

**Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Carolyn S. Brodie**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), and the broader library community mourn the loss of an esteemed member, colleague, and visionary leader, Dr. Carolyn S. Brodie, who passed away on April 6, 2025, at the age of 66; and

Whereas Carolyn S. Brodie grew up in England, Arkansas, where she graduated from England High School in 1976, having served as senior class President and recipient of the "I Dare You!" Leadership Award for personal integrity, balanced living, and motivation for leadership; and

Whereas she was a lifelong lover of learning and education, earning her BSE in English and Library Science and MSE in Educational Media from the University of Central Arkansas, her MLS from George Peabody College for Teachers of Vanderbilt University in 1982, and achieving her goal of earning her MEd in School Administration and Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from Texas Woman's University in 1988 at the age of 30, along with certifications as a principal and superintendent; and

Whereas she taught at England Elementary School and served as librarian at England High School (1981-1985) before embarking on her distinguished career in library education; and

Whereas Dr. Brodie devoted 25 years (1989-2014) to transforming youth services librarianship at Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science (now the iSchool), building one of the nation's premier youth services programs from a department that did not possess a single children's book when she arrived; and

Whereas she established the Reinberger Children's Library Center at Kent State University, which opened in 2003, creating a state-of-the-art facility for educating youth librarians that includes hands-on learning spaces, specialized collections, and videoconferencing capabilities; and

Whereas through her vision and relationship-building, she secured the donation of the Marantz Picturebook Collection of more than 21,000 picture books to Kent State University in 2007, establishing it as a premier research collection for the study of children's literature and illustration; and

Whereas she was a member of the American Library Association from 1981 and an active member of ALSC, demonstrating sustained commitment to the organization and its mission; and

Whereas her professional activities included service as President of the Association for Library Service to Children (2012-2013), the world's largest organization for library service to children; and

Whereas her service included Chair of the John Newbery Award Committee (2000), member of the Newbery Committee (1995 and 2000), member of the Randolph Caldecott Committee (2006), member of ALA's Notable Children's Books Committee (1997-1999), Chair of ALSC's Selection of Children's Books and Materials from Various Cultures Committee (1993-1995), Chair of ALSC's Awards Eligibility Task Force (2006-2008), and member of the ALSC Board of Directors (2001-2004 and 2010-2013); and

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Whereas her ALA service also included member of ALA Council as Ohio's Chapter Councilor (1996-2004) and ALA Councilor-at-Large elected by the membership (2006-2009), and service on the Standing Committee on Library Education (1991-1993); and

Whereas she received the American Library Association's Scholastic Library Publishing Award in 2008, given to a librarian whose "unusual contribution to the stimulation and guidance of reading by children and young people exemplifies outstanding achievement in the profession"; and

Whereas she received the Kent State University Distinguished Teaching Award in 2005, the 1998 Progressive School Library Media Award from the Ohio Educational Library Media Association, and the 2014 Presidential Award from OELMA for her service to school libraries; and

Whereas she was named a Library Journal "Mover & Shaker" in 2003 for her transformative impact on library education in Ohio; and

Whereas she served as co-director (1989-2006) and director (2006-2014) of the Virginia Hamilton Conference on Multicultural Literature for Youth, helping to sustain and expand the nation's longest-running conference on multicultural literature for youth; and

Whereas she was the principal investigator or co-principal investigator for more than 15 grants over a 20-year period (1991-2011), over a 20-year period (1991-2011), totaling more than \$6 million from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and other funding sources, including establishing the Institute for Library and Information Literacy Education (ILILE) in 2002 with over over \$2.7 million in federal funding across multiple grants, which provided scholarships to hundreds of students and professional development to thousands of educators throughout Ohio; and

Whereas she demonstrated exceptional collaborative leadership throughout her career, notably through her sustained partnership with Dr. Greg Byerly on numerous grant-funded initiatives, working with colleagues to secure major institutional funding that transformed library education at Kent State and beyond; and

Whereas her grant-funded initiatives consistently integrated technology into library education, recognizing early the critical importance of preparing librarians for the digital age, including pioneering Title II-B grants in the late 1990s that laid the groundwork for her later transformative projects; and

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Whereas she was a prolific author of professional books, chapters, articles, and more than 300 columns in *School Library Monthly* (formerly *School Library Media Activities Monthly*) from September 1989 through 2010, sharing her expertise with practitioners nationwide; and

Whereas she presented hundreds of workshops on topics related to children's and young adult librarianship and information literacy throughout her career, inspiring countless professionals with her passion and expertise; and

Whereas her students, mentored by her authentic teaching and genuine commitment to their success, have gone on to leadership positions in libraries, museums, and educational institutions across the country, carrying forward her vision and values; and

Whereas she was active in the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (serving on the Board of Directors 1993-1995 and as Northeast Director 1993-1995) and the Ohio Library Council (serving as Coordinator of the Children's Services Division 1993-1995), extending her influence throughout the state; and

Whereas she maintained throughout her career the warmth, generosity, and authentic relationships that characterized her upbringing and defined her approach to building institutional excellence; and

Whereas her leadership, vision, and dedication to the "good of the good" inspired multiple generations of youth services librarians and demonstrated how passionate individuals can transform institutions and professional fields through the power of personal connections and unwavering commitment; now, therefore, be it

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

- recognizes the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Carolyn S. Brodie to children's librarianship, library education, and the Association over the course of her distinguished career;
- honors her legacy of relationship-building that created lasting institutional resources serving future generations;
- celebrates her transformation of youth services education and her profound impact on countless librarians who continue to serve children and families nationwide;
- mourns her passing and the loss of her wisdom, warmth, and visionary leadership; and
- extends its sincerest condolences to her family, including her loving Arkansas family, her colleagues at Kent State University, and the many friends and former students whose lives she enriched.

Mover's Name: Marianne Martens  
Secunder's Name: Sue McCleaf Nespeca