

News Release: American Library Association

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98th Annual Conference
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The John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award was presented to Alex P. Allain, attorney from Jeanerette, Louisiana, Monday, June 25, during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Dallas. The award of \$500 and a plaque is presented annually to recognize notable contributions to intellectual freedom and personal courage.

Mr. Allain is well known for his strong advocacy of intellectual freedom. His interest in libraries began when he became a trustee of the St. Mary Parish Library in Franklin, Louisiana. He served as president of the Louisiana Library Trustee Association in 1967 and has chaired the Louisiana Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Allain has held many posts in the American Library Trustee Association of ALA, such as chairman of the ALTA subcommittee of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee. He also served on the ALA Code of Ethics Committee and the Committee on Organization. He was one of the founders and the first chairman of the Freedom to Read Foundation, established in 1970. In 1974 Allain was made Special Counsel for the Foundation. The Downs Award, given for outstanding contributions to intellectual freedom in libraries, was presented to Mr. Allain in 1973.

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add one--John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award

The John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award citation presented to Alex Allain reads as follows:

For your commitment to the principle of free access to library materials;

For your unfailing effort and the countless hours of time you have given in support of that principle;

For your service in the formation and leadership of the Freedom to Read Foundation;

For the excellence of your participation in the Louisiana Library Association, the American Library Trustee Association, and the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee;

For your defense of the First Amendment in speeches and journal articles;

For your active support of the Library Bill of Rights;

For your outstanding contribution to the institution of the library, the profession of librarianship, and the ideal of intellectual freedom.

The American Library Association bestowed its highest award "Honorary Membership" on Alex Allain in 1975.