



Dr. Arnulfo Abat Agbunag

SEP 21, 1941 - JUL 25, 2021



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Dr. Arnulfo “Archie” Abat Agbunag, age 79, passed away on July 25, 2021, at St. Thomas Midtown in Nashville, Tennessee.

Archie was born on September 21, 1941, in San Juan La Union Province, Philippines. He graduated medical school from University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines and soon migrated to the United States in 1964.

Archie was a dedicated, beloved, and compassionate surgeon who touched many lives in the Nashville area. His professional achievements include Chief Resident at Baptist Hospital, Chief of Medical Staff at Skyline Hospital and Memorial Hospital, and a local pioneer of laparoscopic and bariatric surgery in the Nashville area.

Archie was a man of strong faith who valued family and the importance of education. He was an avid tennis player, historian, and inspired his family to stay curious and be a forever student.

Archie was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Rodrigo Sr. Agbunag and Leovigilda Abat, his first wife, Merle Pangan Agbunag, sister, Evanswinda “Wynda” A. Cruz, brother Joselito Agbunag, and twin sisters Thelma & Gilda Agbunag. Archie is survived by his loving wife of thirty-six years, Debra Kay (Steele) Agbunag of Goodlettsville, Tennessee. He is survived by his six devoted children: Arnold (Nicole) Agbunag, Arnulf Agbunag, Arlene (Javier) Medina, Ashlea (Clint) Stephens, Allyson (Ben) Lorance, Alexis (Frederick) Jones. He is survived by his sister Noreen (Terry) Agbunag Martin and brother Rodrigo Jr. “Jun” (Melody) Agbunag. He is survived by his 12 grandchildren: Hannah, Andrew and Maria Agbunag, Willow, Stone and Sparrow Stephens, Olivia and Nicolas Medina, Christopher and Maia Jones, and Liam and Henry Lorance. Archie also has 8 nieces and nephews from the Agbunag family, four nieces and nephews from the Steele family, and 3 nieces and nephews from the Pangan family.

Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery has been entrusted with the final care of Dr. Agbunag. The family has started a Novena (9 days of prayer) for the repose of his soul. They invite you to



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pray privately for Archie, considering COVID-19 risk.

A Celebration of Life and interment is being planned for a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that the donations in Dr. Agbunag's name be made to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. To donate please click [HERE](#).



Tribute Wall

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AB

Alan Bachrach, Md posted:

Kay, I had lunch with Dr Rivas today and he informed me that Archie had passed away. I want to express my sympathy. I haven't practiced in several years and had lost touch. Alan Bachrach, MD

May 31 at 5:51 PM

EL

Elliott posted:

Archie was my favorite doubles tennis partner. Not only skilled but he kept us happy no matter how each match went. Archie always supported and encouraged us and accepted our encouragements. I can here Archie aright now - OOHKA was his mantra to focus. Elliott Mellichamp

July 4 at 6:03 PM

MP

Macgregor And Nancy Poll posted:

Dear Kay and family, Archie was a talented surgeon, dedicated to his patients and treated everyone with respect. He was very supportive to those of us who were starting our medical careers. We have lost a man who made this world a better place.

July 31 at 5:28 AM

RC

Roselyn Caperton lit a candle in honor of Arnulfo.

Dr. Agbunag was my doctor for several years. He was one of the finest and will be sorely missed. He did surgery on me and I had a great recovery and outcome. I always said he had the hands designed for a surgeon. He was gentle, kind and soft spoken. I would be remiss to not mention we credit doc with saving my husbands life. He contacted a bacterial infection from drinking water while on a hunting trip and was rushed to the old Madison Hospital. If not for Dr. A, who gave him the perfect antibiotic, he would not have survived. Ironically, I thought of him a couple of days ago and was certain he had retired. We lost touch after we moved from Davidson Co. I am sure Dr. A was greeted by many who credited their good health to him. Hope there are many Dr A's out there. Our sympathy to his family. Sincerely, The Caperton Family



July 31 at 4:40 AM



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Jessica Andrews posted:

My favorite story is from 2004, I was 19, and a very new scrub tech at Skyline. The first time I met Dr. Agbunag he asked me my name, I said "Jessica" he said "no, I don't like that, what is your middle name" I said "Nicole" he said "yes I will call you Nicole, I have a daughter in law named Nicole, I like that name" hahahaha so he always did call me Nicole. The only person in my whole life to call me by my middle name. The good doctor will be missed. Prayers for your family.

July 30 at 5:52 AM



Angela Estrada posted:

Dear Agbunag family, my heart goes out to you all. I had the privilege of working with Dr. Agbunag at Tennessee Christian medical center and Northridge surgery center. He was a joy to work with and was such a kind man. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

July 29 at 12:39 PM



Pramod Wasudev posted:

Dear Kay, Our heartfelt condolences to you and your family for the passing away of beloved friend Archie. We have so many fond memories of your husband, who we consider a person with multiple talents and multiple interests. When we were in his company, there was never a dull moment. We would discuss sports, world affairs, the stock market, and even politics. He always kept up with new advances in the field of General Surgery. He exhibited leadership qualities by being elected Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff. We vividly remember when four friends, Archie, Rivas, Vora, and myself, formed a group to sign up for a prison contract. We used to meet frequently, discussing the details of the contract, socializing, and enjoying snacks. We had some common patients, and they were very appreciative of not only his surgical skill but also his excellent bedside manners. Even up to recently, we reminisce about our association with Archie. We all will miss this incredible person, and we will remember him as a person of great character. Pramod and Geeta Wasudev

July 29 at 10:37 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Agbunag family.



July 29 at 6:24 AM



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Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Agbunag family.



July 28 at 7:32 PM



Brenda And James Miller posted:

My husband and I want to express our condolences to the family and our admiration for Dr. Agbunag. He was my light at the end of the tunnel several times from 1970 until he partially retired around 2014. His skills and his ability to sit down with us and explain the surgery until you were confident all would be ok was so comforting over all those years. What a rare quality. And what a good man. We could never thank him enough. Brenda and James Miller.

July 28 at 6:28 PM



Don And Lynne Duke posted:

Condolences for the Family's Loss. Great Memories of love and working alongside Dr. Agbunag and his wife, Kay. We have lost a Beautiful Soul and an Awesome Doctor, who truly cared for his patients. Don and Lynne Duke

July 28 at 9:47 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Arnulfo by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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