

*Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Spencer G. Shaw
(August 15, 1916- June 16, 2010)*

Whereas, Spencer Gilbert Shaw was born August 15, 1916 in Hartford, Connecticut; and

Whereas, Spencer Shaw earned a B.S. Degree from Hampton University in 1940, the B.L.S. Degree, School of Library and Information Science, from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1941 and completed the Advanced Graduate Studies at the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago in 1949 and was awarded the Honorary Degree, Doctor of Literature, University of Wisconsin in 1992; and

Whereas, Spencer Shaw was President of the Association for Library Services to Children, American Library Association 1975-1976; and

Whereas, Spencer Shaw's many Awards and Honors include:

- Carnegie Corporation Fellowship for Graduate Study in Librarianship
- Distinguished Alumnus Awards from Hampton University and the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin
- Lifetime Achievement Award Connecticut Affiliate of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association
- University of Washington Information School: Spencer G. Shaw Lecture Series
- American Library Association: Grolier Foundation Award, Distinguished Service Award, American Library Association Honorary Membership for Life 1988
- Washington Library Association: President's Award
- Invercargill (New Zealand) Public Library: Spencer G. Shaw Reference and Research Storytelling Collection
- 1970 White House Conference on Children: selected Delegate
- National Book Foundation: Juror for the National Book Award in Literature for Youth; and

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- Whereas,* Spencer Shaw has contributed to books and journals, given radio and television presentations and has narrated films, spoken in schools, colleges and universities; library, educational and allied organizations, including the American Library Association; Reading Is Fundamental; the International Reading Association; International Society for Education through Art; The National Council of Teachers of English; Association for the Education of Young Children; National Commission on Libraries and Information Science; International Association of School Librarians; National Association of Church and Synagogue Libraries; American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging; and the United States State Department Voice of America; and
- Whereas,* Spencer G. Shaw's International Commitments have included presentations in Australia where he was named an "Eminent American" by the Australian/American Council; and
- Whereas,* Spencer Shaw was invited to participate in Australia's American Festival as a Guest Artist in a concert with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House in 1976; and
- Whereas,* Spencer Shaw was designated an "American Cultural Specialist" by the United States Information Service, and as such participated in New Zealand's 1990 Sesquicentennial Celebration; and
- Whereas,* Spencer Shaw lectured in Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Canada, England, Cyprus, Netherlands, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mexico, and Brazil; and
- Whereas,* Spencer Shaw taught at Drexel University, Queens College, Syracuse University, Virginia State University, the University of Maryland, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the University of Illinois, the University of Wisconsin - Madison, the University of North Carolina - Greensboro, the University of North Texas, and the University of Washington, where he was on the faculty of the School of Library and Information Science from 1970 through 1986; and
- Whereas,* Spencer Shaw was a practicing librarian in the Nassau (NY) Library System, the Brooklyn (NY) Public Library, and the Hartford (CT) Public Library, where he was the first African American to be hired in 1941; and

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Whereas, Spencer Shaw was a renowned librarian, storyteller, professor whose research and teaching areas included library materials for children, multi-cultural materials for children and young adults, the art and techniques of storytelling, the history of children's literature, library service to special populations, international librarianship, and library services and programs for the aging; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association (ALA):

- (1) Salutes the life and legacy of our educator, champion, and sterling example, Spencer Shaw.
- (2) Extends its deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Spencer Shaw on the loss of their beloved one.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 29, 2010
In Washington, DC



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and ALA Council Secretary