



E A G L E
R I D G E
R A N C H

CRAIG HAASE
CHARLOTTE HAASE
"DOUBLE C RANCH"

Arizona Commission on the Arts
Attn: Governor's Arts Awards
417 West Roosevelt Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1326

December 12, 2008

Re: James N. Muir

Dear Distinguished Panel of Judges:

We are pleased to have the opportunity to submit this letter to endorse the award of a Governor's Arts Award to James N. Muir, a bronze sculptor. Mr. Muir has been sculpting fine bronzes for nearly thirty years, and from the beginning to the present his pieces have been true to their historical roots as well as their allegorical meanings.

We have been familiar with and admired Mr. Muir's sculptures from very early in his sculpting career. Mr. Muir's work is generally historically based but it always contains strong symbolism related to the historical depiction. His bronzes are realistic in style and very finely finished, so they appeal to not only those viewing the pieces as an instant of time in history but as well to those who search for the symbolism and meaning of the piece.

Mr. Muir attended West Point Military Academy in the mid-1960's, and his early work reflects his interest and depth of understanding of the role that the military has played in the building of our nation. As time passed, Mr. Muir's breadth of subject matter expanded significantly, albeit it remained as art in historical context. The book *Lanterns Along The Path – The Allegorical Art of James N. Muir* (2004) contains photos of more than seventy of Mr. Muir's bronze sculptures and gives an appropriate overview of the depth and quality of his work.

My wife and I have assembled a substantial American art collection over the past thirty years and are privileged to include a number of Mr. Muir's pieces in it. Our latest Muir bronze is the life-size "Fences" which greets visitors to our Colorado Ranch home. We consider Mr. Muir's bronze work to be among the very finest of Twentieth/Twenty-First Century western and historical artists, and we are delighted that we have had the opportunity to own and display some of that work in our home. We have commissioned two pieces with Mr. Muir, and plan on continuing to collect additional bronzes created by him.

Mr. Muir's art has touched the souls of untold numbers of historical and American western art enthusiasts and admirers over the past three decades, and is well recognized and regarded in the sculpting world. Creating his art has been an intense passion and dedication of Mr. Muir during this entire period, with the result that his work is placed in many public places throughout America and some foreign countries. We believe that the Governor could not select a better candidate to receive the Governor's Art Award than James Nathan Muir, and we strongly urge you to make such a recommendation to the Governor. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this endorsement, and please contact us at your convenience should you desire to do so.

Very truly yours,

M. Craig Haase

Muir Endrse Ltr.wpd/CCRanch