



Dr. Wilfrido Castillo Feliciano

June 5, 1943 - December 6, 2024

Dr. Wilfrido Feliciano (Dido), a well-respected reconstructive surgeon and true renaissance man, left us peacefully in the early morning of December 6 surrounded by music and his loving family.

Professionally, he was incredibly hard-working, loyal, resilient, principled, and was a leader in his various communities. Through sheer determination and self-reliance he found success and exemplified the American Dream.

His family survived the final bombing campaign of World War II by traveling with his family to hide on the volcanic island in Lake Taal and eventually grew up in Ozamiz, Philippines. Educated at Misamis University elementary school, Dido eventually made his way at the early age of 14 to Manila to study at the University of the Philippines for college and then medical school.

At 18, selected by the Rockefeller Foundation, he went to Kansas University medical school on an exchange program. That year, he saw snow for the first time, stood in Times Square on a freezing New Year's Eve, tried half a beer, and returned home with every penny his parents had given him for spending.

On a medical student trip with multiple med schools, he met his beloved Dr. Leonor Testa (Nong) - the yin to his yang. While playing guitar, belting out "I Saw Her Standing There" in the back of the plane, Nong thought he was

handsome and introduced herself to him. After many months of courting, Nong proposed and told him they were getting married and did so on April 27, 1968. Their first two children, Bart and Sonjie, were born in Manila.

Their young family moved to the USA to pursue further medical training. He was recognized for his surgical skill when assisting in a difficult case, and he quickly earned a competitive position in plastic surgery residency at Columbia Presbyterian.

They planned to return home to provide care for his beloved Filipinos, but with Martial Law declared by Ferdinand Marcos in the early 70s, they chose to stay in the US for safety, Leaving most of his family behind, save for one brother in NJ, he chose a freer life with more opportunities, but always longed to be back home.

He joined Plastic Surgery Consultants in St. Louis, MO and two more children followed, Joy and Angie. His practice was split between plastic and emergency room reconstructive surgery and completed the third penile reattachment surgery in the US and reattached dozens of limbs that were able to fully function. He was active in the medical community in St Louis and with the Philippine Medical Association and the UP Medical Alumni Society of America, eventually becoming president of UPMASA.

He gave back to his country by raising funds and going on yearly medical missions to performing free surgeries such as cleft palates and repair of severe burns for thousands who had no other means to get medical care. Through Gawad Kalinga, he built villages of homes for dozens of families experiencing severe poverty.

But Dido was also a true renaissance man. He carved his own electric guitar of wood, whittled slingshots and potato guns for his grandchildren, could

name every tree and plant in the Philippine tropics and in his backyard. He had been an avid photographer, capturing gardens, his travels, and his loved ones. As he got older, he also loved searching the city for the best rotisserie chicken, making regular trips to Sam's club and Walmart, walking his best fur-friend, Sammy, and picking up his grandson from school. And, every day, he played guitar and sang for hours. When words wouldn't express his feelings, song was his love language.

He is predeceased by his love, Leonor Testa, his parents Dr. Jaime and Estella Feliciano; brother Dr. Roberto Feliciano; and his in-laws Antonio and Lourdes Testa. He leaves behind his children Bart, Sonjie (Perry), Joy (Pat) and Angie (Keith); grandchildren: Mae, Theo, Nora, Manny, Owen, Estella, Alex, Luke and Gigi; younger brother Dr. Rey Feliciano. He also leaves behind his brothers and sisters from the UP Medical School class 1966, Nong's medical school class of 1967, and the dozens of Filipino immigrants who became extended family when they all left the Philippines. His family and friends will miss him terribly but happy to know that he is reunited with Nong.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Dr. Wilfrido Feliciano may be directed to support the Upper Aerodigestive Department at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. Please make checks payable to Johns Hopkins University. Gifts may be mailed with a memo indicating that this gift is in memory of Dr. Wilfrido Feliciano to the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, 750 E. Pratt Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202 or make a gift online. If you would like to donate to Gawad Kalinga, please email felicianogkgift@gmail.com. Donations can also be made to <https://gk-usa.salsalabs.org/InLovingMemoryofDrWilfridoCastilloFelicianoTitoDido/index.html>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Memorial Service

DEC **21**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Livestream begins at 2pm

Tribute Wall



“ *Mitchell-Wiedefeld Funeral Home. created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Wilfrido Castillo Feliciano*



Mitchell-Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc. - December 18, 2024 at 03:40 PM

TS

*When the Lord calls our loved ones home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange.
You will be missed Dr Dido. Rest in peace.*

Tonie Santos - December 21, 2024 at 01:19 AM

CS

“ *The Gawad Kalinga USA family deeply mourns the loss of Dr. Wilfrido "Tito Dido" Feliciano, a man of boundless compassion, humility, and service. Tito Dido was not only a brilliant surgeon but also a true beacon of hope for countless families in the Philippines.*

Through his unwavering support for GK, especially the Leonor Feliciano Legacy Village in GK Samata, Las Piñas, built in honor of his beloved Tita Nong, Tito Dido demonstrated a profound love for his heritage and people. His visits to the village—whether engaging with residents, sharing laughter with children, or simply listening to their stories—were acts of quiet yet transformative generosity. Even in the face of illness, his heart remained steadfast in service, reminding us all that true greatness lies in selflessness.

Tito Dido's legacy is one of lives uplifted, dreams restored, and dignity rebuilt. His kindness, humility, and deep commitment to others have left an indelible mark on all who were blessed to know him.

Thank you, Tito Dido, for your life of love and service. You will always be remembered as a hero of hope. May your legacy inspire us to carry forward your vision of a better, brighter world. Rest in peace.

With gratitude and love,

Gawad Kalinga USA

Chrissie Saplala - January 08, 2025 at 10:55 AM

CT

We miss you Kuya Dido ❤️ 🙏

Carol Tulud - February 15, 2025 at 10:40 AM

“ *Eulogy for Dr. Wilfrido Castillo Feliciano (Tito Dido) delivered by Carol Tulud, Executive Director of GK USA*

We gather here today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Dr. Wilfrido Castillo Feliciano, whom many of us lovingly called Tito Dido. While our hearts are heavy with loss, they are also filled with gratitude for the extraordinary gift of his life—a life dedicated to love, service, and compassion.

Tito Dido was more than a brilliant surgeon; he was a healer of hearts and a builder of hope. Through Gawad Kalinga, he transformed not just houses but lives, creating homes filled with dignity and dreams for families in need. His unwavering commitment to Leonor Feliciano Legacy Village in GK Samata in Las Piñas, built in honor of his beloved Tita Nong, exemplified his deep love for his heritage and his people. Despite battling illness, Tito Dido made every effort to visit the village, sharing laughter and stories with the residents and ensuring the children felt seen and valued. His last visits, even when his body was weary, are a testament to his extraordinary spirit—a spirit that prioritized others over self, always.

Tito Dido’s impact extended beyond bricks and mortar. His quiet generosity and compassionate heart made miracles happen. Whether it was providing world-class medical care for someone in dire need or simply playing his guitar to uplift a soul, Tito Dido lived with a love that was boundless and deeply genuine. He reminded us that true greatness lies in humility, and true strength lies in service.

On behalf of Gawad Kalinga and the many lives he touched in the Philippines, I want to say thank you, Tito Dido. Thank you for showing us what it means to love unconditionally and to serve selflessly. Thank you for embodying the values we hold dear—of caring for the least, the last, and the lost. You have left an indelible mark on our hearts and a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

To his family, thank you for sharing Tito Dido with us. His love for you was evident in every word and action, and through you, his light will continue to shine.

As we say goodbye today, let us carry Tito Dido's memory forward in the work we do, in the lives we touch, and in the dreams we pursue for a better world. He has gone home to the Lord and to his beloved Nong, but his spirit will always be with us, urging us to love, to serve, and to hope.

Rest in peace, Tito Dido. You have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. Maraming salamat po. Your legacy of love lives on in all of us.

Chrissie Saplala - January 08, 2025 at 10:52 AM

TS

“ *When the Lord calls our loved ones home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange.*

You will be missed Dr Dido. Rest in peace.

Tonie Santos - December 21, 2024 at 01:24 AM

KE

“ *Dr. Feliciano was a kind, caring and skilled physician. He was truly a renaissance man who enriched his community through music, philanthropy and raising wonderful children. I am blessed to have known him. My deepest condolences to the family.*

Kristin Edmonds - December 20, 2024 at 10:10 PM

MS

“ *Dr. Dido was a true mentor to us through Gawad Kalinga - St. Louis and Philippines Art Foundation and personally like a father to us. We enjoyed his singing and playing the guitar too! Sending our deepest condolences to the family.*
Ranel and Marisol Sarmiento

Marisol Sarmiento - December 20, 2024 at 08:53 AM

SF

“ *Sharon F.Neri-Ramos lit a candle in memory of Wilfrido Feliciano*



Sharon F.Neri-Ramos - December 20, 2024 at 05:05 AM

RN

“ *My deepest condolences to the Feliciano family. We love Tito Dido and Tita Nong. They have been great supporters of the Philippine Art Foundation of St. Louis and model parents to us and our children. We will miss you.*

Rowena Navarro - December 11, 2024 at 03:31 PM

EF

“ Dido, Dr Wilfrido Feliviano, respected plastic and reconstructive surgeon, was a friend, a leader, mentor to many. Truly a self-giving man for others, he served as consulting board to Gawad Kalinga and Gawad Kalusugan. He will be sorely missed.

God welcomes you Home.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends.

🙏💕 Boy and Emy

Eustaquio O Abay II, MD, FACS

Neurosurgery

Eustaquio O Abay II, MD FACS - December 09, 2024 at 11:40 AM

JD

Will truly miss you .

Our love and prayers. Condolence to families.

Jun Maria Raffinan

Jose Maria Raffinan M D - December 10, 2024 at 10:59 AM

JF

Friend. Teacher of Medicine and life. I am sad, and uneasy that such a great man is lost to his family, community and the world. I strive to do all you showed by example. Pax Vobiscum mihi boni amici.

Joseph Sudekum, MD, FAAOS - December 20, 2024 at 08:20 PM

RM

Dido was a fellow surgeon. We went to medical school and general surgery residency together. Before his wife Nong passed, she expressed her deepest worry of how Dido would fare when she is gone. And Dido through the years after her passing showed his unabashed love and care for Nong through words by way of songs and deeds by continuing Nong's passion for their charitable projects. Dido and Nong started their love with the Beatles song "I saw her standing there" and together they will reunite with " each one believing that love never dies here, there and everywhere " another Beatles song. Never witnessed before this kind of love that will last longer than forever. Our deepest sympathy to their son , daughters , grandchildren and rest of family. Rovil and Thelma Villanueva, M. D.s Class 1966

Rolando Villanueva MD - December 21, 2024 at 07:18 AM

EA

Our deepest condolences to the Feliciano family. We love you dear UPCM66 classmate Dido, may you rest in peace and join Nong in Heaven. Thank you Sonjie for reaching out to us thru Ferdinand. The Arcinue Family.

Edgardo Arcinue - December 21, 2024 at 12:13 PM

MP

*Dear Arnel, Sonjie, Joy, and Angie,
Thank you so much for yesterday's beautiful webcast. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and your memories, and thank you to all the other family and friends who were there and who helped put it together. We still wish to have been with you in person, and hope to be able to visit in the future - either where you are or in Missouri. I was happy to find that I'm not the only one who still thinks of Bart as Arnel! With love from all the Parks*

Mary Parks - December 22, 2024 at 02:24 PM