



cultural in Los Angeles (symphony, opera, theater, dance, speakers), a devoted reader of his beloved LA Times, and a daily player on his parents' Steinway, with a repertoire that stretched from Chopin to Prokofiev. He was devoted to family and enjoyed meeting relatives near and far whom he discovered through his study of genealogy in retirement.



# Celebration of Life



Judges Association and President of the National Conference of Special Court Judges of the American Bar Association. Phil had extensive judicial teaching experience in the municipal and superior courts, and at the California and National judicial colleges. He was a 40-year Board member of Volunteers of America (VOA, Los Angeles), and was a longtime member of the American Jewish Committee (AJC)—as was his mother before him—and of Dispute Resolution Services of the L.A. County Bar Association.



Phil married Judith A. Enright on 1 September 2014 and resided in Bel Air, CA. He continued his love of travel with Judy and visited 2/3 of the world's countries. He was a highly dedicated attendee of all things

## PHILIP M. SAETA

FEBRUARY 21, 1931 - DECEMBER 27, 2019

*We thank you for honoring Phil*

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, and all around *mensh*, Philip M. Saeta, died peacefully at his home in Bel Air, California, on 27 December 2019 at the age of 88 after resisting mesothelioma with determination and grace for four years. He is survived by his wife, Judith A. Enright; his children, David (wife Leslie), Peter (wife Linda), Sandra (husband Alan McDaniel); and his sister, Sonia Michelson. He is preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Joanne E. Hixson Saeta, and their son Stephen Saeta. He loved watching his eight grandsons—Brennan (wife Jordanna), Andrew (wife Charlotte), Ethan, Matthew, Michael, Ryan, Jack and Sam—grow and blossom.



*Remembering a Life Well Lived*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 AT 2:00 PM

# Sunday Remembering Phil

A Life in Summary - February 21, 1931 to December 27, 2019

BY PETER SAETA

Phil was born on 21 February 1931 at Cedars of Lebanon in Hollywood, CA, to parents Maurice Saeta and Elizabeth Jacobs Saeta. He grew up surrounded by cousins atop a hill in Silver Lake, attending neighborhood public schools (Ivanhoe Elementary, King Junior High, Marshall High) courtesy of the street-car, before Detroit had it removed. After graduating high school in January he began his college career at UCLA while living at home, but he disliked commuting and applied to transfer to Stanford.

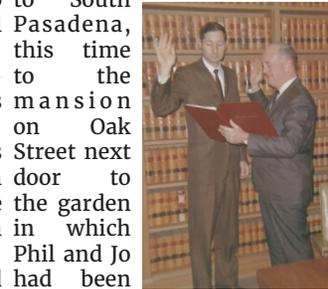
At the start of his Stanford career, he needed a dance partner for the freshman "Jolly-Up" dance (seriously, don't ask) and Joanne E. Hixson happily accepted. Speaking for my siblings, that was pretty darn lucky. They were together through most of their undergraduate careers, despite the fact that women were not allowed past the post office after dark. Phil graduated Phi Beta Kappa with an A.B. in a combination of economics and po-

litical science termed undergraduate law, following which he started midyear at Stanford Law. He was then called away during the Korean conflict to serve in the U.S. Army in El Paso, Texas, from 1953-1955. Perhaps his proudest achievement in the military was typing his own release form. Unless, of course, it was his decision to marry Jo Hixson on 28 August 1954 in the garden of Oneonta Church in South Pasadena, California. After finishing Stanford Law (LLB, 1957) and taking the Bar examination, Jo and Phil left for Europe, which they explored widely and frugally on the "a loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and thou" tour for eight months. They then returned



to buy a starter house on Palm Avenue in South Pasadena, where Phil began his law career at Beardsley, Hufstедler & Kemble (1958-1964). At Palm they had three boys (David, Peter, and Stephen) and then moved to a larger house on Madeleine in Pasadena. Considering a career on the bench required them to live within Los Angeles City proper, so they moved to a tract home on Adelante Avenue in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Sandra completed the quartet of kids after the move and shortly thereafter, Pat Brown appointed

him to the bench on the municipal court of Los Angeles. A 1969 change in law allowed the family to move back to South Pasadena, this time to the mansion on Oak Street next door to the garden in which Phil and Jo had been married in 1954. As a young municipal court judge, Phil became persuaded that alcoholism was a pervasive problem, among the folks on Skid Row all the way up to colleagues on the bench. Phil was heavily involved in state, county, and local bar associations concerned with alcohol abuse, tilting towards treatment rather than punishment.



In 1975 Phil was appointed to the L.A. Superior Court, where he served until retiring in 1991 and began a career in mediation and arbitration that lasted until 2018. He was also very active in state and national judicial committees, including two terms on the Executive Board of the California



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## Rememberances

WELCOME  
David Saeta

FAMILY MEMORIES  
Peter Saeta  
Sandy McDaniel  
Judy Enright  
Louis Michelson

OPEN INVITATION  
All are welcome to share your  
rememberances

CLOSE  
Peter Saeta & Sandy McDaniel



MUSIC PERFORMED BY  
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