

This memorial resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, February 3, 2015

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Ruth V. Bell

Whereas Ruth V. Bell, Former Director of Libraries for the Blue Valley School District (Overland Park, Kansas), died on October 31, 2014;

Whereas she graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor degree in education and, a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Missouri, Columbia;

Whereas she began her teaching career in the Shawnee Mission School District, became a school librarian and then the library director for the District and then moved to the Blue Valley School District to begin building a new and exemplary school library program at its first Director of Libraries;

Whereas she, became active in the American Association of School Librarians serving on the AASL/AECT Standards Writing Committee which authored the groundbreaking, *Information Power: Guidelines For School Library Media Programs* (ALA and ACT, 1988);

Whereas she became an advocate for the integrated school library program and an early adopter of the concepts of collaboration and co-teaching and created an award winning program in the Blue Valley School District that became a model for school libraries nationwide;

Whereas she led the school district with her vision for school library service implementing flexible scheduling district wide, a model elementary literacy program based in the library and an early computer literacy program both of which became award winning models and established line items in the District budget for the school library program and the yearly district wide school author visits;

Whereas her vision and leadership in establishing the model school library program based on the principles articulated in *Information Power* was twice honored by the American Association of School Librarians by winning the School Library Media Program of the Year Award in both the large and small district categories in 1981 and in 1993;

Whereas in 1988 she was honored by the AASL with its Distinguished Service Award and then Kansas governor, Mike Hayden, as well as the mayors of both Overland Park and Leawood, Kansas proclaimed April 12 as Ruth Bell Day;

Whereas she was a lifelong member of the Kansas Library Association, the Kansas Association of School Librarians, the American Library Association and many of its Divisions, the Beta Phi Mu Honor Society and of Phi Delta Kappa International;

Whereas she served as a mentor and consultant to school libraries and librarians nationwide, traveling widely, making presentations at conferences and in school districts, working with school librarians and administrators to implement the integrated, collaborative school library program;

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Ruth V. Bell/2

Whereas her overwhelming characteristic was her leadership and vision in recruiting exemplary school librarians to implement the model program and in demanding the teaching of information literacy skills integrated with the content area curriculum in collaboration with the classroom and subject area teachers and in eliciting all administrators in the school district to support her vision by educating them in the model and inviting them to travel with her nationwide to present the program to others;

Whereas her love for education and children became the driving force behind her long and productive career, retiring at the age of 85; and

Whereas all of those her worked for her and with her marveled at her phenomenal life of service to students and her never failing ability to embrace change and incorporate it into her overarching vision of exemplary library service as the foundation for an exemplary educational program in any school district; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the remarkable achievements of Ruth V. Bell as a leader in the profession and acknowledges her many contributions to her colleagues and students; and
2. conveys sincerest sympathy to the Bell family, her daughter, Jane Bell, and numerous nieces, nephews, colleagues and friends. Contributions in her memory should be sent to a charity of choice.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, February 3, 2015, in Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council