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**NEW YORK LIFE SUPPORTS “MR. ALASKA: BOB BARTLETT GOES TO WASHINGTON”**

*Compelling Biography Helps Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alaska’s Statehood By Documenting the Journey of Alaska’s Last Territorial Delegate and First U.S. Senator, E.L. “Bob” Bartlett*

**NEW YORK, N.Y., December 16, 2008** — The University of Alaska Foundation announced it received a \$175,000 grant from New York Life Insurance Company to support *Mr. Alaska: Bob Bartlett Goes to Washington*, the absorbing story of the man most responsible for Alaska’s successful bid for statehood. New York Life Insurance Company is the principal production funder of the documentary, which premieres on AlaskaOne public television, January 29 at 9 p.m. *Mr. Alaska* builds on KUAC’s Emmy-winning production, *The 49th Star*, which chronicles the story of Alaska’s groundbreaking constitution and the collective, grassroots efforts that led to Alaska becoming a full member of the United States of America.

“New York Life is proud to support programming that educates the public about the incredible life of Senator Bob Bartlett who was such an important part of both Alaskan and American history,” said Roberto Recine, managing partner of New York Life’s Alaska General Office. “New York Life hopes to provide insight into the remarkable career of the man most responsible for making Alaska the 49<sup>th</sup> state.”

“This generous grant from New York Life allows the University’s Foundation to tell the inspirational story of a man whose story deserves to be told,” said Mary Rutherford, president, University of Alaska Foundation. “New York Life’s investment in this project strengthens our belief that learning about the past provides a window to our future.”

The program offers an insightful profile of Bob Bartlett who grew up in a gold-mining town in the heart of Alaska. From his early days as a cub reporter with little formal education, Bartlett became the most influential figure in Alaska’s drive to statehood and continued to create a remarkable legislative record during his 24 years in office.

**About New York Life**

New York Life Insurance Company, a *Fortune* 100 company founded in 1845, is the largest mutual life insurance company in the United States and one of the largest life insurers in the world. New York Life has the highest possible financial strength ratings from all four of the major credit rating agencies. Headquartered in New York City, New York Life’s family of companies offers life insurance, retirement income, investments and long-term care insurance. New York Life Investment Management LLC provides institutional asset management and retirement plan services. Other New York Life affiliates provide an array of securities products and services, as well as institutional and retail mutual funds. Please visit New York Life’s Web site at [www.newyorklife.com](http://www.newyorklife.com) for more information.