

Statement on Rescinding Beauvoir as a Literary Landmark from the 2019-2020 United for Libraries Executive Board:

Literary Landmarks is a legacy program of Friends of Libraries U.S.A., which merged with ALA's Association for Library Trustees and Advocates in 2009 to become what is now known as United for Libraries. The program recognizes sites of literary significance; the designations are awarded to sites as opposed to authors. United for Libraries has continued the Literary Landmarks program, but United for Libraries in no way supports the 2001 decision made by Friends of Libraries U.S.A. to add Beauvoir, the "Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library," to the Literary Landmarks registry.

United for Libraries has rescinded this designation, and regrets any implied endorsement of this site. We reject the racist and wrong "Lost Cause" ideology promoted in Jefferson Davis' memoirs and by the site's owners, the Mississippi Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc. The site's focus does not match United for Libraries' values. The continued inclusion of Beauvoir as a Literary Landmark was an oversight — one that we are rectifying.

A current initiative for both the Literary Landmarks program and United for Libraries as a whole is to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion. Recent additions to the Literary Landmark registry that reflect authors worthy of recognition and deserving of inclusion in this program include the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park in Stillwater, Okla., the Manila House in Washington, D.C., the "Peter and Willie" statue for Ezra Jack Keats in Brooklyn, N.Y., the George Bruce Branch of the New York Public Library for Walter Dean Myers, and the Alex Haley Museum & Interpretive Center in Henning, Tenn., and the Portsmouth (Va.) Community Library for Bertha Winbourne Edwards.

United for Libraries recognizes that significant efforts are needed on our part as an organization to develop truly anti-racist initiatives and become an inclusive and diverse organization. Our board is committed to doing this work and putting ideals into action.

We have a great deal of work ahead of us as we solidify our commitment to diversity and inclusion. United for Libraries will review Literary Landmarks listings with guidance from a diverse committee of experts from the ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table and Committee on Diversity.

Taking on the struggle against racism, prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination is central to United for Libraries' mission and we will continue to examine how these decisions are made and revise where necessary our selection criteria.

About United for Libraries

[United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations](#) is a division of the American Library Association with approximately 4,000 personal and group

members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century.

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