

2014-2015 ALA Tribute #6_63015_FINAL
2015 ALA Annual Conference

A TRIBUTE RESOLUTION HONORING DR. JESSIE CARNEY SMITH

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith has strategically, innovatively, and faithfully led the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library at Fisk University for fifty years as the Dean of the Library and William and Camille Cosby Professor in the Humanities with the highest distinction since 2010, as University Librarian from 1993-2010, and as University Librarian and Professor from 1965-1993;

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith has admirably served the library profession since 1957, as a librarian, lecturer, professor, and cataloger;

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith was the first African-American to receive a Doctorate of Library Science in Academic Library Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, in 1964;

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith is a proud graduate of North Carolina Agriculture and Technical University, and the Peabody College Library School which was at Vanderbilt University;

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith is a member of Beta Phi Mu, and was the first African American national President of the organization;

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith inspires generations of undergraduate, graduate and library school students, faculty, archivists, researchers, and authors through her work as well as gives them the opportunity to publish in more than ten ground-breaking reference works capturing the impact of African Americans past and present, including *Notable Black American Women*, *Notable Black American Men*, *Black Firsts*, and *Black Heroes of the Twentieth Century*;

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith continues to contribute to her personal and professional communities with humility, generosity, and optimism;

Whereas, Dr. Jessie Carney Smith's life and work has been chronicled in noteworthy publications honoring great authors, scholars, leaders, and African Americans, including *Who's Who in America (65th edition)*, *Contemporary Black Biography*, *Who's Who in Library and Information Services*, *World Who's Who of Women* and *The HistoryMakers: The Nation's Largest African American Video Oral History Collection*;

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Whereas, Dr. Jessie Carney Smith was the subject of the doctoral dissertation, *Piecing A Quilt: Jessie Carney Smith and the Making of African American Women's History* by Dr. Christa Valencia Hardy (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); was one of 14 African American librarians chronicled in the doctoral dissertation, *A Critical Analysis of the Career Backgrounds of Selected Black Female Librarians* by Dr. Lelia Rhodes (Florida State University) and supervised the doctoral dissertation, *An Historical Perspective of the American Missionary Association and Its Establishment of LeMoyné College, 1871–1940* by Dr. Valencia Price;

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith contributed to assignments in Senegal, Bermuda, Japan, England, and Nova Scotia;

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith has appeared on a host of local and national radio shows; and

Whereas Dr. Jessie Carney Smith has no intention of retiring anytime soon; now, therefore, be it

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

1. honors and is grateful to Dr. Jessie Carney Smith for her pioneering work and contributions to the profession of librarianship;
2. thanks her for an enduring commitment to uncovering and documenting the history of African Americans; and
3. appreciates her long-term service to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 30, 2015, in San Francisco, California



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