

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBER OSSIANDER  
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel  
For reading: January 19, 2010

CLERK'S OFFICE

**APPROVED**

Date: 3-23-18 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AR NO. 2010-7

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY HONORING**  
2 **LONGTIME ALASKANS BILLIE MOORE, POLLY KALLENBERG AND KATHRYN**  
3 **COTTEN IN THEIR SERVICE TO THE CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER LIBRARY.**  
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5 WHEREAS, Billie Moore, Polly Kallenberg, and Kathryn Cotten are each  
6 remembered within the Chugiak-Eagle River community for their service to the library;  
7 and  
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9 WHEREAS, Billie Moore's initial involvement began in 1960 with her campaign to  
10 establish what came to be the first two school libraries in the State of Alaska, located in  
11 the Chugiak and Eagle River elementary schools; and  
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13 WHEREAS, by 1965, and joining forces with Polly Kallenberg of Chugiak, Polly  
14 Kallenberg opened the Chugiak Library and Billie Moore opened the Eagle River  
15 Library; and  
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17 WHEREAS, in 1968, the library board, consisting entirely of local residents, voted  
18 to combine the two libraries into a single facility in Eagle River; and  
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20 WHEREAS, Polly Kallenberg is well remembered in the community for her gifted  
21 bookbinding and care of the books and Billie Moore is well remembered for her  
22 storytelling with children and making the library a special place for children; and  
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24 WHEREAS, by the time Polly Kallenberg retired in 1981, the Chugiak-Eagle  
25 River Library under their joint management had grown to be the largest in the  
26 Anchorage area; and  
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28 WHEREAS, Kathryn Cotten is well remembered in the community for her many  
29 hours and dedication as a Library Volunteer; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the Citizen Naming Panel, created pursuant to AR 2009-132 and  
32 including panel members Abigail Dunning-Newbury, Lee Jordan, Blythe Marston, and  
33 Mary Williams, gave notice and heard from eight community individuals in person and  
34 from four other individuals providing written or oral comments in support of honoring  
35 Billie Moore, Polly Kallenberg and Kathryn Cotten through naming of internal areas or  
36 features within the Chugiak-Eagle River Library in their honor; and  
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38 WHEREAS, the Chugiak-Eagle River Library remains an important part of the  
39 community, relocated in the Town Center of Eagle River; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the Panel was unanimous in its recommendation as follows:  
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- 3  
4 1. That the Children's Section of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library be named in  
5 honor of Billie Moore;  
6  
7 2. That the Northern Collection at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library be named in  
8 honor of Polly Kallenberg;  
9  
10 3. That the Volunteer Program at the Library be named in honor of Kathryn  
11 Cotten;  
12  
13 4. That further naming of portions of the Library be limited so as to not diminish  
14 the outstanding contributions made by Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Kallenberg. They  
15 not only made libraries possible far sooner than might otherwise have been,  
16 but their dedication through many years of faithful and caring service as  
17 librarians was instilled into the operation and continues to be reflected today;  
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19 5. That plaques be prepared and appropriately installed to indicate the naming  
20 as indicated and that the plaques include a photograph and brief recitation of  
21 the history of the individual and her contributions to the Library;  
22  
23 6. That a fund-raising drive be conducted by the panel to cover costs of the  
24 plaques, with any excess monies from that effort to be donated to the  
25 Chugiak-Eagle River Library for use in conjunction with the Kathryn Cotten  
26 Volunteer Program; and  
27  
28 7. That the Library make an effort to acquire displays and conduct programs that  
29 would serve to make known the history of the Chugiak-Eagle River  
30 community, particularly to honor persons whose extraordinary civic service  
31 helped to develop the community.  
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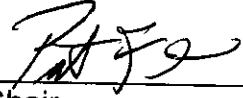
33 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly resolves:  
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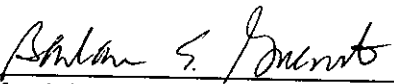
- 35 1. That the Children's Section of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library be named in  
36 honor of Billie Moore;  
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38 2. That the Northern Collection at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library be named in  
39 honor of Polly Kallenberg;  
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41 3. That the Volunteer Program at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library be named in  
42 honor of Kathryn Cotten;  
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4. That in approving this Assembly Resolution, other recommendations of the Citizen Naming Panel related to limitations on additional naming, installation of plaques and implementation of efforts to increase public awareness of the history of the Chugiak-Eagle River community and acknowledgment of individuals who made significant civic contributions toward its development are hereby acknowledged and appreciated by the Assembly and recognized for submission to the Library management staff and administration, with the request that they be considered in future Library planning.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST:  
  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Clerk

*Lee Jordan*

20610 Jayhawk Drive -- Chugiak, Alaska 99567-5880 -- Telephone (907) 688-9068

December 18, 2009

Assembly Chairman Patrick Flynn  
Assembly Member Debbie Ossiander  
Mayor Dan Sullivan  
Municipality of Anchorage  
632 W 6th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Chugiak-Eagle River Library Naming

Mayor Sullivan, Assembly Chairman Flynn and Assembly Member Ossiander:

Pursuant to AR 2009-182 passed by the Assembly on July 21, 2009, the Citizen Naming Panel of Abigail Dunning-Newbury, Lee Jordan, Blythe Marston and Mary Williams met on September 3, 2009, to organize, define the panel's purpose and plan a public meeting to receive input.

The Panel decided to not recommend changing the name of the Library, but instead to designate portions of the Library where deserving individuals might be honored. Our purpose was determined to be to preserve the history of the Library in the community, and to honor and memorialize persons who worked initially to found and establish the Library. Financial contributors are to be recognized separate from the Panel's purview.

A notice of a public meeting to receive input was published more than two weeks in advance of the meeting that was scheduled for December 9. Notice was given to the Chugiak-Eagle River Community Council Consortium 30 days ahead of the meeting. A related news article appeared in the local *Alaska Star*.

Eight members of the public met with the four panel members when the meeting was convened at 5 p.m. on Dec. 9 at the Eagle River Town Center. All spoke during the meeting. In addition, three written comments and one telephone call received prior to the meeting were described. All told, four names in addition to the two listed in the July 21 Resolution were mentioned suggesting individuals who contributed initially to establishment of libraries in Chugiak and Eagle River.

The Panel met immediately upon adjournment of the public meeting and made the following recommendations:

1. That the Children's Section of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library be named in honor of Billie Moore.
2. That the Northern Collection of the Library be named in honor of Polly Kallenberg.
3. That the Volunteer Program at the Library be named in honor of Kathryn Cotten.
4. That further naming of portions of the Library be limited so as to not diminish the outstanding contributions made by Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Kallenberg. They not only made libraries possible far sooner than might otherwise have been, but their dedication

throughout many years of faithful and caring service as librarians was instilled into the operation and continues to be reflected today.

5. That plaques be prepared and appropriately installed to indicate the naming as indicated and that the plaques include a photograph and brief recitation of the history of the individual and her contributions to the Library.

6. That a fund-raising drive be conducted by the panel to cover costs of the plaques, with any excess monies from that effort to be donated to the Chugiak-Eagle River Library for use in conjunction with the Kathryn Cotten Volunteer Program.

7. That the Library make an effort to acquire displays and conduct programs that would serve to make known the history of the Chugiak-Eagle River community, particularly to honor persons whose extraordinary civic service helped to develop the community.

These recommendations were unanimously agreed to by the panel members and were concurred in by those members of the public who were present during the discussion. Please note that no municipal funds will be expended in connection with our recommendations other than for the Assembly public hearing called for in AMC 3.997.030(C).

A draft Resolution offering these recommendations is attached for review by appropriate agencies, along with a statement reflecting compliance with municipal criteria for naming of public facilities and minutes of our Sept. 3 and Dec. 9 meetings. Also attached, please find minutes of our September 3 and December 9 meetings.

It has been an honor to serve on this panel and to review the intriguing history of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library and its founding members. We remain ready to answer any questions. Your support of our recommendations is appreciated.

Yours truly,

Chugiak-Eagle River Library  
Citizen Naming Panel

  
Lee Jordan, Chairman

For Panel Members Blythe Marston, Abigail Dunning, Mary Williams

Attachments:  
Draft Resolution  
Compliance Statement  
Minutes, Sept. 3, 2009  
Minutes, Dec. 9, 2009  
Flyer promoting naming  
Billie Moore Legislative Citation

cc: Rep. Bill Stoltze

**Chugiak-Eagle River Library Citizen Naming Panel  
Compliance with Naming Policy**

**3.97.020 Policy.** When considering the naming or renaming of municipal buildings, other fixed facilities, and public places, the preferred practice shall be to give public property historical, cultural or geographical significance considering location, function and natural features. The existing name of any public place is presumed to be the best name of that public place. Continuity of name and common usage are presumed to increase sense of neighborhood.

3.97.025 Criteria. A. *Honorary naming.* Naming of a public place will:

1. Demonstrate that the policy objectives under Section 3.97.020 have been considered and will specify findings for an exception;

The Panel does not recommend renaming of the Library. Increasing "sense of neighborhood" was an over-riding concern during our deliberations.

2. Identify the individual's connection to the municipality if considering an outstanding local, state, national or international civic leader;

The three persons recommended by the Panel for memorialization are now deceased. They were long-time residents of Chugiak-Eagle River and participated in establishing the Chugiak and Eagle River libraries and labored in that effort prior to and after the consolidation into the Chugiak-Eagle River Library.

3. Consider the historical significance of the person and the duration of residence in the municipality, or connection with the municipality if a nonresident;

The three persons recommended were pioneer residents of Chugiak and Eagle River and each devoted more than a quarter of a century of service to the Library, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Kallenberg as librarians and Mrs. Cotten as a regular volunteer and library board member.

4. Consider the history of the location in relation to the history of the present name, when proposing to rename an existing public place;

Renaming not recommended.

5. Not change the name of a public place bearing an historic Anchorage family name;  
Not applicable.

6. Not change historic names of designated landmarks listed on a state or National Register of Historic Places;  
Not applicable.

7. Limit honorary naming to a one time present use of an individual's name;  
This is the Panel's intent.

8. Support the preferred practice of honoring individual citizens through naming of internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces. Naming a public building, facility, or park for a living person is not favored.  
This is the Panel's intent.

9. Renaming of a public place, road or street should not be considered within 20 years of the previous naming.  
Not applicable.

B. *Public places under the jurisdiction of a parks and recreation board or commission.*  
This section not applicable.

Chugiak-Eagle River Library Naming Committee  
Minutes of Meeting, September 3, 2009

The Chugiak-Eagle River Library Naming Committee established by Resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly met on September 3, 2009 at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library.

Committee members are Abigail Dunning-Newbury, Lee Jordan, Blythe Marston, and Mary Williams. All members were present.

The committee first reviewed municipal policy and procedures governing the naming of a public place, set forth in chapter 3.97 of the Anchorage Municipal Code.

Lee Jordan was elected Chairperson by the other three committee members, himself abstaining.

After discussion, the Committee members reached consensus as to their purpose and mission: to preserve the history of the library in the community, and to honor and memorialize persons who worked initially to found and establish the library. Names discussed through personal knowledge within the committee were Billie Moore, Polly Kallenberg, and Kathryn Cotten. Comment and other names are to be solicited from the community through notice and public hearing pursuant to the municipal naming policy and procedure.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of naming a public facility for persons rather than geographical location and considered examples of both. The Committee reached a consensus that they would not seek an exception to the policy set forth in Ch 3.97.020 of the Anchorage Municipal Code, which states, "The existing name of any public place is presumed to be the best name of that public place." Therefore the Committee does not seek to change the name of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library. The Committee seeks to carry out its purpose by naming areas within the library building, the "preferred practice" under criteria in Section 3.97.025.A. 8.

Areas discussed were the Children's Area, the Programming Room, and the area housing the Northern Collection. Ms. Dunning-Newbury suggested naming the Children's Area after Billie Moore because of her strong interest in library children's programs, and the Northern Collection for Polly Kallenberg for her interest in books and her experience of living in remote areas of Alaska. Ms. Marston noted that collections of materials are not in themselves "public places" and therefore are probably not covered by Chapter 3.97 of the Municipal Code, the policy and procedures for naming municipal buildings and public places. However, a collection might share the name of an area in which it is housed; for example, "Northern Collection of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library."

The Committee members noted the applicability of the following criteria for names from Ch 3.97.025A of the Municipal Code. ( 3.97.025A.3) "Consider the historical significance of the person and the duration of residence in the municipality... Support the preferred practice of honoring individual citizens through naming of internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces."

The Committee discussed a suggestion by Ms. Marston that the naming process and criteria be the impetus for library programs on local names and history, particularly for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade groups and for 10<sup>th</sup> grade Alaska Studies classes, which address local history. Mr. Jordan suggested contacting school principals to determine interest in such programs.

The committee developed the following plan and schedule for proceeding. This will be communicated to Jacqueline Duke for facilitation through the Municipal Clerk's Office to meet open meeting notice requirements under Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25. Dates and place for the hearing stated below are tentative depending on meeting notice requirements. Ms. Duke will be asked to provide an electronic copy of the draft notice and scheduling to the Committee members for approval prior to publication. Committee members will respond timely. Notice will be published on the Municipal Web Page and through press releases to the *Anchorage Daily News*, *Alaska Star*, and *Alaska Journal of Commerce*. Notice should also be provided electronically to the following five local Community Councils: Eagle River Valley, Eagle River, South Fork, Birchwood, and Chugiak. Notice schedules must accommodate monthly meeting dates for each Community Council. Electronic copies of the notice must also be provided to Chugiak-Eagle River Assembly Members Debbie Ossiander and Bill Starr, the Municipal Library Director, Library Foundation, and Friends of the Library.

#### **Notice and Schedule**

"The Eagle River Library Naming Committee, established under Anchorage Municipal Assembly Resolution Number\_\_\_\_, is soliciting names for areas within the Chugiak-Eagle River Library. Examples of areas include the Children's Area, Programming Room, and others as suggested. Names should honor and memorialize persons who worked initially to establish and support the Library, and should preserve the history of the Library in the community. Names already suggested are Billie Moore, Polly Kallenberg, and Kathryn Cotten. The Committee requests comments on these names and suggestions for other names, with supporting information. The Committee does not seek to change the name of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library and does not solicit new names for the Library.

A public hearing will be held Thursday October 22 at 7:00 PM in the Community Meeting Room at the Eagle River Town Center, \_\_\_\_\_ Business Boulevard, Eagle River. The purpose of the hearing will be to hear public comment on suggested names. Names should be submitted to \_\_\_\_\_ by October 5, but will be accepted at any time before the public hearing or during the public hearing."

#### **Next Committee Meeting**

Next meeting of the Committee will be immediately following the Public Hearing on October 22, if possible and if not then, on Tuesday November 3 at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library. Tentative meeting time, subject to confirmation by all members, will be 11 am.

Abigail Dunning-Newbury  
For the Committee



Chugiak-Eagle River Naming Panel, Public Meeting December 9, 2009, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Chugiak-Eagle River Town Hall Meeting Room

#### Minutes of Meeting

Present were Naming Panel members Lee Jordan ( Chairman), Abigail Dunning-Newbury, Blythe Marston, and Mary Williams. Members of the public attending were Eileen Cotten Jordan, Representative Bill Stoltze, Phyllis Smith, Senator Fred Dyson, Tara Reardon, Shirley Mauldin, and Joan Delaquito. Darrell Breese from the Alaska Star was also present.

Mr. Jordan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and distributing copies of the agenda and of the Municipal Naming Ordinance, Ch. 3.97.010 – 3.97.060. He introduced the Naming Panel members and explained the Assembly Resolution which established the committee. He reviewed the Municipal naming ordinance. He explained that the committee had met September 3, 2009, which led to public notice and the present meeting. He explained that the purpose of naming areas of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library for persons who had been instrumental in founding and establishing the Library was to preserve the history of the Library and the community.

Mr. Jordan noted that individuals who had made substantial financial contributions to the Library were being recognized separately and that the Naming Panel sought recognition for people who had played a significant part in the history of the Library in the community. He also noted that Municipal policy was not to change a long-established name of a public building, and that in fact the two founders of the Library, Billie Moore and Polly Kallenberg, had considered "Chugiak-Eagle River Library " to be an appropriate name. Therefore, Mr. Jordan pointed out, the Naming Panel did not recommend re-naming the Library, but suggested naming areas of the Library for individuals who had contributed significantly to the Library's establishment.

Mr. Jordan recognized Eileen Cotten as representing her mother, Kathryn Cotten, for whom the Naming Panel recommended naming a Library volunteer program. Representatives of Billie Moore 's family were not able to attend. Mr. Jordan told the story of how Billie Moore had started the Library because of her disapproval of the Territorial Eagle River School's intention to buy an electric scoreboard for the school when they had no books. Through tireless lobbying for legislative grants, fundraising, and other efforts, she got a library established in the school. Polly Kallenberg carried on a similar effort in starting a lending library in Chugiak through a Ladies Club there, which eventually became a public library and joined with the Eagle River Library. She had lived in remote areas of Alaska, particularly in the Bristol Bay area, and was a bookbinder as well as a woman with broad experience of life in Alaska before Statehood.

Mr. Jordan noted that three written suggestions and one telephone call had been received before the meeting by persons unable to attend, as requested in the meeting notice. These suggestions were for Billie Moore, Kathryn Cotten, and Polly Kallenberg . There was also a suggestion of Glenn Briggs, who provided space in the Eagle River Shopping Center for the Library, and of Carol Jones, who had been a volunteer.

Blythe Marston noted that the Naming Ordinance in paragraph 3.97.025 A.7 required that honorary naming be limited to a one time present use of an individual's name. This was not clearly understood but Ms. Marston pointed out that this provision might raise a question.

Mr. Jordan then opened the meeting to comments and suggestions by all attending.

Joan Delaquito remembered Billie Moore directing her to the Library section with Alaska books. She remembered Billie as helpful, vibrant, and a great lady who deserved to be recognized.

Shirley Mauldin settled in Eagle River in 1956. She was well acquainted with Kathryn Cotten, Billie Moore, and Polly Kallenberg. She stated that they were all delightful, contributed to the community, and to her knowledge had nothing named for them in the community. She remembered Polly Kallenberg as a gifted bookbinder, Kathryn as a strong volunteer for many years, and Billie at the counter talking to everyone and charming all the children. She remembered another early settler, Betty Bochstahler, driving books back and forth between the Eagle River and Loussac Libraries.

Representative Stoltz stated that he and Representative John Harris had sponsored a legislative resolution honoring Billie Moore and Polly Kallenberg, in appreciation of their history with the Library.

Phyllis Smith stated that she settled in Eagle River in 1952, homesteading next to the Johnson family. Billie Moore bought land near them around 1960. She remembered Billie Moore as an effervescent woman who made people feel comfortable in the Library.

Senator Fred Dyson said he was delighted that the Library had thrived and had always appreciated it.

Eileen Cotten Jordan , Kathryn Cotten's daughter, said that her mother had 5 children and loved working at the Library. She told her children they didn't need to buy books because they could get them at the Library.

Tara Reardon lived upstairs from the Library in one of its locations. She walked to school every day and the Library was important in her life; she would often spend the afternoon in the Library if her family was not home when she got back from school.

Mary Williams remembered Kathryn Cotten fondly, as a kind woman who worked very hard as a Library volunteer. She felt the Library should be honored to name the volunteer program for Mrs. Cotten.

Blythe Marston stated that she was happy to see the library so important to the community, as the role of the library was sometimes lost in larger cities.

Abigail Dunning Newbury stated that her family moved to Eagle River in 1970 and that she knew Billie Moore and Polly Kallenberg well through the Library. She remembered Polly's skill at bookbinding and care of the books, and Billie Moore's warmth, charm, and outgoing personality, which helped make the Library a real community center. Billie also seemed to know every child in Eagle River by name and made the Library a special place for children with her storytelling and other children's programs.

Lee Jordan related a conversation with Katie Manglesdorf, a daughter of Billie Moore's who was not able to come to the meeting. She said that Billie was very interested in the Alaska Collection of books and worked hard to get books about Alaska, including some that were rare and out of print. Katie remembered that her mother was very annoyed with a prominent (but unidentified) Anchorage-area politician who checked out the best Alaskan books and never returned them.

A general discussion followed the individual comments. Blythe Marston asked how different areas in the Library would be marked and whether a map would be made. Lee Jordan felt that the contributions of Billie Moore, Polly Kallenberg and Kathryn Cotten were so significant that they should stand alone, rather than recognizing additional people. Representative Stoltz said that Library funds should not be used to purchase plaques or other means of recognition, and that none of the honorees would have wanted this. He volunteered to raise funds for this purpose privately. It was agreed that a fund raising drive should be held.

The criteria in Ch. 3.97.010 were discussed and it was determined that recognition of Billie Moore, Polly Kallenberg, and Kathryn Cotten was consistent with all applicable criteria.

It was suggested that plaques and other recognition should tell the story of what each person did. Phyllis Smith suggested pictures and a historical exhibit for the Northern Collection area. Photographs from the Alaska Star with information about the honorees and the Library could be used. Possibly information from the Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society and the Star could be placed in a notebook or inexpensively bound and kept as a reference at the Library. Mr. Jordan at the request of the Naming Panel has already asked local schools if they would be interested in assigning community historical research as part of curriculum. They have not responded but this idea could be pursued. Lee Jordan will attempt to get photographs of Polly Kallenberg from the Kallenberg family. Abigail Dunning-Newbury will ask Billie Moore's family for photographs. Phyllis Smith will also search for Historical Society pictures of the Library and the honorees.

Following this discussion, the four members of the Naming Committee members agreed that the Children's Area should be named for Billie Moore; the Northern Collection and the area where it is housed should be named for Polly Kallenberg, and the Library's Volunteer Program should be named for Kathryn Cotten. There was unanimous support for this from all present. Lee Jordan will provide this recommendation, with a draft resolution and other documentation, to the Anchorage Assembly.

Details of the plaques and accompanying historical exhibits, and an appropriate dedication ceremony, will be worked out by Mary Williams and other local members of the Naming Panel, with the help of the Historical Society and Alaska Star newspaper staff.

Business being concluded, the public meeting adjourned. Immediately after adjournment of the public meeting, the Naming Panel met and made the following recommendations.

1. That the Children's Section of the Chugiak-Eagle River Library be named in honor of Billie Moore.

2. That the Northern Collection of the Library be named in honor of Polly Kallenberg.
3. That the Volunteer Program of the Library be named in honor of Kathryn Cotten.
4. That further naming of portions of the Library be limited so as not to diminish the outstanding contributions made by Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Kallenberg. They not only made libraries possible far sooner than otherwise might have been, but their dedication through many years of faithful and caring service as librarians was instilled into the operation and continues to be reflected today.
5. That plaques be prepared and appropriately installed to dedicate the naming as indicated and that the plaques include a photograph and brief recitation of the history of the individual and her contributions to the Library.
6. That a fund-raising drive be conducted by the panel to cover costs of the plaques, with any excess monies from that effort to be donated to the Chugiak-Eagle River Library for use in conjunction with the Kathryn Cotten Volunteer Program.
7. That the Library make an effort to acquire displays and conduct programs that would serve to make known the history of the Chugiak-Eagle River community, particularly to honor the persons whose extraordinary civic service helped to develop the community.

The Naming Panel then adjourned.

Abigail Dunning-Newbury

December 15, 2009

# "Concept" Flyer

## Billie Moore, Polly Kallenberg made our local library possible

**B**ILLIE Moore and Polly Kallenberg were instrumental in establishing public libraries in Chugiak and Eagle River. The new branch library in Eagle River's Town Center should recognize their extremely significant contributions by naming the facility or at least a major room for them.

Billie Moore's initial involvement in making books available came when Eagle River Elementary opened in 1960. She became incensed when the new school's PTA decided its first goal was to install an electric scoreboard.

"I really shocked a lot of well-meaning people when I told them their priorities were misplaced. There was no library. There wasn't even a dictionary in the school. And they voted for an electric scoreboard! I was very vocal," she was quoted as saying in Majororie Cochrane's "Between Two Rivers" history of Chugiak - Eagle River.

Billie began a campaign to establish a school library, spearheading weekly cookie sales, conducting an unending arm-twisting crusade, and browbeating officials of the new State of Alaska. One year later, Chugiak and Eagle River elementary schools became the first schools in the state to have in-house libraries.

**N**OT LONG after, Billie joined forces with Polly Kallenberg of Chugiak. Polly had been involved with a small library that the Chugiak Ladies Club had established, but that had been forced by insufficient resources to cease operations. They and a stalwart group of supporters finagled space to house the books that were not yet assured. They met with the person in charge of the state's rural library system and persuaded her to back two public libraries here, one at each of the two schools.

A wily businessman, who owned the building to be used by the Eagle River library, charged the state for the space, then donated the payments to the Eagle River Lions Club. Members of the civic organization used the money to build shelves and equip the new library.

Polly opened the Chugiak library in April of 1965. She issued cards to 19 persons and 56 books were checked out. Billie opened the Eagle River library just over a week later. Taking out cards were 46 persons and 107 books were issued.

In 1968 the library board, consisting entirely of local residents, voted to combine the two libraries into one facility in Eagle River. Having two librarians made it possible for the library to be open longer hours and increased the resources available to readers. By the time Polly retired in 1981, the Chugiak - Eagle River Library under their joint management had grown to be the largest in the Anchorage area.

Both of these ladies have now passed on to that Great Reading Room in the Sky, but their legacy lives on in the relocated library that will soon open in the Town Center. It was their efforts that gave it life and nurtured it to maturity. Their contributions deserve lasting recognition.

**Y**OUR support in this effort is appreciated. Please contact the librarian, Mayor Dan Sullivan, and Assembly members Debbie Ossiander and Bill Starr. Let's make sure that Billie Moore and Polly Kallenberg are remembered for their many years of dedicated service to readers in Chugiak and Eagle River.



*For Eagle River Librarian Billie Moore, work was not only hands-on, but on hands and knees.*

# THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE



## In Memoriam

\* BILLIE JOYCE THURBER MOORE \*

The Twenty-sixth Alaska State Legislature joins the family and friends of Billie Joyce Thurber Moore in celebrating her life and contributions to her community and state.

Billie may best be known for being a passionate force behind the creation of the Eagle River School Library and, along with her longtime friend Polly Kallenberg, the Chugiak-Eagle River Library.

Eagle River School was new in 1961, but it lacked a library. When the local Parent-Teacher Association voted to buy a new basketball scoreboard instead of a library, Billie was furious and launched a campaign to buy books. After cookie sales, phone calls and letters, she got out the word and generated a groundswell of support. Within months, the Eagle River School Library opened its doors.


She was just getting started. Within five years, Billie worked with the local Lions Club to start a community library. Thus, the Eagle River Library was born, later to be known as the Chugiak-Eagle River Library. It would become the center of the community, filled with love, books, and happy faces, according to the Alaska Star. Billie would have a smile and cheering words for everyone, the paper wrote.

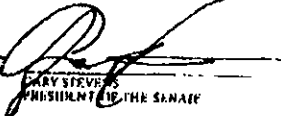
She was an ideal librarian, according to many who had the good fortune to know her. She had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and an undying passion for reading and making books available to anyone. Billie would even keep a dictionary next to the kitchen table at home, which was used nearly every night, her family says.


She came to Alaska with her husband Vern, a telephone lineman, in 1952, having driven the Alaska Highway with two children. According to the Star, they arrived in Anchorage with only five dollars in their pockets and no place to call a home because a disreputable contractor absconded with their down payment. A job that had been promised had vanished. Undaunted, Billie scrimped and saved while Vern shoveled snow until he found a telecommunications job and the means to help make Alaska their home.


The members of the Twenty-sixth Alaska State Legislature are grateful that a dynamo like Billie once graced this old earth and made this place better than she found it. We extend condolences to her husband, Vern; her three children, Katie, Linda, and Dan; eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; and, all those who were lucky enough to know her.



  
MIKE CHENAULT  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

  
GARY STEVENS  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

  
REP. TIM HARRIS  
PRIME SPONSOR

  
REP. BILL STOLTZE  
PRIME SPONSOR

Date: April 11, 2009

Legislators: Representatives Fairbough, Dahlstrom, Chenault, Boch, Crona, Coghil, Crawford, Dostyn, Edgemo, Foster, Gale, Gardner, Gatto, Gruesbeck, Guttenberg, Hawker, Herion, Kohnke, Johnson, Johnson, Jank, Kiviat, Keller, Kirby, Kristala, Lyle, Miller, Bludorf, Neundorfer, Olson, Peterson, Rarres, Siemon, Sutton, Thomas, Tuck, Wilson, Senator Burdick, Huggins, Dyson, Thorsrud, Stevens, Davis, Ellis, Hoffman, Kuykendall, McGuire, McNear, Meyer, Olson, Parkkonen, Stojanov, Thomas, Wagner, Woloshinski