Valdosta State News and Notes

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Carterette loses battle with cancer

In January, Georgia libraries suffered the loss of Patricia (Pat) Carterette. Pat, a librarian at Georgia Public Library Service, was a consistently friendly, energetic, and inspirational force in the state and for the field at large. She was heavily involved with both the Georgia and American Library Associations, and she showed a high level of dedication to friends and colleagues alike. As Carol Stanley said, “if you knew Pat, then Pat was your friend.”

The outpouring of support for Pat in the short months following her diagnosis with cancer was truly inspirational. The national support campaign “Wear Purple for Pat,” wherein Pat’s friends were encouraged to wear purple as a show of support, drew photos and comments from hundreds of library employees. Stories about Pat, images of gifts she’d hand-made for friends and family, and well wishes for her health all appeared daily on a Facebook page—Updates on Pat—created especially for her.

Her friend Nancy Levin says, “She was energetic, loving and kindhearted. For her, life was always an adventure with no bad endings.” She was known as a community builder, a creative force, and a reliable friend and coworker. According to Buffy Hamilton of Creekview High School, “one of Pat’s many gifts was seeing the talent in people and then doing everything she could to nurture and support people’s talents for the good of the library community. I will always cherish her zest, her passion, her altruism, and her energy.”

Pat’s impact on the field of librarianship and on the world in general has been truly profound, and she will be deeply missed.