



Cathy Novinger

Last fall, a group of Midlands-area business leaders came together to gift the Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands capital campaign with the Leadership Center naming opportunity in memory of Cathy Novinger, late Midlands business leader.

On January 18, 2017, Cathy's family was presented with a concept rendering of the Girl Scouts Leadership Center, accompanied by these words:

**In tribute to Cathy Novinger for her leadership and commitment
to our community.**

Presented to the Novinger Family by MBLG – 2017

Investments in the Leadership Center will make a lasting impact on South Carolina's talent pipeline. By preparing today's Girl Scouts to empower themselves and become tomorrow's leaders, the Center will make a long-term, substantial mark on our area's workforce and economic development.

Cathy Novinger exemplified our goals for girls. She has been called "the pioneer for women's leadership in South Carolina" by Kevin Marsh, CEO of SCANA. "She worked tirelessly to bring organizations and government together to promote progress for South Carolina. We will miss her enthusiasm and wisdom."

Cathy Novinger was once the only woman on the executive staff of SCE&G and parent company SCANA Corp. She rose from file clerk in the accounting department to the corporation's senior vice president for administration, government and public affairs. "She was always ready to go and get things done. If she undertook a task, she was fearless," said Lexington County Senator Nikki Setzler.

A woman who made a name in Columbia's business and civic life at a time when few women had much influence, especially in corporate circles, Cathy worked tirelessly for decades to promote progress for South Carolina. She led the Midlands Business Leaders Group (MBLG), who spearheaded the naming gift, for many years. Cathy was a strong role model for many people, but she did it with a gentle touch, according to colleagues.

"She was a giant in Columbia in so many ways, particularly in economic development," former Columbia Mayor Bob Coble said. "She was one of my closest advisers for all the 20 years that I was mayor. No person had a greater impact on Columbia than Cathy, and her legacy will live long."

"Cathy Novinger's name – statewide and nationally – will always be synonymous with business and political savvy, knowledge, integrity and determination," former S.C. Congressman and U.S. Claims Court Judge John Napier said.

After retiring from SCANA, Cathy became the CEO of Palmetto AgriBusiness Council. Under her leadership for 16 years, the Council became a unified voice for South Carolina's largest industry of agriculture and forestry. It was also at this time she formed her consulting company, Novinger QTR, Inc. Cathy Novinger was a 1999 recipient of the Order of the Palmetto and the 2011 Humanitarian of the Year by United Way of the Midlands. She served on more than 15 local and regional boards during her professional career. On the national level, she served on the White House Council on Rural America as chair, Southern States Energy Board Utility Advisory Council, and the U.S. Business & Industry Council Board of Trustees.

After her diagnosis of ovarian cancer and seeing the need to educate women about this deadly disease, Cathy founded an ovarian cancer organization, today known as the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Central SC, which brings awareness to the symptoms and the importance of early detection. She served as the organization's Board chair since 2006.

Cathy died in November 2016. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Robert Novinger; her son and daughter-in-law, Dr. & Mrs. Travis Novinger; and two grandchildren.

Cathy Novinger exemplifies G.I.R.L.: she was a South Carolina original Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-Taker, Leader. Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands is grateful to the MBLG for their efforts in Cathy's memory.

Quotes from The State, 11/27/16