



## Dr. Attilio Zaccaria

September 14, 1926 - October 5, 2010

Written by his son Phil:

Dr. Attilio Zaccaria, born on September 14, 1926 in Waterbury, CT entered eternal rest on October 5, 2010 at the age of 84. His parents, Attilio Sr. mother Catarina, his brother Mike, and his sisters, Lucy and her husband Dave Trite and Josey, preceded him in death. Sons, Philip and John, his longtime companion and last love Ina Gustafson, his grandchildren, Adam, Holly, Whitney, Jessica, Kristen and Nicholas, as well as numerous loving friends and relatives, including his brother Mike's wife Avalee, survive him.

His parents traveled to the U.S. on a steamship from Italy to start a new life in America. They became successful business owners of a general store. After Til was born, he quickly became a "handful," even "borrowing" fruit from the neighboring farms. Til was informally voted "least likely to succeed" in high school. He enlisted in the Army and served in WWII in the Pacific area, where he was being deployed to attack near Japan when the first atomic bomb was dropped. He earned the rank of Master Sergeant. After WWII, Til returned from the service determined to go to college and become a medical doctor. He wanted to live in Texas and go to school and was accepted and went to Southwestern University in Georgetown, where he flew airplanes to earn extra money to pay his bills. He told many amazing stories to his grandchildren about air stunts and "near miss" landings. After graduating in 1954, he attempted to enter Medical School but was not accepted. His father knew the Senator of Connecticut, who set up a meeting with President Johnson. He

drove to Washington, D.C. to meet with President Johnson and asked for a letter of recommendation. President Johnson gave him the letter after satisfying his concern that he would make his home and practice medicine in Texas. He finally realized his dream, graduating from The University of Texas Medical school in Galveston in 1958.

While in medical school, he met his first love, Sally Van Zant. After graduation, they married and moved to San Antonio. He opened his medical practice, caring for a multitude of patients, friends, and family for the next 50 years. He finally retired, reluctantly from his medical practice in 2008.

Til was a devoted husband and father, who enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons and buddies. He had so many hunting stories through the years that each time you sat with him he could tell you a new one. Til was blessed with a thrifty nature, so he always had numerous projects going at all times. He enjoyed "fixing" things. He was able to travel the world and see sites that he only imagined as a child.

I'm writing this while on a cruise ship in the Mediterranean sea, visiting Italy, his parents' homeland. It occurred to me that we are all similar to ships. We are built with many different shapes and sizes. As we travel through life the seas, we create a wake. This wake can be small, or big and wide, and truly affects those around us. I believe that my father created a big, wide wake. Although I would have wished him many more years to enjoy the pleasures of life, I realized that God has His perfect plan for each of us. It was through my father's service to others that he gained the greatest pleasure. He will truly be missed because of all the lives he touched, in the city he served and loved. We will all miss him deeply. Memorial services will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 16 at The Fellowship of San Antonio Church followed by a reception to celebrate his life.

# Tribute Wall

MY

“ *'Doctor Zac', as he was known to all the leaders & boys of Troop 346, will be greatly missed. He was always there rain or shine to guide, comfort & bandage the many skinned knees. As a Mother, I always knew our boys were in good hands and he was a great*

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**Marcella Young** - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *Dr. Zac was my doctor since the late 80s. I especially liked his uncommon, common-sense approach in his treatments. During my visits with him he shared many fishing stories, but I will always remember his story about getting into medical school and mee*

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**Pablo Rodriguez** - October 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *We are all very sorry to learn of your Dad's passing. He was a long-time physican and friend to all of our family. In fact, we thought more of him like a family member than our physician. We know that he is sleeping in Jesus and waiting for his return.*

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**Glenda Starr** - October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FP

“ *Surely God is smiling and saying  
" Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant".  
Our pleasure and love in knowing you and Thanksgiving for all your  
doctoring over the years.  
Frank & Ann Pantuso*

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**Frank & Ann Pantuso** - October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dr. Zaccaria was our family doctor for many years upon until his retirement. He really cared for us as patients. His decision making in 1997 helped to save Michael's life. We were sorry to hear about his passing. He will be missed.

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**Michael & Jane Marke** - October 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ I remember the numerous times Dr. Zaccaria helped me and my family. From a bad soar throat, flue or a serious condition. We always new he would take care of whatever sickness we had. If there was a Hall of Fame for doctors he's be one of them. A gre

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**Becky Pantuso** - October 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ A tribute to a good man. Dr. Zac was my doctor for 45 years; he steered me through a multitude of medical problems. His 2008 retirement left a void that hasnt yet been filled.

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**Amadeo M. Laurel** - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Dr. Zac became our family doctor when I was a preschooler. He must have just started his medical practice. I hadn't seen him for probably 30 years when I had to look for a new primary care provider and came across his name. By then, my parents were both d

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**Mary Sheppard Nagel** - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ I was privileged to be a part of Til's family since his son, Phil, is married to my daughter, Terri. He was also my doctor for many years, so I knew that he was a highly talented physician. Til was kind and compassionate with his patients, friends and fam

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**Nancy Wheeler** - October 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Til was a great doctor and a good friend for over 50 years. We worked together in Boy Scouts, Troop 346 and Sandy enjoyed fishing with him.

*He will be dearly missed.*

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**Merriane Sanford and family** - October 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Uncle Til; I want to thank you for taken care of my family and I for all the years while we were sick or needed advice or being there for all the family gatherings and taken me on all the vacations. You took me in your home when I was 12-13 and raised me

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**Dean and Mindy Rector** - October 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Many fond memories come to mind over a 30 year patient and friend relationship with Dr. Z. He had the best nurse ever Margie who knew his patients and could get someone in to see the "Doc" within a few minutes and on time. Dr. Z's office was the standar

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**Bob & Olinda McNeese** - October 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ Tony Mayes sent a copy of the Obituary and we enjoyed reading about all of the family. We were a part of the Medical Branch and the Phi Chi family 55 plus years ago... Tony and Woody lived upstairs and Til downstairs so there are so many nice memories and

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**Dr& Mrs. Woody Eichler** - October 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ My mother Mary Lee worked for Dr. Zac for a number of years and he was also my doctor he was always there for Mary Lee she passed away 2 years ago and I smile knowing that they are fussing with each other now lol.

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**Ruby Brazil Merrill** - October 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ I was an exchange student at Dr. Attilio's sons' house, I stayed with Phil and Terri Zaccaria and their 3 wonderful daughters for a year and I can't thank God often enough for letting me get to know the amazing Zaccaria family. Although I have seen Attilio

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**Isabel Roquette** - October 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I was saddened to hear about the death of Dr Zac. I have very fond memories of Dr Zac, from being his patient when I was growing up, I remember he set my broken toe at his own house sitting under that great big moose he shot. He delivered many a baby wif

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**Kaydee Cunningham** - October 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ *Doc was a neighbor at our joining ranches on Smithson Valley road back in 1965 for a few years. He and Sally were great neighbors and fun personalities. He and Ina came by the ranch a few months back to see my husband Tommy- not knowing that he had had*

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**winnie burgess** - October 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *I am saddened to hear about the passing of Dr. Zaccaria. My mother Vilma who worked at his office at one time, would take my younger brother and I to see him in time of need. Even though I am 24, as a child I remember sharing stories about fishing and alw*

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**James Sanchez** - October 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *Dear Friends and Family of Dr. Attilia Zaccaria:*

*Please accept my deepest sympathies on the loss of your beloved. There are never any right words to express how deeply sad I am for the pain your family is enduring at this difficult time.*

*Althou*

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**Senator Leticia Van de Putte** - October 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *I saw Dr. Zaccaria off and on over the years since I was a little girl in the early 1970's. He was such a sweet man and had a great smile. He was a thorough Doctor and had a great sense of humor. I still remember the lollipops and ice cream coupons he wo*

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**Cara Tanner** - October 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Dear Phil and Family,  
Win told us of your father's recent death. Although we never met him we feel like we missed out after reading his obituary. We know you are left with many happy memories which will bring you comfort in the days ahead. In the meant

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**Dale and Sue Abbott** - October 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH THE FAMILY OUR CONDOLENCES, HE WAS A GREAT DOCTOR AND WILL BE MISSED.

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**E.Edward Elizondo DDS** - October 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Our family, like many others, met Dr. Zaccaria when he set up his practice in the late 50's, early 60's on Blanco Road, near Basse Road. He was our family doctor for over 50 years, serving four generations. The stories we have to tell. He saw my mother

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**Jo Nicholson** - October 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WZ

“ My Grandfather was an extraordinary man not only by the help he gave to others but the love he showed to his family and friends. I loved hearing all the stories he would share with my sisters and I. Every story gave me an insight into the man that my gran

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**Whitney Zaccaria** - October 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ This news truly saddens me. Dr. Z. was our friend and family physician for over forty years. Some of the Dr.'s of today could certainly take a page from his book. He was a warm, compassionate, caring doctor. The medical field gained a huge plus, the day

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**dell biering** - October 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Dr.Z was my Dr. from 1962 till 2008 - First met with my Father when he had small office on Blanco all by himself!He extended my Father's Life more than once - We, being close to same age, were story sharing friends as we both had same personal interests

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**Jack Mulhollan** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ I have known Til for about fifty years. He was part of our call group for many years.I know his patients loved and respected him because of my interactions with them when I was on call and saw his patients. He was always full of jokes and stories and a gr

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**Bernard K Weiner,MD** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ Till Zaccaria was the best man at our wedding. One of the things that stood out was he wore his favorite Hush Puppies with his Tuxedo. We have shared many memories. He taught me to ski in colorado. Till & I Fred had many personal episodes and adventure

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**Fred & Nancy Meandro** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ We Knew Dr.Zaccaria for 22 yrs. as our Medical doctor and as also as an easy going person with a great sense of humor and was our friend. He was very caring and honest. We enjoyed his wonderful life stories and experiences. He will be greatly missed and h

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**Blanca and Art Gonzales** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ I have had the pleasure of working for Dr. Zaccaria for 22 yrs. and I considered him as a father figure.I will miss him dearly,but I know that he has gone home and is at rest.May God Bless all his beautiful family.  
Love,

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**Margarita g. Luna** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ The Bell family, John, Elsie, and children Dan, Mary Kay and John David had been patients of Dr. Zaccaria since he first came to San Antonio. He was not only our doctor, he was our friend, seeing us through very serious illness and assisting us in gettin

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**John W. Bell** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ My mother moved to San Antonio in January 1960 with three young children and very little money. Shortly after we moved here my younger sister Celeste began to run a high fever. Nothing seemed to help, so mother took the phone book and looked up MDs and i

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**Jesse Horton** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ I was fortunate to have worked with Dr. Zaccaria in the early 1960's as his office receptionist and later under his teaching, his office nurse. He was a kind and giving person to not only his patients, but his employees and friends, of which he had many.

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**Bette Baker** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Many blessings and wonderful memories of a fun family. Over the many years it has been great to keep up with you all and honor a very special father, grandfather, family physician and friend. He made our lives better.

*Respectfully in Him, Martie Mc*

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**Martie McKay and Claire Mckay Hart** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ In 1964 I burned my face very badly by accident. A neighbor rushed me to the emergency room. Dr. zaccaria was there promptly. He put my face in a whirlpool bath several times a day for a week, along with other reeatment. I have not one scare. Thank yo

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**Jerrel G. Smith** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Til wa a great friend and person. He surely will be missed by all.

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**Steve Marasovich MD** - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Dr. Zaccaria was a great and wonderful doctor. He was very dedicated to his patients and he loved his work as a doctor and surgeon. He was very skillful with his hands as a surgeon and had great compassion for his patients. He was my mentor in medicine. I*

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**Judy Rosales** - October 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM