

TESTIMONY FOR JEFFREY R. LAYUG

BY

CHAIRMAN CESAR L. VILLANUEVA

I invite all of you to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Jeff, but we do it for ourselves as well; for there is no doubt in my heart that when Jeff passed-over into the next life, he arrived directly in the very palm of our Heavenly Father.

For many of the members in the GCG family who joined us in the last year, you should know that Jeff was among the originals in the Governance Commission, he joined us as a messenger and over-all maintenance man when we were still in our temporary quarters at Mabini Hall. He was so conscious of the public role of GCG that he wanted to take his oath of office before me in a barong tagalog. And yet being at the bottom of the short totem pole at that time he knew the immense importance of the work that the evolving Governance Commission had to perform, and he inspired the then still few members of the Governance Commission to undertake the mandates with a great sense of dedication and love of country.

Jeff has always been a wholesome person, with a heart after God's own! He had a bright outlook of life and responded to the challenge that we set for everyone who joined us—to always seek to be better than your personal best—to become extraordinary.

Jeff was therefore determined to rise from the ranks and to be qualified to a permanent position in a commission that he has began to love. So he enrolled at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Manila to earn a degree. He would share with me his grades at the end of each term, and was always proud to have earned good grades. He was doing this while fulfilling the ever-increasing demands of the Governance Commission on matters of procurement, while at the same time being the best family man.

Last October, Jeff showed me his final grades and was so proud that he had finally earned a degree. He had been set for permanent position in a couple of weeks, when he met that accident that had shocked all of us in his GCG family.

Jeff had reached the first summit of his young life that being able to earn a degree that would make him qualified for a permanent position in the GCG of which he had always been so proud to be part of. He was even looking at pursuing a higher course in what

he hoped to be a great career in public service. There was no person who could have been happier where he was in life than Jeff was last week, and his future was the brightest at that time—and it was then that the Lord took him from us and from his family!

The brief life of Jeff in this world serves as a lesson to us that no matter what success, honor or adulation we each may earn from in this mundane world, it is nothing compared to what the Lord has in stored for us in the next life. Jeff was such a wonderful person who had made his life one that is extraordinary before both men and angels, that the Lord took him back in a divine impatience to share with him eternal life.

As we celebrate the end of Christmas Day 2015, let us not feel forlorn that a good person in Jeff has left us—for he loved all of us and looked at each one of us as a family—and Jeff is now doing God's chores in the next life but always with a special prayer he makes for each one of us.

We will see you soon Jeff, and we pray that each of us in the Governance Commission pursue extraordinary lives that emulate your own, so that on the day of our pass-over, you would greet each of us with the same words that God has welcomed you into Heaven.

25th of December 2015.

Cesar L. Villanueva