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ALA American Library Association

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE U.S. CONGRESS FOR PRESERVING MILITARY LIBRARIES

- Whereas,** the United States Congress has proposed language in the 1999 Defense Authorization bill prohibiting the closing of libraries on military installations, except in cases where the bases are closing;
- Whereas,** military libraries rank consistently in the top five of morale, welfare and recreation programs in terms of usage and extreme importance by service members, family members, retirees, and civilians as an essential part of their community; and
- Whereas,** the United States Congress recognizing the value of this service to members of the military recommended legislative language prohibiting closure of any more libraries and authorizing that closed libraries be reopened; and
- Whereas,** commanders acting under constrained resources are advised by the United States Congress through the Department of Defense that they must consider the value of military libraries and exercise caution and prudence in further closures; and
- Whereas,** such congressional action serves as an encouragement for upgrading military libraries through enhanced automation; improved military research resources; education and recreational materials, and overall improved quality of life; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved,** that the American Library Association commend the United States Congress, particularly the efforts of the House Committee on National Security Special Oversight Panel on Morale, Welfare and Recreation, chaired by Representative John McHugh (R-NY), for their wisdom in stopping military library closings as recommended in the 1999 Defense Authorization bill; and be it further
- Resolved,** that the American Library Association express its appreciation to the United States Congress for hearing the voices of service members and in turn acting to meet their needs; and be it further
- Resolved,** that the American Library Association urge the United States Congress and the Department of Defense to continue to support military libraries by upgrading military library services through automation and increased funding, so that the quality of life, and readiness of airmen, seamen, marines and soldiers are fulfilled.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Washington, DC
July 1, 1998
(Council Document 20.7)