

***Expression of Condolence for
Yiannoula Jennie Caragianakos by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Gord Perks

Seconded by: Councillor Alejandra Bravo

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are saddened to learn of the passing of Yiannoula Jennie Caragianakos, a beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, known to the community as the Queen of High Park, on September 30, 2024, at the age of 89 years old.

Jennie was a devoted wife to John (late), loving mother to Peter (late) and wife Tracy, Steve and wife Kristina, Sam and wife Kim, and Chris and wife Wendy.

Jennie was born in Dafni, Greece in 1935, the youngest of four siblings. She came to Canada at the age of 18 with hopes of a bright new life, and her first job in Canada was as a nanny and housekeeper to a very loving Jewish family, who simply adored her. She then met her soon to be husband, John. She began working at the same restaurant as he, at 111 Richmond Street. They married in 1956 and together they bought that restaurant. Throughout the years they owned several successful restaurants including 7 Star Bakery, Johnny's Restaurant, The Alps, Poor Boys, High Park Submarine, and lastly, the Grenadier Restaurant in High Park. Jennie retired from working at the Grenadier Restaurant when she was 75 years old.

Jennie was an astute businesswoman and extremely hard worker. She and John were also pillars of their community, always donating and giving generously to anyone in need and anyone who asked. Their generosity knew no bounds and collectively and individually they received countless prestigious awards, including the Order of Canada. But their generosity was never for recognition, as they never refused a soul in need looking for a hot meal at one of their restaurants. Everyone knew, as did the staff, that anyone who walked into the restaurant and said they were hungry but couldn't pay, was well fed.

Each and every year, Christmas Day was not for opening presents; it was a day for opening the Grenadier Restaurant and providing a free Christmas meal to anyone who was hungry, in need, lonely or alone.

Jennie's greatest legacy however was her fierce love and devotion to her family. Her

sons were her pride and joy, and her daughters-in-law were her daughters. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren were her immense and pure joy. She lived such a good and full life, and everybody who knew her simply loved her. Now she rests in the loving arms of God, to whom she was always faithful, beside her beloved husband, John, her dear son, Peter, and her natural family.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Jennie Caragianakos.

December 17, 2024