

Memorial Resolution Honoring the Life of Daniel Ellsberg

Whereas, Daniel Ellsberg, the untiring peace activist and courageous advocate of free speech and government transparency, died at his home on June 16, 2023;

Whereas, in 1971 Daniel Ellsberg performed a vital service for his country and the world by leaking to major newspapers, at enormous personal risk, the top-secret Pentagon Papers that documented decades of lies employed by U.S. government officials to support their brutal war against Vietnam; and

Whereas, the resulting public uproar intensified and widened the anti-war movement which, along with the fierce resistance of the Vietnamese people, ultimately compelled the U.S. to withdraw from Vietnam; and

Whereas, in subsequent years Daniel Ellsberg continued to be a leading voice for peace, most notably in his opposition to what he described as the “criminal , terrorist, murderous, and unacceptably reckless” U.S. war against Nicaragua,¹ the “clearcut aggression” of the U.S. against Iraq,² and the “unjustified homicide” of the U.S. war against Afghanistan,³ and in his urgent warnings about the “Doomsday Machine” of the world’s nuclear arsenals;⁴ and

Whereas, Daniel Ellsberg’s heroic disclosure of the Pentagon Papers inspired numerous whistleblowers of U.S. government wrongdoing, including Thomas Drake, Chelsea Manning, Jeffrey Sterling, John Kiriakou, Edward Snowden, and Daniel Hale, thereby promoting urgent reforms and government transparency; and

Whereas, Daniel Ellsberg was an outspoken defender of the actions of those whistleblowers; and ⁵

Whereas, since 1971 Daniel Ellsberg was a tireless advocate for a free press, most notably in his support for the publication of leaked government documents by WikiLeaks, and in his founding of the Freedom of the Press Foundation in 2012; and

Whereas, Daniel Ellsberg graciously and generously shared his insights with members of the American Library Association in two programs and smaller discussions at the ALA annual conference in 2011; now therefore be it

Resolved, that, recognizing the enormous contributions of Daniel Ellsberg to the causes of peace, freedom of the press, government transparency, and democracy, the American Library Association:

1. mourns his death;
2. offers its deepest condolences to Daniel Ellsberg’s family, friends, and all those who have been inspired by his life’s work; and
3. pledges to honor Daniel Ellsberg’s memory by recommitting itself to work uncompromisingly on behalf of peace, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and government transparency.

¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/14672715.1989.10404458>

² https://www.iraqtribunal.org/daniel_ellsberg.

³ <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2011/07/26/daniel-ellsberg/>.

⁴ <https://www.amazon.com/Doomsday-Machine-Confessions-Nuclear-Planner/dp/1608196704>

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/apr/19/jack-teixeira-pentagon-leaks-leakers-ellsberg-snowden- Assange>; <https://theanalysis.news/drone-whistleblower-hale-is-a-hero-ellsberg-and-chomsky/>.

Mover: Mike Marlin

Seconder: Tara Brady