

Memorial Resolution Honoring Joyce Meskis

Whereas a fierce supporter of intellectual freedom and defender of readers' rights was lost on December 22, 2022, with the death of Joyce Meskis;

Whereas Joyce Meskis purchased the Tattered Cover Bookstore in 1974 and led to its expansion;

Whereas Joyce Meskis actively supported anti-censorship efforts to the level of leading an American Booksellers Association Taskforce that ultimately created the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression;

Whereas in 1994, Joyce Meskis led a successful fight against a ballot initiative that would have amended the Colorado Constitution in a way that would have given the State Legislature expanded power to ban sexual speech;

Whereas in 2000, Joyce Meskis successfully challenged a police effort to access book purchase records; and

Whereas Joyce Meskis continuously remained resolute about the importance of reader privacy in her role as a bookstore owner.

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

1. recognizes the value of Joyce Meskis's efforts as an independent bookstore owner, champion of intellectual freedom, and protector of first amendment rights; and
2. offers our deepest sympathies to those who knew and loved Joyce Meskis

Mover: Jayne Blodgett, Colorado Chapter Councilor
Seconder: Sam Helmick, ALA Executive Board member
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