

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMENDING EFFIE LEE MORRIS

- Whereas, Effie Lee Morris was an innovator, humanitarian and a visionary whose creative influence served as a catalyst to help redirect and expand the important role of library service to children in the New York Public Library and the San Francisco Public Library, respectively; and
- Whereas, In the New York Public Library and with organizations dedicated to the visually handicapped, she pioneered in initiating and offering specialized public library service for blind children that has served as a model for librarians to replicate nationwide; and
- Whereas, Recognized as an authority in this specialized service, she served as a consultant and chair of the Library of Congress Advisory Committee to select titles to be produced as Braille and Talking Books for the Institution; and
- Whereas, In the San Francisco Public Library with finely honed administrative skills, she worked with the city's Board of Education to institute accredited policies and procedures for children's services and programs in libraries and with community agencies serving this age group; and
- Whereas, From her knowledge of the city's racial and cultural demographics, she instituted policies that formatted library applications in five languages and scheduled multi-cultural services and programs for different community environments with their diverse publics; and
- Whereas, With a fundamental belief in the value of library service, and savvy political skills, she inspired a generation of librarians, who share her commitment to children, advocating for their library service, and their health and well-being, and pursuing that advocacy, across community, legislative, and metropolitan boundaries; and
- Whereas, Effie Lee Morris is honored for her lifetime commitment to advance the library's mission "to help keep people aware of books that best reflect African-American history and culture"; and

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Whereas, Through her sterling qualities as a librarian, she has enriched the library profession with her distinguished career during which she has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including serving as a liaison to the Washington, D.C. Children's Defense Fund; an original member of the National Advisory Board of the Center for the Book, Library of Congress; Grolier Foundation Award; The Effie Lee Morris Historical and Research Collection for Children's Literature established by the San Francisco Public Library; and the Women's National Book Association Award for "Extraordinary contributions to the world of book, and through books to society;" now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the membership of the American Library Association highly commends Effie Lee Morris, posthumously, for her dedicated application of the mandate to bring together children and books in a technological age and to have been an authentic advocate for librarians serving children nationwide.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, January 19, 2010  
In Boston, Massachusetts



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