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### **FOUNDERS' AWARD PRESENTED TO CLARK GRUENING**

Juneau, Alaska – The Juneau Community Foundation awarded its first Founders' Award to Clark Gruening at a reception at the Governor's House on May 21. The evening also marked the tenth year of Juneau Community Foundation operations.

The Founders' Award recognizes "a lifetime of achievement and service to Juneau and Alaska." The award, presented by the three founders of the Community Foundation, Reed Stoops, Eric Kueffner, and Ken Leghorn, recognized Clark's life long work in support of those in need, non-profits throughout Alaska, SAIL, all Alaskans and Juneau.

"When the Juneau Community Foundation looked for its initial board of directors, we wanted people who were well respected, philanthropic, understood local non-profits, and had one or more special skills of value to the foundation. Clark was one of the first people that came to mind since he checked all of those boxes. He remains today one of the original board members and serves as our Vice President," stated Reed Stoops, Juneau Community Foundation Board Member.

First Lady Donna Walker kicked off the reception by welcoming all to the Governor's House, where, as a child, Clark had played when visiting his grandfather, Ernest Gruening, Alaska's Territorial Governor from 1939 until 1953.

Clark's contributions to Alaska were recognized through a legislative citation presented by Senator Dennis Egan, Representative Cathy Munoz, and Representative Sam Kito. His contributions include serving two terms in the Alaska Legislature, helping to frame the Alaska Permanent Fund and serving on its Board of Trustees for eight years, two as its Chairman, lobbying for numerous non-profit organizations, representing libraries, museums, public radio and disabled Alaskans. Through a Mayoral Proclamation, Mayor Sanford recognized Clark's work on behalf of Juneau and many Juneau non-profits, especially his work with SAIL, ORCA and the John and Deena Hale Ski Foundation.

Diane Kaplan, with the Rasmuson Foundation, celebrated Clark with a poem about many of his activities including Clark's assistance in creating the Foraker Group, an

organization that has been instrumental in strengthening the Alaska non-profit sector. Ms. Kaplan ended by pledging \$5,000 from the Rasmuson Foundation to support the community and urged others to contribute to match the donation.

Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott, a longtime friend of Clark's, recalled Clark's approachability, enthusiasm for all people, work for Alaska, and living up to his heritage as the grandson of Ernest Gruening. Lt. Governor Mallott stated, "When people see Clark, they know it in their heart, that here is a man who helped make a historic name greater."

The Juneau Community Foundation is located at 350 North Franklin Street, Suite 4, Juneau 99801. For more information about the Foundation call 523-5450 or email [amy@juneaucf.org](mailto:amy@juneaucf.org).

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Pictured from left to right: Eric Kueffner, Board President, Juneau Community Foundation, Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott, First Lady Donna Walker, Reed Stoops, Clark Gruening, Amy Skilbred, Executive Director Juneau Community Foundation, and Ken Leghorn.