

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Leo Dillon

Whereas Leo Dillon, who was born Lionel John Dillon, in Brooklyn on March 2, 1933 and died on May 26, 2012 in Brooklyn;

Whereas Leo Dillon and Diane Claire Sorber graduated from the Parsons School of Design in New York in 1956, and the following year were married;

Whereas Leo Dillon, who with his wife and longtime collaborator, Diane, was described by *New York Times* writer Margalit Fox as “one of the world’s pre-eminent illustrators for young people, producing artwork that was a seamless combination of both artists”;

Whereas Leo Dillon as a part of a team of artists was the first African-American to receive the Caldecott Medal and was awarded it twice: the first in 1976 for *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, a West African folk tale retold by Verna Aardema; and the second, in 1977, for *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions* by Margaret Musgrove; and

Whereas Leo Dillon’s true legacy is in the profound effect of his work, which was “characterized by stylistic diversity, with influences ranging over African folk art, Japanese woodcuts, old-master paintings and medieval illumination.” “It was also noteworthy for the diversity of the people it portrayed. This was especially striking in the 1970s.” The work of the Dillons, will leave an indelible appreciation of the multicolor of faces in children books that leads to an appreciation of diversity and inclusion. The lives they in turn have touched have produced an appreciation of inclusion in children’s works that will continue in perpetuity; now, therefore, be it

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

1. honors the memory of Leo Dillon, and celebrates his legacy of celebrating diversity and inclusion in art work for children and adults; and
2. extends its sincere sympathy to his wife, Diane Dillon and son, Leo.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 29, 2013
In Seattle, Washington



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