

Memorial Resolution Honoring Barratt Wilkins

Whereas George B. "Barratt" Wilkins served libraries and the library profession for 30 years with distinction and dedication;

Whereas Barratt Wilkins began his library career at the Department of State in Florida in 1973 as the assistant to the state Librarian;

Whereas he became Florida's State Librarian as well as the Division of Library and Information Services' Director in 1977;

Whereas Barratt Wilkins was the Florida State Librarian for 26 years, witnessing the growth of library services in all Florida counties and leading the creation and successful operation of a broad range of library services for state residents including:

- The establishment of the Florida Library Network;
- The creation of the Florida Electronic Library;
- The expansion of collections and services of the State Archives of Florida;
- The inception and growth of Florida Memory

Whereas he raised awareness of libraries, library education, and information science through leadership and participation in national issues and was a major collaborator in developing and passing national library legislation;

Whereas Barratt Wilkins provided leadership support for statewide organizations, such as the Florida Library Association and the Florida Center for the Book, and increased the Division's involvement in regional and national organizations; and

Whereas he was much respected by his family, friends, and co-workers for his integrity and leadership in the library profession; now, therefore, be it

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

1. mourns the passing of George B. Wilkins, Jr (Barratt) on June 12, 2020; and
2. honors his memory by expressing appreciation for his outstanding accomplishments and for his loyalty to the profession.

Mover: Heather Sostrom, Florida Library Association Chapter Councilor

Seconder: Binh P. Le, Councilor-at-Large

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