

### **ALA Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) lost a valued member and a colleague on December 17, 2023, with the death of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee;

Whereas Lee graduated from National Taiwan Normal University; received a master's degree in education at the University of Pittsburgh, a master's in library science from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Pittsburgh;

Whereas Lee worked as a librarian at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University; Lee worked as the library director at Edinboro University and served as founding library director of Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand; Lee was also the associate director of libraries and professor of library administrator at Colorado State University; Lee was dean of libraries at Ohio University; Lee also served as chief of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress and helped build the Asian American Pacific Islander collection;

Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee, while at Ohio University, demonstrated his generous spirit by mentoring international students; created the International Librarians Internship Program, an exchange program for more than 175 librarians from the Asian and Pacific Region who would train at Ohio University Libraries; developed significant international collections including the creation of an Overseas Chinese library, one of several significant resources within the Hwa-Wei Lee Center for International Collections; cultivated meaningful donor relationships that would have a huge impact on the Ohio University Libraries; and shepherded Ohio University Libraries into the Association of Research Libraries in 1996;

Whereas at the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), Lee served as President from 1978-1979; Lee was an active member and was instrumental in creating CALA; Lee made a tremendous difference and impact supporting and mentoring countless librarians and library school students through his leadership;

Whereas Lee was very active in the profession globally; Lee served as a distinguished visiting scholar for OCLC, a Fulbright Senior Specialist at Chiang Mai University in Thailand; Lee was very active and co-founded China-US library conferences; and served as founding director of OhioLINK, a statewide academic library consortium;

Whereas Lee published and presented extensively including authoring seven books and hundreds of published academic articles; Lee was a recipient of numerous professional honors such as the American Library Association's John Ames Humphrey Award in 1991; the Melvil Dewey Medal in 2015 (now ALA Medal of Excellence); CALA's Outstanding Leadership Award in Memory of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung in 2016, and the Medal of Appreciation from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand in 2018; Lee also received APALA's Distinguished Services Award in 1991,

the Ohio Hall of Fame Librarian in 1999, and an honorary doctor of letters degree from Ohio University;

Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee was a devoted and proud husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather;

Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee was a warm, generous, humble, and kind person who believed that libraries enrich lives;

Whereas his legacy is the great influence he has had on the lives of individuals, by building cooperative ties for a common good that resulted in a profound impact on international librarianship relations worldwide;

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association (ALA) and the Chinese American Librarians Association, on behalf of its members, now therefore be it

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Mover: Raymond Pun, ALA Councilor-CALA Representative

Seconder: Hong Yao, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Endorsed:

Mario Gonzalez, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Joan Weeks, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, ALA Councilor at Large

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