

# Salute To A Remarkable Man

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Dr. Gumersindo Garcia, Sr. has passed away. But his spirit still lives with us today. Yes, his spirit will live forever in the minds of his countless friends, patients, colleagues in the profession, brothers in Masonry, and admirers who have known him as a civic and moral leader, educator, nationalist, Protestant lay leader, Mason, and first rate surgeon. For Dr. Garcia was truly a remarkable figure, a man of immense charm, a courageous and zealous leader with a pacific temper of mind, whose life can well inspire others tremendously.

It was only two years ago when I first met Dr. Gumersindo Garcia, Sr. That sunny April morning of 1962, while I was on my way to the Asbury Chapel of the Mary Johnston Hospital to attend the morning service, someone placed his hand gently on my shoulder. He was Dr. Garcia. Since then, I came to know him personally. I can never forget the lesson that he once imparted to me. He said to me, "Young man, always remember that anything worthwhile doing is worth doing well."

Dr. Garcia's humility, independence of mind, and self-effacing spirit was what made him stand out easily

among other civic and moral leaders of our times. Those who knew him well admired his character and respected his noble ideals and principles for which he had so devotedly and zealously worked. An indefatigable worker, he still found time, in between his duties as administrator of the Mary Johnston Hospital and as regent of the state university, to minister to the material and spiritual needs of the many lowly unfortunates. He had devoted much of his time to many civic, religious, and humanitarian organizations three most notable of which were the Friendship, Inc., the National Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism and the Freemasonry.

A noted writer once wrote, "Many people leave behind one kind of immortality, the immortality of work and influence. When we die, the work we leave behind us continues to influence others and play a part, however small, in the life of the community in which we live." Dr. Garcia is dead. But, in death he left behind him such kind of immortality.

If during Dr. Garcia's lifetime, some dust showed on his feet and hands, it was only because he chose

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ing that we set up a Legal Committee that will have two functions. First, to advise our brother masons on whom to write a will so that when they die it can not be said that they retracted and that they have turned their back on Masonry. The second function of this Committee will be to encourage our brother masons as they make out their wills to remember the Masonic projects — the Masonic Crippled Children's Home. Time is coming when we need a Masonic Home for the Aged. There are other institutions that we ought to become interested in. A brother mason in this jurisdiction a year ago said to me, "I have made out a will." He had included a certain project that he knew I was interested in. I received this paper from the Court today and this masonic project will be benefited because this man who loved masonry when he made out his will said "I want my interest in masonry to continue. After my death, when the will is settled there will be a number of masonic projects that will benefit from it. There are others here tonight who ought to make a will in order to protect their families but they also ought to include something that will perpetuate their interest in masonic activities for many years to come.

Number Five. — I am recommending that we established a Historical Committee to gather Masonic relics, information and biographical sketches of masons who have made significant contributions to the masonic fraternity in the Philippines.

Number Six. — That we determine to complete the renovation of our Grand Lodge Temple so that we shall have a more adequate place to hold our Grand Lodge Communica-

tion and to carry on the other functions which are necessary.

Number 7 — I am recommending tonight that we this year be men of faith. Masonry is not a religion but masonry teaches us that each one has a right to choose for himself the way that he will worship Almighty God. I am not asking anyone of you to worship as I worship but I am asking you tonight to worship God regularly and become men of faith. And I am urging tonight that every mason be known as God-fearing man who worships his God regularly as his conscience dictates.

I am highly honored this evening to be elevated to this high office. I thank the brothers who have placed their confidence in me and I am looking forward to working with these men for the good of Masonry in the Philippines, Okinawa, Japan, Guam and Saipan.



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to tread the dusty road of Life so he could lead them, who are stranded on it, to the Path of Righteousness.

The willingness to serve others even if one had to go out of his way to render it and even without promise of material reward—such a noble concept of service exemplified so well by Dr. Gumersindo Garcia, Sr. in his lifetime, is a brilliant example and a lasting inspiration that we shall always love to cherish and immitate. He is indeed a giant among men!

May you rest in eternal peace with Him in the Great Beyond!