

This memorial resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, June 27, 2017

A Memorial Resolution Honoring Robert Henry 'Bob' Rohlf

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA), the Minnesota Library Association (MLA), and the public library community lost a valued member and colleague on June 6, 2017, with the death of Robert Henry 'Bob' Rohlf;

Whereas Robert Rohlf was the founding Director of Minnesota's first multi-county public library system, the Dakota-Scott Regional Library;

Whereas, he was recruited to the Library of Congress as Coordinator of Building Planning for the proposed James Madison Memorial Library in Washington, the largest library building in the world;

Whereas he returned to Minnesota to lead the Hennepin County Library System as Director for 25 years;

Whereas at Hennepin County Library System, he planned and built 14 new branch libraries and managed to acquire increased budgets every year;

Whereas The Library Journal named him one of the "Ten Outstanding Library Directors in the Country";

Whereas he was President of the Minnesota Library Association;

Whereas he was President of the Public Library Association;

Whereas he chaired the joint ASCLA, LAMA and PLA committee that created the Certified Public Library Administrator program;

Whereas he was a Life Member of ALA and served for 16 years on ALA Council, 4 years in 4 different decades;

Whereas he led the Robert H. Rohlf Associates consulting firm with projects in over 40 states and six countries;

Whereas he had a significant impact on the structure and operation of library services through authoring major studies, such as the 1962-63 Illinois library systems study which resulted in the formation of cooperative library systems statewide;

Whereas Robert Rohlf performed many volunteer activities including being a charter member of the Minnesota Humanities Commission, built houses for Habitat for Humanity, delivered Meals on Wheel as well as serving on various community organization boards; now, therefore, be it

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

1. recognizes the significant contributions of Robert Rohlf over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and colleagues.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 27, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council