

Memorial Resolution Honoring Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin (1945-2022)

“I have built a monument more lasting than brass,
loftier than the royal structures of the Pyramids...”
Horace “Exegi Monumentum Aere Perennius,”
Book III, Ode XXX

Whereas, God, our loving Father, in the light of His wisdom, and in the magnitude of His power, has removed from our profession and from our Chain of Friendship, a shining link in the name of our dearest sister, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, and added it to the Friendship Chain of His Kingdom;

Whereas Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin joyfully and diligently served as president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Inc., the largest, most powerful, and longest sustaining organization of African American librarians, library workers, publishers, and library trustees;

Whereas Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, served as the first woman and the first African American director of Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Sylvia was a steadfast friend, mentor and supervisor to many African American library workers and many other librarians and individuals in Winston-Salem, North Carolina;

Whereas Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, a respected librarian, community advocate, and supporter of the arts, received the DEMCO Award for Excellence in Librarianship, the Annette Lewis Phinazee Award, and the Gateway YWCA's Legacy Award;

Whereas Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, dedicated to the recruitment and retention of African American librarians, served as chair of the E. J. Josey Scholarship Committee;

Whereas Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, with such a career of dedication and service, and a job exceedingly well done, we do understand how a shining link in the name of our dearest sister, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, has most deservedly been added to the Friendship Chain of God's Kingdom; and

Whereas, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. and the entire library profession have sustained a great loss in the home going of Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin. Now, therefore be it

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

1. eulogizes the memory of Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin by trying to bring into our own lives the exuberance combined with kindness, sustained commitment, vision, and purpose that made her life a pattern worthy of our emulation, and that we earnestly try to live as purposely and unselfishly as did Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin; and

2. expresses, along with members of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, its sincere sympathy to the family of Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, that we place a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the American Library Association, and that we also send a copy of this resolution to the members of Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin's family in order to show her loved ones the high esteem in which we hold her life and her memory.

Mover: Libre Booker, ALA Executive Board

Seconder: Eboni Henry, ALA Executive Board

Respectfully submitted,

The Officers and Members of The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.

Shauntee Burns-Simpson, President (2020-2022), New York, New York

“One by one the links are severed
from the golden chain of life.
One by one our caucus is forming
In the Father's House above.
Let our deeds be pure and noble
May our lives be not in vain
So that when the links are welded
Complete again will be the chain.”

Officers:

Shauntee Burns-Simpson, (The New York Public Library), President

Nichelle M. Hayes, (Center for Black Literature & Culture) Vice President

Brenda Johnson-Perkins, (Baltimore County Public Library), Secretary

Michele Fenton, (Indiana State Library), Assistant Secretary

Wanda Kay Brown, (Director of Library Services, Winston-Salem State University),
Treasurer

Richard E. Ashby, Jr., (Sharon Hill Public Library), Immediate Past President

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