

Between Fathers and Sons: lifelong rectitude, exemplary work ethic and service careers; steadfast virtues that preceded an exceptional generation

(Part one of a two-part series)

Every father is a hero to his son, generally speaking. It is fatherhood’s ultimate reward to be the beacon of their progeny until it is time for the younger to become somebody’s hero or father.

This story of the circle of life has been told time and again in many ways. These are told in popular culture, through family history, in community lore, or it can be etched in granite.

Fathers who sired sons who became accomplished individuals later in life did so not because in the beginning they believed with absolute certainty that their sons would succeed in their chosen careers.

It is more of a story of individuals not wanting to fail in their commitment to fatherhood. In doing so, they have built a moral scaffolding for their children upon which their future life would be structured.

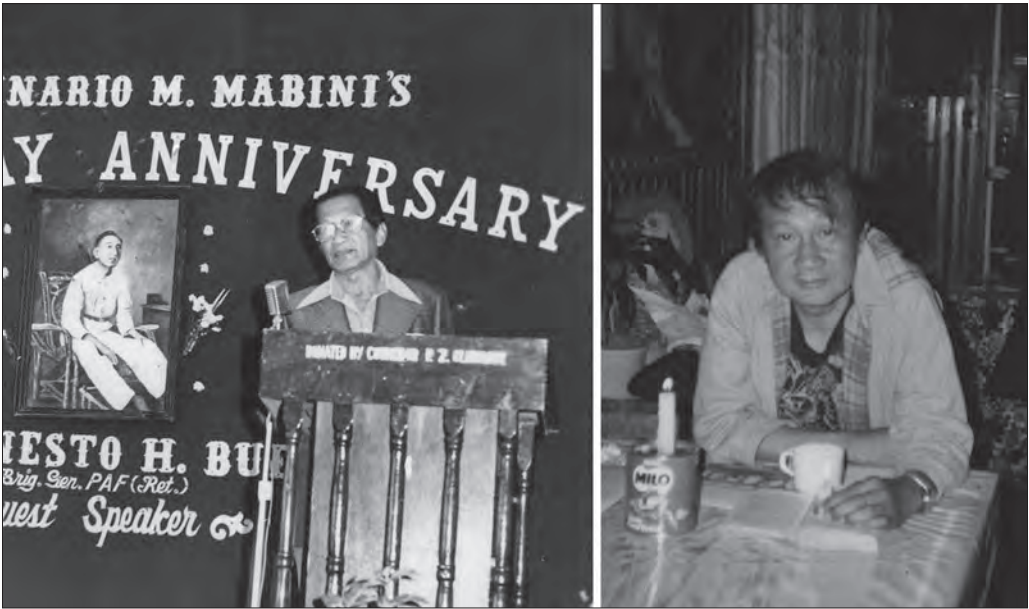
I. Agustin P. Galace Sr. and son Arthur E. Galace

The name, “Arthur E. Galace,” human rights lawyer from Baguio City, was carved in stone last November 30, 2010 along with 12 other names that year. Specifically, it was carved in polished black granite at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani (Shrine of Heroes) located at Quezon City (EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, between the Eton Centris Mall & the National Power Corporation complex).

Unveiled on November 30, 1992, this granite wall, serves as a memorial for “individuals who lived and died in defiance of the oppressive regime that ruled over the Philippines from 1972 to 1986.”

Those who openly fought the regime either lost their lives, or disappeared, or detained under conditions that violate human rights. It was through human rights advocacy that Atty. Galace became known.

During the years of political repression, a number of



PATER FAMILIAS: After he retired as a police officer, Major Agustin Galace was elected barangay captain of Salud Mitra district. In 1980, he fulfills one of his duties as barangay official, marking the birth anniversary of a Filipino hero, Apolinario Mabini. His son, Atty. Arthur E. Galace (right) will not pass on a good book even during power interruptions. He sets a candle on a powdered beverage can, and goes on reading as usual. - (From the archives of Mrs. Aurora Galace-Andrada)

lawyers in the Philippines organized themselves to form the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG). The FLAG had the specific mandate to take on the cases of political detainees.

Atty. Galace was FLAG’s Benguet coordinator but he might as well have responded to legal concerns of political detainees north of Benguet including Pangasinan. During his watch, he made the news handling the cases of “Corazon Cortel and the Pangasinan Seven” in 1984.

His younger sister Aurora Galace-Andrada recalls, “During Manong Art’s human rights work, he never had clients who can pay lawyer’s fees. But he was proud to bring home whatever form of ‘payment’ they can afford such as bundles of vegetables because,” she quotes him, “it comes from the heart.”

A written testimonial published in the website Bantayog.org explains why Atty. Galace never sought to enrich himself as a professional. It read, “Arthur believed that friends, not money made a person rich.” The website states that Atty. Galace once asked, “Why look for material wealth when one had enough friends?”

He considered his clients as friends, states the testimonial. It said Atty. Galace “had been known to offer temporary lodgings to clients, including former political

prisoners, or families of clients, or even give some of them transportation money.”

People-oriented approach

But if there was an inspiration to Atty. Galace’s people-oriented approach to service, it would have to be his father. Atty. Galace’s sister Aurora recalls that when

Baguio City Police Department (BCPD).

His colleagues later bestowed on him the moniker “supercop” because he received more service commendations and awards than any of his co-workers ever had, a feat for a police officer who rose from the ranks.

Before moving to Baguio City to join the police force, he

Commander and Chief of Operations. A tough “supercop” at work, a warm “daddy” at home

When the number of children rose to eight, daughter Aurora recalls the “supercop” is simply “daddy” to his children. “He used to work 10-12 hours, seven days a week just to feed his eight children,” she recalls. The difference is that he always had time for fatherly duties.

“During noon breaks, he would rush home to cook for us,” she says. “We would always have meals together. During early shifts, he would buy breakfast rolls from the bakery and leave it in a basket hung near our doorway. He is always there.”

Being “there” for the family meant keeping the brood together under established family values. If they are a typical Catholic family, it shows in the way Major Galace encouraged attendance to Sunday mass and “being home before the Angelus” so they could pray together.

These are values that Atty. Galace imbibed and manifested through his membership in the Knights of Columbus. Major Galace was a third degree knight, while his son who also received an award from the Baguio Cathedral Parish for his human rights work, was Columbian knight of the fourth degree.

The Catholic family is a Filipino family. When old-

est son Arthur was old enough to go to work, he signed up for the Philippine Military Academy as a civilian employee while sending himself to the Baguio Colleges Foundation for a degree in Business Administration.

He completed his degree from BCF in 1962 and continued to work at PMA for eight years more while supporting the studies of his siblings. In 1972 he was employed at the City Auditor’s Office while attending law school at BCF after work.

Voracious reader

In the interim, he was a doting older brother to his sisters. “As soon as he draws his salary, he would treat us to a movie,” Aurora recalls. “However, inside the movie house Manong Art goes to sleep. We would later find out he already read the plot of the movie from a book.”

Reading was one of the hallmarks of Atty. Galace who was known to keep (and read) paperbacks in his pockets at any given time. He told Aurora that on the eve of the bar examinations, “everyone was panicking and cramming through law books for their last minute review.” Not Arthur, however, who was calm and collected - and reading a paperback.

When the results of the 1976 bar examinations was released, Arthur who was 34 years old, landed third from the top. If this is a measure of ones intellect, then the trite expression “the apple does not fall far from the tree,” might be true after all. When Aurora and her husband Engr. Percival Andrada were at the courtship stage, the latter would always “research the news” before calling on Aurora.

“Major Galace loved to discuss the issues of the day,” he recalls. “I make sure I am updated so I can keep up with the discussion.”

(“Fathers and Sons” Part 2 will continue at next week’s issue, featuring “II. Cipriano E. Aquino and sons, Honorato and Pedro Y. Aquino”)

• Between Fathers and Sons •

• **3 Bar Topnotchers** •

• **The Exceptional Progeny of Two Baguio City Police Officers** •

Patrolman

• **Cipriano E. Aquino** •

BCPD Service Years:

1942 to 1972

Police Major

• **Agustin P. Galace** •

BCPD Service Years:

1941 to 1978

• **Honorato Y. Aquino** •

• **Magna Cum Laude** •

• **UC Law Class 1962** •

• **8th Place** •

• **1963 Bar Exams** •

• **Assemblyman, Regular Batasang Pambansa 1984-1986** •

• **Congressman, 8th Congress of the Philippines 1987-1992** •

• **Dean, College of Law University of the Cordilleras/Baguio Colleges Foundation 1993-2000** •

• **Pedro Y. Aquino** •

• **Salutatorian** •

• **UC High School Class 1968** •

• **2nd Place** •

• **1976 Bar Exams** •

• **Senior Partner, Aquino Lorbes & Associates** •

• **One of 57 private prosecutors during the Senate impeachment trial** •

• **Arthur E. Galace** •

• **UC Law Class 1975** •

• **3rd Place** •

• **1976 Bar Exams** •

• **Associate Editor, The Gold Ore 1959 to 1962** •

• **Enshrined as 'Human Rights Defender & Champion' at the 'Bantayog ng mga Bayani' national shrine with 206 others by Presidential Proclamation (November 2010)** •

• **Bantayog Memorial Center, Q.C. (EDSA Cor. Quezon Avenue)** •

their father became punong barangay of Salud Mitra Village shortly after he retired as a Baguio City police major, the living room of their house was virtually the barangay office.

Major Galace’s stint as punong barangay is seen by his children as simply a logical continuation of his extensive service as an operative and officer in what was known as the Ba-

worked as a miner in Balatoc, Benguet. Marriage prompted him to move to the city to earn a living as a law enforcer. His first assignment was as “plainclothesman” for the Detective Bureau now the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO). At his retirement in 1978, he was Chief of the Detective Bureau, Deputy Station