

Memorial Resolution Honoring William “Bill” DeJohn

Whereas William Thomas “Bill” DeJohn, retired Director, Minitex, University of Minnesota, died on Monday December 31, 2012, after a brief illness;

Whereas he graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor of arts degree in Russian Civilization and a Masters in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences;

Whereas he worked in positions at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia, Mo., the Missouri State Library, the Illinois State Library and the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center at the University of Washington;

Whereas he served as Minitex Director for 27 years, providing services to over 2,200 libraries throughout the Upper Midwest, helping them share their collections, electronic resources, bibliographic records and references services and strove to enable school, public, and academic libraries to seamlessly support citizens at all points of their lives;

Whereas he was a longtime member of the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Public Library Association, the Association of Cooperative and Specialized Library Agencies, the Library Leadership and Management Association, and the Minnesota Library Association, among other professional organizations;

Whereas he contributed broadly to the American Library Association, helping to found the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table, serving on the Association of Cooperative and Specialized Library Agencies Board, conference Planning Committee and Exceptional Achievement and Exceptional Service Award Jury, President’s Program, and Nominating Committees, and a candidate in 1975 for ALA President;

Whereas he was actively involved in the mid-1970s in the first *ad hoc* ALA group to focus on library services to the deaf;

Memorial Resolution Honoring William “Bill” DeJohn/2

Whereas he participated in and led many ALA committees and task forces that recognized the importance of public library service to children, their parents and caregivers and the role of school libraries, including the 1984 ALA Task Force on Excellence in Education - formed in response to the U.S. Department of Education report, *A Nation at Risk: the Imperative for Educational Reform*- whose emphasis that “learning begins before schooling and good schools require good school libraries,” in its report, *Realities: Education Reform in a Learning Society*, was a precursor of many ALA and divisional initiatives such as Every Child Ready to Read@your library;

Whereas he received the Minnesota Library Association’s Academic Librarian of the Year Award in 2006, and the 2008 University of Minnesota President’s Award for Outstanding Service;

Whereas he was renowned for his vision, his political skill and his ability to coax legislators into investing in libraries and library services; and

Whereas he was unflagging in his passion for libraries, resource sharing and equity of access; his commitment to collaboration; and his continual interest in innovation; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the remarkable achievements of William Thomas DeJohn and contributions to the library profession as a leader, innovator, and a valued and engaged colleague; and
2. expresses its sincere sympathy to the DeJohn family, including his wife, Kathi, and sons; to the staff at Minitex, and to members of the Minnesota Library Association.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

In Seattle, Washington



Keith Michael Fiels

ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council