



### **Memorial Resolution Honoring James Henry Jacobs Jr.**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) lost a valued colleague on May 24, 2023, with the death of James Henry Jacobs, Jr.

Whereas Jacobs received his associate degree at City College of San Francisco; Jacobs studied Japanese at the SF Buchanan St. YMCA; in 1958, Jacobs completed his undergraduate in Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley after transferring from UC Los Angeles; Jacobs obtained a Master of Library Science degree from UC Berkeley; Jacobs was the only African American student at the time;

Whereas Jacobs was drafted into the U.S. Army (20th division) during the Korean War in 1950s; in 1954, Jacobs was admitted to Army Language School at the Presidio Monterey and completed 12-month language training in 3 months; Jacobs served as an interpreter in Okinawa; in 1956, Jacobs was honorably discharged from activity duty as Specialist Second Class;

Whereas Jacobs became Berkeley Public Library's first African American Librarian in 1960s; Jacobs collaborated and spearheaded efforts to desegregate the Berkeley Public Library collections starting with Summer Reading Programs; Jacobs supported gender and cultural representations by featuring books with minoritized protagonists; Jacobs used songs and storytelling to teach literacy to many children; after 30 years of service to the community, Jacobs retired in 1990;

Whereas Jacobs achieved rank of 6th Degree Black Belt; Jacobs also served as a youth Judo coach;

Whereas Jacobs received a City of Berkeley Proclamation signed by the Mayor in October 2021 honoring him for his service and impact to Berkeley community; Jacobs was an extraordinary colleague, friend, and mentor to many; now therefore be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of James Henry Jacobs Jr. over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Monday, June 26, 2023, ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracie D. Hall", written in a cursive style.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director, and  
Secretary of the ALA Council