


Filipino American National History Society

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To: FANHS Trustees
FANHS Chapter Presidents

From: Dorothy Cordova 
FANHS Executive Director

Today at 7:40 a.m. my husband, Fred, died at Seattle's Virginia Mason Hospital

October 31 Fred had a massive stroke - a large pool of blood in the right ventricle of his brain. For a week he was in critical then intensive care in the hospital. He went to a skilled nursing facility where we hoped he would gain back his health and the ability to walk, talk and write again. The prognosis was a long rehabilitation. Fred was mostly semi-conscious and unable to respond well to rehab and was released. So we brought him home where we set up a hospital room and provided him with loving 24/7 care by family members. We were hopeful because he was beginning to respond to some of the family.

However, an infection in his abdomen because of a feeding tube which was too tight sent him back to the hospital. After a brief stay again at home we were hopeful he would slowly recuperate. However, that was not to be. Fred was being fed through a tube in his stomach. Since he was unable to eat food through his mouth - his salivary glands were not functioning which caused another more serious infection to set in. Last Monday Fred began to experience great pain below his ear to his jaw area and eventually through his entire head.. The pain gradually increased and on Tuesday he was brought by ambulance to Virginia Mason ER. We were told then that due to his weak condition, the severity of the infection and other serious health problems (prostate cancer and a plummeting blood pressure) Fred might not be able to survive the week.

He received the last rites of our Catholic Church from our two Filipino parish priests and later by our Archbishop Peter Sartain. Fred held on until the last of our far-flung student and working grandchildren came home for Christmas. Family and close relatives came to bid goodbye. The final night was extremely hard on him although he was given hourly doses of morphine to ease the pain caused by the infection. By 7:00 a.m. he was calm but gradually my dear husband gave up the spirit.

The night before Fred had the stroke he was busy writing passages for his forthcoming book - which now is more than 400 pages (which must be edited). **Fred's stroke occurred exactly one year after his unexpected 2012 triple by-pass.** The past year he was gradually gaining back strength and was driven by the need to complete his book and eager to search for additional historical material to add. Since June he has been coming to the office for a few hours each day to work on his manuscript and to organize the ever-growing pile of material for his beloved **National Pinoy Archives**. He also continued work on his latest mission - the **San Pedro Calungsod Shrine** at our church the Immaculate Conception.

As usual, he was busy during October celebrating Filipino American History Month - another one of Fred's ideas. It is ironic that the past two years Fred ended that important month with a bang - by suffering life-threatening heart attack and then a stroke. **His funeral will be held January 4 at our parish church. My family and I will miss him. Please pray for us.**