A Memorial Resolution Honoring Thomas Low

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), and the publishing community lost a valued member on May 19, 2020 with the death of Thomas Low;

Whereas Low co-founded Lee & Low Books in 1991 with Philip Lee and served as the publishing house’s CEO;

Whereas Low worked tirelessly with many authors, writers, educators, artists and illustrators of color to publish over 1000 diverse titles in print over the years; some of their works garnered major awards and honors such as the Caldecott Medal, the Pura Belpré Award, the Coretta Scott King Award, and the Stonewall Book Award; and

Whereas Low left a critical legacy in diversifying the American publishing industry; Lee & Low Books is one of the few and leading minority-owned publishing houses in the U.S. and has sponsored many awards including the company’s New Voices Award, an annual writing contest for authors of color; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions and support of Low over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Saturday, June 27, 2020, ALA Virtual Council Meeting

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council