

Carlos Leong Agustin



Commodore Carlos L. Agustin, AFP (Ret.), was reunited with the Lord on Easter Sunday, 12 April 2020 at 6:21 p.m. He was 82 years old. A native of Manila, Philippines, “Chuck” graduated from the Naval Academy in 1960, thereafter completed Weapons Systems Engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey, CA); Naval Staff Course at Royal Naval College, Greenwich London, UK; NR course in National Security Management at Industrial College of the Armed Forces, U.S. NDU; Advanced Intelligence Course at Special Intelligence Training School, AFP; and an MBA at Ateneo de Manila University.

He served with the Philippine Navy in various staff and command positions, including command of five naval ships and three Task Groups, Defense Attaché Washington, DC (1985-1988), Chief of Personnel (J1) of the Armed Forces (1988-1990), and Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) (1990-1993).

Upon his retirement in 1993, he was appointed GM, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) (1993-1998) and concurrently first administrator of Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) (1995-1997) and member of the Board of Governors, WMU (Malmo, Sweden) (1992-1998). He was cited by President Fidel V. Ramos for the successful separation of PCG from the PN that was formalized in 1996 and enactment of the revised Philippine Coast Guard Law in 2009. He was appointed president of the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) (2001-2010). One of five Philippine experts and eminent persons in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF EEP) from 2002-2012, Chuck also engaged in Confidence Building with Chinese think tanks through the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR).

He was director of the Subic Bay Development and Industrial Estates Corporation (SUDECO) and affiliates (2010-2020); founder and president of the Philippine Maritime League; chairman of the monthly Maritime Forum; and publisher of *The Maritime Review* magazine, while concurrently Secretary General of Advocates of National Interests (ANI) and Class President of PMA-1959.

Highly respected and loved by friends from all fields, Chuck was an honorable, soft-spoken straight arrow who worked diligently toward his goals without sacrificing principles. His sharp mind and tremendous maritime experience made him the perfect chairman at maritime meetings and conferences. He valued camaraderie most of all, which he fostered to participants of the 155 maritime forums he chaired since 1991, all to promote the Philippine maritime industry.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Medy; four children, Kay, Carla, Jay and Christine; and seven beautiful grandchildren.

July-August 2020 Shipmate