

*Resolution to Honor the Life and Work  
of  
PLA Board Member Marion W. Francis*

- Whereas*, Marion W. Francis was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana; and
- Whereas*, She received a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Millsaps College and later earned her Master's Degree in Library Science from Florida State University; and
- Whereas*, She began her library career as Agency Manager/Head Librarian of the Germantown and Cordova Branches, the largest and highest circulating branches in the Memphis Public Library System in Tennessee; and
- Whereas*, In 1994, Marion returned home to Jackson, Mississippi to become Executive Director of the fifteen-branch Jackson/Hinds Library System; and
- Whereas*, She came to Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) in August 2002 and served as its administrator until May 2010, when health problems forced her into early retirement; and
- Whereas*, She left her mark on the library system by spearheading the effort to establish the Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation, Inc., an entity dedicated to raising funds for enhancement of library services that is now in its fourth year; and
- Whereas*, She also lent her enthusiasm to creating vibrant and inviting children's spaces at AACPL; and
- Whereas*, She was also an advocate for the vital importance of replacing the Annapolis and North County Area Libraries with state-of-the-art buildings to serve the growing needs of the community; and
- Whereas*, She was active in the Annapolis community, sharing her love of music and her vocal talents with all who knew her; and

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*Whereas,* Her tireless contributions to the profession garnered her many awards, including being named as one of Mississippi Business Journal's 50 Leading Business Women; and

*Whereas,* She took much pride and pleasure in being known as "Marion the Librarian," lending her beautiful voice to impromptu sing-alongs at MAPLA's (Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators) fall meetings; and

*Whereas,* Marion was a natural advocate for every project she took on, always willing to testify on behalf of any library in need; and

*Whereas,* She was a passionate supporter of libraries and served as a member and past president of the Maryland Library Association (MLA) and chaired the Maryland Library Association's Committee for Disaster Relief for Gulf Coast Libraries and used her connections to help Mississippi libraries affected by Hurricane Katrina; and

*Whereas,* She was a board member of both the Urban Libraries Council and the Public Library Association and a long-time member of the American Library Association; and

*Whereas,* Her dedication to libraries of all types and sizes, particularly public libraries, was reflected in her active participation in professional associations; and

*Whereas,* She will be greatly missed by family, friends and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Board of Directors of the Public Library Association (PLA) and the American Library Association (ALA) honors the life and work of Marion W. Francis, a true library advocate, dedicated professional, and gracious colleague, whose talents will be missed by the library world.

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