

2011-2012 ALA Tribute #6
2012 ALA Annual Conference

Tribute Resolution Honoring Abbe Charles-Michel L'Epee
Inventor of Sign Language for the Deaf

Whereas Abbe Charles-Michel L'Epee (1712-1789) invented language for the deaf in sign and finger spelling (the Manual Alphabet and Language of Conventional Signs);

Whereas Abbe Charles-Michel L'Epee published a book, Instruction of Deaf and Dumb using Methodical Sign, and a sign language dictionary;

Whereas Abbe Charles-Michel L'Epee believed in education for individuals who are deaf and founded the pioneer school for 40 deaf students in Paris in 1760;

Whereas Abbe Charles-Michel L'Epee, was the first teacher of teachers of the deaf and his school, Institution Nationale des Sourds-Muets a Paris, also trained Laurent Clerc and Thomas H. Gallaudet who introduced his sign language methods in 1816 to educate American students who were deaf; and

Whereas Abbe L'Epee opened participation and communication with the world for individuals who are deaf through sign language; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA):

1. honors the memory of Abbe Charles-Michel L'Epee on the 300th anniversary of his birth, celebrates his legacy of advocacy for individuals who are deaf and remembers his service to the education of individuals who are deaf.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
Tuesday, June 26, 2012
In Anaheim, California