

HOUSE MEMORIAL 74

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MARY THOM, WHO ENABLED THE VOICES OF  
WOMEN TO BE HEARD IN THE MEDIA ACROSS AMERICA.

WHEREAS, *Ms. Magazine* brought the feminist movement into  
homes in the United States beginning in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Mary Thom was an editor who participated in the  
founding of *Ms. Magazine*, editing letters of women throughout  
the United States, working late into the night to ensure that  
the voices of women from towns across the country were printed  
and enabling voices of all women to be heard; and

WHEREAS, Mary drew on her experience from the civil rights  
movement and antiwar activities as she became the political  
editor of *Ms. Magazine*, developing an evaluation system that  
ranked politicians' commitment to feminist and other  
progressive ideals; and

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1           WHEREAS, Mary was an editor at *Ms. Magazine* from its  
2 inception until 1992 and was one of the magazine's most  
3 dedicated and long-serving workers, although she never sought  
4 the celebrity and visibility that many of her close friends at  
5 *Ms. Magazine* had to endure; and

6           WHEREAS, Mary authored a book on the history of *Ms.*  
7 *Magazine* and co-authored an oral history of Congresswoman Bella  
8 Abzug; and

9           WHEREAS, Mary believed in an inclusive model of activism  
10 and took pride in the diversity that was present at *Ms.*  
11 *Magazine* and in the feminist forums that she helped organize  
12 and in which she participated; and

13           WHEREAS, Mary left the magazine at the founding of the  
14 women's media center by Gloria Steinem, Jane Fonda and Robin  
15 Morgan to focus on advocacy, political campaigns and media and  
16 leadership training, especially for women, and "to ensure that  
17 women are powerfully and visibly represented in the media, as  
18 well as to diversify the media in its content and sources so  
19 that stories and perspectives of women and girls are more  
20 accurately portrayed"; and

21           WHEREAS, the women's media center is recognizing Mary by  
22 instituting the "Mary Thom Art of Editing Award" and awarding  
23 it to Mary posthumously; and

24           WHEREAS, Mary was closely connected to New Mexico,  
25 enjoying the state's wide open spaces and spectacular beauty

1 while touring on her motorcycle with her sister, Susan Thom  
2 Loubet, and nephew, Thom Loubet; and

3 WHEREAS, the death of Mary in a motorcycle accident in  
4 Yonkers, New York, on April 26, 2013 was noted as an enormous  
5 blow to the women's movement, *Ms. Magazine*, the women's media  
6 center and American journalism because, as her cofounders at  
7 the women's media center said, "Mary was and will always be our  
8 moral compass and steady heart"; and

9 WHEREAS, Mary is lauded as being one of the great writers,  
10 editors and visionaries of the women's movement; and

11 WHEREAS, the women and men of New Mexico, the United  
12 States and throughout the world mourn the passing of Mary and  
13 owe her a great debt of gratitude for the tireless efforts she  
14 made on behalf of women's rights, pay equity and civil rights;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Mary Thom be  
17 honored and remembered for her work to enable the voices of  
18 women to be heard; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the family of Mary Thom and to the board of the  
21 women's media center.