



Rigardo Morales

January 16, 1945 - February 22, 2026

Rigardo Punzalan Morales, "Ricki", 81, of Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood, passed away February 22, 2026.

Born January 16, 1945, in Batangas, Philippines, the youngest of five children. He graduated from Rizal College in 1964 and was 22 when he was petitioned by Catholic Charities to teach in the United States of America. He proudly worked in special education for the Chicago Public Schools for 35 years. In his retirement he found joy in caring for others as a caretaker and also worked as a medical secretary at Weiss Memorial Hospital.

Ricki loved to dress up and always wanted to look his finest. He enjoyed a good Filipino party, a buffet, and the casino. He usually did not want anyone to know when he was feeling ill and preferred to not show weakness. Even when his health was precarious, Ricki dressed in designer clothes for an emergency room visit. When Ricki first met the man he would eventually marry, he slipped him an email address that began with "trymegorgeous", making him a truly unforgettable character. Ricki was a winner in life, in most ways.

Ricki's family meant the world to him. He sponsored and petitioned his parents, siblings, and partner to the USA. He practically brought a whole village to the United States- over thirty people by himself. Particular gratitude to Ricki's sister Nelly and great-niece Laila, who stepped up to support and

care for him.

Beloved husband of nine years (together for sixteen) of Daniel.

Brother of Maria Benelda “Nelly”, Consor, Marcelo, and Serafin; brother-in-law of Fely and Leonida; Great-uncle of Vikki, Gina, Menchie, Arnaiz, Boy, Cenon, Milven, Noralyn, Reynold, Reinalyn, Laila, Miguel, Ohlie, Randolph, and Kent.

Preceded in death by his parents Pedro and Felicisima Morales, sister Maria, dear friend Barney, and also by four canine companions: Warren, Benji, Nik Nak, and Mickey.

He will be dearly missed his great friends Regina and Trudle and by Shiva, his Maltipoo.

Service with burial will take place in Bagong Sikat, Philippines.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Tiyo Gado (Uncle Ricki),*

This is your niece Vikki. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have the life I have now, you took me in and cared for me as your own when I was far away in a new country without my parents. I know my mother (your sister) greeted you and I find comfort in my heart knowing that you are free from suffering even though I miss you a lot. I would often visit you and it made me cry each time I saw you during your last days on this earth. You fought hard and never wanted to let your declining health define you as a person.

I felt lonely when we were the first ones in America because I was so young and it was a culture shock to me, but you did your best to ensure that I was taken care of even if the rest of our family was in the Philippines. Knowing you were the first one to arrive at such a young age really showed how ambitious and brave you were to fend for yourself. I don't think you ever got the recognition, credit and gratitude you deserved from everyone for going through great lengths to get all of us here. Thank you, salamat Tiyo Gado.

All our memories of you will live in our hearts and minds forever and life isn't going to be the same without you but I know you would want all of us to be strong because you were resilient in the face of adversity.

I love you Tiyo Gado please watch over us and thank you for everything. I miss you so much.

*Your niece,
Vikki*

Vikki (Niece) - February 27 at 08:15 AM

“ Uncle Rikki,

I just wanted to share a few memories that I have of you. I remember when I was a child, you found out I wanted a Hello Kitty pencil case and the following week, you showed up with a red Hello Kitty pencil case filled with Sanrio school supplies and I was the happiest little girl. My fondest memories of you were the times you picked us up every Saturday to go shopping and eat brunch and always called me, “A pain in the Bahamas” you were present for all my birthday parties as a kid and really knew my personality because you gifted me the coolest clothes ever. At my fifth birthday party, you discovered I had a musical talent and watched me sing for the first time and after my performance, you were left with raw tears. These are some of the greatest memories that I kept dear to me throughout the years. I know our relationship changed once I got older but that doesn’t take away from the fact that you were such an instrumental person in my family’s life.

I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking care of my mother when she first arrived to Chicago. If it wasn’t for you, we all wouldn’t be here. I also wanted to thank you for the kind mass you gave me when I was in the ICU for 6 months on ECMO in 2021, I was in a medically induced coma for two months and faced the toughest hardship in my life recovering from covid-19 and pneumonia. God gave me a second chance at life and when I recovered and gained that sense of normalcy, I found out what you did and it absolutely touched my heart that you thought about me and prayed for me. I miss you dearly and will never forget you and that humor. We had our ups and downs but what family doesn’t?

I hope you continue to watch over us and you were greeted with open arms by your parents, my grandmother and your dogs that you loved wholeheartedly. You were a well respected teacher in the Chicago Public School system and an amazing human being. May you rest in peace eternally and fly high.

I love you, Thank you so much for everything.

Love,

Precious

Precious - February 26 at 05:54 AM

MC

“ HE WAS AGREAT FRIEND AND FELLOW COLLEGE AT LEMOYNE SCHOOL he loved children he worked with and I ENJOYED BEING AT LUNCHEONS WITH HIM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS AND god bless him eternally now

MARY CUNY - February 25 at 09:33 PM

RC

“ Rey E. De La Cruz lit a candle in memory of Rigardo Morales



Rey E. de la Cruz - February 25 at 09:09 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - February 24 at 11:54 AM