

2012-2013 ALA Memorial Resolution #7
2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Harris Clark McClaskey

Whereas Librarian and library educator Harris Clark McClaskey died on September 21, 2012 at age 81 at his home in Ocean Park, Washington;

Whereas Harris Clark McClaskey received his BA degree from Wooster College in Ohio, attended Princeton Theological Seminary, and then earned his MA and PhD from the University of Washington;

Whereas He served as Director of the Renton Public Library from 1956 to 1961;

Whereas Harris Clark McClaskey served at the Washington State Library for 8 years, concentrating on library services for the underserved, in particular as Director of Institutional Library Services for people in hospitals and the incarcerated;

Whereas He was appointed the first director of the State Library's Washington Library Film Circuit and developed a bibliotherapy program for Washington hospitals while working on his PhD;

Whereas Harris Clark McClaskey joined the graduate school faculty at the University of Minnesota to teach and mentor students for work in public and medical libraries, especially sharing his love for children's literature, book illustration and storytelling;

Whereas He conceived and was Director of "The Mythic Image: Mythology, Folklore and Libraries," an institute featuring Joseph Campbell, sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Public Library & Information Center;

Whereas Harris Clark McClaskey served ALA as Councilor-at-Large; and

Whereas Harris Clark McClaskey served as president of the Health and Rehabilitative Library Services Division of the American Library Association, and

Whereas He received the Exceptional Service Award of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Service Agencies; and

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Harris Clark McClaskey/2

Whereas, He was tireless and passionate in advancing services to users with special needs, serving on state and national committees, demonstration projects, institutes and workshops, as well as speaking and publishing to raise awareness and create change; and

Whereas One of his former students wrote in his memorial book that Dr. McClaskey “had a wonderful sense of humor and humanity. As a professor he was challenging and inspiring - and always prodding his students to innovate, learn, be inquisitive, probe deeper, question assuming or current practice, and above all, to care deeply, professionally for one another, our role and our clients. He was an excellent mentor, teacher and friend”; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association (ALA) on behalf of its members:

1. expresses its gratitude for Harris Clark McClaskey’s many contributions to his profession; to library patrons, especially the underserved and the institutionalized; and to library education; and
2. expresses its sympathy to the family of Harris Clark McClaskey and to his many friends.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 29, 2013
In Seattle, Washington



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