

# TRIBUTE TO JOSE FAJARDO MIRAVITE

Jose F. Miravite, aka Joe, Bossy, Papa, Lolo, Attorney, Dean



January 27, 1933 – November 8, 2006

*"It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul".*  
--- from **Invictus** by William Ernest Henley (1849-1903)

We love you Joe for your irreverence, for going against the grain and choosing to be different amidst a crazy world riddled by rapid change and socio-political turmoil. Your contributions as a lawyer, administrator and academician have made our world a better place to live in. You were a great fighter and you fought well.

[\(Link to his Career History – see text below\)](#)

We love you Joe for loving us too much. Hence, it is impossible not to love you back. Thank you for teaching us

- To fly and aim high, so when we do, we may fly high.
- To persevere and work hard so in life, we may achieve more.
- To always have courage and strength, so when we fall, we do not die nor cower in fear but reclaim our positions and bravely overcome all the barriers and limitations blocking our dreams.

- To believe in ourselves, no matter how different we may think and act, so we know our individual

madness will always have a special place under the sun.

- To show unconditional love for our family so we learn to take care of our own.
- To love music, laughter, humor and fun so we understand why life is worth living.

But most of all, we love you Joe for just being you.



- Amparing, Mario, Luis, Cary, Mayang, Budoy (+), Malou, Joey, Judith, Cynthia, Monching, Ricky,

Maribel, Marj, Marlon, Jaja, Jamie, Raymond, Mikki, Tricie, Julian, Mayumi, Bighani, OD, Angge, Ishka,

Patrick, Katrina, Kyla, Butchoi, Tads, Trevynn

**Link to Video Tribute:**

Who is Jose F. Miravite (Part 1) : <http://youtu.be/76hzi2q9xFE>

Who is Jose F. Miravite (Part 2): <http://youtu.be/ALI7i2FbMwk>

## Tribu Jose's Message

When we were asked to write a tribute to our father, no one among us wanted to assume the responsibility. Not that we did not want to write the tribute but we knew from the start that it would entail a lot of reminiscing and documenting –of sewing together bits and pieces of experiences, recollections of one-on-one dialogues with Joe and never ending childhood stories about his vibrant and extraordinary life.



Joe was the middle child of 12 children. Among his siblings, he was one of the most rebellious and irreverent. He grew up in the most difficult and dangerous times in Manila under the Japanese occupation in World War II. This historical epoch developed his bravery and resourcefulness. As a young lawyer and academician, he had to contend with the worsening economic-political scenario marked by the First Quarter Storm and Martial Law and later in life, at the peak of his career, the People Power Movement. This political backdrop fortified his convictions and beliefs – a very important lesson he shared with us was to speak the truth and fight for what is right. Finally at his waning days – he had to reinvent himself to adjust to this new technological age world bursting with information – to muster the power of the internet and embrace the computer as his new found tool. He had to evolve into a tech-savvy grandpa in order to feed his passion for music by downloading all his favorite songs from the web and sharing his collection with friends and family. Joe had a lot to tell – all his mishaps, funny adventures, struggles and victories.



Having said all these, is it really possible to capsulize Joe's entirety in one webpage? Would one tribute suffice to capture all his life's worth of experiences?

We, the Parokya ni Joam (descendants of Joe and Amparing), embarked on an experiment to document our experiences living with Joe by creating an egroup tribute page in Facebook. This way, we all had the chance to share our memories and thoughts of him. This also provided a dynamic venue to keep his spirit alive.

A colorful collage of Joe's Life from this project emerged . We all agreed that his favorite restaurant was Ma Mon Luk. He loved to eat Tinuum (Tinoong). His top hobby was listening to and recording music. His no. 1 top song was Frank Sinatra's My Way. In his lifetime, he cared for more than a 100 pets in his household. His petname for mama was "Bossy." His "yaya" was Baoy. His best friends were Uncle Romy and Nonoy. He lived in a house occupied by "mythical creatures" (white lady, kapre, etc). He was a good bargain hunter and a stingy customer (weekly shopping trips to Dau, Sidcor, Farmer's Market). His grandchildren's fond memories with him included trips to McDonalds. His two eldest sons enjoyed the weekly trips to Elias to visit Lola Asion and watch horse races. He adopted family, friends and strangers – as transients or permanent dwellers in his household. He made his children perform musical presentations in Miravite family reunions. His family band's top choice performance was Yellow Bird. His house burned down twice. But most of all – Parokya ni Joam agreed that his greatest love in life was MAMA.

# Parokya ni Joam's Tribute to Lolo Joe

## Noong bata pa si Joe...



- ang yaya niya ay si Ba-oy
- hinihingan niya ng pera si Auntie Inday at kapag hindi ito nagbigay, sasabihin niya na kukunin 'to ng bumbay

## Ma'nugang ka ni Joe kung...

- lagi ka niyang ipinagmamalaki sa mga kaibigan niya dahil ikaw ay maganda/gwapo, mabait at matalino
- natuto kang mag-ayos nang mabilis para hindi maiwan sa mga lakad
- pinag-collate ka ng mga photocopy na papers ng mga cases niya



## Apo ka ni Joe kung...

- nabunutan mo na siya ng puting buhok (50¢ ang isang strand)
- nadala ka na niya sa Ma Mon Luk, Mcdo, o Tropical Hut
- lagi ka niyang pinapag-shine ng mga sapatos niyang hindi niya na sinusuot



## Ang favorite pasyalan ni Joe...

- Dau --- walang tatalo; basta makatawad, panalo!
- tindahan ng mga pirated DVD sa Muslim area sa Quiapo kahit nire-raid na ng mga pulis
- Mamoy-mawang -- pinagbibihis pa kami ng maganda yun pala sa palengke ang tuloy

## Anak ka ni Joe kung...



- 30 minutes ka nakatayo sa tabi ng TV para maghintay kung ililipat ang channel, i-aadjust ang volume, o paiikutin ang antenna hanggang sa luminaw ang picture -- dahil wala pang remote control na TV noon

- hindi ka makapagreklamo kapag nanigarilyo siya sa loob ng bagong bili mong sasakyan

- nakaranas ka ng forced labor --- pinagta-type ka sa lumang Olivetti typewriter... edited 10x kasama na ang carbon copies



- nakakausap at naririnig ka niya hanggang ngayon at naiintindihan mo ang kanyang mga mensahe at sagot

## Ang favorite food ni Joe...

- tinuum
- sweet corn sa Katipunan
- dinuguang luto ni Ba-oy
- sotanghon across ng MLQU
- pulang mani na nabibili sa Quiapo
- Lapid's chicharon
- ginisang corned beef
- halo-halong laman loob sa Ho Wah
- crispy pata or kahit anong bawal sa kanya



## Ang mga best friends ni Joe ay sina...



- Nonoy Retiro, Uncle Romy, Justice Fermin Martin, Atty. Sagmit, Diony Mojica, Judge Fred Asuncion, Cajucom

## Pets sa bahay ni Joe...

- python na nakawala kaya naubos ang lahat ng daga sa bahay



- Muray, mini pinscher na nasasalihan si Joe sa pagsakay sa kotse kaya kasama niya 'to sa Tropical Hut kapag umaga at pinapasundo kay Luis

- mga bibi na tinatahian ng damit ni Lola

- Rebelde, ang pulang parrot na nakawala at nagpadala ng postcard kung nasaan siya

- Mynah bird na tinuruan ni Boodoy magmura

- pawikan, Momoy the monkey, tuko sa puno ng niyog, bayawak, mag-asawang buwaya, owl, uwak, kalaw, sugar gliders, white lab mice, at hindi mabilang na mga aso

- mga alimango na pilit inalagaan sa fishpond hanggang sa naglutangan ang mga koi

- mga colored chicks ni Budoy na binibili sa simbahan na ang life span ay one week



## Mga mythical creatures sa bahay ni Joe...

- mestizo na matandang lalaki na lumulutang sa hangin na nasa banyo ng mga katulong

- isang matandang lalaki at dalawang nakasayang babae na madalas magpakilala sa mga bisita



- tunog ng mga plato at kalderong nagkakalampagan, at mga taong nagtatawanan gayong hindi naman ito makita ng mga bisitang nakikitulog sa bahay

- mga kapre, tikbalang, white ladies, at isang barangay na dwende

- mga iba't-ibang hugis na lamang-lupa na mahilig sumama sa picture-taking

## Ang favorite hobby ni Joe ay...

- mamingwit ng tilapia sa fishpond at pakawalan ang pagong na lagi niyang nahuhuli



- kumopya ng tugtog mula sa LP records to tape (reel); nagkaroon ng cassette - tape to tape recording; umunlad sa cassette to CD at ang pinakamataas na naabot - download music from the internet to his pc - hi-tech lolo!

- magbunot ng balbas gamit ang bilog na salamin at kalawangin na tweezers

- magbasa ng newspaper tuwing umaga sa driveway/room na may katabing oatmeal

## Favorite apo...

"Shempre ako dahil ako lang ang kaya magpa-flip ng cake sa sobrang tuwa."



- Mayumi

## Mga nakitira at inampon sa bahay ni Joe...

- Clod Delfino

- Clarissa at Mike

- Boyso

- Joseph Velasco

- Ega Mercado

- Matthew Al-Supot

- Gina Villacisneros

- lahat ng transient friends ni Mayang na mahilig magtago

- Elising pati na rin ang anak na si Jelly, A at Bo

- Uncle Gus, Auntie Pacing, Badong, Kel, Ariel Daisy at Fides -- noong ginagawa pa ang bahay nila sa Philam... pati na rin si Violy, beloved yaya ni Fides

## Joe's memorable family traditions...

- picture-taking at malakas na tugtog ng banda tuwing New Year



- celebrating birthdays ng lahat ng taga-Frisco (June lang ang month na walang may birthday)

- weekly family gatherings

## Invictus

*Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.*

--- William Ernest Henley (1849-1903)