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**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019**

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**STATEMENT OF**  
**CHIEF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN M. RYAN**

It is with a heavy heart that I share the very sad news that our beloved Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown has passed away. He was 86 years old.

Judge Brown - as he has long been affectionately called - was a public servant like no other. He topped a spectacular judicial career and was appointed the district attorney of Queens County in 1991 by then-Gov. Mario Cuomo. He was proud to serve the millions of people of Queens for nearly 28 years and was re-elected to seven terms in office.

Judge Brown's goal as District Attorney from the very start was to elevate the standard of professionalism by hiring on merit, not political connections. And he made it a priority to have the most talented, capable and dedicated professionals imaginable.

Together with his law enforcement colleagues throughout New York City, Judge Brown contributed greatly to making this City the safest big city in the nation. His District Attorney's Office created one of the State's first Drug Courts, as well as Mental Health Courts and Veterans Court - all very successful over the years and their models duplicated across the country.

Many programs followed - a Domestic Violence Bureau, the Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Animal Cruelty Unit and most recently the Queens Treatment Intervention Program (Q-TIP) created to address the scourge of opioid addiction by providing a second chance for addicts to avoid criminal prosecution and to literally save lives.

Judge Brown loved working for the people of Queens. He would often be the first person in the office and very likely the last to leave every day - and sometimes on weekends too. He was known to visit crime scenes, meet with victims and work tirelessly to give them justice.

In January, Judge Brown announced that he would not seek re-election and in March he decided that on June 1, 2019, he would step down due to increasing health problems associated with Parkinson's Disease.

The Judge died last night. He is survived by his wife Rhoda, their three children Karen, Todd and his wife Monica, and Lynn and her husband Bruce. Judge Brown was exceedingly proud of his granddaughters Leah, who is entering her last year at West Point, and Alana, who will start her first year at West Point in September.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. at The Reform Temple of Forest Hills, 71-11 112<sup>th</sup> Street in Forest Hills, Queens.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**