



Dr. Fortunato O. Sunio

April 3, 1931 - April 25, 2021

Beloved husband, father, and pediatrician

Dr. Fortunato O. Sunio, 90, succumbed to heart disease in Dallas, Texas on April 25, 2021. Born on April 3, 1931 in Lucena, Philippines, Dr. Sunio often boasted to his children that he was the smartest boy in his graduating class at Quezon City High School in 1950—not only because he had earned the distinction of class valedictorian, but because he would later convince Victoria Uy, the most alluring and intelligent girl in his class, to be his wife. The couple both attended the University of the Philippines for their undergraduate degrees, and in 1957 Fortunato obtained his medical degree from UP as well. Dr. Sunio completed a residency at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City, New York, another residency at Children's Hospital in Detroit, and a fellowship in hematology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Then he worked a year in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, before he returned to the Philippines where he eventually became chief of staff at Capiz Emmanuel Hospital in Roxas City.

In 1968 when Dr. Sunio established his private pediatric practice at Kimbro Clinic, the Sunio family became the first Filipino settlers in Cleburne, and he became a naturalized US citizen in 1973. A fellow Filipino and UP grad, the late Dr. Victor Abello joined Dr. Sunio in pediatrics in 1974. Then, in 1975 the late Dr. Narciso Cinco joined the Kimbro medical group with his ENT clinic, which completed the Philippine triumvirate. In 1979 Dr. Sunio became instrumental in creating a network of Filipino physicians in the metroplex and serving as the first president of the North Texas Association of Philippine Physicians (NTAPP). Dr. Sunio also served as chapter president of the University of the Philippines Medical Society (UPMASA) from 1985 to 1987.

Although Dr. Sunio eventually left Cleburne in 1990 and went on to work as a physician at the Texas State Schools for Mental Health and Retardation in the cities of Denton, Mexia, and Terrell, his heart always remained in Cleburne, where he had raised his own five children and where the people were as warm as the tropical climate to which he was accustomed in the Philippines. He never forgot the young patients under his care nor the

vast friendships forged in his neighborhood and the congregation of The First Baptist Church in Cleburne. He enjoyed games that kept his mind active, such as winning at mah jongg and watching Jeopardy! Most of all, he loved to encourage young people and dispense advice to people of all ages.

Dr. Sunio is preceded by his parents Jose and Maria Sunio; sisters Milagros, Florence and Anne Sunio; and brother Demosthenes Sunio.

Dr. Sunio is survived by his devoted wife of fifty-six years, Victoria Sunio; his daughter Maria V. Sunio and her husband Robert Loucks, his son Jose F. Sunio, his daughter Florence A. Sunio and her husband Christopher St. John, his daughter Mila Janette Sunio and her husband Mark Solberg, his daughter Laura K. Sunio and her husband Jonathan Haben, and his grandchildren: Olivia Loucks, Audrie Loucks, Isabella St. John, Celeste St. John, Eleanor Solberg, and Dean Haben. Dr. Sunio is also survived by his younger brother Aristotle Sunio.

The service will be by invitation only however all friends and family are welcome to view the live stream of the service.

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/53335/hash:D08E42C096417E7C>

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to support pediatric or cardiac research at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Office of Development & Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 910888, Dallas, Texas 75391-0888, or <https://engage.utsouthwestern.edu/donate-now>

Events

MAY **Service** 02:30PM

3

Memorial Chapel at Restland Memorial Park
13005 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX, US, 75243

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery - May 03 at 12:18 PM



“ I'd like to make a correction to my story about family vacations. It was Sam and Kay Walls of Cleburne who graciously lent my family their R,V. In my throes of grief I bungled his name, and I'm sorry. Their son George Walls was in my church youth group. Love to you all! — Florence Sunio

Florence Sunio - May 04 at 11:57 AM



“ Maria Sunio is following this tribute.

Maria Sunio - May 14 at 03:05 PM



“ To Dr. Sunio's family, I was Dr. Sunio and Dr. Abello's front desk receptionist at the Kimbro Clinic. He and Dr. Abello were the best doctor's to work for. It was such a wonderful experience for me to be around these doctors. I will always remember Dr. Sunio for it was he who sent me down the hallway with a new baby to have the baby's feet checked by the Podiatrist. That is when I met my future husband Dr. Jerome Quinn. That was 43 yrs ago. I sent Christmas cards to both Dr. Sunio and Abello the last 4 years of their lives. I enjoyed talking to Dr. Sunio on the phone one year. Dr. Sunio and Mrs. Sunio will always be special people in my life. To Mrs. Sunio, I am so sorry for your loss. Know you and your family are in my prayers. The four years at Kimbro Clinic are the best years of my working life. He will be dearly missed just like Dr. Abello and Dr. Cinco. Sincerely, Mrs. Vicki Barker Quinn and my dear husband Dr. Jerome Quinn

Vicki Barker Quinn - May 13 at 10:21 PM



“ Dr. Sunio or Manong Forting as we called him was calling me frequently during the month of March to suggest that I take my husband, Dr Oscar Jaurigue to SouthwesternHospital to have his abdominal aneurysm checked and and repaired there I appreciate so much his concern for my husband Dr Sunio was a ver caring person.

Divinia R. Jaurigue - May 11 at 10:06 AM



“ Our heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences to the Sunio family. We will always remember Uncle Forting and his smiling face. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

May he Rest in Peace.

Eileen, Erwin, Ethan and Erik Cura

Eileen Cura - May 04 at 03:15 PM



“ I will always remember Forting as a gregarious and fun guy to be with during our medical school days. I can't recall a day with him as being dull or contrarian when I interacted with him during school time or socializing afterwards. I will always cherish those fun times as well as some serious discussions of our futures when we still young...Agapito (Pitong) S. Lorenzo....

Agapito S. Lorenzo, M.D. - May 03 at 09:14 PM



“ My sincere condolence to Nenette Sunio and the rest of the Sunio clan. It really is hard to lose a caring, compassionate and magnanimous colleague and friend. I met Fortingc for the first time in 1976 when I visited my classmate and fraternity brod, Dr. Victor Abello, in Cleburne , Texas.

After I have settled with my medical,practice in Grand Prairie, Texas, I realized the need for the many Filipino physicians in North Texas, to get together, to organize for social, cultural, educational and humanitarian purposes.

I called for an organizational meeting, in 1979 at the board room of the old Grand Prairie Community Hospital. Dr. Fortunato Sunio, was unanimously elected to led the nascent body, called then the Texas Assoxiation of Philippine Pysician, North Chapter.

He incorporated the organization and had our first induction and gala in Dallas. Dr Sunio, also was the second president of Texas UPMASA, when we organize it in 1983, following Dr. Narciso Cinco.

Dr. Sunio, has always been a stalwart supporter of NTAPP and UPMASA and was magnanimous of his time and money.

It is poignant that NTAPP get started with Dr. Sunio and that with his demise, we are also currently discussing the dissolution of NTAPP.

Goodbye and Godspeed to heaven dear friend and may you Rest In Peace in the bossom of our universal Healer and Creator!

Al

Alberto Manahan, MD, upcm '65 - May 03 at 03:56 PM



“ In the summer of 1960, accompanied by my wife Donna, I drove from Chicago to Waterville, Maine where I was enrolled in a three-month course in basic ophthalmology given by the Harvard Medical School held at the Colby College. Along the way, we visited friends and relatives, many of whom were interns or residents like me who were participating in the US Exchange Visitor Program after graduation from the UP College of Medicine and internship at Philippine General Hospital. In New York City, we visited Forting at the St. Vincent Hospital where he was a resident. He was a most hospitable host; he took us on a Cook's tour of the city, treated us to a nice steak dinner and offered us free rooms in the hospital dorm which we readily accepted. That was our first visit to the Big Apple and Forting made it a most memorable one.

Jose D. Peczon, M.D.

Jose D. Peczon, M.D. - May 03 at 10:22 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Sunio and Family,
Please accept our heartfelt condolences during this very difficult time. We send you our love and prayers. We remember warmly the wonderful times we had with Dr. Sunio and your family over the years.
Michelle Conde

Michelle Conde - May 03 at 08:53 AM



“ The picture I posted was in 1955. I'm the little boy. Uncle Forting stayed with us for a while in Kamuning, QC while he was in med school. You don't know me personally but my dad is the first cousin of your dad. Their mothers were sisters. You can ask Uncle Titol/Aris about our family. May Uncle Forting's soul rest in peace.

Raul R Villanueva - May 03 at 12:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Raul R Villanueva - May 03 at 12:43 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Uncle Forting at Aguila 25th Anniversary



Maria Sunio - May 03 at 12:43 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Maria Sunio - May 03 at 12:41 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Maria Sunio - May 03 at 12:39 AM