**SAMPLE NOMINATION LETTER #1**

Dear ILA Executive Board:

It is my honor to nominate Valerie J. Wilford as an Illinois Library Luminary. Valerie embodies the spirit of this award and merits consideration. She retired as executive director of the Alliance Library System after a 40-year career improving libraries and librarianship in Illinois. She was a colleague, instructor, and mentor to hundreds of librarians.

Valerie was president of ILA in 1984 and Librarian of the Year in 1992. Other honors include the following:

* Hugh Atkinson Award from ILA for her contributions to multi-type library cooperation and resource-sharing.
* Margaret E. Monroe Award in 1995 administered by the Reference Adult Services Division of ALA for her contributions to library adult services. Wilford was recognized for her publications, leadership, influence on others, and creative and innovative concepts. She spearheaded the first national virtual conference for the American Association of School Libraries, allowing access through the internet, and developed a FREENET for rural libraries.
* Leadership Achievement Award in 2004 presented by the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)in recognition of Wilford's success at setting new standards in cooperation among all types of libraries and for developing a new model of system operations. She was honored for her exceptional work, creativity and enterprise.

Wilford is a member of the American Library Association, the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, the Illinois Library Association, the American Association of School Librarians, and the Illinois School Library and Media Association. She was also a member of the Illinois Library System Directors Organization.

Wilford has a bachelor's degree in education from Illinois State University and a master's degree in library science from the University of Illinois. She has done post-master's degree work at the University of Minnesota, participated in a doctoral Internship in continuing education from Northwestern and performed doctoral work in post-secondary curriculum and instruction at Illinois State University.

Valerie Wilford's career spans administration, teaching, professional writing and library development. When former students and colleagues were asked to donate to the ILA Endowment Fund in Valerie's honor, a librarian wrote that she wanted to honor "a wonderful librarian, teacher and boss." Thank you for considering Valerie J. Wilford as an ILA Library Luminary.

Sincerely,

Pam Van Kirk