

A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING LEONARD KNIFFEL

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the publishing community, and the broader library world lost a valued member and leader on March 19, 2021, with the death of Leonard Kniffel;

Whereas Leonard Kniffel worked tirelessly on behalf of libraries, the Polish library community, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the American Library Association;

Whereas Leonard Kniffel faithfully served the Detroit Public Library for eighteen years and never forgot his roots in Detroit;

Whereas Leonard Kniffel served the Association as journalist, managing editor, and editor in chief for American Libraries for twenty-four years;

Whereas Leonard Kniffel took on a wide range of issues from censorship to public service, embracing controversy, advancing libraries, and led the launch of ALA JobLIST and American Libraries Direct;

Whereas Leonard Kniffel shared his passion, curiosity, wit, and wisdom so generously with countless librarians and library workers;

Whereas in retirement, Leonard Kniffel took on the role of executive director of the Polish American Librarians Association and a board member of the Polish Museum of America in 2014;

Whereas Leonard Kniffel was a supportive manager, generous mentor, kind person, and loving friend; and

Whereas Leonard Kniffel enriched the lives of those fortunate enough to know him and impacted the lives of librarians, library workers, and library users who never had the good fortune to do so; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Leonard Kniffel over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Mover: Karen G. Schneider, ALA Executive Board, Former Columnist American Libraries

Seconder: Ann Symons, Councilor At Large, ALA Past President, ALA Honorary Member

With support from:

Andrew K. Pace, former AL columnist and past chair of the American Libraries Advisory Committee, Robert R. Newlen, ALA Member

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