



In 1976 M.J. (Mary Josephine) 'Casey' Miller, the 26th President of NABOR, started out her presidency by receiving the NABOR REALTOR of the Year Award for her years of work prior to assuming the office of president. She was the first woman to receive this award. She also was the first woman to become a president of the Board. Casey and her husband, Ad Miller, Board President 1970 became the first husband and wife team to serve in the presidents position for NABOR. President Casey was the first at the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the newly constructed NABOR building. Due to her many 'firsts', she was considered the first lady of Naples.

In the past several years she said she had attended almost all of the state and national real estate conventions including the international meeting in Spain. Casey was no stranger to corporate life. She had served six years on the Naples city council and served as vice president of the City of Naples from 1962 through 1968. President Casey was an active volunteer for numerous organizations in Naples, including Naples Community Hospital Auxiliary, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Mental Health Association, an early member and lifetime honorary member of the Naples Women's Club and had served as their president. She had been the president of the Naples on-the- Gulf Women's Council of REALTORS and the first female Rotarian .

Though born in Indianapolis, she married REALTOR and developer, Ad Miller, in 1929 and they moved to Naples from Columbus, Ohio in 1947 and played an influential role in Naples early development. “ 1947”, Casey recalled, “ was a time when 750 residents had to choose between driving to Ft. Myers or to Miami for medical care “. Though the living may have been rough for some of the first year-round residents of Naples, it was those first years that prompted her to dabble in real estate. It was a time when Fifth Avenue, South property sold for Fifty dollars a front foot and she recalled, “ I can remember when they had to lay a cable across a vacant lot on Central Avenue to get a phone to the house we built on the beach. If you wanted to make a long distance call, you'd have to drive to the telephone company and knock on their door and ask for help.”

In 1961 she and her husband built the first condominium in Naples, a small six-unit building which now stands on Third Street,South and Second Street.

NABOR installed its 1976 officers at a banquet in the Naples Dinner Theater located at the corner of Immokalee and Airport Roads with 325 guests in attendance. Other officers chosen were: John W. Vaughn, vice president; Jay S. Bishop, secretary; and William B. Stone, treasurer. Directors elected were: Paul E. Lees, John F. Lowdermilk and Norman G. Harris, past executive officer of the Board and recently an Associate with Caribbean Realty, Inc.

NABOR had 160 REALTOR members, 533 Associate members and 21 Affiliate members with three Honorary members.

It was in 1976 John R. Wood of NABOR was elected to the Florida Real Estate Commission.

NAR finally approved the name change from Naples on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS to Naples Area Board of REALTORS (NABOR).

NABOR Directors received a jurisdictional release for the formation of a new Board of Marco Island REALTORS to be granted in 1977.

NABOR adopted the Federal Affirmative Marketing Agreement and encouraged individual offices to become signatories.

President Casey Miller welcomed Attorney Dudley Goodlette as NABOR attorney.

C.B."Joe" Stafford, executive director of the Florida Real Estate Commission, was the principle speaker at the July meeting of NABOR. M.J. Casey Miller, President of the Naples Board invited Stafford to discuss the recent legislation passed by Florida lawmakers to crack down on 'Advanced Fees' for listing properties. The new law carried a stipulation that seventy per cent of the advance fee collected must be placed in an escrow account and can only be used to cover actual expenses of selling the property.

Due to bad publicity regarding recent real estate scams, President Casey encouraged members to donate to the local high school scholarship fund. She continued the Sandcastle Contest to be sponsored by NABOR. It was held Saturday, August 28th on the beach at Lowdermilk Park with 225 youngsters registered to participate, ages five to fifteen. Construction started at 9:30 am followed by cold drinks served to all participants at 10:30, judging began at 11:30. Winners were awarded gift certificates honored by merchants of Collier County. Judges for the contest were Gene Hebert, WNOG news director; Anders Sandquist, city building official; Neno Spagna, county Planning Department; and Jerry Sehler.

The Collier County school system agreed to participate in an essay contest, 'What is the American Dream?' for students from the seventh grade and up. The schools that participated were awarded a monetary prize as well as a prize to the classroom teachers of the winning students. The newspaper published the winners essays to great acclaim by the community.

President Casey initiated the Paint - A- House Contest. With the help of the Naples Daily News, the Collier County building contractors and energetic NABOR members, letters were submitted by local residents requesting that their house be considered by the Board for painting. A successful event and a good time was had by all.

President Casey constantly reminded members to also be generous to REPAC: REALTORS Education Political Action Committee of FAR. (now known as RPAC.) Reminding everyone, "That the job you save may be your own".

1976 President M.J. Casey Miller was an energetic innovator and inspiration to many.

As mentioned earlier, she received the NABOR REALTOR of the Year Award in 1975.

In 1980 she was named WOMAN of the Year by the Florida Women's Council of REALTORS.

She was awarded the NABOR Ad Miller Award in 1990;

And inducted into the prestigious NABOR Hall of Fame in 2003.