



Dr. Oscar S Oca

August 11, 1928 - April 17, 2021

Dr. Oscar Santa Cruz Oca, dearly beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, passed peacefully on April 17, 2021 in Half Moon Bay, CA. Oscar is survived by his wife of 64 years Barbara; his daughters Lisa and Lani; his sons-in-law Michael and Brad; and his grandchildren Zoe, Grey, Marisa and Maia.

Each and every one of his 92 years was lived in joy, laughter, love and without regret.

Oscar was born August 11, 1928 in Manila, Philippines to Felix and Juanita Santa Cruz Oca. He was the youngest of 8 siblings. Together with his family, he survived the horrors of WW2 by hiding in the jungle until they were liberated by General MacArthur.

He went on to study medicine at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. After his graduation in 1953, he moved to the US to complete his cardiovascular and thoracic surgical residency in New York City. It was during this time that he met Barbara Lampert, an obstetrical nurse. They married in 1956 and enjoyed their early years together in Brooklyn.

Oscar and Barbara eventually settled in Chardon, Ohio - a rural farming community with a new 50 bed hospital that desperately needed surgeons. Over the next 40 years, he tirelessly served the growing community of Geauga County by expanding the Department of Surgery, overseeing the development of the Medical and Surgical ICUs, performing cardiac catheterizations, placing pacemakers, and conducting countless general, vascular and thoracic surgeries. Additionally, Oscar was devoted to the Sisters of Notre Dame in Chardon and provided them with extensive medical care. Throughout his career, Oscar treated thousands of patients and saved countless lives.

He had a passion for travel and great food and indulged in both with his wife and daughters as they traversed the globe. Oscar frequently visited the Philippines to be with his family and was instrumental in the development of a health care system for the dock workers and Seamens unions established by two of his brothers, Roberto and Gregorio

Oca. He oversaw the building of the first Seamens Hospital in Manila and continued his partnership with Gregorio to build 3 additional hospitals throughout the Islands. These facilities provide state-of-the-art medical and surgical services for over 125,000 union members and their families.

After his retirement in 1997, Oscar continued his work in the Philippines. He and Barbara also enjoyed their second home in Half Moon Bay where they could escape the cold winters of Chardon. But his greatest enjoyment was the arrival of his four grandchildren. "Papa and Grandma" spent much of their time visiting, caring for and traveling with the grandkids. When he wasn't traveling the world, he was in his basement workshop creating beautiful dollhouses for his granddaughters and a masterful train set that evolved over 20 years for his grandson, Grey.

Oscar will always be remembered for his extraordinary service, incredible generosity, love of life and joyful spirit. He touched so many lives and will live on in all of us. A blessed life, a blessed man.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you consider a donation to the Sisters of Notre Dame in Chardon, Ohio <https://sndusa.org/donatechardon/>

Cemetery

Skylawn Memorial Park
Hwy 92 at Skyline Blvd.
San Mateo, CA, 94402

Events

APR	Celebration of Life	01:30PM
24	<hr/>	
	Skylawn Funeral Home & Memorial Park 100 Lifemark Rd, San Mateo, CA, US, 94062-4592	

Comments



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Oscar S Oca.



June 28 at 10:05 PM



“ It was my privilege to know Dr. Oca for several years during my tenure at Geauga Medical Center. He will always hold a special place in my heart. My sympathy to Barbara and family.

Sue Janssen - April 25 at 12:16 PM

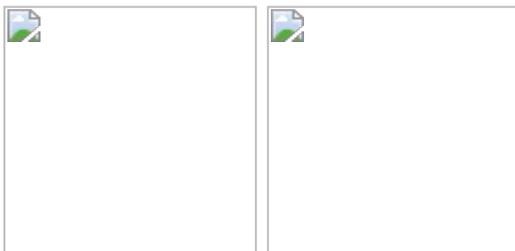


“ Dr. Oca cared for many of our sisters at Geauga Hospital, in his office practice, and in our Health Care center. We are very grateful and always knew the sisters were receiving the best care. My heartfelt sympathy to Barbara and all the Oca family. May all your treasured memories carry you through this difficult times. My sympathy, Peace and Prayers, Sister Dorothy Luli, SND

Dorothy Luli - April 24 at 02:58 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Service Videos



Zoe Oca - April 24 at 01:31 PM



“ Sara and myself knew Barbara and Dr. Oca for over 50 yrs. and both of these folks were kind to both of us , Sara helped Barbara for many years and on occasion I would help the Dr. with some type of mechanical problem , I remember being in there basement one time and he showed me his collection of Pacemakers and how they had evolved from the size of a pack of cigarettes to the tiny ones of present, also remember him telling about watching from the top of a hill as a teenager and seeing the Japanese and American fliers in mortal combat or Dogfights , as a teen it seemed like great sport , with all the bad things that he must have seen over the years , I never saw him without a smile , sort of like "permanent sunshine" , Sara and I wish the best for all the family , and Thanks for the Memories , Phil and Sara Lohiser.

Phil Lohiser - April 24 at 12:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Oscar S Oca.



April 24 at 08:35 AM



“ I had the honor and privilege to work with Dr.Oca for many years at Geauga Hospital. He was a true humanitarian, exceptional physician and loving friend. He touched thousands with his caring and expertise. May your memory be eternal, my dear friend.

Michael Kellis

dr. michael kellis - April 24 at 07:57 AM



“ Wow! So sorry for your loss! Oscar was doing so well last summer. Although I didn't know Oscar well, I can see his legacy through the compassionate, caring family that surrounded him, that only a truly good person can produce. My love and condolences to Barbara and all the Chrissos Family. Tim and Melissa Waidley

Tim Waidley - April 24 at 07:51 AM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Sarah Madden - April 23 at 05:16 PM



“ I was privileged to have worked in Dr Oca's office for twelve years. Dr. Oca was not only an excellent physician and surgeon, but also always was appreciative of his staff.

Tom and I send sincere condolences to Barb and Family.

Sincerely

Ruth Milgate

Ruth Milgate. - April 23 at 02:17 PM



“ Dr. Oca was instrumental in helping me establish my practice at Geauga. He encouraged me to work out of his office, utilize his staff and equipment. Where others typically see competition and conflict, he saw advances and opportunity. His vision is directly responsible for Geauga being the wonderful, caring facility it became. I owe him (and Barb) a personal debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

Howard Darwin, M.D. - April 23 at 11:09 AM



“ Such a wonderful and caring doctor. His smile always reached to his eyes. He was a great doctor to work with. Condolences to his family.

Kathy Allen - April 23 at 09:48 AM



“ Such a compassionate and caring physician who was respected by his peers and patients. Thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

Julie Novak - April 23 at 08:57 AM



“ I remember the day and Amish man came into the emergency room with a nail shot through his heart Buy a nail gun. He knew he would not make it downtown so he performed open-heart surgery at wee little Geauga hospital and the man survived. What a great surgeon he was

Kay Smith - April 23 at 07:32 AM



“ Through all the years he was the most kind, caring and capable of surgeons, and people, whom I knew. Sincere condolences to his family. May he rest in peace!

Mary Jane Collier - April 23 at 11:05 AM



“ I was honored and privileged to have worked with Dr. Oca at Geauga Hospital for many years. He truly will be missed. My sincere condolences to Barbara and and his family.

Sylvia Mighton - April 24 at 05:50 PM



“ Dr. Oca was my primary physician for many decades. He discover my breast cancer and performed my surgery I trusted him with my life. With affection for him and all his family. Sister Marilyn T. Sabatino, S. N. D.

Sister Marilyn T. Sabatino. S.N.D. - April 22 at 08:08 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Oscar S Oca.



April 22 at 05:02 PM