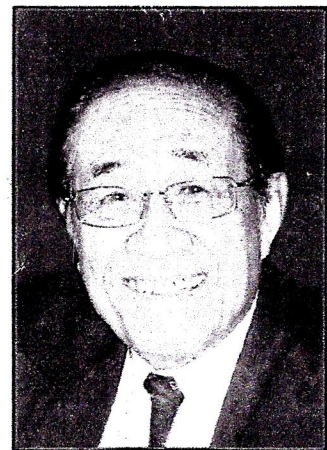




Dr. Wilmer G., 75, of Wheeling, died on the 23rd of January 2012 in Orlando, Florida. He and his wife, Dr. Estherbelle Heceta, were traveling temporarily with their daughter, Cristina, born Feb. 29, 1936, in the Philippines to his brother, Sr. and Ginesa Heceta. They are both deceased. He is survived by a brother, Atty. Espiridion Heceta, on moving his family to the Ohio Valley in 1965. He was a thoracic and general surgeon and had a long medical career, centered at Bellaire City Hospital, where he was Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery for several years. Other affiliations were OVMC, EORH, Wheeling and Reynolds Memorial Hospital. He had a medical licensure in the District of Columbia, West Virginia and Ohio. He was the Medical Director for the former Bellaire Medical Center for several years. He provided his wisdom and knowledge to those with whom he worked and generated public faith in his surgical practice – among his peers and in the healthcare institutions that he served. Dr. Heceta finished his medical education at Silliman University, Wheeling, West Virginia with high honors. He graduated cum laude from medical school at the University of East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Philippines. He completed a general surgery residency and rotating internship in Wheeling, West Virginia. The residency for his thoracic and cardiovascular surgical specialty was done at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, TN. His board certifications and memberships are numerous: Diplomate of American and Philippine Boards of Surgery, Diplomate of American Board of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Diplomate of American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians; and Fellow of American College of Surgeons, Philippine College of Surgeons, Philippine Practicing Surgeons in America, American Colleges of Chest Physicians, Angiology and Utilization Review Physicians. Organizations and societies locally include memberships in Belmont County and Ohio state medical groups. He served four years on the Board of Governors of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA). He completed several international medical missions including surgical missions for cleft lip children in the Philippines as well as a church mission sponsored by Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church to Mexico. A family-oriented man and an

incredibly proud grandfather, Dr. Heceta could be seen at various hockey rinks and basketball courts to support the efforts of his 5 grandchildren. Since his Feb. 29 birth date qualified him as a "Leap Year Baby," he was teased for only recently turning "18". At one party, his wife, who is a retired anesthesiologist from OVMC, was reminded of a letter in which she wrote, "Wilmer is 'The Wind Beneath My Wings.'" Dr. Heceta is survived by his wife, Estherbelle Aguilar Heceta, M.D.; daughters W. Cristina Heceta of Orlando, Florida; Elgine Heceta McArdle and husband Jack of Wheeling and Wuela Heceta Greene and husband Dave of Wheeling; Sisters Atty. Kathleen Heceta, Guendolyn H. Mah and Dr. Elizabeth H. Moleta, all of the Philippines; a former son-in-law J. Douglas West; grandchildren Danielle Heceta McArdle, Ian Wilmer McArdle, Tyson Heceta West, Brooke Eleanor McArdle, Braedyn Nichol West, Dalton Edward Greene and Dylan Elliott Greene, all of Wheeling; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was dedicated to serving both of his alma maters – Silliman University and UERMMMC, receiving the Outstanding Alumni Award in Medicine for Silliman University and the Outstanding Leadership Award for UERMMMC. He was Chairman of the Alumni Foundation, USA (AFUSA) of UERMMMC from 1984 – 1996, founding the Wilmer Heceta 333 Endowment Fund for his medical school alma mater. The concept of this Endowment Fund is for any individual, class or any entity to donate \$333 (payable in quarterly, bi-annual or yearly) for each of 3 years in order to complete a total donation of \$1,000. Memorial Contributions or pledges may be made to the Wilmer Heceta 333 Endowment Fund, and mailed to Estherbelle A. Heceta, M.D., 13214 Meergate Circle, Orlando, FL 32837 for a donation in his name. Friends will be received in Wheeling, West Virginia at the Altmeier Funeral Home, Elm Grove Chapel, 154 Kruger Street, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday, the 27th of January 2012. Funeral Services will be Saturday, the 28th of January 2012 at 1 p.m. Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Dr. Charles LaPlaca and Rev. Dr. Larry Kline officiating. Interment services for family only will be at Greenwood Cemetery. Personal condolences may be offered to the family at www.altmeier.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Wilmer G. Heceta, M.D.

Feb 29, 1936 - Jan 23, 2012

In Memory

(Some details not included in enclosed CV)

Biography of Wilmer Gao-ay Heceta, M.D., FACS

Born February 29, 1936 in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, Philippines

Oldest child of Espiridion Heceta, Sr. and Ginesa Gao-ay Heceta

One Brother – Atty. Espiridion G. Heceta, Jr.

Three sisters – Atty. Kathleen G. Heceta, Guendolyn G. Heceta, RN, Dr. Elizabeth G. Heceta
(UERMMMC) graduate

Grew up in Larena, Siquijor, Neg. Or. ;where his father was high school principal and his mother a guidance counselor.

Graduated as High School valedictorian, Larena Prov. High School. Went to Silliman University for Pre-med and graduated with high honors.

This is where he met his future wife – Estherbelle Aguilar, in 1955

Consistent Academic Scholar all throughout Medical School, plus Belman scholar in Senior year and Winthrop Stearns Scholar in Internship, graduated Cum Laude, at the top of Class in 1961.

Married Dr. Estherbelle Aguilar Heceta Class '61 graduate of UERMMMC, on April 5, 1962

Came to US for first time in June 1962, Internship and Residency in General Surgery in Youngstown Hospital Assn., Youngstown, Ohio, 1962-1967

Children - W. Cristina Heceta, BA, MBA , presently Director, Consolidations, MINDSTREAM ANALYTICS
W. Elgine Heceta, McArdle, BA, JD, Lawyer, McArdle Law Offices, Wheeling W.V.
Wuela Eireen Heceta Greene, BA, DME Sales Rep., Omega Medical Health Systems

Grandchildren – Danielle Heceta McArdle, 19; Ian Wilmer Heceta McArdle, 17; Brooke Eleanor H. McArdle, 12; Tyson Heceta West, 15; Braedyn Nichol H. West, 12; Dalton Greene, 12; Dillon Greene, 7

Lived and practiced in the Ohio/ West Virginia Tri-state area 1974-2011

For the rest of the pertinent data please refer to accompanying C.V. or call me for questions:

Dr. Estherbelle Aguilar Heceta – 304-281-6500

WILMER G. HECETA, M.D.

4697 HARRISON STREET * BELLAIRE, OHIO 43906 * (740) 671-1220/(740) 671-1457 (Fax)

- EDUCATION:** 1961 M.D., Cum Laude, UERM Memorial Medical School, Quezon City, Philippines
- TRAINING:** 1972 - 1974 Thoracic Surgery Residency University of Tennessee, City of Memphis Hospitals, Memphis, Tennessee
- 1967 - 1972 General Surgery Practice, St. Joseph Hospital, Philippines
- 1963 - 1967 Surgery Residency, Youngstown Hospital Association, Youngstown, Ohio
- 1962 - 1963 Rotating Internship, Youngstown Hospital Association, Youngstown, Ohio
- 1961 - 1962 Instructor/Surgical Pathology, UERM Memorial School and Hospital, Philippines
- EXPERIENCE & POSITIONS HELD**
- 1955 - Present *Member*, IPA, Board of Directors
- 1991 - Present *Chief of Surgery*, Belmont Community Hospital, Bellaire, Ohio
- 1985 - 1991 *Vice Chief of Surgery*, Belmont Community Hospital, Bellaire, Ohio
- 1984 - 1995 *Chairman, Board of Trustees*, UERMMMC Alumni Foundation Inc.
- 1980 - 1990 *Medical Director*, Health Guard, Bellaire, Ohio
- 1974 - 1990 *General & Thoracic Surgeon*, Bellaire Medical Group, Bellaire, Ohio
- 1980 - 1989 *Medical Director*, Health Guard, Bellaire, Ohio
- 1987 - 1988 *President*, Belmont County Medical Society
- 1985 - 1987 *Member, Board of Trustees*, Belmont Community Hospital (formerly City Hospital), Bellaire, Ohio
- 1981 - 1985 *Member, Board of Governors*, APPA
- 1982 - 1984 *Chief of Staff*, Belmont Community Hospital (formerly City Hospital), Bellaire, Ohio
- 1980 - 1982 *Vice Chief of Staff*, Belmont Community Hospital (formerly City Hospital), Bellaire, Ohio
- 1979 - 1980 *Assistant Medical Director*, Bellaire Medical Group, Bellaire, Ohio
- 1975 - 1977 *Chief of Surgery*, Belmont Community Hospital (formerly City Hospital), Bellaire, OH
- 1974 - Present *General & Thoracic Surgery Practice*, Bellaire, Ohio
- 1968 - 1972 *Assistant Medical Director & Consultant in Surgery*, St. Joseph's Hospital Manapla, Neg. Occ., Philippines
- SOCIETIES:**
- | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Member: | Belmont County Medical Society | Fellow: | Philippine College of Surgeons |
| Member: | Philippine Medical Association | Fellow: | International College of Surgeons |
| Member: | American Medical Association | | |
| Member: | Ohio State Medical Association | | |
| Member: | Member Group Directors of GHAA | | |
| Member: | American Academy of Medical Directors | | |
| Member: | Association of Philippine Physicians in America | | |

(Wilmer G. Heceta, M.D./Page Two)

- Fellow: American College of Surgeons
- Fellow: Society of Philippine Practicing Surgeons in America
- Fellow: American Society of Abdominal Surgeons
- Fellow: American College of Chest Physicians
- Fellow: American College of Angiology
- Fellow: American College of Utilization Review Physicians

LICENSURE: ECFMG Certification
 Licensed to practice in the Philippines
 Passed FLEX
 Washington, D.C. license; Ohio License; WV license

BOARDS: Certified Diplomate: American Boards of Surgery, 1972
 Certified Diplomate: Philippine Boards of Surgery, 1968
 Certified Diplomate: American Board of Thoracic Surgery, 1975
 Certified Diplomate: American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, 1983

PERSONAL: Birthdate: February 29, 1936

Married: Estherbelle A. Heceta, M.D. *FACA*
 Board Certified: Anesthesiology

- Children:
- (1) Wilhelmina Christina Heceta
 M.B.A., Financial Management, Vanderbilt University
 B.A. Wittenburg
 Senior Consultant, *KPMG*
Director, Consolidations, Mindstream Analytics
 - (2) Willibelle Elgine Heceta McArdle
 Attorney at Law, *McArdle Law Offices, Wheeling, WV*
 J. D. University of Pittsburgh
 B.A., Washington and Jefferson College
 - (3) Wuela Eireen Heceta
 Psychologist
 B.A., Villanova University

PAPERS: Vaginal Hysterectomy by a "Paltera". Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties, Vol. 26, No. 4., 1971.

Recurrent Retrograde Jejunogastric Intussusception, Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties, Vol. 27, No. 1., 1972

Primary Choledocholithiasis and Ascaris Lumbricoides. Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties, Vol. 27, No. 3., 1973

Extensive Linear "Blow-out" of the Thoracic Membranous Trachea with Inominate Artery Avulsion Secondary to Blunt Chest Trauma. Chest, Vol. 67, 247-248, 1975

Incomplete Esophageal Perforation with Obstructing Intermuscular Hematoma. Chest, Vol. 69, 115-117, 1976

Systems for Reviewing Hospital and Outside Referral Utilization, Session #71, GHAA, 1982

Development of a Quality Assurance Program, GHAA, Dallas, Texas, June 13, 1983

"Economic Grand Rounds", GHAA, Dallas, Texas, June 15, 1983

Indications for Cardiac Pacing, Association of Philippine Physicians in Ohio, Cleveland, April 9, 1983

(Wilmer G. Heceta, M.D./Page Three)

PAPERS: HMOs, PPOs, etc.: An Update, Association of Philippine Practicing Physicians in America, OMNI
(Cont.) International Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, July 31, 1986

Changing Health Care Delivery Systems, USA, Marriott Lincolnshire, Chicago, Illinois, July 26, 1986

Changing Trends in medicine, USA, Manila Hotel, Philippine APPA Convention, December 17, 1986

Carotid Endarterectomy, Philippine Practicing Physicians of Greater Cincinnati, Ohio, June 10, 1989

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Chairman of the Hospital Utilization Review Committee, City Hospital of Bellaire and the Medical Foundation of Bellaire Health Management Systems

Chairman, Quality Assurance Program of the Medical Foundation of Bellaire Health Management System and Member of the City Hospital of Bellaire Quality Assurance Committee

Former Chairman, Executive Committee of the Medical/Dental Staff of City Hospital of Bellaire, Ohio

City Hospital Medical Staff Committees and Officer of Medical Dental Staff:

1992 - Present

Vice Chief of Staff

Department of Surgery, Chr.

Patient Care Review Comm., Chr.

Hospital CQI Committee

By-Laws Committee

Infection Control Committee

Safety Committee

Medical Executive Committee

1989 - 1990

Vice Chief of Staff

Utilization Review Committee, Chr.

Medical Staff QA Committee

Hospital QA Committee

Surgery Committee

Infection Control Committee

Emergency Medicine Committee

Medical Records Committee

Tissue Committee

By-Laws Committee

1986

Vice Chief of Staff

Utilization Review Committee, Chr.

Medical Staff QA Committee

Hospital QA Committee

Surgery Committee

Infection Control Committee

Emergency Medicine Committee

1991 - 1992

Vice Chief of Staff

Department of Surgery, Chr.

Utilization Review Comm., Chr.

Medical Staff CQI Committee

By-Laws Committee

Infection Control Committee

Tissue Committee

Medical Records Committee

Emergency Medicine Committee

1987 - 1988

Vice Chief of Staff

Utilization Review Committee, Chr.

Medical Staff QA Committee

Hospital QA Committee

Surgery Committee

Infection Control Committee

By-Laws Committee

Emergency Medicine Committee

Oral Examiner, American Board of
QA and UR Physicians - October 22,
1987, San Juan, Puerto Rico

1985

Vice Chief of Staff

Utilization Review Committee, Chr.

Surgery Committee

Infection Control Committee

Medical Staff QA Committee

Emergency Medicine Committee

Member, Utilization Review Committee,
Ohio Valley Medical Center, 1985-1987

(Wilmer G. Heceta, M.D./Page Four)

1984

Chief of Staff
Utilization Review Committee, Chr.
Surgery Committee
Infection Control Committee

1981 - 1982

Vice Chief of Staff
Tissue Committee, Chr.
Special Care Committee
Surgery Committee
Medical Audit Committee
Library Committee
Infection Control Committee

1975 - 1977

Tissue Committee
Equipment Committee
Infection Control Committee
Surgery Committee, Chr.

1999 - 2002

Patient Care Review Committee, Chr.
Bylaws Committee, Chr.
Vice, Chief of Staff
Surgery Committee, Chr.

2004 - Present

Patient Care Review Committee, Chr.
Bylaws Committee, Chr.
Surgery Committee

1983

Chief of Staff
Utilization Review Committee, Chr.
Surgery Committee
Member, Institutional Review Committee for
Intraocular Lens Implantation

1978 - 1980

Tissue Committee
Equipment Committee
Infection Control Committee
Surgery Committee
Medical Audit Committee
Special Care Committee, Chr.

1995 - 1999

Patient Care Review Committee
Bylaws Committee, Chr.
Surgery Committee, Chr.

2002 - 2004

Chief of Staff
Patient Care Review Committee
Bylaws Committee, Chr.
Surgery Committee

HOME ADDRESS: 38 Jenna Way
Wheeling, WV 26003

AN OPEN LETTER for Dr. Wilmer Heceta

“ An AFUSA Mighty Oak is falling”

To My Dear Truest Friend , Colleague and Mentor,

I am deeply and greatly saddened after your dear wife, Easterbelle, called me last night, informing me of the serious status of your health compared from the last time we talked in the phone. From the time of the knowledge that you had your illness and the resistance that you showed to the various suggested modalities of treatment at the Cleveland Clinic and else where.

Sir and my dear friend, you have walked *ahead* of me in so many ways. Graduating from Silliman University; Pursuing our medical studies at The UERMMMC and then AFUSA leadership both as Chairmen of the Foundation. Recipients of Outstanding Alumni Awardees of Silliman University. And yet, I have silently emulated you and has stretched forth my arms in admiration to your accomplishment in life which has been beyond reproach. You have led a virtuous, blameless life. You persistently pursue to do good things for the UERMMMC Alumni Association and the Foundation. What an incredible blessing you have been.

I am blessed to have friends like you to lean on in moments of weakness in my leadership acumen. One thing I learned from you is: I will not always achieve the goals I set out to achieve. However, it's the incredible blessings and joy that I have for having the chance, in having the journey in accomplishing it. Thank you for being a mentor.

We have been friends for so long, along with the other alumni of Silliman University and UERMMMMC. I am sorry that your life journey has been so difficult, especially lately. WE will miss you when you are gone. We are sure that God will deal with you gently and tenderly. He who has created a flesh so weak and imperfect.

2

Dear, dear old friend, good-bye. May our Father who is in heaven have you in His holy keeping and give you eternal rest.

“ I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in ME, though he were dead, will live even when he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.”

John 11: 25-26

Devotedly your friend,

Rene Querubin

N.B.

Per Dr Wilmer Heceta families request: Refrain from sending Flowers. Instead may give donation towards Dr Hecetas 333 Endowment Fund.

Address: UERMMMC Alumni Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 2154

Bedford, Park, Illinois 60499-2154

OR you may visit the Alumni Foundation website: [UERMAFUSA .com](http://UERMAFUSA.com) to send your donations.

Professor Heceta. He would try humility when I would address him as professor, but he knew without a doubt that he had my respect... Awesome respect.

“Whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” Philipians 4:8 Dr. Wilmer Heceta

Always wanting to help. No need for formal contracts. His word and a handshake.

“Encourage one another and build each other up.” 1Thessalonians 5: 11

Dr. Heceta’s thoughtful, gentle help and advice: priceless.

One of his precious accomplishments is shown in a picture of kids smiling after he fixed their cleft lips. He had a tear of true accomplishment in his eyes when he first showed me the picture.

“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” Proverbs 11 : 25

Having the will to participate in surgery, his anguish was evident as he physically weakened.

It seems not too long ago that as we finished a surgery when he had to sit down for a while. He said to me, “Howard – I’m dying!” He said it as a matter of fact – satisfied - and then shook my hand and walked away. Dignified.

“God is Love, whoever lives in Love, lives in God and God in them. This is how Love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment.” 1 John 4: 16-17

He loves life.

“But above all things, put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts.” Colossians 3: 12-14

“There is no fear in Love.” 1 John 4: 18

He told me his favorite Disney ride is – It’s a Small World After all.

Heaven, after all, is full of surprises.

Enter life.

The only thing that lives is our souls.

Cancer is the precious fire that burned away all the mystery for Dr. Heceta.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8

Can't you imagine Wilmer talking with God – two thoracic surgeons – God did the first thoracotomy when He took a rib from Adam to make Eve. Wilmer is asking what kind of suture God used and probably lots of questions about Eve. Dr. Heceta has an innocent ornery side.

“For the spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” Corinthians 2: 10

We can also imagine the only thing God asks Wilmer is, “What did you do with what I gave you?”

We all believe Wilmer's answer is, “The best I could.” “Your Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”

Wilmer's work is not burned up. We feel in our hearts that Wilmer fulfilled God's good purpose.

We can't see it, we can't hear it – but we all know it - from the depths of our own souls:

LOVE WINS!

Howard Shackelford, M.D., FACS
Thoracic Surgeon

And when comes sound of
low music, the scent of sweet flowers,
the crunch of foot steps on the gravel,
nada the censing shout, and the
epitah simple "Here lies the
man" one who was of service
to others.

Ned,

I found this in Wilmer's own handwriting inside the front cover of one of his office ledgers, and this is what we have printed on his grave marker (in his own writing).

Manang Belle

Vickie asked for a few quotes from classmates and friends and here they are:

1. From a patient and friend - Tom Campbell

Dr. Wilmer G. Heceta was my surgeon and a good friend. He is the best surgeon and the smartest man I ever knew. He was kind and generous to all his fellowmen; was a good husband, father, and grandfather who lived for and loved his family with a passion. He was an anchor to all who worked with him and we were always there for each other. To was such a great man to I so many and to me he was such a good friend.

2. From Roberto A. Bacani, M.D. - friend and classmate

Wilmer was my hero and role member. For as long as I can remember, he always involved himself in an untiring pursuit of excellence, and he graduated at the top of our class (cum laude). His intellectual gifts and personal charm alone would have been sufficient to ensure the success of his achievements and entitle him to many honors he received. But what paved the way for accomplishments were the things we did not easily discern ... the firmness of resolve, the depth of his sense of obligation, and the purity of his commitment to a cause. He was a passionate man who nurtured a complex mixture of pride and vulnerability, each threatening to overwhelm the other. He never allowed the conflict to reach the surface, by shielding it behind a shell of self-deprecating wit.

In the final years, when the burden of his diminishing faculties was almost too difficult to bear he sought to connect with us through an uneven stream of e-mails. They were not easily readable, but the meaning was clear; the goodwill and the humor behind the words would never be disguised – they came from wellsprings of compassion within himself. They were the last and simplest expressions of his deep affection for our Class— Class '61

3. From Benjamin Lumicao, M.D. – friend and classmate

Wilmer Gao-ay Heceta, MD,FACS

Wilmer holds the distinction of Number 1 of the first graduating class of the UE College of Medicine_ Class '61. A brilliant student, he was known for his pursuit of excellence in all his undertakings. His belief in God, his love and devotion to his family especially his wife Belle, his fierce loyalty to his friends is known and admired by all. He pursued a career in surgery, and became board certified in general surgery and thoracic surgery. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Among his many accomplishments, and perhaps what he was most proud of, was being Chairman of the Board of the UE RMMMC Medical Foundation for many years especially during the infancy of the foundation. During our Golden Anniversary celebration in the Philippines which he thoroughly enjoyed, he again turned his thoughts about raising funds for the medical school. I remember his words: " We now have 10,000 graduates in the half-century of existence of our medical school. If all alumni would give a DOLLAR a day to support our alma mater, just think of what we would have in just three years - MILLIONS!" That is exactly what he had in mind when he introduced his 333 plan a few years ago which is now named in his honor. Wilmer's love and dedication to our alma mater and his fellow alumni was huge and boundless _ and that indeed is his greatest legacy. Benjamin G. Lumicao, MD,FACC,FACP President Class'61