ALA Memorial Resolution Honoring James (Jim) Joseph Campbell

Whereas the American Library Association, Maine Library Association, and Intellectual Freedom and Privacy advocates lost a staunch supporter and valued member and colleague on June 20, 2023, with the death of Dr. James Campbell;

Whereas Jim was described as an exceptional person with many varied accomplishments;

Whereas he earned his master’s in library and information science at the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. in Spatial Information Science and Engineering at University of Maine;

Whereas his commitment to serving the library community was shown through his positions on the Maine Library Association Board as Intellectual Freedom Chair and a member of the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition;

Whereas Jim Campbell wore many hats in service to others. He was always ready to help move good ideas forward, loved radio, and helped a few stations, most recently WERU, in a variety of on and off air positions;

Whereas he was a fierce advocate of protecting and enhancing free access to public information and the right to privacy, and their importance to democracy;

Whereas Jim often wrote and spoke about how legal, economic, and technical policies affect the progress of science, the societal use of technologies, and the advancement of humanity. Jim’s sessions at the Maine Library Association Annual Conference, where he often contributed his time and talents, were some of the most well attended and well rated sessions. People loved to listen to Jim speak on topics he was passionate about;

Whereas throughout his career and life, he was an incredibly supportive and encouraging mentor and friend to many;

Whereas Jim Campbell leaves a legacy of quiet contribution, deep democratic values, and caring friendship; and

Whereas Jim Campbell’s professionalism, dedication, humor, and dedication to intellectual freedom and passion for privacy are honored through the yearly MLA Jim Campbell Intellectual Freedom Award, and he enriched and inspired his coworkers, colleagues, and friends, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:
1. recognizes the significant contributions of Dr. James Campbell over the course of his career and mourns his death; and

2. extends its sincerest condolences to his colleagues, friends and family.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Monday, July 1, 2024, ALA Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

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