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## **Wife of former SC Gov. Dick Riley dies of cancer at 72**

The Associated Press

The wife of former South Carolina Gov. Dick Riley, who worked alongside her husband to improve education in the state and across the country, has died. She was 72.

Ann "Tunky" Riley died Friday morning in Greenville from complications of breast cancer, her brother, Edward Yarborough, told The Associated Press.

Yarborough remembered his sister as someone who brought passion and commitment to everything she took on.

Riley, a Democrat, was governor from 1978-86 and also served as President Clinton's Secretary of Education.

The couple was married for more than 50 years, and Yarborough said the former governor was devastated by her death.

Ann Riley was diagnosed with breast cancer during her husband's first term as governor.

Dick Riley once told The Greenville News that his wife didn't let her disease slow her down, particularly when the couple fought for passage of the Education Improvement Act in South Carolina.

"She was in the front row of the (Senate) balcony every day, while on chemotherapy," Gov. Riley told the newspaper.

South Carolina Democratic Party chairwoman Carol Fowler said Ann Riley was admired by many. "We will miss her," Fowler said. "As the first lady of our state and in the Rileys' years of public service since then, Tunky exemplified a wonderful combination of grace, warmth and savvy."

Ann Riley shared her husband's love for improving public education. She was a board member of the Alliance for Quality Education.

She was also served on the boards for several other organizations, including Spoleto Festival USA, YWCA, United Way of Greenville, the Hollings Cancer Center and the South Carolina PTA.

"We will always remember Tunky Riley for her warm and gracious spirit and as a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and inspirational first lady," David E. Dukes, managing partner of the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm, said in a statement. Dick Riley is also a partner in the firm.

Services for Ann Riley will be held Monday at the chapel on Furman University's campus.