



Memorial Resolution of Violette Y. Brooks

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, Violette Y. Brooks, and added it to the Friendship Chain of His Kingdom;

Whereas Ms. Violette Y. Brooks, a 1971 graduate of Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, who, as a student, was involved in naming the student union building after Malcolm X; and who is also a 1974 graduate of Governors State University, Chicago, Illinois, where she earned a Master's of Arts degree in Communications; who has been a steadfast friend, devoted colleague, a respected high school and academic librarian, social activist, loyal church worker, and long-time member and invaluable supporter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Inc., whose departure we so deeply feel and whose life has been an example of Christian fortitude to her family, her friends, her church, her community, and her colleagues throughout this nation;

Whereas Violette Y. Brooks joyfully and diligently provided leadership and service to the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Inc., the largest, most powerful, and longest sustaining organization of African American librarians, library workers, publishers, and library trustees, by serving as the Local Chairperson for the National Black Caucus' 20th Anniversary, and also serving as the 20th Anniversary Gala Chairperson in 1990; Violette also supported the programs and activities of the Chicago Chapter of the Black Caucus of the Library Association, Inc.;

Whereas Violette Y. Brooks, an unyielding promoter of reading, literature, and award-winning children's books by African American authors and illustrators amongst all individuals and especially for African American communities throughout the United States, who also provided strategic leadership in the Special Library Association and as a lifetime member of the American Library Association by positioning herself in key positions beneficial to the library profession, and especially to the race. Of particular significance, Violette was: (1) a member of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable (SRRT) of ALA; (2) chairperson for the Coretta Scott King Task Force Annual Breakfast, 1985 – 1995; and, (3) committee member in the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), 1985 – 2000;

Whereas Violette Y. Brooks lent her gifts to the nation as a school and academic librarian, serving more than forty years in various professional positions as: Librarian for the Freshman-Sophomore Library, Bloom Township High School, Chicago Heights, Illinois, 1971; Media Specialist, Leo High School, Chicago, Illinois, 1973-1980; Reference Librarian, Chicago Transit Authority, 1980-2001; Reference Librarian, Kennedy King College, Chicago, Illinois, 2002-2010. In each of these positions Violette assisted and empowered her library's users to address their critical information needs;



Whereas Violette Y. Brooks, further lent her intelligence, passionate spirit, and professional skills, to us, as a tireless communicator as she read several newspapers every day and frequently shared and sent newspaper clippings of interest, to her colleagues and friends; Violette also chaired the "Book Table" on Sundays at her church, St. Mark United Methodist Church, Chicago, where members of the congregation selected books to read or share. Violette's untiring devotion to these and other activities greatly inspired and enhanced the knowledge and joy of friends and colleagues. With such an illustrious career of service, and a job exceedingly well done, it is clearly understood how a shining link in the name of our dearest sister, Violette Y. Brooks, has been, most deservedly, added to the Friendship Chain of God's Kingdom; and

Whereas the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc., the entire library profession, and communities throughout this nation who have benefitted from her work, have sustained a great loss in the home going of Violette Y. Brooks, therefore be it

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

1. eulogize her memory by trying to bring into our own lives... that excellence, professionalism, and inspirational spirit, coupled with sustained commitment, love, and purpose that made her life a worthy pattern for our emulation, and that we earnestly try to live as purposely and unselfishly as did Violette Y. Brooks; and be it further

Resolved, that the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. and the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

2. expresses its sincere sympathy to the extended and church families of Violette Y. Brooks, that we place a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc., and that we also send a copy of this resolution to the members of Violette Y. Brooks' family, church, and the Kennedy King College Library in order to show to her loved ones the high esteem in which we hold her life and her memory.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 26, 2021, ALA Virtual Midwinter Council Meeting

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

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