



**Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Lucille Cole Thomas
(October 1, 1921 – June 15, 2019)**

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas distinguished herself as an engaged member of the American Library Association in 1957, serving on ALA Council for 22 years, numerous committees and divisions, (ALTA, ALSC, AASL, LAMA, PLA, YALSA, and ALTA), and as a member of the ALA Executive Board from 1985 – 1991;

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of School Librarians, which recognizes an individual member of the library profession who has, over a significant period of time, made an outstanding national contribution to school librarianship and school library development;

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas began her library career at the Brooklyn Public Library and, in 1993 was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library;

Whereas the Brooklyn Public Library established the annual Librarian Award called the Dr. Lucille C. Thomas Award for Excellence in Librarianship;

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas served on the Board of Directors of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, receiving its Trailblazer Award in 1995;

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas, is a past president, (and the first African-American president), of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), the New York Library Association (NYLA), the School Library Section of NYLA (NYLA/SSL), and the New York City School Librarians Association (NYCSLA), and served as president of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL);

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas received numerous professional awards and honors including the Honorary Membership from the American Library Association which is bestowed on individuals whose "...contributions to librarianship or a closely-related field are so outstanding that they are of significant and lasting importance to the whole field of library service," the Silver Award from the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the Grolier Foundation Award, the John Ames Humphrey Award from OCLC/Forest Press, as well as countless other awards;

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas was the recipient of the 1994 American Association of School Librarians Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes an individual member of the library profession who has, over a significant period of time, made an outstanding national contribution to school librarianship and school library development;

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas spearheaded efforts by the AASL to establish April as National School Library Media Month and was the founder of School Library Media Day in the State of New York as April 30th, continuing today as School Library Month and School Library Day;



Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas served in several leadership positions at the New York City Board of Education including Librarian, Supervisor of Library Service, and Assistant Director of the Office of Library, Media, and Telecommunications;

Whereas Lucille Cole Thomas received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bennett College, Master of Arts from New York University, and Master of Library Science, Columbia University, (serving as President of the library school's alumni association and received the "Distinguished Alumni Award" in 1986), and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Bennett College;

Whereas the library at the Jessie Owens School (Public School 26) in Brooklyn, NY is named in honor of Lucille Cole Thomas;

Whereas Dr. Lucille Cole Thomas was the recipient of the Medal of Excellence from the New York State Board of Regents and the Library Services Award from the New York Library Association (NYLA), therefore be it

Resolved, the American Library Association, on behalf of its members,

(1) Remembers Lucille Cole Thomas, and celebrates and honors her life and limitless capacity to promote awareness about the value of libraries, the importance of literacy, and her passion for library service for children among members of ALA and the library profession and,

(2) Extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Dr. Lucille Cole Thomas and expresses its highest esteem in which we hold her life and contributions to the library profession.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in Washington, DC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary W. Ghikas".

Mary W. Ghikas, Executive Director and
Secretary of the ALA Council