

**2012-2013 ALA Memorial #24 (rev. 7/1/13, 12:50pm)**  
**2013 ALA Annual Conference**

**A Memorial Resolution for Fredrick McKissack**

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and literary community lost a valued supporter on April 28, 2013, with the death of Fredrick McKissack;

Whereas the youth services community lost a respected and revered contributor to the body of nonfiction literature for children;

Whereas, Fredrick McKissack co-wrote more than a hundred books for children that realistically captured the African American experience;

Whereas Fredrick McKissack collaborated with his gifted wife Patricia McKissack for more than thirty years;

Whereas Fredrick McKissack was an award winning children's author that inspired countless children, teachers, and librarians;

Whereas Fredrick McKissack set a high standard for nonfiction writers based on his thorough research and knowledge about African American history and culture;

Whereas Fredrick McKissack with Patricia McKissack was the recipient of the Coretta Scott King (CSK) and Jane Adams awards, and also ALA Notable Book for their book *A Long Hard Journey: The Story of the Pullman Porter*;

Whereas Fredrick McKissack won his second CSK award for *Christmas in the Big House*; and

Whereas, Fredrick McKissack received praise and recognition for his solo title in 1999, *Black Hoops: The History of African Americans in Basketball*, for his candor and historical coverage;

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

1. honors the memory and literary legacy of Fredrick L. McKissack for the significant contributions and strides over the years in African American literature for children; and
2. that ALA extends its sincerest condolences to his wife and writing partner, Patricia McKissack, recognizing with great admiration and appreciation the contributions of Fredrick L. McKissack over the course of his career.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, July 2, 2013  
in Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels  
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council