

Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Alma Dawson

Whereas, the American Library Association and the library and information science community have lost a distinguished educator, scholar, mentor, and leader with the passing of Dr. Alma Dawson on September 11, 2025; and

Whereas, Dr. Alma Dawson devoted her life to librarianship, education, and service, earning her bachelor's degree from Grambling State University, her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Michigan, and her Ph.D. from Texas Woman's University; and

Whereas, Dr. Dawson served the profession with distinction as Head Serials Librarian at Prairie View A&M University and later as a faculty member at the Louisiana State University School of Library and Information Science, where she was named the Russell B. Long Professor and later Professor Emerita; and

Whereas, throughout her career Dr. Dawson was deeply committed to teaching, research, and writing, with scholarly contributions that advanced the study of African American literature, librarianship, and the history of library organizations, including her editorship of *A History of the Louisiana Library Association, 1925–2000*; and

Whereas, Dr. Dawson demonstrated extraordinary leadership through initiatives such as Project Recovery, an Institute of Museum and Library Services–funded program that prepared librarians to serve communities recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, thereby strengthening libraries as agents of resilience and recovery; and

Whereas, Dr. Dawson was widely recognized for her dedication to equity, diversity, and inclusion in librarianship, particularly through her mentorship and recruitment of minority and international students, shaping generations of library professionals; and

Whereas, in recognition of her lasting impact on the profession, Dr. Dawson received numerous honors, including the American Library Association Equality Award, the Louisiana Library Association's Meritorious Service Award, and the Essae Martha Culver Distinguished Service Award; and

Whereas, Dr. Alma Dawson is remembered not only for her professional accomplishments, but also for her generosity of spirit, intellectual rigor, and unwavering commitment to service, mentorship, and excellence in librarianship; now, therefore, be it

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

1. honors and celebrates the life, career, and enduring contributions of Dr. Alma Dawson, whose leadership and scholarship enriched the profession and strengthened libraries and communities; and be it further
2. that the American Library Association extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to Dr. Dawson's family, friends, colleagues, students, and all who were inspired by her life and work.

Moved by:

Amanda Jones, Louisiana Chapter Councilor

Seconded by:

Elizabeth Phillippi, Councilor At Large

Endorsed by:

Erika Long, Tennessee Chapter Councilor

Kenya Iverson, ALA Member and Past President of LLA

Kayla Kalnasy, ALA Member and President LLA

Final version: 01.09.26—12:30pm