



## **ALA Memorial Resolution Honoring Carolyn V. Neal**

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." **Maya Angelou***

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the Ohio library community, and the broader and diverse library community lost a valued member with the death of Ohio Librarian and youth advocate Carolyn V. Neal, who departed this life to join the ancestors February 23, 2024;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal earned a bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace University and a second Bachelors and her Master's Degree in Library Science from Clark Atlanta University in Georgia;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal for many years was a committed advocate and promoter of quality African American Children's literature and other cultural and inclusive reading curricula, becoming an American Sign Language Certified Interpreter, and was also fluent in French and Latin;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal used her professional skills in a variety of settings: as a Seniors Connect Librarian, Collection Development Librarian, and a Facilities Assistant Manager at the Cleveland Public Library; as Library Director of the Wean Research Library at University Schools in Hunting Valley, Ohio; as the Lead Instructor of Library Services and Information Technology at Bryant and Stratton College in Cleveland; and ultimately, as a Community Resource Delivery Specialist in the Office on Aging for the City of Cleveland Heights;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal was an innovative leader-and a gifted collaborator and was also a devoted Board member and a consummate volunteer. As a R.E.A.C.H volunteer and Community Advisory member, Carolyn served as the Community Resource Specialist instructing young students on the proper use of the library's resources at the Euclid, East Cleveland and Greater Cleveland Area Public Libraries;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal coordinated and planned the Cleveland's White House Conference on Aging as the Cleveland Public Library's (CPL) representative, and was successful in bringing together local politicians, social workers, librarians, community leaders, and seniors for this collaborative event. Carolyn was honored with an American Library Association Diversity Fair Best of Show award given by the Coretta Scott King Book Award Committee for this project;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal was an active member of the American Library Association. She was a member of the ALA Chapter Relations Committee, Coretta Scott King Book Award Round Table, Black Caucus of the American Library Association; and worked with the Office of Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services supporting the Spectrum Initiative activities coordinated by the late ODLOS director, Ms. Satia Orange;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal was selected as one of the annual Library Journal's *Movers and Shakers* in 2007;



Whereas Carolyn V. Neal served more than three decades in the library and school educator professions as a curriculum specialist and an active volunteer Board member for several community agencies. She also served as a contract education specialist and an administrative program coordinator for East Cleveland Public Library, in northeast Ohio;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal was a prolific reader and volunteer, hosting and inspiring many exchange students through the AFS Intercultural programs and was an active member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa education sorority;

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal was a loving sister, auntie, cousin, AFS adoptive mother and a beloved friend and colleague to many, who modeled the "best practices" for each of her extended family; and

Whereas Carolyn V. Neal was an "irresistible force" in her incredibly productive life, influencing and nurturing leaders in every arena she touched; now, therefore, be it

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

1. Eulogizes the memory of Carolyn V. Neal 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 unabashedly intentional as she did; and
2. Expresses sincere sympathy to the extended family of Carolyn V. Neal, and that we place a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the American Library Association, and that we also send a copy of this resolution to the members of Carolyn V. Neal's family 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  
Monday, July 1, 2024, ALA Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Burger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Burger, Interim ALA Executive  
Director, and Secretary of the ALA Council