



ALA Memorial Resolution for Delaine Andree Eastin

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) including the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and the broader library community, especially California school librarians, lost a valued school library champion on April 23, 2024, with the death of Delaine Andree Eastin, beloved daughter of Hank Eastin who served in the United States Navy and Dottie Eastin, and

Whereas Delaine graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis and a Master of Arts degree in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and

Whereas Delaine taught women's studies and political science at Ventura College, DeAnza College, and Cañada College until she joined Pacific Telephone as an accounting manager and corporate strategic planner, and

Whereas Delaine began her political career as a member of the Union City Council and was named "Rookie of the Year by the *California Journal*. She then served four terms in the California Assembly and wrote legislation to enhance school safety and increase parent involvement, and

Whereas in 1993, Democratic Assemblymember Eastin introduced AB323, the California School Library Protection Act, which authorized the California Department of Education to grant state funds to school districts to develop a school library improvement plan to purchase core literature, other library materials and library media technology and to replace outdated library materials. She worked with Republican Senator Bill Craven, who authored SB170 that provided the funding source for AB323. Taxpayers were given a check-off box on their tax returns designating a specified amount to be transferred to the California School Library Protection Fund. In October, Governor Pete Wilson signed both bills into law. Over a million dollars was distributed to California school libraries, and

Whereas Delaine was the fifth woman in California history to be elected to a statewide constitutional office, she remains the only woman to serve as Superintendent of Public Instruction. She served in this capacity for two terms, but was unable to run for a third term due to term limits, and

Whereas during her tenure as Superintendent, she co-sponsored the California School Library Association's state reading initiative *Pop Open a Book* as part of AASL's national program, *School Libraries Count!* and

Whereas Delaine worked with Republican Governor Pete Wilson and State Librarian Kevin Starr to fund the School Library Consultant position as a permanent position in the Department of Education, and

Whereas in 1998, Governor Wilson asked Delaine where in education to invest surplus budget funds, she said, "School libraries!" The California Public School Library Act of



1998 was born. For the first time in California history, a line item of \$158.5 million was added to the state budget for school library resources, and

Whereas after leaving the State Superintendent's office, she became the first executive director of the National Institute of Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C. Returning to California, she taught at Mills College and served on a number of advisory boards. and

Whereas Delaine Eastin has an elementary school named after her in Union City, California, and

Whereas Delaine was an accomplished author; she wrote the lead article for the California School Library Association's (CSLA) *Good Ideas!* Newsletter and then funded its distribution to every district superintendent in the state, and

Whereas Delaine was an acclaimed speaker; she was invited to give the keynote address at the American Association of School Librarians' national conference in Portland, Oregon in 1997 where she received a standing ovation from the 3,000 school librarians attending from across the United States. She was the keynote speaker for the California School Library Association in 2002 Sterling Silver Celebration for the 25th anniversary of the consolidation of two predecessor associations. She was also keynote speaker for the CSLA Centennial Celebration in 2015 and, in 2021, she was the general session speaker for the virtual CSLA conference during the Pandemic, and

Whereas Delaine received many awards including the Distinguished Alumna award from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the UC Davis Medal from the University of California, Davis. After her outstanding presentation at the AASL Portland conference and her continued support of school libraries, she was awarded the prestigious Crystal Apple from Sharon Coatney, then-President of the American Association of School Librarians, therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members



- (1) recognizes the remarkable achievements of Delaine Andree Eastin as a leader, politician, and educator and acknowledges her many contributions to her colleagues and friends.
- (2) sends a copy of this resolution to the Delaine Eastin Elementary School in Union City, California; the California State Librarian; Governor Gavin Newsom; and the President of the California School Library Association.

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