Memorial Resolution Honoring Betty Lee Sung

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) lost a valued colleague on January 19, 2023, with the death of Dr. Betty Lee Sung;

Whereas Sung was born in 1924 in Maryland; she received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Illinois in 1948; a Master of Library Science from Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY); and a PhD from the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York; Sung received many awards including an honorary doctorate, Doctor of Letters, from State University of New York Old Westbury;

Whereas Sung started her career working at the Library of Congress translating Chinese maps for the Army during World War II; at the Library of Congress, she advocated for the creation of an Asian American collection; Sung also worked at the Queens Borough Public Library while attending Queens College for her Master of Library Science degree;

Whereas Sung was Professor Emerita of the City College of New York/CUNY; Sung was a co-founder and former board chair of the Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) - the City University of New York; at City College, Sung developed and taught the first course and program in Asian American Studies Sung collaborated with faculty and students of color advocating for ethnic studies program; Sung served as Chair of the Department of Asian Studies at the City College of New York from 1970 to 1992;

Whereas Sung was a leading authority on Chinese in America; she presented and published numerous books and articles on Asian American history; some of her noteworthy publications include Mountain of Gold: The Story of the Chinese in America (1967), The Chinese in America (1973), and Chinese American Intermarriage (1990);

Whereas Sung completed a database of the Chinese immigration records in the New York Region National Archives in 1994; this database received funding from Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities; scholars and researchers used the database to conduct genealogical and biographical studies focusing on the early history of Chinese immigrants in New York;

Whereas Sung was active in many professional organizations such as the Asian American Higher Education Council, the American Library Association, the Association for Asian American Studies, among others; in 2017, Sung received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Asian American Studies; Sung was an extraordinary scholar, friend, colleague, and mentor to many; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Betty Lee Sung over the course of her career and mourns her death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to her friends and family.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Sunday, January 29, 2023, ALA LLX, New Orleans, LA

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director, and
Secretary of the ALA Council