

## Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer

May 25, 1933 - April 8, 2022

Dr. Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer, M.D., a loving husband, father, and grandfather of Stevensville, Md, passed away on April 8, 2022, at age 88. Among his many life experiences and accomplishments, he treasured most his 60-year marriage to the love of his life, Zorayda.

His story began with his birth in San Fernando, Masbate, in the Philippines. As a youth he dreamed of being in the military, but ultimately chose a career in medicine. He attended the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines, where he participated in ROTC and earned his medical degree in 1958.

After a three-year tour on his home island of Ticao, managing a typhoid epidemic and cholera outbreak, he left for the United States in 1962 and completed an internship and surgical residency at Prince George's General Hospital, Md. He then completed a fellowship in Shock Trauma at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore where he published scientific medical research. After two years of practice as the House Surgeon in Fairfax Hospital, Va., he opened a private surgical practice in Clinton, Md. Through his tireless dedication he cared for and treated countless patients for 50 years.

Dr. Lee-Llacer was board certified in General Surgery and was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. As his expertise grew, he was called on by many medical organizations to serve in leadership roles. He was appointed by

Governor Harry Hughes to the Board of Physician Quality Assurance.

He was was President of the Prince George's Medical Society; President of the Medical Staff at Doctors Community Hospital in Prince George's, MD; President of the Medical Chirurgical Society of Maryland (Med Chi); elected Maryland Delegate to the American Medical Association for 16 years; President of the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America; President of the Philippine Medical Association of Metropolitan Washington, DC; President of the PEACE Foundation; Founding member of D'Bicolanos & Friends; Founder & First President of the UST Alumni-Thomasian USA; and Founder of the Philippine Medical Foundation. He served on numerous committees and councils in the state medical society and Doctors Community Hospital, as well as other organizations. The Maryland Legislature often called him to testify on medically related matters. Dr. Lee-Llacer was a beacon of Maryland medicine and served humbly in the service of others.

He lived in the service of the Lord as a devout Catholic. He was an unselfish and giving individual who spent his own personal time and money serving on surgical medical missions in his beloved birth country of the Philippines. The Maryland Medical Journal dedicated issue to Reynaldo Lee-Llacer 1990, the UST Alumni Association Leadership Award 1990, Twenty Outstanding Filipinos in the United States 1993, Distinguished Son of Masbate 2005, Outstanding Service to the Filipino American Community 2005, the Dakila Achievement Award 2007, the UST Total Award 2016, and the first PMA Mangagamot Awarded are among the many honors Reynaldo Lee-Llacer received for his dedication, generosity, and humanitarianism.

Dr. Lee-Llacer was an avid lifelong learner whose interest spanned beyond medicine. An artist himself, he admired and collected art. Among his many interests he loved to travel, read, play guitar, sing, dance, play chess, do crossword puzzles, write poems, and study world history. He was a true patriot

of America and avidly supported US military organizations, veterans, and first responders, including law enforcement.

His love for medicine and care for his patients were only eclipsed by his adoration and love for his wife Zorayda, his five children, and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Reynaldo L. Lee-Llacer lives on through his loving wife, Zorayda Meneses Lee-Llacer, M.D.; daughter Cheryl-Ann Meneses Lee-Llacer Wargotz (Judge Eric Wargotz, M.D.); sons, Manuel L. Lee-Llacer, Reynaldo L. Lee-Llacer, II, M.D. (Carol née Baltazar, M.D.), Carl V. Lee-Llacer (Sarah née Miller) and Jason M. Lee-Llacer, M.D. (Agnes A. née Abeleda, RN MSN); and his eight grandchildren, Jacob E. L. Wargotz, Samuel A. L. Wargotz, Leila J. L. Wargotz, Reynaldo F. B. Lee-Llacer, Xavier C. B. Lee-Llacer, Alexandra N. B. Lee-Llacer, Adelaida S. Lee-Llacer, and Valente E. M. Lee-Llacer. He will be in our hearts forever.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Mariano Balbago at St. Christopher's Church, 1861 Harbor Dr., Chester, MD 21619 at 11 am, April 21, 2022. There will be a gathering in the church narthex at 10:30 am. Family, close friends, and all those who were touched by his life are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be donated to the charity of your choice.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Kent Manor Inn, Stevensville, MD, in the Garden House immediately following the funeral mass.

# Previous Events

## Gathering

APR 21. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Christopher's Catholic Church  
1861 Harbor Drive  
Chester, MD 21619

## Mass

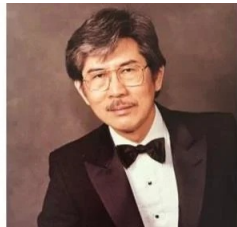
APR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Christopher's Catholic Church  
1861 Harbor Drive  
Chester, MD 21619

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Live Web Streaming starts at 10:45AM 4/21/22 in memory of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - April 21, 2022 at 08:23 AM



“ *Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer*

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

DM

“ *Drs.Cecilia B. Calderon , William M.Yudt lit a candle in memory of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer*



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**Drs.Cecilia B. Calderon , William M.Yudt** - May 08, 2022 at 10:39 PM

DM

“ *Dearest Zorayda: Our, Bill and I give you our deepest sympathy . Your email did not show Dado's going to heaven. I always looked for your email , but nothing appeared until today.,May 8,2022, too late to do anything with you.*

*We missed Dado with the flashing smiles he generated whenever we meet,particularly , we remember him on the cruise along the east coast.That was very memorable. Ive' emailed you this morning ( today's date(May8,2022)about the unexplainable incident that happened to me in the span of two weeks , regarding Dado and you.This means that Dado came to inform us in a very special way, that he is in heaven. There is life after one's mission is accomplished here on earth.*

*Zorayda, even though we were not able to attend his mass, he is always in our mind and senses.I would like to visit with you in the near future.I offered a mass for him. Please let me know how to join you in the novena. Love and may God bless us all, Cecile and Bill*

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**Drs.Cecilia B. Calderon , William M.Yudt** - May 08, 2022 at 10:37 PM

CD

“ There are very few people who have had such a profound influence and constant presence throughout my life as Uncle Dado. From childhood attending their annual Christmas parties, to my wedding in Switzerland (where I remember him and Auntie Zorayda on the dance floor), to family gatherings (albeit fewer) as an adult where my husband had the fortunate opportunity to bond and spend time with him as well, to when he performed surgery on my father (as he was the only one my dad trusted), Uncle Dado was always there. Eventually when my dad sadly passed away, Uncle Dado was the first person who met us to comfort my family during our time of deepest sorrow. Needless to say, I don't know any other person aside from my own father, who has taken part in such milestones in my life and with whom I have such long and cherished memories. Not only did I admire him deeply for his intellect and commitment to the medical profession, but mostly for his devotion to my Auntie Zorayda and his children. Plus, he was charismatic, fun, and a true renaissance man in many ways with his love for history, art, and travel. He was an example to us all of what it means to live a full, and meaningful life and those lessons will forever guide me. We have truly lost one of the best with Uncle Dado, but I am a better person for having had him as part of my life. Send much love to Auntie Zorayda and the whole family. Love, Cathy (Lee) Davis and family

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**Catherine Davis** - April 26, 2022 at 08:17 AM

SC

“ To Uncle Dado,  
Uncle Dado, Tita Zorayda and their families, whom we deeply love will always be a part of our lives. They have epitomized what giving is all about and thus our journey to where we are cannot be more blessed. One of the most kindest , decent, respectful person one can ever be blessed to know. I have worked with Uncle Dado in surgery and he is an excellent surgeon with a calm demeanor. To the LeeLlacer and Tan Family With Deepest Sympathy & Condolences For Your Loss. May he Rest In Peace in the Glory of God.  
From the Castano Family ( Sam, Myline, Tim & Mary- daughter in law)

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**Samuel Castano** - April 21, 2022 at 07:28 AM

 Oscar Strong

“ We remember Dado as a kind, thoughtful and compassionate friend. He was popular among our Philippine Medical Society. He could belt a song with gusto and was a fine ballroom dancer with his beloved wife Zorayda. Unfortunately, his invitation to join him on his medical missions to his hometown did not happen. I was busy with the other Visayan missions at that time.

*We will miss Dado . He led an exemplary, well lived life*

*Have a wonderful and blessed journey, Dado*

*Our heartfelt condolence to Zorayda and the rest of his family.*

*Oscar and Yvonne Bascug.*

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**Oscar Strong** - April 20, 2022 at 01:10 PM

DS

*Zorayda, Cheryl Ann, leeLlacer gentlemen,  
Max and I were almost shocked to learn of Dado's passing.  
We will miss his kindness, smartness, sense of humor and most of all  
his love for his family especially for his beloved wife.  
We watched the funeral services on YouTube and were touched by the  
sincere and loving words from your family.  
After you left Potomac we've not heard from you and Max got sick too.  
How I wish we can visit you but Max has problem walking and gets  
tired easily.  
We will miss Dado and his charm.  
We miss your whole family.  
Daisy❤️🙏*

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**Daisy Singer** - April 21, 2022 at 07:49 PM

CM

*My heartfelt condolences go out to all of the Lee-Llacer family for the  
passing of Dr. Lee-Llacer, a true friend and supporter of the T.V. Miller  
Family of Clinton, MD. I have fond memories of seeing his smiling face  
at many social gatherings. May you all find peace in knowing how  
much he helped the Clinton community with his medical care.  
With sympathy,  
Cindy Miller*

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**Cynthia Miller** - April 21, 2022 at 10:34 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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April 20, 2022 at 12:11 PM

FF

“ Fr: *Francisco A Ramirez (Nonoy) & Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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**Fr: Francisco A Ramirez (Nonoy) & Family** - April 19, 2022 at 08:58 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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April 19, 2022 at 07:55 PM

PB

“ *Patrick and Gemma Button purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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**Patrick and Gemma Button** - April 19, 2022 at 06:16 PM

EC

“ I can still hear Dado’s booming voice and laughter the times my husband Toy and Dado would engage in animated conversations, with the speaker phone turned on or on other occasions that allowed this interactions. Beyond his doctoring Dado had this tremendous joie de vivre and love for his homeland. He nurtured a deep interest in many things, politics, culture, music. He even loved to dress his wife Zorayda. I recall him sharing a little secret, that he purchased outfits for her at a small ladies’ boutique shop called the “Doll House”, after all, he reasoned, they are for his eyes to behold. Dado was such a devoted and loving husband and nobody would question his devotion to his “kids” as well.

Long after we left our earlier humble abodes we had remained good friends as he continued to show interest in our undertakings. I didn’t realize he kept copies of our medical school alumni newsletter from a school he never even attended. He would read old editions from cover to cover, amused at the humor they both appreciated in my husband Toy’s work as the editor of the newsletter. Dado just loved to read.

Dado was also a thoughtful friend taking time out of his busy schedule to visit with us especially during Toy’s ailment when Dado and Zorayda would visit the Philippines, sweet memories I will always cherish.

Dado, thank you for your gift of friendship. We grieve with Zorayda and the rest of the family on your passing but we also celebrate your life, a life well lived, by one who had walked and left footprints in the sand.

Elsie C Castrence  
Fort Washington, MD

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Elsie C Castrence - April 19, 2022 at 05:02 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.



April 19, 2022 at 10:05 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.



April 19, 2022 at 08:23 AM



“ *Joey Gabarda and Family* purchased the *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet* for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.



**Joey Gabarda and Family** - April 19, 2022 at 07:46 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.



April 18, 2022 at 02:17 PM

BE

“ *My memory of Reynaldo is the only Surgeon who calmly filled his time between the OR and rounds by sitting in the Doctor's lounge and always reading a novel. I also respected his many trips as a volunteer for thyroid surgery.*

*Barry Epstein*

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**Barry Epstein** - April 18, 2022 at 05:10 AM

CU

“ *Co-Founders, Officers and Members USTAAA purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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**Co-Founders, Officers and Members USTAAA** - April 17, 2022  
at 05:16 PM

CF

“ Everything that everyone has said about Uncle Dado during the past week is a true testament of who he really is.

*But above all, and most importantly, he was a devout Catholic. He prayed the rosary, and he always carried it in his pocket. He also always wore the Brown Scapular.*

*When he joined our Creator on the Friday before Palm Sunday, he was wearing his Brown Scapular with his rosary in hand.*

*A priest once said that the Friday before Palm Sunday is sacred to us Catholics. It is the Friday of Sorrows; a time set aside to honor our Sorrowful Blessed Mother before Holy Week begins.*

*Our Blessed Mother of Mt. Carmel appeared to Pope John XXII and, speaking of those who wear the Brown Scapular, she promised and said, "I, the Mother of Grace, shall descend on the Saturday after their death and whomsoever I shall find in purgatory I shall free so that I may lead them to the Holy Mountain of life everlasting.*

*I believe that at this moment Uncle Dado is with us, smiling from the heavens.*

*We will see each other again, but until then his love and memory will get us through the pain ...*

*- Chito F.*

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**Chito Ferrer** - April 17, 2022 at 02:41 PM

DD

“ Dennis, Gilda, Sean, Arti and Daniel purchased the [Memorial Trees](https://www.fhnfuneralhome.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.

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**Dennis, Gilda, Sean, Arti and Daniel** - April 17, 2022 at 01:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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April 16, 2022 at 03:48 PM



“ *Dom and Vennie mourn the loss of Dado. We will miss his intelligent discussions we had about topics in life and medicine. We will miss the crabfest we had together in a DC Hotel. Heaven gained an Angel. RIP Dado. Prayers for Zorayda and Family*

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**Domingo T. Alvear, M.D.** - April 16, 2022 at 01:33 PM



“ *Dom and Vennie Alvear purchased the A Full Life for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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**Dom and Vennie Alvear** - April 16, 2022 at 01:22 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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April 16, 2022 at 09:18 AM

“ Romy & Ennie Arguelles

*The passing of Dado ( Dr Reynaldo Lee-Llacer) broke our heart. He was a best friend forever ( BFF) but more than that, he was a brother to both of us.*

*Dado was a true Christian. He was a kind, sympathetic, compassionate, thoughtful , generous and a sentimental person. His quest for wisdom and knowledge was limitless. He was a perfectionist especially in his chosen specialty in Medicine ie Surgery. He was an excellent surgeon. Ennie was one of his many patients that he successfully treated .*

*Dado not only studied Medicine & kept abreast of its State of the Art but was also an avid student of World History especially about his native country, the Philippines and his adopted country, the United States of America. In addition he kept himself up to date of local and international current events. He also lead several of his professional and civic organizations.*

*Dado excelled in both the written & spoken English.He was a gifted writer and speaker. He was an excellent dancer and singer with his baritone voice.He was also a collector of beautiful ink pens, art works, chess sets, reference books and novels.*

*Dado was a devoted loving husband, father and grandfather. We were witness to this up close and personal when Ennie lived with them for 2 years while finishing her Dermatology residency and Romy frequently visited from his diplomatic posting as Philippine Ambassador to Peru during those 2 years.*

*Dado was truly an extraordinary man, a gifted individual with many God given talents. He married the Love of His Life, Dr Zorayda Meneses,an equally accomplished physician still in practice and was blessed with great children and grandchildren.*

*Dado lived , loved and led a very satisfying rewarding life.*

*DADO WAS LARGER THAN LIFE*

*A SCHOLAR and a GENTLEMAN*

*A MAN FOR SEASON*

*WE WILL MISS YOU and WILL NOT FORGET YOU*

*DADO REST IN PEACE*

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**Romy and Ennie Arguelles** - April 16, 2022 at 02:59 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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April 16, 2022 at 02:31 AM



“ *I first met Dr Reynaldo LeeLlacer when I was in my OB residency at PGHC via Vincent who was also an attending at the Dept of Surgery of PGHC. They are both either discussing surgical cases or discussing historical facts of many past or present government. One upmanship in their knowledge of leaders either in Asia or in Europe. Sometimes they would talk about music and songs of the place they came from in the Philippines. They connected through their love of medicine, politics and music.*

*Dr LeeLlacer had been a good friend and mentor to us either in medical profession or for me in medical politics when I was so involved in the MEDCHI Alliance. He gave great advice and encouragement. After that he became a good friend. He was a very good friend in all aspect. He will be missed.*

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**isabelita Barnachea Casibang, M.D.** - April 15, 2022 at 02:56 PM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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April 14, 2022 at 06:32 PM



“ *With a broken heart we mourn the loss of the beloved Dr. Lee-Lazer. We also rejoice in his faith and trust the he Rest In Peace at the side of the creator. Our love and condolences are extends to his dear wife , children, grandchildren and the medical community. Dr and Mrs Fernando Bravo , Dr Herb Bravo .*

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**Herb Bravo** - April 14, 2022 at 09:02 AM



*Taos pusong pakikiramay sa pamilya! A great Doctor , a wonderful human being..a gem of the Fil-Am Community! I will miss you my dear friend.! A true exemplar of the human race!*

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**Arnedo S. Valera** - April 15, 2022 at 08:01 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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April 14, 2022 at 05:53 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.*



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April 13, 2022 at 10:54 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.fhnfuneralhome.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer.

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April 13, 2022 at 08:18 PM



“ *Boots Gabarda lit a candle in memory of Reynaldo Labitag Lee-Llacer*



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**Boots Gabarda** - April 13, 2022 at 03:04 PM

“ Rest in peace, my dear beloved attending,

*My first encounter with Dr. Lee-Llacer was in 1984 when I was a first-year surgical resident. I was rounding on one of his gastrectomy patient on POD #1 and saw that a Family Practitioner had ordered to remove NGT and place the patient on a regular diet. I canceled the order. I got a call from this FP who chewed me out for daring to cancel his order. I told him to stick to his HTN prescription and leave the surgical management to me. I hung up the phone and soon learned from the Nurses that the FP that I just hung up on is a very powerful man. A few minutes later, I received a call from Dr. Lee-Llacer. I had expected an admonishment. But instead, he supported my decision and told me to always do what I think is right for the patient. Now, almost 40 yrs later, I remove NGT POD #1 and start patients on a liquid diet.*

*Dr. Lee-Llacer always had a book in his hand. While waiting for his case to start he would be reading. He is a huge history buff. Sometimes, I have to nudge him to put down his book to go and scrub. He would tell me all about Vietnam's history where I was born. He knows the names of General and all the Offensives that I had not heard of. He loved the history of war and battles. He connected them with surgery. A difficult case that resulted in multiple surgeries with diminishing returns would be described by him as his Battle of Waterloo. Though I did not get to scrub with him on many cases as my senior residents always steal them, he was always kind and personal whenever we met.*

*He was extremely bright and knowledgeable and was always open to new ideas and technology. We learned laparoscopic cholecystectomy together when it was in the infant stage in 1991. We practiced on pigs in the labs before applying it to patients the following week. He lamented the wastefulness of all the pork belly that was discarded. We Learned Stereotactic breast biopsy and Ultrasound application together. He always embraces new concepts.*

*He had retired from surgery for a number of years now. But I can still see him in the surgeon's lounge, quietly reading his book. The chair and sofa may have changed. The room is bigger now, and the light is bright. But his strong and kind spirit always remains in my heart. Have a wonderful journey, my dear friend. Luat.*

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**Luat Duckett** - April 13, 2022 at 08:01 AM

EF

*Dr. Rey Lee-Llacer was a past President of the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America (SPSA). Rey and Zorayda participated in numerous SPSA surgical missions to the Philippines and CME activities. We will miss Rey as a surgical missionary, a medical colleague and as a friend. Godspeed Rey!*

*Ed Barcelona M.D., F.A.C.S.  
SPSA Surgical Mission*

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**Ed Barcelona M.D., F.A.C.S.** - April 16, 2022 at 02:46 AM