



### **Memorial Resolution Honoring Bill Ott**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and *Booklist* lost a valued colleague on April 8, 2023, with the death of Bill Ott;

Whereas Ott served as the Editor & Publisher of *Booklist*, a book-review publication of the American Library Association, for at least 39 years as a *Booklist* staff; Ott held various roles and edited the crime fiction section in *Booklist*; he was especially interested in stories set in Europe and Asia; Ott came to *Booklist* in 1980, and during his time in *Booklist*, he helped increase *Booklist*'s annual revenue over \$5 million for several years in a row; Ott helped generate net revenue that supported and funded other ALA programs and services;

Whereas Ott has been described as a consummate professional who possessed a rare combination of editorial and business excellence; he was well known in the trade publishing community in New York and beyond; along with *Booklist* staff, under Ott's leadership, *Booklist* added a website and 17 other digital products such as newsletters, webinars, white papers, sponsored e-blasts, and live events; Ott helped increase audience attention and generated new revenue streams; Ott wrote over 3,000 reviews and 400 Back Page columns; most recently in 2017, Ott served as interim associate executive director of ALA Publishing. Ott was a friend, colleague, and mentor to many; now, therefore, be it

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

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

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Monday, June 26, 2023, ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracie D. Hall", written in a cursive style.

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