



Pedro P. Cunanan

February 4, 2020

“Pay it forward. Be strong. Take care of each other. Sing and Dance.”

Pedro Pilapil “Pete” Cunanan, devoted husband of 51 years, father of three, grandfather of two, professional engineer, employee of Uncle Sam, master gardener, awesome home cook, Knights of Columbus volunteer, family historian, and an “Invincible,” died at home peacefully surrounded by his family on February 4, 2020 at the age of 80.

Born in Abucuy, Bataan,, Philippines, on August 3, 1939, Pedro was one of nine children, the son of Maximo and Paulina Cunanan. He had seven sisters and one brother, so he was accustomed to strong women, and fell in love and married a physician, raised two strong independent daughters and has a strong-willed granddaughter. An immigrant father, raising American-born children, he often reminded them how lucky they are. He told them his earliest childhood memory was American GIs in a foxhole in his “backyard” during World War II. He described how he made his own toys: a sardine can car with sticks for wheels or a flying insect with string wrapped around its wings, like a kite. He often told them that he didn’t have shoes until the 3rd grade and walked a mile to school.

Pedro earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Far Eastern University in Manila and later joined the U.S. Navy. He fell in love with his

Erlinda, who he affectionately called Erli, while still in the Navy, and they married on March 30, 1969. The couple settled in Virginia Beach, VA, where Pete earned a Master's Degree in environmental Engineering from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, while working full-time for the government. After serving for more than 25 years as a federal employee at the Army Material Command, "cleaning up the Army's messes," Pete retired in 1999 as a GS 14.

A loving and devoted father to Perli, Ellie and Eric, he instilled in his children a healthy skepticism of authority, challenged them to "pay it forward," and to fight for the most vulnerable. Pedro's grandchildren Tom Pete and Isa lit up his life, and he took pride in their every accomplishment, papering the walls of the family home in Woodbridge with their photos.

A natural leader and connector, Pedro co-organized a 50th high school class reunion of "The Invincibles," the name he and his classmates gave themselves, as well as helped keep family histories and encouraged family reunions. After retiring, Pete for almost ten year committed himself to volunteerism through Knights of Columbus, raising thousands of dollars for academic scholarships.

His family and friends will always remember his quick smile, sense of fun, the delicious meals he made (BBQ Ribs, Pusit/Squid Adobo and Chili were family favorites), his love of music and swing dance. He could often be found tromping around in his yard, in the garden, raising a variety of vegetables and giant sunflowers, or digging and widening the creek in the backyard for a pond filled with water lilies. Every April, the family home in Woodbridge is awash in delicate pink and white, abloom with more than two dozen cherry blossom trees he planted from seeds. His family can still picture him yelling at the television watching tennis, a Redskins or a Nationals game with his devoted son and sports fan Eric.

Family and friends are invited to a funeral mass at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, 13752 Mary's Way in Woodbridge, on Tuesday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m. A reception follows. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul or Knights of Columbus. The family is also planning a Memorial Service in Summer 2020.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

FEB 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church
13752 Mary's Way
Woodbridge, VA 22191

Tribute Wall



“ *Pedro P. Cunanan*

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Marriage and Family Therapy Program purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Pedro P. Cunanan.*



Marriage and Family Therapy Program - February 10, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Pedro P. Cunanan.*



February 09, 2020 at 05:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pedro P. Cunanan.*



February 09, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Pedro P. Cunanan.



February 09, 2020 at 05:01 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Pedro P. Cunanan.



February 08, 2020 at 10:58 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Pedro P. Cunanan.



February 08, 2020 at 12:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Pedro P. Cunanan.



February 07, 2020 at 10:37 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Pedro P. Cunanan*.



February 07, 2020 at 10:35 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Pedro P. Cunanan*.



February 05, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Pedro P. Cunanan*.



February 05, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Pedro P. Cunanan*.



February 05, 2020 at 01:59 PM