

**Memorial Resolution Honoring Rita Joyce Williams Jones
(June 17, 1948 – January 10, 2020)**

“I have built a monument more lasting than brass, loftier than the royal structures of the Pyramids...”

Horace “Exegi Monumentum Aere Perennius,” Book III, Ode XXX

Whereas God, our loving Father, in the light of His wisdom, and in the magnitude of His power has removed from our Profession and from our Chain of Friendship a shining link in the name of our dearest sister, Rita Joyce Williams Jones, and added it to the Friendship Chain of His Kingdom;

Whereas Rita W. Jones, a steadfast friend, exemplary and gracious mentor, motivator, and colleague to generations of librarians and individuals throughout the United States, and an incomparable supporter of African American information professionals, who, for many decades, was an invaluable member and unfailing supporter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Inc., and in 2007 served on the BCALA NCAAL Awards and Honors Committee;

Whereas throughout her career she also served on the BCALA Executive Board, the Planning Committee for the first National Conference of African American Librarians in Columbus, Ohio, and in many other capacities within our organization;

Whereas Rita W. Jones, a graduate of the University of California-Berkeley in 1970 (B.A.), earned her Masters of Science in Library Science degree from the University of California Berkeley in 1972;

Whereas she also earned California Community College credentials in librarianship, teaching, and administration;

Whereas Rita W. Jones utilized and graciously shared her education, experience, knowledge, and expertise with friends, colleagues, the library profession, and beyond, through her involvement in the American Library Association, the California Library Association, as president of the California Librarians Black Caucus (Northern Section), and as a member of the Association of California Community College Administrators;

Whereas Rita W. Jones was a beloved, admired, award-winning, and effective library director, who for more than thirty-eight (38) years lent her expertise to California students, libraries, library colleagues, and the community, first working as a public

library branch librarian in the city of Richmond, California, while pursuing graduate education in Library and Information Science, an experience that ignited the beginning of what was to become her lifelong professional career;

Whereas her journey took her to the San Francisco Community College, and positions of increasing responsibility from Reference Librarian to Co-Coordinator of Public Services, Head of Acquisitions and Collections Department, Instructional Dean, and ultimately retiring in 2010 from District Services as Dean, Library and Learning Resources of the City College of San Francisco;

Whereas in this capacity, Rita W. Jones provided leadership for multiple campus libraries - planning, developing, organizing, and promoting services for all;

Whereas she was responsible for a \$25 million, five-story library and learning resources center on the City College of San Francisco Ocean Campus, the largest community college learning resource center in the state of California;

Whereas she was also responsible for two libraries, a media center, and a language center on the Ocean Campus, as well as a library on the John Adams Campus;

Whereas the efforts of Rita W. Jones were acknowledged locally and nationally, on one occasion when San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown honored her by declaring May 11, 2000 as "Rita W. Jones Day," And also, when in 2003, under Rita W. Jones' leadership the American Library Association's (ALA) Association of College and Research Libraries awarded the City College of San Francisco Library and Learning Resource Center the "Academic and College Research Library Excellence Award" for Community Colleges;

Whereas Sister Rita W. Jones, the first African American librarian hired by the City College of San Francisco, whose outstanding career has left a rich legacy for community college librarianship and African American librarianship, whose departure is deeply felt, and whose life serves as an example of Christian fortitude to her family, her friends, her community, and her colleagues in a variety of public and community college libraries throughout this nation; and

Whereas the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and library professionals across our nation have sustained a great loss in the home going of our sister and colleague Rita W. Jones; now, therefore, be it

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

1. eulogizes the memory of Sister Rita W. Jones by trying to bring into our own lives, the dedication and professionalism, coupled with warmth, generosity, graciousness, joy, and sustained vision that made her life a worthy pattern for our emulation and, that we earnestly try to live as purposefully as did Rita W. Jones;
and

2. expresses, along with members of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, sincere sympathy to the family of Rita W. Jones, and places a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and sends a copy of this resolution to the family of our dear colleague, Rita W. Jones, and to the City College of San Francisco, in order to show her loved ones the high esteem in which we hold her life and her memory.

Mover: Libré (Latrice) Booker, ALA Executive Board

Seconder: K.C. Boyd, DC Chapter Councilor

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“One by one the links are severed

from the golden chain of life;

One by one our caucus is forming

In the Father’s House above.

Let our deeds be pure and noble

May our lives be not in vain

So that when the links are welded

Complete again will be the chain.”

Respectfully submitted,

The Officers and Members of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association

Richard E. Ashby, Jr., President, (2018-2020), McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania
Shauntee Burns-Simpson

Shauntee Burns-Simpson, President (2020-2022), New York, New York

May 21, 2021

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