



## Medardo Tabios Dela Cruz

April 8, 1959 - June 21, 2023

On the sunrise of Wednesday, June 21, 2023, Medardo Tabios Dela Cruz, 64, was reborn into the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father. He is survived by his wife, Marietta Tolete Dela Cruz, his two adult children, Michelle T. Dela Cruz Bukirin (Matthew Bukirin) and Michael Dela Cruz (Dominica Dela Cruz), his two grandchildren, Rozalyn and Ronin Bukirin and his younger siblings, Jeanet Pascua (Jesse Pascua) and Roy Dela Cruz (Leslye Dela Cruz), stepmother Caridad Dela Cruz and step brother, Leo Dela Cruz (Jayne Dela Cruz), his uncle, Bert Dela Cruz, and his nieces and nephews.

Medardo was born to Bernardo Dela Cruz and Fausta Tabios Dela Cruz on April 8, 1959 in San Nicholas, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. At 11-months old, his family immigrated to Hawaii where he and his siblings spent the majority of their upbringing. Medardo graduated from James Campbell High School. Later, he attended a semester at the University of Hawaii but transferred to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York after being awarded a full ride scholarship. His classmates nicknamed him "R2D2". He graduated with a Bachelor of Science and was recommended to the President for appointment as a commissioned officer in the United States Army in 1982. He served in the 2nd Battalion 59th Air Defence Artillery (ADA) in Germany (1983-1985) and as the Battery Executive Officer, Unit A Battery Commander of the A/1-62nd ADA in Hawaii (1985-1991).

In 1983, Medardo was stationed in Nuremberg, Germany where, on a blind date, he met a Filipina nurse, Marietta Acosta Tolete, who shared the same values of family, faith and love. Often their love was proclaimed by Medardo etching into the sand "Dardo loves Mayet." Their love grew and they knew each other as "Honey Ko". After they married, Dardo and Mayet moved back to Hawaii on a compassionate reassignment where they welcomed their daughter and three years later their son into the world.

Medardo moved the family from Hawaii to Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, then to Fort Sill, Lawton, Oklahoma following his Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Orders. In 1994, Medardo decided to voluntarily resign from the Army and settle the family in San Antonio, TX. He enrolled at St. Philips Community College and graduated top of his class earning his Associates degree in Occupational Therapy. After graduating he soon found his home away from home at PAM Health Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center where for 25 years he mentored OT students, encouraged his patients and formed a strong work tribe of support, love and laughter.

Medardo was a born leader and throughout his life he humbly held leadership positions in the communities that he impacted including: Mr. Campbell and Senior Class President at James Campbell High School in Honolulu, Hawaii (1977); Major Army, retired (1993); Blessed Sacrament PTA President (2000-2002); St. Anthony's High School Robotics Club Parent Mentor (2003-2013); Occupational Therapist Association - Alamo Chapter President (COTA); Regency Meadow HomeOwners Association President; Honorary member of the Philippine Nurses Association of San Antonio (PNASA); Philippine Scouts Heritage Society - Alamo Chapter Founding President (2018).

Medardo was the official/unofficial cheerleader and video/photographer during big events. He was the listening ear and prayer partner during challenging times. He was the ball of energy and inspector gadget of his Warm Springs

Tribe, where he was affectionately known as “D.” And he was the miracle maker for many of his patients. Medardo will forever be remembered for his “can do” attitude, positive nature and his infectiously big and warm smile.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, July 9, 2023 from 5:30pm to 9:00pm at Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge. A funeral mass will be held on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 9:30am at Blessed Sacrament Parish Church. The burial ceremony and military honors will follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. A reception gathering will be held at 12:30 P.M. at the Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall. In lieu of giving flowers, the family asks that those who are able instead contribute to the family fund to help with medical costs. Click here to access the family fund page: <https://www.freefund er.com/campaign/dardos-farewell-fund>

# Cemetery Details

## Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 9. 5:30 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Celebration of Life

JUL 9. 6:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Funeral Mass

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JUL 10. 9:30 AM (CT)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
600 Oblate Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78216

# Tribute Wall

PG

“ To Dardo’s family... how sorry we were to learn of his sudden passing and that we missed getting to honor him at his services. My husband has a stroke Oct 2016 & finally got to Warm Springs just before Christmas where he spent the next 6 months. Dardo was a beautiful kind brilliant soul and a bright light & treasured friend to our family. When he came into my husbands room to get this 229 lb 6’2” man showered I wasn’t sure it could be done... what an incredibly event to witness... Dardo’s strength, care, skill and gentle confidence ...GIFT!!! He & Otha became close friends. Many months later when we finally got to bring Otha home & back to church with his music team at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, he couldn’t wait to try to sing again despite the permanent trach left with after the stroke & ventilator ... only a few words came out but there in the congregation with us family was Dardo, smiling radiantly and tears of joy streaming down his face... he was such a part of Otha’s rehab & finding the courage to carry on when our life had been upended! Welcome Home, Dardo, after a race well run, incredibly well run! We are proud & grateful beyond words to have been blessed to know you & look forward to being reunited again some day! 🙏🙏💜



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**Paula Green** - November 11, 2024 at 11:04 PM

ER

“ I was an OT patient of Dardo's at Warm Springs. He was absolutely one of the kindest, most inspirational, helpful, generous, and warmest therapists I have ever encountered. I credit him most for much of my stroke recovery. I know he will be missed by so many. God rest his soul.

Ernie Ray Rivera - September 11, 2023 at 01:00 PM

VV

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Victor Verano - July 09, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Medardo Tabios Dela Cruz.



July 08, 2023 at 09:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Medardo Tabios Dela Cruz.

July 08, 2023 at 08:54 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Medardo Tabios Dela Cruz.*



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July 08, 2023 at 08:54 PM



“ *5 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Marietta** - July 08, 2023 at 08:29 AM

JW

“ I didn't know Dardo at West Point, but was fortunate to serve with him in Germany when I was reassigned there in 1984. He was a talented, hard working officer and had a positive attitude.... I don't ever remember seeing him down or defeated. I wish I had stayed in better contact with him thru the years, but reading his obituary, it is obvious he continued to make a big impact in the lives of many and bring a positive energy to everything he did. He was a good officer and amazing person gone far too soon. I will pray for him and hope his family and friends find comfort in knowing how much he was loved and respected by those fortunate enough to know him. Quoting our Alma Mater, “And when our work is done, our course on Earth is run, May it be said Well Done, Be Thou at Peace”.

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**john warnke** - July 07, 2023 at 01:38 PM

CG

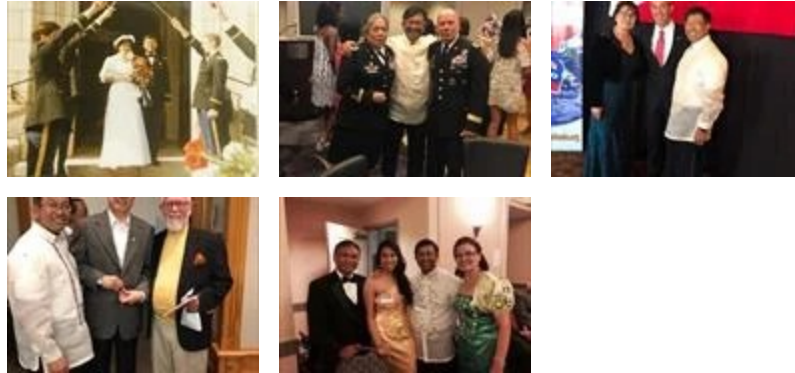
I met Dardo in PNSA with Mayet as president and i was the educator. Dardo was energetic as he helped Mayet side by side . Never he said “no” to Mayet . He was always “on the go “ to make PNASA as a successful organization . He was an active member of this organization .. brings the flags even ran errands to get food for us during meetings .. Dardo, you will be missed but your legacies will linger here in San Antonio for all the things you did with PNASA . But most importantly, you donated your organs and many lives were extended because of you. May you rest in peace and let the Perpetual Light shine upon you .

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**Cristina Gatmaitan** - July 09, 2023 at 12:04 PM

MA

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Marietta - July 07, 2023 at 11:50 AM

HH

“ Huy Hoang lit a candle in memory of Medardo Tabios Dela Cruz



Huy hoang - July 06, 2023 at 12:34 AM

MA

Thank you

Marietta - July 24, 2023 at 06:48 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rey Antonio - July 05, 2023 at 08:34 PM



*You are always in our prayers. Be thou as peace my brother. Heaven has gained a good soul.*

**Rey Antonio** - July 05, 2023 at 08:43 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Michelle Bukirin** - July 04, 2023 at 01:40 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Jeanet Pascua** - July 04, 2023 at 01:23 AM



*aww the sibs!*

**Michelle Bukirin** - July 04, 2023 at 05:35 PM

JJ

*I have known Medardo, known to his friends as "Dardo" when he was working with my niece, Odette Viajar Denisa to organize the Alamo Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society (PSHS) in San Antonio, TX. He was a humble person, graduated at the US Military Academy, West Point. Dardo and Odette worked together to have our first PSHS reunion in San Antonio. Sons, daughters, relatives and friends of the Philippine Scouts veterans attended the reunion. My prayers and sympathy for Dardo, his wife Mayet and family. Jose "Joe" Calugas, Jr. past National President PSHS.*

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**Jose "Joe" Calugas, Jr.** - July 05, 2023 at 05:53 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - July 03, 2023 at 02:40 PM