



**In Loving Memory of  
Eusebio “Bonn” Canamaso Batan**

Bonn was Born in 1956, in Malate, a city in metro Manila. Bonn’s father, Clemente, was a driver for the San Miguel Beer Company, and his mother, Porquilia, was a stay-at-home mom. Early in his childhood, Bonn’s family moved to Mandaluyong City, also in metro Manila, to a house his parents purchased. Bonn’s family still owns the house, which is divided into several apartments, all occupied by descendants of Clemente and Porquilia. Bonn was the youngest of six children: Manuel, Adelaida, Domingo, Imelda, Leonardo, and Bonn. Bonn had six step siblings, but only three were part of his world: Felicia, Benjamin, and Alfredo. Bonn’s father died in 1989, and his mother in 2014, his wife Imelda died in Manila in 1996. Bonn is survived by his siblings, Adelaida, Leonardo, and Imelda, his two daughters, both of whom live in Manila, and three grandsons.

Bonn attended various public schools, graduating from the Elpidio Quirino Highschool in 1973, having studied steno and typing. Post high school Bonn attended engineering classes for one semester, but for financial reasons discontinued his studies, beginning work in 1974 as a tool keeper, and in 1978 he commenced working in a flour mill as a mill operator, grinding, mixing, and batching flour, staying at that job until 1985.

In 1981 Bonn married Imelda De Roxas, and two daughters soon followed, Clementine, (1981), and Cherrish, (1982). In 1985, Bonn went overseas to work in Saudi Arabia, working at mills in Dammam and Jeddah, initially as a silo cleaner, and later in making pasta. Bonn worked at this job until 1990, when he returned to Manila for his annual vacation, but because of the turmoil stemming from the Kuwait War, i.e., the Persian Gulf War, he stayed in Manila until for approximately a year, returning to Jeddah with the expectation he would work in the flour mill, but was offered the opportunity to work as a salesman for World Book Encyclopedia, a job at which he excelled in such measure that he twice participated at the World Book Encyclopedia International Achievers Conference, the first being held in Istanbul, and the second being held in 1994 in Honolulu.

While in Honolulu, Bonn's cousin, an American citizen living in suburban Los Angeles, suggested Bonn travel to Los Angeles for a visit. That visit was informally extended for approximately five years, at which time Bonn worked for assisted living facilities and other businesses. In 1998 Bonn met Randal Cowles, a Philadelphian who had been working in Los Angeles for a few years. In 1999, after a year or so of getting to know each other, Randy, who was returning to Philadelphia, invited Bonn to accompany him. Bonn accepted the invitation, and for the next twenty-six years Bonn made his home with Randy in Fishtown.

Bonn worked in the kitchen at several different restaurants in Center City, including Tavern on Camac, the Venture Inn, and the Westbury. Bonn became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2015, and commenced work in the kitchen of Atria, a senior living facility in Center City. He went on to work in the kitchens of Comcast, and was eventually promoted to the role of ambassador for Allied Universal, which provides security services to the Comcast towers. He remained at this job until November 2024 when he retired for health reasons.

Bonn's career was dotted with various awards beyond the International Achiever' Conferences mentioned earlier, specifically he was selected to represent Atria at a nationwide conference in Louisville, and he received numerous awards when he worked in the kitchens at Comcast. As a testament to the importance that Bonn held in his professional community, during his illness the employees of Allied Security and Comcast raised approximately \$50,000.00 to assist with Bonn's medical expenses.

Both as an ambassador for Comcast, and as a neighbor, Bonn utilized his extraordinary ability to associate names and faces, and moreover to recall details of earlier conversations. His manner created warm, lasting impressions on the hundreds of who met him. He was committed to introducing new neighbors to old neighbors, continually strengthening the social fabric of his neighborhood. His four dogs, Lucky Seven, Cicero, Romulus, and Fluffy, were familiar friends to all on his block. It is not lost on his neighbors that as an immigrant who valued his U.S. citizenship, he demonstrated the height of community care and engagement. He would often be found outside, "getting his exercise", sweeping the street and keeping the block immaculately clean. In addition he was instrumental in establishing and maintaining his block's community garden. He opened and closed the gate daily, pruned roses and other shrubs, tended to annual and perennial plants, pulled weeds, cleaned the bird bath, filled the water barrels and watered the plants, as well as the more mundane task of putting out the trash weekly. Recently he was instrumental in the block's efforts to acquire and permanently protect the garden as urban green space under the auspices of The Neighborhood Gardens Trust. Bonn's indefatigable work ethic and spirit have nurtured the strong sense of civic engagement on his block. It was common for children to ask for brooms as toys to be able to sweep with Bonn. They continue now in his stead, carrying his spirit and commitment forward.

For these reasons, and more, Bonn is held in the highest regard in Fishtown. He is widely recognized as the honorary Mayor of Crease Street. Bonn was the highest example of a committed, big-hearted, non-judgmental, generous individual, and was an inspiration to all who were privileged to meet him.

