

Serrano Lauds Statue Plan For Bartlett

District E Democratic Chairman Gil Serrano congratulated the State Senate for authorizing construction of a statue of the late Senator E.L. "Bob" Bartlett in the U.S. Capitol.

"Bob Bartlett deserves a place in that hall of fame and indeed every other one which recognizes unselfish service by a man to his fellows," the Democratic leader said.

Earlier this week, the State Senate passed the bill, Senate Bill 105, authorizing construction of the statue, by a 16 to 1 vote, with three absent. Sen. Clyde Lewis was the lone dissenter.

Serrano hailed Bartlett's integrity, humor and deep commitment to public service. "This man is sorely missed in Alaska and in the Nation's Capitol, he added.

"Every Alaskan lives in greater freedom and in better economic circumstances because of Bob Bartlett," Serrano continued. "The fact that we are a state and no longer a territory is due to the unending fight for that cause waged by the late Senator, by his gracious wife, Vide, and by Alaskans in both political parties and all walks of life."

"We must all work together to honor and uphold Bob Bartlett's ideals - integrity, generosity, humility and pride in serving the public, rather than special interests," Serrano concluded. "We hope the House of Representatives will quickly follow suit and help make the statue a reality."