



CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Mark Grimes

Seconded by: Mayor John Tory

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mary C. Gioberti Thornton on December 11, 2019 at the age of 103.

Mary, born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1916, is a legend in Canadian Theatre and Arts, and the founder of the Visual Arts Department at the world-renowned black light theatre, Famous PEOPLE Players.

In her early years in both Ontario and Italy, Mary studied dressmaking, crocheting, and ceramics as forms of artwork. Her love of music and the arts came together when she served as Wardrobe Mistress and later, performed in the choir, at the Hamilton Opera Company.

Since its foundation by Mary's daughter, Diane Dupuy, in 1974, Mary dedicated her life to Famous PEOPLE Players. Up until the age of 102, she showed up for work every day at 8:00 a.m., creating the brilliantly coloured props, costumes, and magical life-sized characters and settings.

Mary said she lived by the magic of the "C's" – Commitment, Consequence, and Comedy. Mary is the recipient of the Frederick Gardiner Award and the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her dedication to Famous PEOPLE Players. Her indomitable spirit was an inspiration to all who met her, and her legacy lives on in the signature artistry and ingenuity of her creations.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Mary C. Gioberti Thornton's family and friends.

December 18, 2019