

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

A TRIBUTE RESOLUTION HONORING DAVITA VANCE-COOKS

Whereas, Davita Vance-Cooks, the 27th Public Printer of the United States and Director of the United States Government Publishing Office, departed Federal service on November 1, 2017.

Whereas, Davita Vance-Cooks was the first woman and the first African-American to hold the post of Public Printer and Director of the Government Publishing Office.

Whereas, Davita Vance-Cooks held a series of senior management positions within the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) prior to being named Chief of Staff in 2011, and in which capacity she created and implemented GPO's strategic performance plan that resulted in significant cost savings for the agency.

Whereas, under Davita Vance-Cooks' leadership the GPO continued to cut costs while improving services and generated positive net income while expanding the availability of government information on mobile apps, bulk data downloads, and e-books.

Whereas, Davita Vance-Cooks, after transitioning the GPO's focus from a print-centric to a content-centric organization, in 2014 persuaded Congress to recognize that focus by changing the name of the Government Printing Office to the Government Publishing Office.

Whereas, Davita Vance-Cooks, through her appointment of and direction to the Superintendent of Documents, and the Depository Library Council, gave Federal Depository Libraries a greater voice in the vision and future of the Federal Depository Library Program by encouraging more flexibility within the program and increasing access to digital-based resources and information products.

A Tribute Resolution Honoring Davita Vance-Cooks/2

Whereas, in 2017 Davita Vance-Cook testified before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on House Administration to advocate for modernization of the Federal Depository Library Program, including increased flexibility for regional Federal Depository Libraries, and gift and grant authority for the GPO, which will support projects and initiatives to preserve paper and digital Federal government publications.

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

1. recognizes that, through her tireless leadership, peerless insight, and legendary persistence, Davita Vance-Cooks has affected positive change in the United States Government Publishing Office that has benefited hundreds of millions of Americans;
2. commends Davita Vance-Cooks for her dedication to improving access to digital government information, for open communication with the Federal Depository Library community and consistent, fair consideration of input from libraries and the Depository Library Council; and for her prudent management of resources in times of budget uncertainty and rapid changes in the publishing environment; and
3. thanks Davita Vance-Cooks for her leadership at the Government Publishing Office as the 27th Public Printer of the United States and Director of the Government Publishing Office.

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