ALA150

American Library Association

Memorial Resolution Honoring Randy J. Riley

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the broader library community suffered a profound loss on January 3, 2026, with the passing of Randy Riley, a calming nature with his leadership, mentor, and his unconditional passion for libraries and those that serve;

Whereas Randy Riley served as the State Librarian for the State of Michigan from 2014 to 2026, bringing a wealth of knowledge, dedication and innovation to all libraries of all kinds and all sizes;

Whereas in addition to serving as State Librarian, he served in multiple roles with the Library of Michigan since 1989. Positions include reference librarian, head of Special Collections, and MeL Coordinator;

Whereas Randy received his undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University and was a dedicated teacher in history and social studies;

Whereas Randy received his Master of Information and Library studies (MILS) at University of Michigan and began promptly to work for Library of Michigan;

Whereas during his tenor at Library of Michigan he was the editor of the Michigan Genealogist newsletter and received the 2010 Filby Award, a recognition of "leading family history librarian of the United States;

Whereas he played a founding role in the creation of the Michigan Service Hub for the Digital Public Library of America and the Michigan Digital Preservation Network;

Whereas he worked with Archives of Michigan creating SeekingMichigan, an online resource for genealogical research with over one million freely available death records;

Whereas serving State Librarian he coordinated the beloved Michigan Notable Books program, and Michigan Center for the Book;

Whereas he also served on Post-Pandemic Public Library Project to help library directors and all library communities reconnect and maintain library services during the COVID Pandemic;

Whereas he served on multiple boards and committees, most notably the University of Michigan School of Information Civic Librarian Project. A project to encourage librarians to work with local governments and residents on solutions to civic problems; and

Whereas Randy love for not only the book but his fellow librarians along with his stable and steadfast leadership will be remembered fondly by his colleagues, and created a fundamental impact on all Michigan Libraries, now, therefore be it

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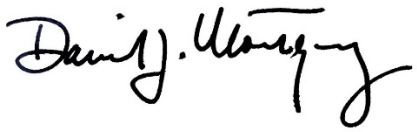
Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1) Recognizes with great admiration and appreciation the contributions of Randy J Riley over the course of his career; and
2) Extend its sincerest condolences to all those he touched with his warmth, laughter, catalyst in problem resolution, but most importantly a kind human being willing to help anyone that needed it. With deepest condolences to his family and his dogs.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Monday, June 29, 2026, Annual Conference, Chicago, IL



Dan Montgomery, ALA Executive Director, and Secretary of the ALA Council