



THE READING LEAGUE
ADVANCING EVIDENCE IN PRACTICE

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NATIONAL RIGHT TO READ FOUNDATION TO MERGE WITH THE READING LEAGUE AFTER FOUNDER'S PASSING

Syracuse, NY – Assets from The National Right to Read Foundation are set to be transferred to The Reading League per the last wishes of Founder and President Robert Sweet.

During his more than 20 years of federal service, Robert – or Bob as most called him - wrote legislation that was implemented at both the state and federal levels and initiated or assisted in the preparation and distribution of some of the most significant reports on reading instruction in the United States: *Becoming a Nation of Readers*, *Beginning to Read: Thinking and Learning About Print*, *The Report of the National Reading Panel*, *Reading First*, *Early Reading First*, *Bilingual Education*, *Special Education*, *The Institute for Education Sciences Act*, *The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act*, and *The National Adult Literacy Survey*.

As Founder and President of The National Right to Read Foundation from 1993 until his passing, Bob testified before Congress, state legislative education committees, local school boards, and parent groups promoting reading instructional programs based on valid, empirical, scientific evidence.

He traveled extensively across the United States and visited schools to observe classroom instruction in reading that exemplified evidence-based instruction. Based on these observations, The National Right to Read Foundation's objective and mission became to provide the opportunity for ALL students to learn to read proficiently, no matter what their age, ethnicity, or economic status. That is where The Reading League come in. The Reading League is a national organization dedicated to bringing the science of reading to classrooms. With a mission to advance the awareness, understanding and use of evidence-aligned reading instruction, The Reading League was a natural partner to continue the efforts of the National Right to Read Foundation.

"I had the privilege to call Bob my friend. He was one of the kindest, most generous people I have ever known. He lived by the adage that you can accomplish great things if you don't care who gets the credit. He truly was a tireless advocate who worked alongside many of the greatest minds in the field, never

taking center stage. His mission at The National Right to Read Foundation was to make resources available to everyone and anyone, to share not only his vast knowledge, but to network nationally and internationally for the betterment of our children.” Laura Stewart, National Director at The Reading League said.

“We are honored that Bob chose The Reading League to keep the legacy of The National Right to Read Foundation alive. We are committed to a vision of a world where all students learn to read and illiteracy does not exist.” Dr. Maria Murray, CEO and President of The Reading League

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