

Distinguished Alumni Award

Judy Greeness Regnier

The University High School Alumni Association honors Judy Greeness Regnier, class of 1958, as the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient for her contributions to her profession and civic service.

Regnier has had a widely varied life, and nearly all her experiences have helped improve other's lives in some way. She has been the first female computer programmer at two companies, a wife and mother, an Interior Designer, a Registered Nurse, a speaker/volunteer for Donate Life California, and a watercolor artist. Regnier is also a liver transplant recipient and breast cancer survivor.

Regnier graduated from University High School in 1958, where she participated in a variety of school activities and earned numerous distinctions: National Honor Society, Student Council Secretary, Class Officer, Cheerleader, Thespians, Clarion Staff, Academic Clubs, and Homecoming Queen.

After graduation, she attended Northern Illinois University for two years, was chosen to be a CWENS honor society member her sophomore year, and was a proud member of Sigma Kappa sorority. She then continued her education at Illinois State University while she worked as a computer programmer. Regnier later was active as a Sigma Kappa Alumnae Advisor at Purdue University, while living in Lafayette, IN.

Utilizing her higher education in mathematics and science, Regnier's first career choice was with State Farm Life Insurance Company in 1960, where she advanced through the ranks and became one of two female computer programmers at the company. Later in 1962, she also became the first female programmer at Southland Corporation in Dallas, TX.

Having an early interest in the Nursing profession, it was at age 36 that Regnier demonstrated the courage to pursue her real passion and earned her Associate's degree in Nursing from Polk Community College in 1978. Throughout her 20 years of work in the Nursing field, she has had intensive and varied experience in hospital nursing, but she attributes her most important and rewarding years to home health and Hospice Nursing, which has been her passion.

It was during her nursing career that Regnier contracted Hepatitis C while working in Intensive Care, which she was completely unaware of until she developed symptoms 20 years later. As a result, she was told she was terminal unless she received a liver transplant. Luckily, on Mother's Day 1998, Regnier received the gift of life through organ donation from an anonymous family. This second chance on life is what fueled Regnier to help impact other's lives by becoming an active speaker and volunteer for the Donate Life California organization and assisting with registration of other potential organ donors.

Outside of her work experiences noted above, Regnier's other passion is art. She is a watercolorist, and has formed a company, "In Full Color", to sell her paintings and note cards that she creates.

Regnier and her husband, Ken, were married in 1995, and together have three children and seven grandchildren. Her other hobbies include music, local dramatic productions, reading books, travel, fishing, and golf.

"You can't be brave if you've had only wonderful things happen to you."
(favorite quote from Mary Tyler Moore)

University High School



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