



State of New Jersey

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL REMEMBERS RILEY REGAN

Pioneer and Advocate for Alcoholism and Drug Treatment Dies at Age 77

TRENTON (December 10, 2012) – The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is saddened by the loss of Riley Regan, a true champion in the field of alcoholism and drug abuse. Regan was a founding director of the New Jersey Division of Alcoholism, where he implemented the Alcoholism Treatment and Rehabilitation Act in order to establish a statewide county planning system for alcoholism treatment and prevention. He also served as the Council's first Executive Director among many other storied achievements in New Jersey and nationally.

Regan, himself a recovering alcoholic, gave voice to the voiceless through his efforts to combat the powerful stigma associated with alcoholism and drug abuse. He was also an early advocate of treatment over incarceration, a philosophy that has now been put into action by Governor Chris Christie through his recently enacted drug court initiative.

"Riley Regan wore his heart on his sleeve. He lived his commitment by being a true friend to those living with alcoholism and drug abuse," said Neil Van Ess, Acting GCADA Chairman. "I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the Council when Riley was executive director. He never took his eyes off the mission and his contribution to our efforts will surely be missed."

John Hulick GCADA executive director also has cherished memories of working with Regan who provided Hulick with his first grant to Signs of Sobriety, Inc. an agency founded by Hulick for the state's deaf and hard of hearing population in 1988. More than twenty years later, when Hulick was Policy Advisor to Governor Chris Christie, Regan, in keeping with his unflinching dedication to advocacy presented a lengthy and detailed policy paper on how to fix the system.

"Riley selflessly dedicated his life to the issue of alcoholism and drug abuse, paving the way for so many of us, helping to break down the barriers faced by those living with alcoholism and drug abuse and their families," Hulick. "We will continue to honor Riley and his extraordinary legacy through our unflinching dedication to GCADA's mission."