

Memorial Resolution for Patricia Wilson Berger

Whereas, the American Library Association and the broader library and science communities lost a valued member and leader on March 27, 2011, with the death of Patricia Wilson Berger; and

Whereas, Patricia Wilson Berger served as President of the American Library Association from 1989 to 1990, and additional years on its Executive Board and ALA Council; and

Whereas, Her initiative to develop a preservation policy for ALA has resulted in spelling out the responsibilities of the library profession for the preservation of library materials of all types to guarantee access to the information they contain, both for the current generation of library users and for generations to come; and

Whereas, She served in management positions at the National Bureau of Standards/National Institute of Standards and Technology, the US Patent and Trademark Office, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Institute of Defense Analysis while she pioneered the use of computers in federal libraries; and

Whereas, She served as president of the Federal Librarians Round Table in 1989-90, having received its Achievement Award in 1985 for her leadership in the promotion of library and information service in the federal community; and

Whereas, She repeatedly challenged attempts at censorship, resisted erosions of Americans' access to information, the diminution of government information resources and the dismantling of the government's information capabilities, and testified in Congress about issues of concern to librarians and library users; and

Whereas, She was a leader of librarians in the Washington, DC, area while serving as president of the local chapter of the Special Libraries Association, a fellow of SLA, as chair and member of the board of the Virginia State Library Board, member of the District of Columbia Library Association, receiving its President's Award in 2001, and receiving Catholic University of America's Distinguished Alumna Award; and

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Whereas, She was widely recognized for her achievements beyond the library profession as exemplified by her membership in the Cosmos Club, and appointments as fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and fellow of the National Information Standards Organization;

Whereas, Patricia Wilson Berger's professional life and spirit of generosity will continue to inspire librarians and scientists as they remember her achievements; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members, salutes Patricia Wilson Berger for her many achievements and honors her memory with admiration; and sends its condolences to her husband and family.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels

ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

In New Orleans, Louisiana