

**2016-2017 ALA Memorial #5\_12417\_ACT  
2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting**

*This memorial resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING NETTIE B. TAYLOR**

Whereas Nettie B. Taylor began her library career in 1936 as a school librarian, then served as a US Army librarian and a public library director before being hired by the Maryland State Department of Education in 1948 as Supervisor, County and Institutional Libraries;

Whereas very shortly thereafter she was appointed Assistant State Superintendent for Libraries and Chief of the Division of Library Development and Services, a.k.a. "State Librarian;"

Whereas, during her career with MSDE that spanned 40 years, Taylor led libraries to evolve from small community libraries into a network of strong county public library systems supported by a State Library Resource Center and 3 Regional Libraries; and fought hard for the development of school libraries;

Whereas her leadership in convincing all types of libraries to work in an environment of resource sharing and cooperation led to Maryland's reputation as "Library Heaven;"

Whereas Taylor used her considerable powers of persuasion with legislators to develop per capita funding for Maryland public libraries; and to garner strong funding support for libraries on the local level;

Whereas Taylor worked tirelessly to develop federal funding for libraries and was instrumental in the development and passage of the first Library Services Act in 1956 (now the Library Services and Technology Act);

Whereas Taylor pioneered continuing education for librarians, was a founding member and president of ALA's Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table (CLENERT); and successfully lobbied for legislation that required county public libraries in Maryland to hire directors holding ALA-accredited Masters of Library Science (MLS) degrees;

Whereas Taylor lobbied hard for the establishment of the College of Library and Information Services at the University of Maryland;

Whereas Taylor constantly and persuasively fostered communication among libraries of all types of libraries through her position as Maryland Library Association (MLA) President;

## **MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING NETTIE B. TAYLOR/2**

Whereas Taylor was a founding member of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), and was an active member of ALA for 57 years, serving as president of the Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), and as ALA Councilor;

Whereas Taylor was involved in the planning of the 1979 and 1991 White House Conferences on Library and Information Services and served on the task forces charged with implementing the recommendations of both conferences. In Maryland, one result was establishing Citizens for Maryland Libraries;

Whereas Taylor was known throughout library land for her wit, incisive thought and consummate political skills, and was a mentor and role model to many of America's library leaders and state librarians;

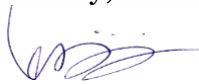
Whereas for Taylor's 90th birthday in 1994, Citizens for Maryland Libraries established the Nettie B. Taylor Leadership Fund which raised \$15,000 to support the Maryland Library Leadership Institute, and in memory of Taylor who lived 102 years and died in 2016, the Maryland Library Association renamed the Institute the Nettie B. Taylor Maryland Library Leadership Institute; and

Whereas Taylor received the Maryland Library Association's Distinguished Service Award (1979), and the ALA's Joseph Lippincott Award (1984), the association's highest honor, for her role in strengthening library service nationally. She was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame (1995); and received an ALA Honorary Membership (2005) where she shared the stage with then Senator Barack Obama; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes her immense achievements and are thankful for all she did to enhance library service; and
2. commits to continuing to building on her vision of responsive library service for all people.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, January 24, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia



Keith Michael Fiels  
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council