

2020-2021 ALA Tribute #2
2021 ALA Virtual Midwinter Meeting

A Tribute Resolution Honoring Patricia Ann (Pat) Tumulty

Whereas Patricia Ann (Pat) Tumulty has served the NJ library community her entire career, beginning in 1974 at the Cumberland County Library;

Whereas Pat then served as a Law Librarian for the NJ Department of the Public Advocate, and a Consultant at the New Jersey State Library;

Whereas Pat has been a member of New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) since beginning her career;

Whereas Pat became NJLA Executive Director in 1991, beginning a 30 year career that has been hallmarked by her extraordinary commitment to libraries, library workers, library trustees and library users; her determination in making sure NJ libraries have a seat at every table, and her grit in not taking no for an answer whether the topic is more funding, intellectual freedom, or any of the myriad of other issues impacting libraries and library workers;

Whereas Pat has been such a strong, vocal, expert resource on library issues to the NJ Legislature that it is not possible for her to walk through the Capital complex without lobbyists, staffers and legislators alike stopping her to ask what's new with libraries;

Whereas Pat is known throughout the NJ library community as someone who will stand up for library users, library staff, library trustees and who will show up when and wherever she is needed to add a statewide voice in support of local library services and workers;

Whereas Pat has so ably represented the NJ library community through service to the American Library Association (ALA) including chairing the ALA Committee on Library Advocacy; co-chairing the ALA School Libraries Presidential Task Force, and chairing the ALA LSTA Reauthorization Subcommittee;

Whereas Pat has not been afraid to address issues of complexity and controversy throughout her career and in so doing has contributed to broader understanding and resolution of such issues. In challenging the ALA's position on the landmark NJ case Kreimer v. Morristown Pat worked within ALA to educate all on the local issues involved. Final resolution of that case included elements of both the NJLA and ALA positions, a resolution that would not have been possible without Pat's leadership;

Whereas Pat's success as a lobbyist on behalf of the NJ library community has met with remarkable success including 2 state funded library construction efforts resulting in \$170 million in funding; P.L. 2013, c.56 requiring a vote by the people in order to dissolve a public library, which prevents municipalities from dissolving public libraries without public approval; P.L. 2017 c. 260 permitting an increase in municipal free public library tax upon voter approval, and P.L. 2011, c.38 providing a dedicated line item on property tax bills to fund municipal free public libraries and joint free public libraries; and

Whereas Pat retired from NJLA on October 30, 2020 after a remarkable and memorable career; now, therefore, Be It

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

1. Commends Patricia Ann (Pat) Tumulty for the selfless leadership that she has provided to libraries, library workers, the NJ Library Association and the American Library Association;
2. Expresses its appreciation for her many contributions to the library profession, NJLA and ALA; and
3. Joins the NJLA in wishing her the very best in her retirement.

Mover: Eileen M. Palmer, New Jersey Chapter Councilor 9087459117

Secunder: Mario M. Gonzalez, Councilor at Large, 973 779-0474 ext. 6
Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer, Councilor at Large
Joyce Valenza, Councilor at Large

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