina. I know you are very busy (especially with the recent flooding's in SC) so I will try to keep this letter as brief as possible. I would like to give you a quick background of myself: I am a sophomore at Central High School, I have been in Beta Club since 7th grade, I am taking all Honors classes at school, and I plan on attending The University of South Carolina in Columbia upon graduation. My father "Noah Mumford" has been incarcerated for the past 4 years due to an act of self-defense. My father's sorrow began after a verbal disagreement with a guy and him being hit in the head with a bottle by another guy (Paul Funderburk Jr) whom my father shot below the waist in self-defense. Paul was a well-known bully weighing approximately 253lbs and stretching over 6ft in height, while my father on the other hand only weighed 171lbs during that time and 5'8" in height. My dad was well trained in defensive combat after serving 8 years in the Army of the National Guards, therefore fatally wounding Paul would have been a fairly easy task if it was my father's intention, but it wasn't his intention.....he was only trying to protect himself.

On October 20, 2011 my dad was charged with assault and attempted murder and was sentenced to 10 years in prison, which according to the 8th amendment is a cruel and unusual punishment for the crime committed. Meanwhile Paul is out free, and still getting into trouble. the lawyer my father had during the time of his trial did not represent him well so my grandmother took her hard earned money and obtained another lawyer who was able to get my father's case back in court in July 2014 and was able to prove my father had poor representation and the judge agreed, but still didn't release my father. The news was devastating to our family because not only did my grandmother lose a huge amount of the money she's worked so hard for over the years, but her son is still locked behind bars like a despicable outcast.

Governor Haley my father has been a great dad, son, friend, and has served his country faithfully. My dad also served in Iraq in 2004, he suffered from PTSD, and also lost 30% of his hearing due to a landline blowing up. Governor Haley I am asking for your help in getting my father home so that we can enjoy this wonderful holiday together with family/friends and reflect on the people and things we are most grateful for, while enjoying my grandmother's delicious turkey and dressing. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


Ahmadrae Bracey