



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Olde English District Tourism Commission Designates "Walk for Peace" Venerable Monks and Companion Aloka as Honorable Tourism Ambassadors



The venerable monks of the 'Walk for Peace' receive a warm reception in Chester County, S.C.

Photo Credit: Emma Dorsey

GREAT FALLS, S.C. — The Olde English District Tourism Commission (OED) is honored to announce the formal recognition of the venerable monks of the "[Walk for Peace](#)," along with their faithful canine companion, Aloka, as **Honorable Tourism Peace Ambassadors** for the region. The official recognition was presented to the monks during their journey's stop in Great Falls on Monday, January 12, 2026.

This special distinction recognizes the monks' commitment to fostering unity, mindfulness, and compassion as they journey through the Olde English District of South Carolina. Throughout their trek, the monks have amassed crowds of followers and well-wishers, spurring local tourism and bringing a surge of community engagement to the towns along their route. Notable stops in the OED include: Ridgeway, Great Falls, and Rock Hill.

"The presence of the venerable monks has brought a profound feeling of peace and kindness to our region," said Micah Decker, Executive Director of the Olde English District Tourism Commission. "We are honored to have been a part of their cross-country journey. They have become a meaningful part of our regional story, and we are honored to recognize them as ambassadors of peace. Their journey reminds us all that peace is not just a destination, but a journey best shared with others."

The "Walk for Peace" brings a unique sense of serenity and interest to the district's historic small towns, restaurants, and accommodations. By naming the venerable monks Honorable Tourism Peace Ambassadors, the OED celebrates the intersection of South Carolina's cultural heritage and the universal pursuit of harmony.

A Special Recognition of Friendship & Peace

The Olde English District Tourism Commission, representing Chester • Chesterfield • Fairfield • Kershaw • Lancaster • Union • York Counties in South Carolina

Warmly Welcome The Venerable Monks of the "Walk for Peace" And their faithful companion, Aloka

AS OUR HONORABLE TOURISM PEACE AMBASSADORS

We offer this recognition to celebrate your inspiring journey through the seven counties of our region. By choosing to walk through our region, you have become a part of our story. We are honored to name you—and Aloka—as official ambassadors of our hospitality, reminding us all that peace is a journey best shared with others.

Presented with Gratitude, On this day, January 12, 2026,
by Micah Decker, Executive Director of the Olde English District Tourism Commission.

About the Olde English District Tourism Commission:

The Olde English District Tourism Commission (OED) is the regional Destination Marketing Organization for seven counties in north-central South Carolina: Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Union, and York. The region is steeped in history and derives its name from the first English settlement in the mid-1770s and boasts many stories of music, wars and civil rights

movements in the intervening time. The OED invites visitors to *Connect with Character* by offering everything from charming small towns and outdoor recreation to unique culinary and agritourism experiences. For more information, visit OldeEnglishDistrict.com.

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