A Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Vartan Gregorian

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) lost a valued colleague on April 13, 2021, with the death of Dr. Vartan Gregorian;

Whereas Gregorian received his dual PhD in history and humanities, Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts in history and humanities from Stanford University; Gregorian was born to Armenian parents in Tabriz, Iran and came to America in 1956 to study at Stanford University;

Whereas Gregorian was a distinguished educator, scholar and administrator in higher education, in a public library system and in philanthropy; Gregorian was an author of numerous publications; he served as the President of the New York Public Library (NYPL) from 1981-1989; President of Brown University from 1989-1997; and President of Carnegie Corporation of New York from 1997-2021;

Whereas Gregorian served as the President of NYPL and under his leadership, he expanded services and engagements; advocated against budget cuts during these challenging times; and raised over $10 million to fund and support major renovations and acquisitions of collections with a focus on multilingual and multicultural materials; The NYPL recognized his contributions to the city as “immeasurable”; and

Whereas Gregorian was a recipient of numerous awards, fellowships and honorary doctorates for his accomplishments; Gregorian was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 1998, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004; and France’s Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 2017; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Dr. Vartan Gregorian 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
Tuesday, June 29, 2021, ALA Virtual Annual Conference Council Meeting

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