

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mary believed in an inclusive model of activism

and took pride in the diversity that was present at *Ms. Magazine* and in the feminist forums that she helped organize and in which she participated; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Mary was closely connected to New Mexico, enjoying the state's wide open spaces and spectacular beauty while touring on her motorcycle with her sister, Susan Thom Loubet, and nephew, Thom Loubet; and

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

WHEREAS, Mary is lauded as being one of the great

writers, editors and visionaries of the women's movement; and

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

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

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