

2013-2014 ALA Memorial #1
2014 ALA Midwinter Meeting

**A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING PHILADELPHIA
COUNCILWOMAN (RET.) AUGUSTA “GUSSIE” CLARK, MLS, ESQ.**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the City of Philadelphia lost a valued and beloved leader on October 13, 2013, with the death of retired Philadelphia Councilwomen Augusta Clark at age 81;

Whereas Councilwoman Clark was an outspoken and vigilant advocate for Philadelphia public schools and the right of all individuals to freely access information through the Philadelphia public library system;

Whereas Augusta Clark was a highly respected and admired Councilperson in the Philadelphia City Council (the second African American woman elected to Philadelphia’s City Council), serving consecutive terms from 1980-2000;

Whereas she was a proud graduate of Drexel University, earning a Master of Library Science in 1958 and receiving an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 1985;

Whereas, Augusta Clark was the recipient of scores of honors and awards for her advocacy initiatives to aid the city’s most disenfranchised citizens;

Whereas Augusta Clark was a librarian in the Philadelphia Free Library System before changing career paths to become an attorney, transitioning later into politics;

Whereas in spite of transitioning into politics, Augusta Clark promoted herself throughout her career as a librarian;

Whereas Augusta Clark credited her ability to effectively govern, on the skills and relationships gained during her career in librarianship;

Whereas, she encouraged countless individuals to pursue various careers in librarianship and the information professions;

Whereas Augusta Clark was loved and respected by her family, friends, co-workers, the members of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the members of The Links, Incorporated, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, and many individuals throughout the United States;

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Whereas the City of Philadelphia lost a leader who was focused on revitalizing under developed communities in Philadelphia and eradicating poverty; and

Whereas Augusta “Gussie” Clark leaves a long lasting and profound effect on countless individuals by truly exemplifying what it means to be “the people’s advocate;”

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

- (1) recognizes the significant contributions of Councilwoman Augusta Clark over the course of her distinguished career and mourns her death; and**
- (2) expresses its sincere sympathy to her family, loved ones, and colleagues throughout the Greater Philadelphia Region and the United States.**

**Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 28, 2014, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**



**Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council**