

March 10, 2015

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Juneau, AK

Letter of Support to name the new Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum facility in Juneau as the Father Kashevaroff Library, Archives, and Museum.

The naming of a new public building is a significant symbolic act serving as a cornerstone in placing the facility in its proper social and cultural context. As the new facility for the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum is a place for all Alaskans it is fitting that the building is named after an individual who was uniquely familiar with many aspects of our local cultures. Father Kashevaroff was such an individual. Living as a descendant of Alaskan Natives and Russian explorers he worked as an educator, historian, priest, lecturer, musician, choir leader and author. A new building often is named after its principal founder or sponsor, and Father Kashevaroff had this role as well. Father Kashevaroff was the State Museum's first curator and the Library's first librarian. For more than twenty years, he acquired hundreds of Russian objects and publications and thousands of Native artifacts and worked to garner support for the Museum and the Library. Father Kashevaroff's family relations, his rural experiences, language skills, and cultural connections afforded him access to many groups all for the benefit of the Museum and the Library.

As a historical figure in Alaska, as its founding father, first librarian and first curator, and as a collector of artifacts and documents, Father Kashevaroff defined the future and mission of the State Library and Museum. It is appropriate that the new facility is named in honor of his legacy.

Sincerely,



Steve Rollins
Dean, UAA/APU Consortium Library