

A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING DR. CARLTON C. ROCHELL

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), New York University, and the broader library community lost an innovative and dynamic leader on December 23, 2018, with the death of Dr. Carlton C. Rochell;

Whereas Carlton Rochell served 23 years as the Dean of New York University (NYU) Libraries, which he transformed into a world class resource by combining 38 separate collections into the dramatic new Philip Johnson-designed Elmer Holmes Bobst Library by introducing innovative technological solutions, doubling the size of the collections, increasing the book endowment by 1200%, and tripling circulation and materials expenditures;

Whereas he founded the Research Library Association of South Manhattan with NYU, the New School, Parsons, and Cooper Union, and later extended that network through a partnership with the New-York Historical Society, enhancing access to unique 18th- and 19th-century Americana to scholars around the world;

Whereas he brought the NYU Press under the management of the NYU Libraries in 1980—among the first such models in the country, and subsequently added campus media services, video production, cable television to the residence halls and NYU-TV, blending them with the rich resources available through the newly conceived Avery Fisher Center for Music and Media;

Whereas he celebrated writers through the NYU Elmer H. Bobst Awards for Arts and Letters and joined forces with national and local labor leaders to develop the NYU Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives, now one of the preeminent research centers for American labor history;

Whereas Carlton Rochell came to research libraries from the Atlanta Public Library, where he galvanized a grass-roots campaign to pass a referendum to support the new iconic Marcel Breuer-designed central library and was also instrumental in advancing the integration of public libraries in the south as director of libraries in Anniston, Alabama, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and Knoxville, Tennessee during the civil rights movement of the 1960s;

Whereas Carlton Rochell served as chairman of the board of the Research Libraries Group, shaping the organization in its early days, and also as a member of the Association of Research Libraries board and as an ALA councilor, as well as guided the New York delegation at the 1979 White House Conference on Libraries and the New York State Governor's Commission on Libraries;

Whereas he chaired the New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, served as President of the Metropolitan New York Reference and Research Library Agency (METRO), and convened "An Information Agenda for the 1980's" with the American Library Association and an international convocation, "In Praise of Libraries" featuring national library leaders from the United States and Europe, resulting in significant publications, and also published influential books and articles such as: *Wheeler and Goldhor's Practical Administration of Public Libraries*, revised edition, Harper and Row (1981); *Dreams Betrayed: Working in the Technological Age*,

2018-2019 ALA Memorial #4
2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting

Lexington Books (1987); and, "The Knowledge Business: Economic Issues of Access to Bibliographic Information," *College and Research Libraries* (1985);

Whereas Carlton Rochell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics at Vanderbilt University--George Peabody College, and Masters' degrees in Library Science and Liberal Studies as well as a Doctor of Philosophy in Library Science and Government from Florida State University and taught management in the library programs at Atlanta University and Columbia University;

Whereas Carlton Rochell's true legacy lies in the profound effect he had on positioning libraries at the heart of campus and local communities, as an exceptional mentor who inspired many young professionals to seek leadership positions in the field, and as a man of astute political acumen and great wit whose love and respect for contemporary literature knew no bounds;

Whereas now, therefore, be it

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

- (1) recognizes the exceptional contributions of Dr. Carlton C. Rochell over the course of his long and productive career and mourns his death; and
- (2) extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Mover: Nancy Kranich (732) 306-3535

Seconder: Ann Symons (907) 500-4050

Version 1, 1/25/19