

Memorial Resolution Honoring J. Linda Williams

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the library community lost a well-loved leader in the school library community on February 20, 2020, with the death of J. Linda DiMisa Williams;

Whereas Linda was an ALA member for 44 years, serving the Association and its divisions in many ways including as President of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) in 2005-2006;

Whereas she had also been active in the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) and the Library Information Technology Association (LITA);

Whereas she was elected to service on ALA Council and on the ALA Executive Board;

Whereas she served on and chaired many Association, Division and Council Committees including the Membership Committee, the Council Orientation Committee, the Committee on Organization, the Planning and Budget Assembly, the Budget Analysis and Review Committee, the Planned Giving Committee and several awards committees and juries;

Whereas she was active in several Round Tables including Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Round Table (GLBRT), Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), and Ethnic & Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT);

Whereas she was generous with financial gifts to the Association, was a member of the Legacy Society and Spectrum Giving Circle and served on the advisory committees for several ALA Presidents;

Whereas she served as coordinator of school library services for Anne Arundel County (MD) Public Schools prior to her retirement;

Whereas she was a leader in statewide school library development as head of School Library Services for the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services;

Whereas she served as President of the Maryland Association of School Librarians, and was active in the University of Maryland Alumni Association, where she served as a member of its Board of Governors and as President of the iSchool Alumni Chapter;

Whereas, J. Linda Williams was a strong advocate for libraries of all types in Maryland, having served on the board of Citizens for Maryland Libraries from 2007-2015 and as an officer of the organization, working to build greater public awareness of the need for and services of Maryland libraries;

Whereas she was a person with a zest for life and a resilient spirit, and a loyal friend who showered the people in her life with warmth, kindness, and generosity; and

2019-2020 ALA Memorial #17
2020 ALA Virtual Meeting

Whereas she had a passion for travel and good food and a love of lighthouses, football, and the University of Maryland, and was grateful to her kidney donor who gave her extra years to realize more of her passions. Now, therefore be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions to libraries of J. Linda Williams over the course of her career and mourns her death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her friends and family.

Mover: Michael A. Golrick, Division Councilor for the Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA); michael.golrick@gmail.com

Seconder: Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor-at-large, skjohns@gmail.com

Pat Schuman, former President and Treasurer, American Library Association

Ann Symons, former President and Treasurer, American Library Association

Jim Neal, former President, American Library Association

Barbara Stripling, former President, American Library Association

Julie Todaro, former President, American Library Association

Nancy Kranich, former President, American Library Association

Mitch Freedman, former President, American Library Association

Maureen Sullivan, former President, American Library Association

Camila Alire, former President, American Library Association

Carla Hayden, former President, American Library Association

Mario Gonzales, former Treasurer, American Library Association

Rod Hersberger, former Treasurer, American Library Association

Roberta Stevens, former President, American Library Association

Molly Raphael, former President, American Library Association

James Rettig, former President, American Library Association

Barbara Ford, , former President, American Library Association

Betty Turock, former President, American Library Association

Kevin Reynolds, former member ALA Executive Board

John DeSantis, former member ALA Executive Board

Dora Ho, former member ALA Executive Board

Diane Chen, former member ALA Executive Board

Sylvia Norton, former member ALA Executive Board [AASL Executive Director]

Kent Oliver, former member ALA Executive Board

Terri Grief, former member ALA Executive Board

Nann Hilyard, former member ALA Executive Board