



**Southern
California
Chapter**

FASAE SoCal Newsletter

Special Edition

January 2019

Rudy C. Niere - FASAE SoCal's Founding President Passed Away

Rudy C. Niere, Founding President of The Filipino American Society of Architects and Engineers of Southern California (FASAE SoCal), a successful entrepreneur, a great leader, a hardworking professional, a great humanitarian, a loving family man, and a caring friend, passed away on January 8, 2019.

Rudy's vision of organizing the Filipino technical professionals here in Southern California led to the formation of the FASAE SoCal. Rudy called a meeting among architects, engineers and technicians of Philippine extraction in October 1994 to discuss the formation of an organization that will be affiliated with FASAE National which is based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

During the subsequent formational meetings, the By-laws was developed and approved by the 21 founding members. On November 4, 1994, interim officers were elected and Rudy was unanimously elected president. Under Rudy's presidency, FASAE SoCal became the third chapter of FASAE National after the Guam and Sacramento/Reno chapters; was registered with the State of California as a Section 23701e corporation (Business League); and was also registered as a 501c(6) corporation with the IRS.

FASAE-SoCal Mission Statement

***To advocate and promote
the advancement and
professional growth of the
Filipino American
Architects and Engineers
for the public good.***

Rudy is survived by his wife Violeta, sons Roderick, Rudival; daughter Genalin; daughter-in-laws Valerie, Jamie and Elvie; son-in-law Rodney; and their families. His eldest son Rudy passed away earlier. ■

A SPECIAL EDITION In Memory of RUDY C. NIERE, P.E.



As we mourn the loss of our Founding President, let us look back at his life that will inspire us in facing the challenges in our lives.

As most of us know, Rudy has a long list of accomplishments and awards which he earned through hard work. He learned the value of hard work early in his life because he lost his father when he was at a tender age of nine (9). His mother was left to raise seven children and because of hard times, she was forced to put Rudy and other siblings in a Christian orphanage. In this orphanage, Rudy developed qualities that continued to be part of his life.

One of those qualities is diligence. He worked diligently at La Carlota High School in La Carlota City, Philippines where he graduated in 1954. Although it meant to be separated again from his family, he went to Manila and enrolled at Mapua Institute of Technology to pursue a course that he knew will enable him to help his family. He studied diligently and in 1960, he graduated with a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering. On the same year, he passed the civil engineering board examination.

He began his professional career as a civil engineer at the Bureau of Public Works, Engineering District of Negros Occidental. Through hard work and his intelligence, he received various promotions and in 1966, Rudy was appointed as the first City Engineer of La Carlota City. Numerous projects were designed and built under his leadership.

In 1969, he left the government service and became a successful private practitioner and contractor until 1973.

From 1974 through 1977, he served as the Head of the Civil Engineering Department of Dacongogon Sugar Central Company in Negros Occidental.

Always looking for challenges and opportunities, he immigrated to the United States in late 1977. He worked for a number of

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consulting firms in various positions, from design engineer to senior project manager. He passed the California Professional Engineers exam in 1983.

Ever an entrepreneur and always wanting to be his own boss, he, together with three other associates, established Uniplan Engineering, Inc. in 1992. Through his leadership, Uniplan progressed to be one of the successful minority owned civil engineering firm with a reputation for quality work and timely completion. Even after his quadruple bypass several years ago, Rudy could still be found working hard at Uniplan, even on many Saturdays.

Another thing that the quadruple by-pass surgery did not take away from Rudy was his enjoyment in eating good food. He was fond of saying that a person who does not eat what he likes while he is alive will die sad while a person who eats what he likes will die with a smile. On the night of his quadruple surgery, he gathered his family and they went out and enjoyed a nice dinner. True to his word, and just hours before he check-in at the hospital for his surgery. he enjoyed his favorite dish-crispy pata.

The success of Rudy’s leadership and management style can be measured by the number of awards he received from various organizations. Among the awards he received are:

- 1. Outstanding Civic Leader-Pamana Award
- 2. Asian Entrepreneur of the Year
- 3. Eagle Award of Excellence
- 4. Leadership Award- LA Pugas Lawin Lions Club
- 5. Leadership Award-Asian Business Association
- 6. Outstanding Business Award-Metropolitan Transit Authority

And the big daddy of them all, Emerging Asian Entrepreneur of the Year 1994 awarded by the Asian Business Association. In addition to the 10-inch glass trophy he received, Rudy also received numerous certificate of recognition, plaque of Appreciation, and congratulations from various agencies and government officials. Among those who recognized him are: Sen. Dianne Feinstein, former Senator Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, former Speaker of California State Assembly Willie Brown, former Mayor Richard Riordan, and many others.

Always wanting to help others and to give back to the society, Rudy was also active on various organizations. He was a former Board member of the Asian American Architects & Engineers, former board member of the FASAE National, an active member of the American Society of

Civil Engineers; Asian Business Association; Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California; Society of American Military Engineers; Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers; and the Women Transportation Coalition. He was the Founding Secretary of FASAE SoCal Education Foundation and he also served as a member of the City of Carson’s Public Works Commission.

Rudy was married to Violeta Go of Imus, Cavite. She is a registered nurse in the Philippines and here in California. They have a daughter, Genalin, a Clinical Psychologist and three sons: Roderick, a Civil Engineer; Rudival, a Hospice Chaplain; and the late Rudy who was also a Civil Engineer. There is no measure for Rudy’s love for his family: not only for his wife and children but also for his brothers and sisters and their families in the Philippines. He continued to provide help to them.

With Rudy’s stature in life, he could have retired early and enjoyed the fruit of his hard work. But Rudy continued to work hard until last year. He continued to work hard, not to enrich himself but to enrich the lives of others. He had a heart for helping those who are in need.

Having experienced the hardships of being poor and not forgetting the help his family received when they were in need, he set-up a scholarship program in La Carlota. Through this scholarship, a number of poor but deserving students have completed their studies and are now themselves helping others.

As he was once a recipient of aid from a Christian orphanage, Rudy and his family allowed Sowers International-Philippines (SIP)--Community Resource Center (CRC), which has been ministering among the indigenous Muslim and tribal people groups in Southern Philippines since 1997, to utilize their land for an orphanage. In addition, Rudy and his wife financed the construction of the orphanage, Haven of Hope Orphanage Philippines, Inc. (www.hohkids.com).

With all of Rudy’s difficulties in life, one thing he never lost was his faith in God. Rudy learned to trust God for everything in life.

Goodbye Rudy, thank you for everything. We will miss you but you will continue to be one of our role models. ■



FASAE-SoCal: Filipino American Society of
Architects and Engineers of Southern California
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