

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Barbara Froling Immroth

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the Texas Library Association (TLA), and the academic community lost a valued member, strong leader, and respected colleague on September 6, 2021, with the death of Dr. Barbara Froling Immroth, Professor Emerita from the iSchool at the University of Texas Austin;

Whereas Dr. Immroth received her AB in Spanish from Brown University (1964), her MA in Librarianship from the University of Denver (1965), and her PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1980;

Whereas during Dr. Immroth's distinguished professional career she taught courses for the State Library of Pennsylvania, served as a children's librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and a school librarian at Central Catholic High School before accepting a position at the University of Texas at Austin in 1980 from which she retired in 2016;

Whereas Dr. Immroth was a prodigious writer and researcher, having authored or co-authored seven books, and written chapters for almost twenty books, as well as numerous articles. She gave lectures and made conference presentations, many of which were published in proceedings. She was recognized as a distinguished researcher in children's libraries and literature. Holding and participating in workshops, meetings, and institutes, she taught librarians to work with traditionally underserved populations particularly those with health issues and children who are non-native English speakers;

Whereas at the international level, Dr. Immroth served as a U.S. Delegate to the U.S.-USSR Commission on Library Cooperation held in Moscow in 1989, was the invited guest of honor at the National Diet Library's International Library of Children's Literature, taught a summer session in Vilnius, Lithuania for the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) co-sponsored by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, and was nominated by ALA to serve on a variety of committees for the International Federation of Library Associations including her committee appointment in the School Library Section;

Whereas at the national level, Dr. Immroth served as Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Councilor and on the Newbery-Caldecott and the Notable Books for Children Committee, and was elected president of the division from 1989 to 1990. She was elected for three terms as ALA Councilor at Large, served as Chair of the ALA Nominating Committee, as Chair of the Committee on Research and Statistics on the American Libraries Advisory Board, and was a founding editorial board member for *School Library Media Research*. She served on multiple Committee on Accreditation site visits, was a member of the International Relations Committee and the Committee on Appointments. She was honored in 2013 by being asked to run for the office of President of ALA;

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Whereas Dr. Immroth was a strong proponent of intellectual freedom issues serving as a Freedom to Read Foundation Trustee for 4 years and as Vice-President. She was named to the Role of Honor by the Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read Foundation in 1999. Further, she served as President of Beta Phi Mu Honor Society and in 2007 received ALA's prestigious Beta Phi Mu Award for distinguished service for education for librarianship;

Whereas Dr. Immroth's contributions at the state level included being a mentor for the Texas Accelerated Library Leaders (TALL Texans) and served as president of the Texas Library Association. This association awarded her its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. She also donated thousands of books to the Perry-Castañeda Library Youth Collections at the University of Texas Austin Library;

Whereas at the close of her ALSC Presidency, ALSC Board members well-described Dr. Immroth's "...great abilities in mediation, leadership in national and international circles, promotion of ALSC, graciousness and warmth in welcoming and maintaining new and old members, presiding over board meetings and her commitment to keeping her board informed and involved in issues crucial to the completion of all ALSC Board meetings and programs..."; and

Whereas Dr. Immroth mentored students, many of whom were her legacy to the profession, and doctoral graduates who returned to their countries to share their expertise in education for librarians. She was a powerful friend and advocate for professional colleagues, many of whom were personal friends. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members

1. recognizes the remarkable achievements of Dr. Barbara Froling Immroth as an educator and a national and international leader in the profession and acknowledges her many contributions to her colleagues and friends;
2. conveys sincerest sympathy to her sons Christopher and Andrew Immroth, her brothers Stephen and Rob Froling, her sister Joanne Gallagher, and shared with her three grandchildren, Caroline Isabella Immroth, Alexander Phillip Immroth, and Nathan Gilbert Immroth.

Moved: Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor-at-Large, Syracuse University iSchool

Seconded: Dr. Joyce K. Valenza, Councilor-at-Large, Rutgers University

Additional Seconders:

Blanche Woolls, ALA Member

Susan Roman, ALA Member

Jennifer Moore, ALA Member

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Kimberly Patton, ALSC Councilor

Dorcas Hand, Texas Chapter Councilor

Family addresses:

Chris Immroth, 6024 SE 40th Ave., Portland, OR 97202

Andrew Immroth, 1621 Enfield Rd. Unit D, Austin, TX 78703

Stephen Froling, 150 Rivermead Rd. #207, Peterborough, NH 03458

Joanne Gallagher, 2500 So. College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525

Rob Froling, 772 Vista Drive, So. Ogden, UT 84403