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

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