



Dr. Daniel Pring Cortez

March 19, 1928 - December 6, 2018

Daniel Pring Cortez, MD, 90, of Tallahassee, formerly of Fort Myers, Florida, passed into the loving embrace of Jesus on Thursday, December 6, 2018.

He was born in Sexmóan, now known as Sasmuan, Pampanga Province, Philippines on March 19, 1928. His parents were Maria Pring Cortez and Angel Cortez, an itinerant Methodist minister. They lived in a remote fishing village of bamboo homes on stilts. After his mother became ill and then died without the benefit of medical care, he became determined to become a doctor. With the support of his family and the rest of his village, and despite the odds being stacked against him as a poor fisherman, he went to college and then medical school.

After completion of medical school in the Philippines, he immigrated to the United States and completed his residency in General Surgery in Minneapolis, MN. During his residency, he met, fell in love with and then married Carrie Kahl, who was then working as a nurse. He later rose to become Chief of Surgery at Fairview-St. Mary's Hospital, served as an adjunct clinical professor with the University of Minnesota Medical School and was elected to the American Academy of Surgeons. He also became an endoscopist.

Throughout his career, he never forgot his underprivileged roots. He set up his practice in an impoverished area, sent assistance back home to The

Philippines, and gave free medical care at a missionary training center a couple of days a week. With his wife, Carrie, he went on a number of medical mission trips overseas where they would provide free medical care to those who would not otherwise get it.

After 40 years as a General Surgeon, he retired. Fishing, playing tennis and golf, watching football and any other kind of sports, enjoying good food and spending time with friends and family were some of his hobbies.

Cherishing his memories and mourning his passing are his wife of 60 years, Carrie Kahl Cortez; children, Cindee Thirumalai (husband, Dave), David Cortez and Cathy Timuta (husband, Oleg); grandchildren, Alexandra Thirumalai, Kayla Cortez, Daniel Cortez, Sam Thirumalai, and Sophia Cortez. He is also survived by great-grandchild, Ellie Cortez; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other members of his extended family.

The family will receive friends from 4:30 until 5:00 PM, Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at Abbey Funeral Home, with a funeral service beginning at 5:00 PM. Online condolences may be expressed at www.abbeyfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Abbey Funeral Home
4037 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 562-1518
abbeyfh@comcast.net

Service

DEC 12. 5:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Daniel Pring Cortez*



Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - December 26, 2018 at 10:40 AM

“ I grew up next door, right next door, to the Cortez's. David was my best friend growing up. I was in a speech class with Cindy while in Jr. High School. I still remember the speeches we practiced with each other. Dr. Cortez was a soft spoken, kind and friendly man. He spent many hours with David and I, playing tennis or basketball - HORSE - and he always won. He was good. He loved fishing, and one summer day Dr. Cortez, David and I drove up to Mille Lacs Lake, about a 2 hour drive from our homes, with Cortez's boat in tow for a day of walleye fishing. This was huge for me because my typical fishing excursion was to take a 1/2 mile hike through the meadow behind our house to fish for bullheads and carp in nine mile creek. We motored out to a rock pile, I forgot the name, but I remember catching several walleyes, all about 3 lbs. We were already talking about how good those walleye were going to taste when we cooked them up! There was a break in the action as morning slipped by, but eventually around lunch time Dr. Cortez announced that he had a fish on. In short order the fish was near the boat and about to be landed. Someone called for the stringer, and being the closest I carefully unclipped it and made ready to add another fish to our bounty. Keeping a tight grip on the stringer, or so I thought, I turned my attention towards the final moments of the epic fish battle playing out in front of me. Finally the fish was played out and lifted over the gunwale and into the boat, at which moment Dr. Cortez called for the stringer. I looked down at where the stringer was clipped to the boat a minute or two earlier, and there was no stringer! I slowly asked... "uhhhh, do you guys know where the stringer is?" Then, I looked at my hand which was now open and braced on the seat next to me. A sinking feeling washed over me as I realized that I had let go of the stringer, and it was no longer in sight. I knew it had to be slowly heading toward the bottom of Mille Lacs lake with our 4 or 5 beautiful walleyes on it. I couldn't even speak. I seem to recall casting our lines out to try and snag it, but we never did. So, instead of bringing home a stringer of 5 or 6 walleyes, we brought home 1 walleye. We were all very disappointed with what happened, and I felt horrible. You could see some of the wind had come out of Dr. Cortez's sail after the stringer

was lost, but aside from an "Oh no!" there was no yelling, or cursing, or muttering, or "how could you have done this?!". He kept calm and never showed any anger. By the time we got home, he could even tell the story and still display that mischevious little smile of his even though I know he had to have at least a little bit upset. Dr. Cortez even did surgery on me while I was in the third grade for a hernia. He did a pretty good job, too, because it's still holding together over 50 years later!

My condolences to the entire Cortez family for the passing of Dr. Cortez. Btw, you guys were the best neighbors anyone could ever hope for!

Mike Hofer

Mike Hofer - January 17, 2024 at 09:19 PM

LH

“ *Do so remember you mom & dad from Northwood Ridge. So Godly always. Deepest sympathies to your family
Lois & Rick Humbert--5600 Northwood.*

Lois Humbert - December 21, 2018 at 09:52 AM

GT

“ This man was one of the godliest men I knew. A dear uncle, a compassionate doctor, a loving brother in-law to my mother (his wife's sister), a healer of our bodies. He will be missed. But in Christ we will not miss him for very long. "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thes 4:16).

*Can't you hear our Savior saying to him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant"?
I know that I can.*

To my dear brother in Christ, my godly uncle, may we meet again in heaven and at the glorious resurrection. May all your household join you for this grand occasion in the Lord.

Your adoring nephew,

Greg Thornberg

Greg Thornberg - December 19, 2018 at 01:55 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Daniel Pring Cortez.



December 11, 2018 at 02:25 PM

SS

“ Sharon Owens and Healthy Start purchased the Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet for the family of Dr. Daniel Pring Cortez.



Sharon Owens and Healthy Start - December 11, 2018 at 09:01 AM



“ 3 files added to the album LifeTributes



Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - December 11, 2018 at 08:09 AM

JL

“ Jack Levine and Charlotte Heuler extend our heartfelt wishes for comfort to all of the members of Dr. Cortez's family. Dr. Cortez's good works as a noted surgeon, teacher and loving husband, father and grandfather are inspirations for us all. As Christmas approaches, all the blessings of peace and spiritual fulfillment are sources of eternal gratitude for the life of this wonderful man of medicine.

Jack Levine - December 10, 2018 at 08:21 PM



“ *Chipola Healthy Start purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Dr. Daniel Pring Cortez.*



Chipola Healthy Start - December 10, 2018 at 02:08 PM



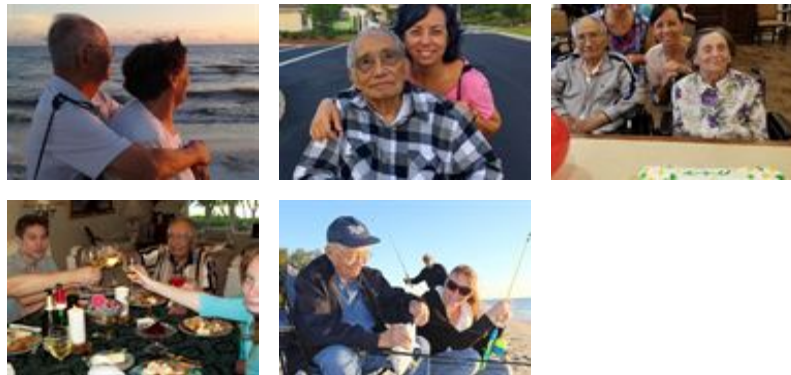
“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Daniel Pring Cortez.*



December 10, 2018 at 11:22 AM



“ *61 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - December 10, 2018 at 10:48 AM