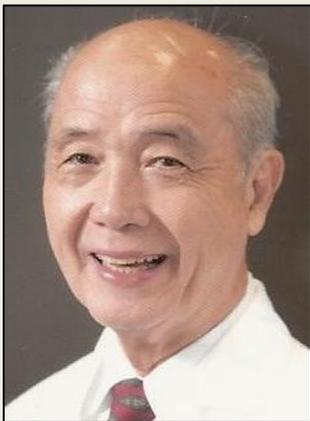


In Memory of ICD Councilor Emeritus Primo Gonzales, MICD 1928-2016



Dr. Primo Gonzales,
ICD Master Fellow
and International
Councilor Emeritus

Primo, as he was fondly called, stood out as the most colorful personality in organized dentistry in the Philippines, as well as in different international dental organizations. As an active dental practitioner for the last 60 years, he gave so much of himself and his personal resources for the growth and progress of dentistry.

Dr. Primo Gonzales was a former chairman and member of the dental board for 21 years; he also served as president of the Philippine Dental Association twice (1970,1975). From 1987-1992, he was appointed by former President Corazon Aquino as a member of the University of the Philippines' Board of Regents. He was also considered the most travelled Filipino dentist having attended all international conventions, particularly the Asian Pacific Dental Federation (APDF) serving as its president from 1979-81; International College of Dentists (ICD) where he served as International President in 1986; the Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI) serving as Council member for four years; and the American Dental Association (ADA) that accorded him the honor and privilege of being an Honorary Member in 1987. Attending all these dental organizations every year for the last 45 years, he placed the Philippine Dental Association on the map of the dental world.

He was born June 9, 1928, in the historic place of Bataan, where he spent his early education that was interrupted by World War II in 1941. When the "Battle of Bataan" ended in April 9, 1942, the whole family of eight joined the 65,000 civilians and

75,000 FIL-AM forces in the infamous "Death March". Walking for six days under the scorching heat of the April sun, everybody in the family became emaciated due to lack of food and water and all got sick of malaria. Finally reaching home, they found everything devastated and burned to the ground. Their closest encounter with death was when a Japanese plane dropped bombs around their area with one of the bombs only half meter away from their dugout. Inside seeking refuge with their whole family were 25 Filipino soldiers. With God's mercy, all were lucky to survive the whole ordeal.

Shortly after the war, Dr. Gonzales continued his schooling in the same province and later enrolled at the College of Dentistry of the University of the Philippines in Manila. He graduated in 1952 and passed the dental board on the same year.

In 1954, Dr. Gonzales left for the USA for a one-year, full-time Postgraduate studies in Prosthodontics at the New York University College of Dentistry. This was followed by another year of internship in Dental Surgery and Anesthesia at the Morrisania City Hospital in Bronx, NYC.

In 1977, Dr. Gonzales initiated and started a fund campaign for the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) headquarters. After two years, the building was completed. Another renovation of the building was done in 1987. On these two projects, the PDA was spared from any expenses and financial obligations. For all his contributions, distinguished service and dedication to the association, the PDA gave him all kinds of awards and citations, too long to be enumerated here.

Dr. Gonzales became a Fellow of the International College of Dentists [Section IX Philippine Islands](#) in 1969. He served as International President of the worldwide in College in 1986 and as an International Councilor from 2004-2013. During the Philippines Section's convocation in 2016, he was awarded the prestigious honor of [International Councilor Emeritus](#).

Despite the exposure to all the glitters, glamour, honors and achievements, Primo remained humble, sincere, simple and a kind friend to everyone.