

2017-2018 ALA MEMORIAL #4_REV_3718_FINAL
2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting

*This memorial resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on
Tuesday, February 13, 2018*

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING JULIUS LESTER

Whereas, the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee, the Association for Library Service to Children, and the Young Adult Library Services Association are deeply saddened by the passing of beloved friend and colleague, Julius Lester;

Whereas, Julius Lester was a graduate of Fisk University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1960;

Whereas, Julius Lester became active in the civil rights movement shortly after his graduation, engaging with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee;

Whereas, Julius Lester enjoyed music and books, leading to his first published title, *The 12-String Guitar as Played by Leadbelly* (Oak, 1965), co-authored with folk legend Pete Seeger;

Whereas, Julius Lester contributed to the world of literature by writing dozens of books for children and adults, including Newbery Honor book *To Be a Slave* (Dial, 1968); National Book Award finalist *The Long Journey Home: Stories from Black History* (Dial, 1972); Caldecott Honor book *John Henry* (Dial, 1994), and Coretta Scott King Author Award winner *Day of Tears* (Hyperion, 2005);

Whereas, Julius Lester was a musician, activist, educator, and award-winning author whose life has been an example of courage to his family, his friends, his community, his colleagues throughout this nation, and the thousands of children whom he guided and served; and

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Whereas, the library profession has sustained a great loss in the home going of Julius Lester; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members,

1. commends Julius Lester for the dedication, professionalism, warmth, caring spirit, and sustained vision that made his life a worthy pattern for our emulation;
2. honors the memory of Julius Lester through a shared commitment to live and serve as purposefully as he did; and
3. extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Julius Lester and expresses the high esteem in which we hold his life and his memory.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, February 13, 2018, in Denver, Colorado



Mary W. Ghikas
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council