

Expression of Condolence for George Marcello by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Frances Nunziata

Toronto City Council is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of George Marcello who passed away on June 7, 2021 at the age of 65 years.

George was predeceased by his beloved parents Agostino and Rosa Maria Marcello, and was the loving brother of Caterina, Domenico and Salvatore (Mary). He was cherished by his many nieces and nephews, and great niece and great nephews, who were so proud of their Uncle George who was an inspiration to so many.

George will also be fondly remembered by Khaled and Mohammed who he always referred to as his kids.

After receiving his first liver transplant, George walked from Toronto to Parliament Hill as a thank you gesture for the family who donated the liver, and to show people that organ donations save lives. That inspired him to start the Step by Step Organ Donation Association, promoting the importance of organ and tissue donations throughout the world since 1996.

George's fight for organ donations made him a national hero and for over 25 years, through his many steps and 8 campaigns he conducted here and around the world, his mission was always to raise awareness of the shortage of organs in Canada.

One of George's most memorable moments throughout the years was when Mayor Mel Lastman put baby powder on his feet before he embarked on yet another one of his campaigns.

There is no doubt that the biggest moment was the day he met Pope John Paul II in Vatican City in Rome on Sept 5, 2011. The message from Pope John Paul was to keep this Torch of Life legacy going and to reach out to the children around the world. George followed the Pope's recommendation and carried that message around the world with several more campaigns to follow until the day he died. George carried his message, and the Torch of Life, to Queen's Park to lobby for organ donations. He was truly an inspirational person, so passionate about everything he did, and his legacy will definitely live on.

George will be loved, and forever remembered by all of his family and friends, and the thousands of people whose lives he touched throughout his journey.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to George Marcello's family.

July 15, 2021