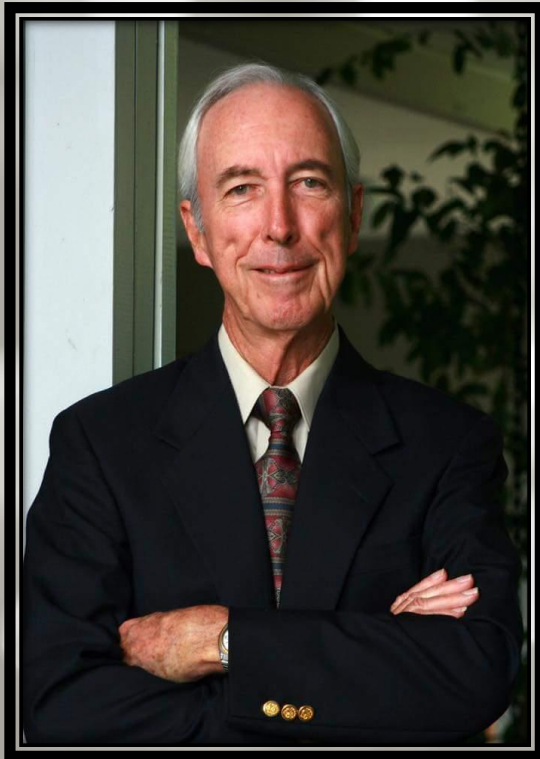


ALOHA,  
**HON. JAMES S. BURNS [Ret.]**



**A TRIBUTE**

**(One Crusader Brother to Another)**

*SLAA, SLS & the people of Hawaii have lost a legend.*

**Like so many in our 808 Island State**, I was fortunate enough to work side-by-side with this exceptional man for years. NO, not in the law (as many might assume), but at ST. LOUIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ("SLAA"), both he and I (& so many others) being graduates from the Slopes of Kalaepohaku; he of SAINT LOUIS COLLEGE in 1955 & I of SAINT LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL in 1979.

**Judge Burns guided me** "behind the scenes" when I first was privileged enough to be elected to the SLAA Board of Directors some 15 or more years ago, and even "way back then", he had already been our SLAA President (& quite frankly, our lifeblood) for decades. NO, we didn't always agree, but as a man of honor and dignity ----- the Star-Advertiser's fitting obituary says, "a model of integrity," and that's so true ----- he never ignored other opinions and ideas, but rather in his low key and extremely judicial way, always allowed for and even encouraged discussion & debate. The post SLAA Board meeting "talk-story" sessions Judge Burns and I regularly had, beyond the SL Fellowship, were the times I learned the most from this unique Kupuna, from everything I needed to know about **Family Court** (he having been the Chief Judge there decades ago and "Father of Hawaii Family Law" at the ICA), **SLS** (he having been a Trustee & our SLAA Representative there for decades) & most importantly, just how to effectively lead **OUR SLAA**. Was it grooming for me, as I later stepped into Judge Burns' legacy, or was I simply fortunate enough to be "chosen" to learn from hours of "talk-story?" No mattah. I learned, and when Judge Burns left leadership roles at SLAA after some 35-40 years, he in his quiet and oh so meaningful way, left me a note saying only simply, "IT'S YOUR TURN. TAKE US FORWARD." Under it was his SLAA Briefcase which I saw him faithfully carry for years; I cherish it and the wisdom to this day! Judge Burns was just that kind of man and that kind of Crusader to me, and to all.

**Crusader Nation will miss Judge Burns** more than anyone could ever understand, to include even ourselves. He was and always will be, even "from above," THE definition of "The Saint Louis Brotherhood" and OUR Crusader for Life. As the paper said, he really was "a model of integrity."



**P. GREGORY FREY '79**

SLAA Board President  
SLS Trustee Vice-Chair