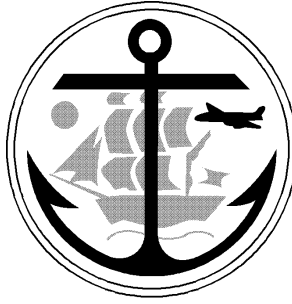


Municipality of  
Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650  
Telephone: (907) 343-7100  
Fax: (907) 343-7180  
Email : [www.muni.org](http://www.muni.org)  
*Mark Begich, Mayor*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 30, 2008  
08-63

Contact: Jenny Evans, 343-7103  
Beth Nordlund, 350-9482

**Sculpture Dedication Honors Memory of Alaskan Family**  
***Flight of the Raven a Representation of Equal Rights for Native Alaskans***

A sculpture to honor civil rights activists Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich was unveiled today at Peratrovich Park in downtown Anchorage. The sculpture, named Flight of the Raven, was designed by Roy Peratrovich, Jr. to memorialize his parents and the progress they made for Alaska Native people.

The Peratrovichs were the driving force behind the passage of the Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States. They began petitioning for a ban on the "No Natives Allowed" sign then so common at public accommodations in Juneau and elsewhere. The Anti-Discrimination Act was initially defeated in the Alaska legislature in 1943, but passed and was signed in 1945 by Governor Ernest Gruening.

"The Flight of the Raven sculpture is symbolic of the tireless work the Peratrovichs did to eliminate discrimination and bring equal rights to Alaska," said Mayor Mark Begich. "Elizabeth and Roy are an important part of Alaska's rich history and it's fitting that we honor them today with the dedication of this beautiful sculpture."

Elizabeth Peratrovich died in 1958. On February 6, 1988, the Alaska Legislature established February 16 (the day in 1945 when the Anti-Discrimination Act was signed) as "Elizabeth Peratrovich Day," in order to memorialize the civil rights contributions she made in Alaska.

Friends of Peratrovich Park raised private funds for this important public art through the Anchorage Park Foundation, after receiving a 2006 Challenge Grant.

###