

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SITKA

2012 Memorials



Donald Grybeck (1936-2012)

Dr. Don Grybeck passed away at his home in Port Ludlow, WA. He was a mineralogist, retired director of the *United States Geological Survey* office in Anchorage and former *University of Alaska Fairbanks* faculty member. A prolific author, he created a database on Alaskan mineral deposits. Even as a child, Don dreamed of coming to Alaska, and his interests in Alaskan geology, mining and mining history remained passions throughout his life.



Father Joseph P. Kreta (1927-2012)

The WWII U.S. Navy originally brought Joseph P. Kreta to Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. There he acknowledged his religious calling. He returned as a priest, serving later as Diocesan Chancellor of the Orthodox Diocese of Alaska. He founded *Saint Herman's Orthodox Theological Seminary* in Kodiak. Beyond his highly regarded religious work throughout the Orthodox world and Alaska, Protospesbyter Joseph Kreta received the Governor's Arts Award in 1982 and the *Alaska Historical Society's* Evangeline Atwood Award in 1994.



Helen McCrary March (1915-2012)

Helen McCrary was born in Chitina, attended high school in Cordova, and graduated from the *University of Alaska* in Fairbanks. There she married engineer James March in 1937 and both traveled and worked in many regions of the Territory. Helen's career was with the *State Dept. of Labor* including managing the Homer Job Service Office. She served on the Territorial and State school boards, and pursued broad interests. Long a volunteer of the *Pratt Museum* in Homer, Helen served as Secretary and President of the board.



Mary Louise Milligan Rasmuson (1911-2012)

Educator, philanthropist and early advocate for recognition of women, Mary Louise Rasmuson lived a dedicated life of service, including appointment as Commandant of the *Women's Army Corps* by Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John Kennedy. After an initial 1961 dinner party introduction in Washington, D.C., she and Elmer E. Rasmuson were married, and Mary Louise relocated to Anchorage. She devoted her time and energies to social services, health care, philanthropy, served on the Rasmuson Foundation board, and advocated for the arts. The expanded *Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center* exemplifies the shared, long term vision of Mary Louise and Elmer E. Rasmuson.



Norman L. Smith (1925-2011)

WWII paratrooper, Holocaust liberator, educator, farmer, fisherman, and advocate for those with physical disabilities, Norman Smith led one of the first Special Education programs in Alaska. He served as Commander of VFW Post 735 in Haines and founded both the Boy Scouts and Sea Scout programs there. He researched Ft. Seward in Haines. He passed away in Albion, Nebraska, following a 20 year struggle with post-polio syndrome.