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**From:** Smith, Austin  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2016 11:14 AM  
**To:** Rick Reames  
**Cc:** Haley, Nikki  
**Subject:** Re: A story I've been meaning to share

Thanks Rick. That's a cool story. Looping in Governor Haley.

> On Jan 7, 2016, at 11:00 AM, Rick Reames <Rick.Reames@dor.sc.gov> wrote:

>

> Austin,

>

> I've been meaning to share a story with the Governor for a long time and have either forgotten or haven't had the opportunity - so I'm putting it in an email because she may appreciate hearing it. I wish I had told her at the time.

>

> Back in the summer some time immediately following the Charleston shooting - after the Governor had called for the flag's removal but before it was down - I was shopping at Sam's because I was taking a bunch of kids camping and needed a lot of supplies. I had already had a rough day (can't remember why now), it was crowded and I don't have a lot of patience and so I was frustrated. As I was rushing my cart full of stuff to the checkout line I basically bumped into an older African American lady who was also pushing her cart to the same checkout line. I realized I was in too much of a hurry so I said something to the effect of "I'm sorry, ma'am, please go ahead."

>

> She herself backed up and said something like "No, you go ahead son. I just want to give to everyone right now. When I see people in our state coming together over what has happened, and I see our Governor stand tall and represent our entire state, and do something to help stop hate, and to encourage love and unity, it just makes me want to love everyone in our state and let this entire store go ahead of me. That's just how I'm feeling these days."

>

> I may not be getting her little speech perfectly correct, but I'm pretty close and it was eloquent enough that I still think about it frequently. I know it's a small story and yall have probably heard many like it, but thought you and she might smile when you heard about a concrete example of that type of leadership.

>

> See you soon.

>

>

> Rick Reames

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