

Memorial Resolution Honoring Esperanza Bravo de Varona

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) lost a valued colleague on February 23, 2023, with the death of Esperanza Bravo de Varona;

Whereas De Varona studied in Colegio del Apostolado and attended the University of Havana in Cuba where she received a Ph.D. in philosophy; De Varona obtained a Master of Library Science from the University of Florida; she worked at the University of Miami Libraries Cuban Heritage Collection (CHC) since the late 1960s as an archivist and librarian;

Whereas De Varona co-built an important collection of documents, posters, newspapers, books, and maps related to Cuba and the Cuban exile experiences along with librarians and archivists such as Rosa Bella, Ana Rosa Nuñez, Lesbia Orta Varona, and Gladys Gomez Rossie, and mentored many over the years including Amanda T. Moreno, the current interim Esperanza Bravo de Varona Chair and archivist for the CHC; CHC is the largest collection documenting Cuban history outside of Cuba and the largest record focusing on global Cuban diasporic experiences;

Whereas De Varona was passionate about supporting CHC and fundraised over \$1 million throughout her career in support of preserving Cuban heritage collections, De Varona has been described as an inspirational and visionary leader by many;

Whereas De Varona served as president of the Society of Florida Archivists and was a member of the State Historical Records Advisory Board appointed by three consecutive governors; De Varona also chaired the Steering Committee International Council on Archives; De Varona was an extraordinary colleague, mentor, and friend to many in the field;

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Esperanza Bravo de Varona over the course of her career and mourns her death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her friends and family.

Mover: Raymond Pun, ALA Councilor at Large

Seconder: Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, ALA Councilor at Large

Version: 9 am PT, March 20, 2023