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Many Traditions One Alaska

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Dear UA Community,

I, along with so many of us in Alaska, am deeply saddened by the sudden death of former Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott, a statesman, an elder, and a dear friend. When he died late last week he took with him the burning light of a man who loved his family, a man who served our state in so many remarkable ways, and a man who had a vision for equality and justice for Alaska's Native people and worked tirelessly to achieve it.

Byron provided strong leadership from a very young age, and during his long and storied career, he stayed focused on the tasks that motivated him or helped others. He contributed much to the development of our state and gave generously of his knowledge, expertise, and his time. Leadership takes a lifetime to develop — not just a single event, a single election or a single success — and Byron epitomized the essence of true leadership.

We will always remember his spirit, his love of family and his statesmanship. All of us at the University of Alaska extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. I hope each of you will keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Jim Johnsen