



News Release

For Immediate Release

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GIRL SCOUTS TO ASK COUNCIL FOR SUPPORT IN NAMING BRIDGE AFTER JULIETTE LOW *Savannah native founded movement impacting the lives of 59 million women*

SAVANNAH, GA, JANUARY 4, 2018— Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia is calling on the Savannah City Council to pass a resolution to ask the Georgia Legislature to re-name the Talmadge Bridge after Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts. Low, a Savannah native, positively influenced millions of girls' lives across the United States and the world.

Low's legacy is one to celebrate. On March 12, 1912, she started the movement now known as Girl Scouts with an inaugural gathering of just 18 girls in Savannah. She broke the conventions of the time—reaching across class, cultural, and ethnic boundaries to ensure that all girls, including those with disabilities, had a place to grow and develop their talents and leadership skills. Her vision of an organization that would prepare girls to succeed in the world led to a program that today touches the lives of nearly 2 million girl members and 800,000 adult members.

"Juliette Gordon Low was a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™], and stood up for what she believed," said local Girl Scouts Sahera Howard and Sydnie Roberds. "She created an organization for all girls, from all walks of life."

Girl Scouts across Georgia and throughout the country have rallied behind the request for naming the bridge after their founder. Girls helped gather ten thousand signatures on a petition in support of the change and will visit the state Capitol on February 6 to advocate for the new name.

With the confidence and skills Girl Scouts gain from being part of this great organization, they create change in their communities and the world in inspiring ways. Over the years, Girl Scout alumnae have gone on to accomplish remarkable things: all three female U.S. secretaries of state are Girl Scout alumnae, as are the majority of women in the U.S. Congress and state legislatures nationwide, the majority of women in business, and the first American woman to walk in space.

Sue Else, CEO of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, said, "I have met with many community and business leaders in Savannah who are in full support of naming the bridge in honor of Juliette Gordon Low and the legacy she built. More than 40,000 tourists travel to Savannah annually to visit the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, which serves as a gathering place for young women to discuss current issues and learn about Georgia's history. Further, an economic impact study completed by Girl Scouts of the USA noted that if the bridge in Savannah were to be named after Juliette Gordon Low, there would be an approximate \$25–50 million put into the local economy each year resulting from national conventions and other events and activities that would bring Girl Scouts and their families to Savannah from around the world."

Reflecting the original spirit of the movement Juliette Gordon Low began more than a century ago, Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia seeks to provide a positive option for renaming the iconic entryway into Savannah. The



Juliette Gordon Low Bridge would stand as a monument to positive leadership and to Low's mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

CEO Sue Else will be available to take questions after the City Council planning meeting this afternoon.

ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS OF HISTORIC GEORGIA

Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia is rich in heritage and purpose. The council extends from the North Georgia mountains to the Okefenokee and from the Atlantic coast to the Chattahoochee Valley. Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia serves more than 13,000 girls and 5,000 adults in 122 counties in Georgia, two counties in South Carolina and one county in Alabama. The council is also the home of our organization's founder, Juliette Gordon Low, who founded Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia, where her birthplace and the historic First Headquarters still welcome thousands of Girl Scouts every year.

Girl Scouts gives girls a wide range of experiences to define leadership their way and allows them to showcase their inner G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)TM

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