

## **RESOLUTION HONORING JAMES H. BILLINGTON, LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS EMERITUS, JANUARY 2016**

Whereas the 13<sup>th</sup> Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, served the Congress and the Nation for nearly three decades and leaves an extensive legacy for the Library of Congress, America's first established cultural institution and largest library in the world; and

Whereas James H. Billington oversaw the creation of no-fee, high-quality electronic services, thereby increasing the Library's outreach to patrons onsite and online, which provided access to the Library's many unique and varied resources - "to get the champagne out of the bottle;" and

Whereas James H. Billington doubled the size of the Library's collections and strengthened the Library's commitment to the preservation of recorded human knowledge; and

Whereas James H. Billington launched the National Film Preservation Board in 1988 which identifies and selects 25 American films for preservation and inclusion each year in a new National Registry, to which the Librarian has since named 650 films, and which has become a critical touchstone for recognition and preservation of this important art form; and

Whereas James H. Billington transformed the Thomas Jefferson Building into a major exhibition venue which has showcased the depth and breadth of the Library's historic collections including the recent exhibits commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta as well as early American printing which featured the Rubenstein Bay Psalm Book; and

Whereas James H. Billington played a key role in the implementation of the THOMAS website in 1994 providing the public significant, and no fee, access to U.S. federal legislative information; and

Whereas James H. Billington created the American Memory project in 1990, which became the foundation for The National Digital Library in 1994 which provides access to rare and unique material in the Library's collections; and

Whereas James H. Billington established the National Book Festival, the John W. Kluge Center, and the audio-visual conservation center, among others; and

**RESOLVED**, That the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

extends its deepest appreciation to James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress Emeritus, for his extraordinary service to Congress, libraries and the public and for his nearly three decades of achievement.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, January 12, 2016, in Boston, Massachusetts



Keith Michael Fiels  
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council