

2015-2016 ALA Memorial #4_FINAL
2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting

This memorial resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, January 12, 2016

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Billy Charles Beal

Whereas Billy C. Beal, a steadfast friend, mentor, and advisor to generations of African American librarians and many other librarians and individuals throughout the United States; respected elder, visionary leader, activist, and invaluable supporter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Inc., whose departure we so deeply feel and whose life has been an example to his family, his friends, his community, and his colleagues in the great state of Mississippi and throughout this nation;

Whereas Billy C. Beal joyfully, diligently, and enthusiastically served 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: as chair of the E.J. Josey Scholarship Jury; as co-chairperson of the BCALA Constitution and By-Laws Committee during; as a member of the BCALA Executive Board;

Whereas Billy C. Beal further lent his gifts to the library profession and to this nation as Head Librarian, as Dean of Learning Resources, and ultimately as Associate Vice President of Learning Resources, all at Meridian Community College, in Meridian, Mississippi. Billy C Beal shared his leadership skills with the profession by planning and promoting library services for every segment of the population as a forty-year member of the American Library Association; as Mississippi Chapter Councilor on the Council of the American Library Association; as an active member of the Association of College and Research Libraries' Community and Junior College Libraries Section; Brother Beal cherished his membership on various committees of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of ALA, where he served as a distinguished member of the Coretta Scott King Task Force's Awards Committee and twice chair; of local arrangements for the very popular Coretta Scott King Task Force Breakfast. Furthermore, Billy C. Beal served the Mississippi Library Association as the Executive Board Parliamentarian from and was Vice Chair and Chairperson of the Black Caucus Round Table of the Mississippi Library Association; and

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Whereas, the American Library Association, the entire library profession, and communities throughout this nation have sustained a great loss in the home going of Mr. Billy C. Beal, now, therefore, be it

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

1. eulogizes his memory by trying to bring into our own lives that excellence and professionalism, coupled with wittiness, subtle humor, empathy, sustained commitment, vision, and purpose that made his life a worthy pattern for our emulation, and that we earnestly try to live as purposely and unselfishly as did Billy C. Beal; and
2. expresses its sincere sympathy to the family of Billy C. Beal, 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 Billy C. Beal's family and the Meridian Community College Library in order to show to his loved ones the high esteem in which we hold his life and his memory.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 12, 2016, in Boston, Massachusetts



Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council