

**JESUS T. CO, MD**  
**(1935-2009)**  
**“My Tribute to My Dad”**  
Johanna Co-Dy Lim, MD



In behalf of our family, allow me to start by thanking each and everyone's offering of support and prayers. Indeed, we are having a most difficult time facing this loss. We desperately try and search for answers hoping to appease the hurt. I remember during his last days, Papa turned to his Bible and one of his favorite chapters was from Psalms: "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10), a passage that I have come across to dwell on.

Most of you probably received Dr. Jesus Co's passing in shock. Unbeknownst to you, we have been dealing with his illness for about six months. And we know there are unending questions about the how, when and even why, but kindly indulge me in giving you a glimpse into his journey.

Jess, as his friends endearingly called him has been most passionate about his work. He cared deeply for his patients. He was so articulate and well-versed and could talk about anything under the sun. Papa had a voracious appetite in reading and learning not limited to his field. He challenged us into healthy debates in all of our specialties- gastroenterology, pediatrics and especially ENT, but unfortunately he was no match for my mom's showbiz knowledge. He was an avid sportsman as well- in golf and lately, one of his other loves, fishing. My dad's happiest moments would be spending time with his grandchildren teaching them how to fish.

I could go on endlessly with this tribute for he excelled in various endeavors. But let me just share with you that he was first and foremost a family man. He was the eldest of 10 children hailing from Binalonan, Pangasinan. His brothers and sisters addressed him as "*manong*" for he was almost like the head of their family since "*angkong*" died. I remember my aunts and uncles visiting often and heeding his advice.

As my mom's better half, he doted on her. Their lives were so much intertwined and the best way to describe it is through their favorite love song- "I can't stop loving you." Surely, there are precious moments that only the two of them will treasure. It must have been a pleasant surprise to him that the stork delivered four girls. He instilled in us to strive for excellence and accept defeat as a stepping stone. One of my fondest recollections of when I was younger was losing a dog- back then it seemed like such a tragedy. I was inconsolable and amidst my cries he tenderly imparted a pearl of his many wisdoms about life's reality: There will be challenges and battles to bear and sometimes our best recourse is to be silent. For God is strong when we are at our weakest.

It was heartbreaking to see him physically deteriorate but despite this, he pursued his dedication for his work and kept his dignity in times of suffering. We earnestly pray that beyond our words we were able to provide him with comfort and ease his pain.

Certainly, we would want to focus only on the joys of his life as it is painful to recall how tirelessly he fought and tried to overcome his sickness. His strength, character and unwavering faith carried him through until he eventually succumbed to the Lord's calling.

Friends and family, let us celebrate how Dr. Jesus Co has inspired us to persevere and trust wholeheartedly in the Lord. We can be still and be at peace in the knowledge that God's grace will suffice and take care of all our needs.

Thank you.