Judge Harry Pregerson

October 13, 1923 – November 25, 2017

A Celebration of Life

Shrine Auditorium

December 1, 2017

A Life Well-Lived

Judge Harry Pregerson was born to immigrant parents in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles in 1923. Harry attended Roosevelt High School, where he was elected Student Body President. In September 1941, Harry joined the Naval ROTC at UCLA, where he would again be elected Student Body President. After receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, Harry fought in the Battle of Okinawa and sustained severe wounds to both thighs, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart.

After World War II, Harry attended U.C. Berkeley Law School on the GI Bill. Before his appointment to the bench, Harry practiced law as a storefront attorney in Van Nuys who, in his words, "took every case that walked in the door." Judge Pregerson went on to serve on the state and federal bench for over 50 years. He was appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1965, and later served as a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge and as a United States District Court Judge. As a District Judge, Harry structured a consent decree that created thousands of affordable housing units and created job training, employment, and child care programs for those displaced by the I-105 Century Freeway. The interchange of the 110 and 105 freeways was officially named the "Judge Harry Pregerson Interchange" in recognition of his service. Judge Pregerson later played a key role in protecting public health when he ordered secondary treatment for all wastewater in the Santa Monica Bay, and was affectionately dubbed the "Sludge Judge" for his efforts to modernize the Hyperion Treatment Plant. The new plant, which helped revitalize marine life in the bay, was named one of the Top Ten Public Works Projects of the Twentieth Century, along with the Hoover Dam, Panama Canal, and Golden Gate Bridge. In 1979, he was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where he continued to serve for the rest of his life.

Judge Pregerson dedicated his life to helping the under-served members of our community. He was a tireless advocate for the homeless, particularly veterans and their families. Working with the V.A., The Salvation Army, Century Housing, and U.S. Vets, Harry established homeless shelters, transitional housing, child development centers, and job training facilities throughout Los Angeles, including The Salvation Army's Haven Program on the V.A. West Los Angeles campus, Westwood Transitional Village, Westside Residence Hall in Inglewood, Century Villages at Cabrillo in Long Beach, and the Bell Shelter in eastern Los Angeles, one of the largest homeless shelters in the country.

Judge Pregerson received numerous awards for his work with homeless veterans, including the VA Secretary's Award and the DAV's Disabled Veteran of the Year Award. U.S Vets named its highest award in Harry's honor. Recipients of the Judge Harry Pregerson Public Service Award include a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Harry was tickled that an award named after a lieutenant would be accepted by the highest ranking military officer in the United States. Harry was also designated an Honorary General of The Salvation Army in recognition of his undying commitment to those in need.

The landmarks and facilities that bear Harry's name stand as a testament to his contributions to the city and residents of Los Angeles. They include Judge Harry Pregerson Square, the Judge Harry Pregerson Interchange of the I-110 and I-105 freeways, the Pregerson Tower at Villages at Cabrillo, the Harry Pregerson Childcare Center in the Roybal Federal Building, the Pregerson Child Development Center at Westwood Transitional Village, the Pregerson Technical Services Facility at the Hyperion Treatment Plant, and the Pregerson Dining Hall at the Salvation Army's Bell Shelter.

Harry was a humanitarian, and was never shy about putting his conscience first. As he explained it, "My conscience is a product of the Ten Commandments, the Bill of Rights, the Boy Scout Oath, and the Marine Corps Hymn." Harry once said that he "looked upon being a judge as a chance to help as many people as I could through the law." Until the end, he saw every day as an opportunity to serve others and to live up to his reputation as the "Rescue Machine."

Harry was also a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He lives on in the memories of his wife of over 70 years, Bernardine, his son, United States District Judge Dean Pregerson, daughter Katie Rodan M.D., a dermatologist and co-founder of Proactiv and Rodan + Fields, his daughter-in-law Sharon, son-in-law Amnon, grandchildren Bradley, Elana, and Daniela, great-grandchildren Ella and Harlan, his sister, Diane, and brother, Jim.

He will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation in Harry's honor to:
GrowGood www.grow-good.org/donate

Harry touched all of our lives.
Please share your personal story, anecdote, or "Harryism" through any of the following:

- **An online memorial journal** at: http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/HarryPregerson/Homepage.aspx

- **Call** and record a Harry story: It will be transcribed and treasured. Please call (310) 421-0159

- **Send a Harry story by email** to: harry@edataservices.com