



## Helen N. Cyganiewicz Obituary

November 28, 1923 - December 25, 2008

Helen Louise Newell Cyganiewicz, 85, of Marietta, Georgia, a longtime resident of Albany, died Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2008 after a short illness. A prayer vigil will be held 6:00 pm with visitation lasting until 8:00 pm Sunday night, December 28, 2008, at Kimbrell Stern Funeral Directors. The funeral will be held 11:00 am Monday, December 29, 2008, at St. Teresas's Catholic Church with Father Finbar Stanton officiating. A native of Albany, Mrs. Cyganiewicz, the daughter of the late Lee Newell and Berta Hall Newell, was born on November 28, 1923, and attended Albany schools, graduating from Albany High School in 1942. Helen loved Albany and was proud to be a native Albanian. She once stated that if she could name the three phases of her life, the first phase would be called "She had a happy childhood with a loving mother." During the second phase of her life, "She worked hard to keep her family together, safe, and secure during the War and afterward". At eighteen years old she met and fell in love with a handsome lieutenant in the Army Air Force stationed at Turner Field named Alexander Thaddeus Cyganiewicz. The couple moved seven times during World War II. While living in Monroe, Louisiana, Helen gave birth to her daughter, Helen Veronica (Ronni) Bryan. Finally the family settled in Massachusetts, where "Cy" completed his degree in Civil Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and two sons, Louis (Louie) Cyganiewicz and Andrew Thomas Cyganiewicz, were born. After several years living in Massachusetts following graduation, Cy decided it was time to bring Helen back to Albany where her

family was and where the weather was so good he could play golf and fish all year long. Helen once said that if she were to sum the third phase of her life in a sentence it would be "She did what she could to improve her community". During her life in Albany, Helen did civic work for which she was very proud. She "made this Albany a little bit of a better place for some young people". Citing her love for the outdoors, Helen followed her Aunt Margarite Hall's footsteps and became very active in the local Girl Scouts in the 1950's. Upon her return to the Albany area, Mrs. Cyganiewicz returned to the Flint River Girl Scouts, which is now a part of the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, and eventually served in every capacity. As Chair Camp Committee for the Flint River Girl Scouts Council, Mrs. Cyganiewicz was instrumental in getting the Girl Scouts a permanent campsite, which was given the name Camp Ohkitayakani. The lake at the campsite was named "Lake Cyganiewicz" after Helen and Cy, both of whom helped plan and build the camp. Later she became a long time President of the Flint River Girl Scouts Council. Helen remained on the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts well into her later years. In April 2000, Helen was honored for 52 years of service to the Flint River Girl Scouts Council by being named one of two Women of Distinction at the 2nd Annual Southwest Georgia Women of Distinction Recognition Dinner. Helen loved Albany and was proud of her heritage. For these reasons, Mrs. Cyganiewicz also served the city in a number of other capacities. She volunteered for Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, was rewarded for more than 2100 hours of volunteer service, and was active in the Lights of Love project. Helen was also an active parishioner of St. Teresa's Catholic Church for more than fifty years. She served as president of the local council of Catholic women and went on to become deanery president. Mrs. Cyganiewicz also an Honorary Member of the Albany Women's Club, volunteered with Thronateeska Heritage Foundation. Helen was also a member of the Dawson Road Garden Club, which was one of the garden clubs in the Albany Federation of Garden Clubs, where she "planted flowers to make the city look beautiful". Helen and Cy were longtime members of Radium Springs Country

Club and could often be seen enj

# Tribute Wall



“ *Helen N. Cyganiewicz Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Please accept my sincere sympathy in the death of Helen. She and I served on the Board of Girl Scouts plus other committees in Girl Scouting.*

**Marjorie Fitzsimons** - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Because of Mrs. Helen..thousands of girls have enjoyed days & nights at Camp Okitayakani a beautiful 338 acre camp that Mrs. Helen and Mr. Cy helped develop. That is just one of the many, many things that Mrs. Helen did for Girl Scouting . Her perseverance, compassion, generous spirit and genuine love of humanity continue to touch lives. She will be missed, but her legacy will continue. Many more girls and adults will have the opportunity to canoe on Lake Cyganiewicz! We will remember that because she said ?Yes.I will.? her love continues to blossom in the youth of today.*

*Our prayers are with her family. She was a lifetime member of Girl Scouts and her GS sister's remember her as one who truly lived our Promise and Law.*

**Cindy Wisham** - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *I knew and loved Helen all my life . She was a very special person. We shall all miss her. Lucia*

**Lucia Ellis Brantley** - January 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

A"

“ My deepest sympathies to Mrs. Helen's family. I remember her as a very sweet lady with a great love for Girl Scouting. Thanks to her, I made many wonderful memories at Camp Okit. I enjoyed several years as a camper and then counselor in the late 70's and most of the 80's. My favorite thing to do (as a counselor) was to wake up early before the campers and walk down to the lake to watch the sunrise. So peaceful. What an appropriate tribute to Mrs. Helen that this lake was named for her - "Lake Cyganiewicz". Those years at camp were probably the best time of my young life, and I try to go back every now and then to visit my favorite spot.

May God bless you, Mrs. Helen. And please say HI to "Daisy" for us.

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**Amy Inlow Wells - a.k.a "Goofy"** - January 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Dottie, I am so sad to hear of the loss of your sister - I remember how close the two of you were. I know that your faith will sustain you during your grief. My prayers are with you.....

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**Rhyme Dorer Owenby** - January 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MY

“ Mrs. Cyganiewicz was one of my girl scout counselors when I attended Camp Okit in the 1960's. I was very homesick so she slept with me in my tent/cabin to help me adjust. She was a great friend of girl scouts and girl scouting and will never be forgotten by me.

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**MARCIA YOUNG-WHITACRE** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Andy, I am so sorry to hear about your mother. I know exactly how you are feeling, I lost my daddy on Dec 21st, 2006. May God Bless you and your family in this time.

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**Dianne Tedder** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ May God comfort you at this time. Ms. Helens quick wit and love of life was contagious. I no you will miss her deeply. I was employed for the Flint River Girl Scouts for 5 years. Ms Helen was on the board during those years. She was a super role model for the employees, volunteers and the girls.

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**Rose Newman** - December 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ I have many good memories of Miss Helen during my years of working for Ronni. She would join us at the office for lunches and Christmas get togethers and such, and always enjoyed talking and visiting with her. She did so much with her work at the hospital and with the Girl Scouts, and passed that love of helping others on to her daughter for sure. I am praying for your family, that you will be held up and comforted during this time of sadness.

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**Vicki Carter** - December 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EO

“ We have so many warm and enduring memories of times spent with Helen at Morningside. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in these times of loss.

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**Ed and Ives Ort** - December 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Andy, I am sorry to read about your mom's passing. I always thought alot of her.  
Best wishes,  
Judy and Sonny Deriso*

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**Judy Deriso** - December 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Dear Andy, Kathy, and all of Helen's grandchildren and families,  
  
Helen was such a wonderful person, it's hard to put into words what she meant to all of her relatives. We were all so proud of her and all that she accomplished. She made everyone around her feel so special. We loved her; we'll miss her; and we'll never forget her and the effect she had on our lives.  
She was a very special person I was proud to call my cousin.*

*God bless all of you, Jane Mihalik*

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**Jane Mihalik** - December 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM