



City of Chicago



R2019-737

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date: 10/16/2019
Sponsor(s): Smith (43)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Peggy Barber and Tom O'Rourke
Committee(s) Assignment:

Peggy Barber and Tom O'Rourke

WHEREAS, Margaret "Peggy" Barber and Tom "Cowboy" O'Rourke were the exemplar of good neighbors on their block: Peggy, worked for the Chicago-based American Library Association for over 30 years until opening her own consultant firm; and,

WHEREAS, Tom was a celebrated Photographer, whose images captured the simplicity and beauty of his daily life in what he saw in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood, Chicago, and the world.

WHEREAS, Peggy and Tom are lived on through their daughters Betsy, Haley, Kate, Rose, and Donna; son, Mike; Peggy's brother, Gary; and 13 grandchildren.

WHEREAS, they are also lived on through the children lucky enough to grow up on their block on Fremont Street.

WHEREAS, Peggy and Tom would bring the magic of the North Pole to their street in the form of a 'Santa's List' that was hung up on their window, which included every single child on the block's name; and,

WHEREAS, Peggy and Tom were always known for their vivacious personalities, big hearts, and warm smiles that helped the block build the bridge between simply being neighbors, to developing life-long friendships.

WHEREAS, professionally, Peggy--described by the previous CEO of the American Library Association, Robert Wedgeworth--revolutionized how Libraries across the country promote their services through National Library Week, and annual communications audits; and,

WHEREAS, Peggy's life centered around the transformative power that libraries and the works they hold; her colleague Art Plotnik put it best, "Her style was from the heart--never false or overbearing--and her career was one of action, not just words," and her goals always stayed the same; and,

WHEREAS, Tom was by Peggy's side through it all, focusing on displaying his photography of the Lincoln Park community at local businesses, and sometimes even at Peggy's beloved libraries.

WHEREAS, while Tom and Peggy will be dearly missed, the impact that they have had on not just the Lincoln Park community, but of all of Chicago and beyond will continue on; and

WHEREAS, We will take this time to thank them for their contributions to our community, and to sincerely thank them for the legacy they've left, the memories we will cherish, and the people they've touched with their generosity and kindness.

BE IT RESOLVED, That Alderman Michele Smith, and we, The City Council of the City of Chicago, proclaim this Resolution in honor of Peggy Barber and Tom O'Rourke, whose lives will forever be missed, celebrated, and lived on by others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution are presented to Peggy Barber and Tom O'Rourke's family members as a sign of our respect and gratitude.

Michele Smith