

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Teresa Mlawer

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), REFORMA the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking, the other ethnic affiliates of ALA, and the publishing and bookselling communities lost a valuable friend and colleague with the death of Teresa Mlawer on March 21, 2020;

Whereas Mlawer worked for almost 60 years in the Hispanic and multilingual/multicultural publishing industry and became one of the most recognized and respected people in those communities;

Whereas Mlawer was President of Lectorum Publications, the oldest and largest distributor of Spanish-language books in the U.S. (acquired by Scholastic in 1996) from 1976 to 2009, and during that time, launched a successful publishing program of Spanish and bilingual books for children, negotiating the Spanish-language rights for the works of many highly-regarded authors, such as Dr. Seuss, Marc Brown, Patricial Polacco, and many others, thus bringing these authors and illustrators to generations of Spanish-speaking and other children;

Whereas Mlawer subsequently launched Teresa Mlawer Publishing Services, which provided personal consulting and guidance to companies looking to enter the Hispanic publishing market, and through her work before and after starting this company shared her extensive knowledge of children's and YA publishing through various avenues, including as a highly-esteemed presenter at global industry conferences and events;

Whereas Mlawer worked diligently on behalf of the Latinx community; was a pioneer who translated and/or published over 500 Spanish and bilingual books, presenting voices of the Latin diaspora and the immigrant experience; presented, published, and promoted many works of English-language and Latin American authors and illustrators; provided a platform for many multicultural, multilingual voices from all across the world; and embodied the very best of all of ALA's ethnic affiliates; and

Whereas over the years, Mlawer was an enthusiastic supporter of many REFORMA events and initiatives, as well as many other library and publishing events, and mentored and inspired many of our members; and the REFORMA Northeast Chapter recently renamed its *Lifetime Achievement Award*, a special award to recognize and honor a member's professional excellence and lasting contributions to promote library and information services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking, not only on the regional level, but also on the national and international levels, in Mlawer's honor as the *Teresa Mlawer Lifetime Achievement Award*; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions and support of Teresa Mlawer over the course of her almost 60 years of dedicated service and mourns her death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her friends and family.

Mover: Louis Muñoz Jr., ALA Councilor-at-Large

Seconder(s): Raymond Pun, Councilor-at-Large

Loida Garcia-Febo, Immediate Past President, ALA

Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, ALA Executive Board

With thanks to Alexandra Gomez, Supervising Librarian, New York Public Library BookOps ("Tribute to Teresa Mlawer: Exceptional Hispanic Translator and Author of Children's Books," March 25, 2020, <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2020/03/25/tribute-teresa-mlawer-hispanic-translator>) and Leylha Ahuile, Publishers Weekly ("Remembering Teresa Mlawer: Teresa Mlawer, Spanish-Language Publishing Pioneer, Dies at 75," March 24, 2020, <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/Obituary/article/82788-spanish-language-publishing-pioneer-teresa-malawer-dies.html>), upon which much of the information above is based.

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