

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Walter “Cat” Walker

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the academic library community lost a valued member and colleague on June 11, 2020, with the sudden death of Walt “Cat” Walker;

Whereas Walt earned a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a M.L.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles;

Whereas he worked for 30 years in cataloging departments of academic libraries, including 25 years at Loyola Marymount University, where he ended his career as Head of Cataloging and Associate Librarian, and served on the Faculty Senate from 1999 to 2004;

Whereas he was an active member of ALA since 1990, working within the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), as well as the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), to help establish cataloging standards and guidelines;

Whereas he was a talented and enthusiastic film and media cataloger, and was active in the Online Audio-Visual Catalogers (OLAC), including two years as Chair of its Cataloging Policy Committee (CAPC);

Whereas Walt was also an active member of ALA’s Rainbow Round Table (formerly GLBT Round Table), where he worked extensively on developing a series of annotated bibliographies on LGBTQ resources, served on the Stonewall Book Awards Committee from 2005-2007, and was elected Director-at-Large on the Executive Board, a position in which he served until the time of his death;

Whereas he was a member of the Editorial Board of the *Homosaurus*, an international linked data vocabulary of LGBTQ terms, where he also worked to make major revisions in the *International Thesaurus of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Terms*;

Whereas he volunteered for 25 years at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles, serving as board member from 1999 to 2002 and Chair of the Library Committee from 2000 to 2003;

Whereas Walt was a longtime activist for social justice and LGBTQ rights, and was a founding member of ACT-UP LA, in which he organized and participated in demonstrations and civil disobedience actions in response to federal government inaction during the AIDS crisis;

Whereas he was an enthusiastic film buff and regularly attended film screenings, festivals, and concerts throughout the Los Angeles area, especially *Outfest*, the Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival;

Whereas he had a long association with the California Men’s Gatherings (CMG), and organized several of the gatherings; and

Whereas Walt was proud to be a native Angeleno, was a devoted husband, son, brother, and friend to many, and will be remembered for his warm smile and ebullient personality; now, therefore, be it

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

1. applauds the many contributions of Walt “Cat” Walker to this association and to librarianship and mourns his untimely death; and
2. extends its deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues, and most especially to his life partner of 38 years, Patrick Knisely.

Mover: Deb Sica, Rainbow Round Table Councilor

Seconders: Ann Symons, Councilor-at-large
John DeSantis, Councilor-at-large
Sherry Machones, Wisconsin Chapter Councilor
Ana Elisa de Campos Salles, Councilor-at-large
Lisa Johnston, Councilor-at-large
Martin Garnar, Intellectual Freedom Round Table Councilor
Karen G. Schneider, Executive Board
Trevor A. Dawes, Executive Board

Endorsers:

Megan Drake, Chair, Rainbow Round Table
Jen McGuire-Wright, former Chair, Rainbow Round Table
Sukrit Goswami, Secretary, Rainbow Round Table
Anne Moore, Executive Board member, Rainbow Round Table

Version: June 13, 2020, 8:57 AM EST