

The “Polly” Award



Polly Rosenbaum

In 1999, the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records established the Polly Rosenbaum award in recognition of Polly’s tireless support for libraries, museums, archives, and the preservation of Arizona’s rich cultural history.

This award connotes a special acknowledgment of elected or appointed officials (not on the current Library Board) who cherish Arizona’s rich cultural resources and support the work of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

Nominations are made by employees of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, and the members of the Friends of Arizona Archives, and Arizona State Capitol Museum Guild.

The Selection Committee includes one professional staff person from each agency division, one representative from the Friends of Arizona Archives, and one representative from the Arizona State Capitol Museum Guild. Agency Division Directors chair the committee on a rotating basis.

The “Polly” Award is presented annually during Statehood Day celebrations at the State Capitol.



Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records

Winner of the 2007 "Polly" Award



Ken Bennett

Ken Bennett served eight years in the Arizona State Senate--four of those years as the President of the Senate. Mr. Bennett served on the Arizona State Board of Education from 1992 to 1999 (two years as president of that body), the Arizona State Charter Schools Board, as a member of the Education Leaders Council, and the Governor's Task Force on Education Reform. Mr. Bennett, a small business owner, also served on the board of directors of his local Chamber of Commerce and was a city councilman. Born in Tucson and raised in Prescott, Mr. Bennett holds a degree in accounting from Arizona State University.

The "Polly Award" recognizes Mr. Bennett's sincere interest in, support, and public commitment to the State Library's mission to preserve Arizona's history and to provide access to information, as demonstrated in numerous ways:

- ★ From his first days as a legislator in 1999, he showed his interest in Arizona's history through his history questions on the floor of the Senate.
- ★ He often invited Arizona's cultural community to find historical facts and background information for his work as a legislator and his songs and history quizzes. He brought attention to Arizona's history and to her historical and cultural institutions.
- ★ As a member of the Library Board, he demonstrated interest in the statewide mission of the Library and Archives and engaged in its work and issues.
- ★ His understanding of the value of the state's historical records and the need to preserve them for future generations is appreciated by Arizonan's statewide.
- ★ His leadership as President of the Senate and his unfailing support of the Polly Rosenbaum Archives and History Building has led to the start of construction.

He has appreciated the value of cultural institutions and the role they play in helping citizens live their lives, work their jobs, and understand their history. His diverse effort mirrors the hard work of Representative Polly Rosenbaum. It is with deep respect, appreciation, and great pleasure that Ken Bennett was selected for the *Polly Rosenbaum Award*.