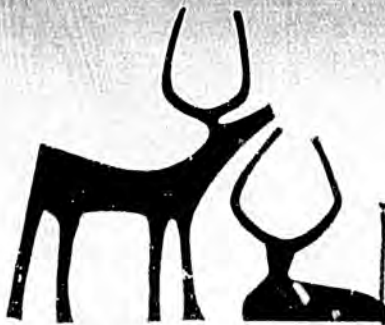


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Alaska State Council on the Arts

619 Warehouse Avenue, Suite 220

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907)279-1558

November 1, 1977

Representative Clark Gruening
940 Tyonek
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Representative Gruening:

As you may have read in the newspapers, the statue of our late senator Ernest Gruening was dedicated in the U.S. Capitol on October 5. The ceremony was a moving and memorable one, attended by more than 500 people. I'm enclosing a copy of the program for your interest. There was only one deviation from the scheduled proceedings: Dorothy Gruening was too ill to attend. Her youngest granddaughter, Tiffany, unveiled the statue.

The sculpture was received with enthusiasm by the Gruening family and the friends of the senator. Hunt Gruening, in his remarks, said: "We owe a great debt of gratitude, I believe, to the sculptor, George Anthonisen. George Anthonisen's talented hands fashioned an image of my father so lifelike and has so skillfully recaptured the spirit of Ernest Gruening that those of you who were close to him, as many of you here today were, can almost feel his presence with us today."

This response was gratifying to me and to the other Council members and staff of the Alaska State Council on the Arts. We are pleased that we had the opportunity to work on the project, as directed by the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Jean Mackin

Jean Mackin
Chairman

JM/ksl

Enclosure