

*This memorial resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, February 3, 2015*

**A Memorial Resolution Honoring for Chris Olson**

Whereas the library community lost a collaborative, forward-thinking leader and dedicated, caring and knowledgeable friend on Sunday, September 28, 2014, with the death of Chris Olson;

Whereas Chris' life-long commitment to libraries had its foundation in the Library Club and his first job at age 15 at the Detroit Lakes Library;

Whereas Chris' tenure as director of the Cooperating Libraries in Consortium (CLIC) from 1995 until 2005 provided improved and more comprehensive library resources and services to library users through the enhanced sharing of materials while ensuring opportunities for staff collegiality, leadership and training;

Whereas in his role as director of the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA) from 2005 until his passing, Chris continued his calm, effective leadership in brokering cooperative, innovative partnerships that moved forward the mission of libraries;

Whereas Chris made a life-long commitment to the library profession through his work in the Minnesota Library Association where he served with excellence on many committees and three separate terms on the board, first as Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair, then as President, and finally, as American Library Association Chapter Councilor, and received the president's award three times for his outstanding service;

Whereas because of his thorough understanding of the power of Friends of the Library groups, Chris served on the Minnesota Association of Library Friends Board for 15 years where he used his grant-writing, editing, and fund-raising skills to support the mission of the Friends;

Whereas Chris was a tireless advocate for libraries, no matter what size, type, or location through his contacts in the legislature, in development of marketing and public relations campaigns, and in his work with myriad groups;

Whereas Chris served with distinction on the American Library Association's Chapter Relations Committee, and was an active member of the Public Library Association;

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Whereas while Chris was unassuming in his dealings with others, the many and varied awards that he received during his career are an indication of the long-lasting impact he had on the Minnesota library community;

Whereas Chris lived a life of friendship, caring, and warmth toward all around him, sharing his gentle laughter and leaving us with a profound sadness from a life cut too short.

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

- (1) honors the memory of Chris Olson, celebrates his legacy of advocacy for intellectual freedom and collaboration between all types of libraries and remembers his service to MLA and the Minnesota library community, and;
- (2) extends its sincere condolences to Ronald L. Erickson, their families, and his many cherished friends and colleagues.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, February 3, 2015, in Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels  
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council