
Jackalyn Pfannenstiel(1947 - 2017)

Jackalyn Pfannenstiel, a long-time leader in energy policy in both the public and private sectors, has died. Ms. Pfannenstiel, a former Chair of the California Energy Commission and later Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, succumbed to cancer on April 26th. Ms. Pfannenstiel's career was marked by her leadership in promoting energy efficiency and renewable resources, but also by her role as a pathfinder and mentor for women in corporate and public service.

She was Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) first woman corporate officer. She was the first female chair of the Energy Commission, appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2004. In 2010, she was appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for (Energy, Installations, and Environment), becoming the first woman to hold such a post at the U.S. Department of the Navy. Her colleagues remember her ground-breaking tenure at the Navy for her work on energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy and the biofuel-powered Great Green Fleet. Ms. Pfannenstiel was born Sept. 7, 1947 in Norwich, CT. Jackie earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Clark University in Massachusetts and a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Hartford, in Connecticut. She worked as an economist at the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control. In 1978, she was recruited by the California Public Utilities Commission because of her expertise in the emerging field of energy economics. In 1980, she moved to PG&E, where she had a 20-year career. In the non-profit area, Ms. Pfannenstiel served as a Trustee of Clark University and as a member of the board and Board President of the Oakland Museum of California. After leaving the Navy in 2013, she joined the board of directors of Hannon Armstrong Sustainable Infrastructure and was named to the National Academies Board of Energy & Environmental Systems. In 2013, Ms. Pfannenstiel co-founded the San Francisco energy start-up firm, Advanced Microgrid Solutions. Jackie was a loving, devoted mother and spouse, with a lifelong passion for books and baseball. She traveled widely, enjoyed photography and took pleasure from her cats and summers on the coast of Maine. Ms. Pfannenstiel is survived by her husband, Daniel D. Richard of Piedmont, California, her sons Mathew Deutsch of San Francisco and Steven Deutsch of Oakland, grandson Wesley Deutsch of San Francisco, her sister Kathleen Pratt of Owls Head, Maine and her brother Richard Pfannenstiel of Lyme, Connecticut. Services to be announced. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: Clark University, Memory of Jackalyn Pfannenstiel, University Advancement Office, 950 Main St Worcester, MA 01610. Attn: Jonathan Kappel

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