

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Hilda L. Jay

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the broader library community lost a valued member and colleague with the death of Dr. Hilda L. Jay, school librarian and library advocate on September 18, 2019;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Library Science from Indiana University and was among the first class of degree holders when the department was part of the School of Education; she also earned a Master of Science Degree from Danbury State University, a sixth year degree from Bridgeport University and an EDD in secondary education from New York University;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay worked in the Children's Department at the Bridgeport Public Library, was a stay-at-home mom for years, and then became a school librarian;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay taught at Ridgefield High School, where she helped develop a leading program in Connecticut, including the installation of the first security system in the state;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay also taught at several graduate schools while still teaching at Ridgefield High School full-time, including the University of Connecticut, University of Rhode Island, and Southern Connecticut;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay also taught at the graduate schools of Library Science within The Catholic University and McDaniel College (formerly Western Maryland College), after moving to Collington, a life care facility, in Bowie, Maryland in 1988;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay authored numerous articles and three books under her name and co-authored another dozen books with her daughter, Dr. M. Ellen Jay, AASL president 1999-2000;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay's books shared design and presentation principles of libraries, along with examples of collaborative assignments, combining elements of the research process and informational literacy skills with classroom content concepts;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay was a frequent speaker at state, regional, and national conferences, always promoting the library profession;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay was a leader in local and state library associations within Connecticut as well as New England regional associations and helped craft documents which created the Connecticut Educational Media Association, a merger of the two previous library and audio-visual associations. She was the first President of the Connecticut Educational Media Association;

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Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay received the 2001 Distinguished Service Award from AASL; the 1989 New England Media Association's Betty Fast Award "for her professional involvement and personal commitment to the young people of New England and America", an Outstanding Service Award in 1987 from the Association of Educational Communications and Technology, Division of School Media Specialists, the 1981 Connecticut Educational Media Association Rita Clark Award of Merit "for her outstanding contributions, extensive service, and dedication to the media profession";

Whereas the Connecticut Educational Media Association inaugurated the Hilda and John Jay Award in 1987 which recognized an individual who demonstrated Dr. Hilda L. Jay's professional activities of leadership, teaching, and publishing;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay's motto for life was "whatever we possess becomes of double value when we share it with others." Hilda Jay definitely shared the library profession with others;

Whereas Dr. Hilda L. Jay considered herself an instinctive teacher and believed deeply in the words of Baba Dioum, an African poet:

"In the end we will conserve only what we love;
We will love only what we understand;
We will understand only what we are taught";

Whereas it is important to recognize and honor all librarians, especially school librarians like Dr. Hilda L. Jay; who have contributed to the library profession, now, therefore, be it

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

1. honors the life of Dr. Hilda L. Jay with this written memorial;
2. recognizes Dr. Hilda L. Jay, among earlier library leaders, for their support of early reading, advocacy, and education programs, such as the Newbery Medal (1921) and Caldecott Medal (1938) among a variety of early advocacy and education issues. Support of these programs earlier helped developed their strength, following, and recognition today;
3. recognizes Dr. Hilda L. Jay, along with former librarians and library leaders within ALA and all divisions, for earlier lobbying efforts for all libraries and librarians throughout the United States and US territories; and
4. conveys sincerest sympathy to her friends and family including her daughter, Dr. M. Ellen Jay, former AASL president 1999-2000.

Moved by: Diane R. Chen, AASL Division Councilor

Seconded by:

Leslie Preddy, ALA Councilor at Large

Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor at Large