Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street to Speak at
Commemorative Service Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 27, 2003 During American Library Association
Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

(CHICAGO) Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street will be the keynote speaker at the commemorative sunrise celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday during the American Library Association's (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, Penn. The celebration will be held on Monday, January 27, 2003 from 6:30 - 7:30a.m. in rooms 113 A, B and C of the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Sponsored by World Book, Inc., the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force Subcommittee of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), and the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), the sunrise celebration will honor the work and life of Dr. King, and will include participants from ALA leadership as well as representatives from several ALA units and affiliates.

The planning committee considered Mayor Street as the speaker for the 2003 ALA King Holiday Observance because of his commitment to make a real difference in the lives of people.

Mayor Street’s initiatives on behalf of Philadelphia’s neighborhoods are nationally recognized. ‘Philadelphia Reads’ works to ensure that all children read well and independently by the end of third grade. It is a collaborative effort with the School District and the Free Library of Philadelphia.
The Mayor’s Commission on Literacy works closely with Philadelphia literacy organizations, local corporations, social service providers, government agencies, community groups, religious leaders, and adult learners to ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard.

This year marks the seventy-fourth birthday of Dr. King and the seventeenth anniversary of the National Holiday in his honor. It is celebrated in some form in more than 100 countries around the world.

Coffee and pastries will be served, compliments of World Book, Inc.

For more information, contact the OLOS Communications Officer, Beatrice Calvin at bcalvin@ala.org or via phone at 800/545-2433 ext. 4280.

With support of the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, leaders of several other ALA units and affiliates will read from scripted presentations from Dr. King’s speeches and writings.

These liaison groups include the following:

- ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force of SRRT (co-sponsor)
- ALA Council Committee on Minority Concerns and Cultural Diversity
- ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table
- American Indian Library Association
- Black Caucus of the American Library Association (co-sponsor)
- REFORMA: National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking
- Asian-Pacific American Librarians Association
- Chinese American Librarians Association
- ALA Diversity Office
- ALA ADA Assembly
- ALA Spectrum Initiative Scholars and the 2000 ALA Century Scholarship recipient

Thanks for your cooperation.