Our Heritage and the Departed: A Cemeteries Tour

In commemoration of Undas, the Presidential Museum and Library offers a comprehensive diagram of the cemeteries and memorial shrines in Metro Manila and surrounding areas, including the specific graves and markers that house the remains of key historical figures, including Philippine Presidents and heroes of the Philippine Revolution.
OUR HERITAGE AND THE DEPARTED: A CEMETERIES TOUR

ILOCOS NORTE
Ferdinand Marcos

ANGONO, RIZAL
Carlos “Botong” Francisco
Lucio San Pedro

KAWIT, CAVITE
Emilio Aguinaldo
Maria Agoncillo Aguinaldo

CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Francisco Mercado
Teodora Alonso

TANAUAN, BATANGAS
Jose P. Laurel
Apolinario Mabini
Carved out from the La Loma Cemetery in response to its Catholic exclusivity, the originally secular Cementerio del Norte or the Manila North Cemetery is now considered the biggest in Metro Manila. Among the prominent personalities interred in the cemetery are three Presidents of the Philippines—Manuel A. Roxas, Sergio Osmeña, and Ramon Magsaysay. Memorial sites are also housed in Manila North, among them: the Boy Scouts Cenotaph, in honor of the 24 Boy Scouts killed in a plane crash—the Philippine contingent to the 11th World Scout Jamboree of 1963; those for the Thomasites, a group of American teachers sent to the Philippines by the US government in 1901; and the Mauseleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion, for those who fought for the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War.
The first presidential burial in Manila North Cemetery was of President Manuel L. Quezon’s. In 1979, his bones were transferred to the Quezon Memorial Circle; his wife’s followed on April 28, 2005. President Quezon’s only son is now buried in his father’s old tomb. The Quezon tomb became the model for the tombs of Presidents Roxas (until it was remodeled in the 1990s) and Magsaysay, and for other tombs such as that of Fernando Poe Jr.

First Speaker of the First Philippine Assembly and then of the House of Representatives, then the first Senate President Pro Tempore. He became the first Vice-President to assume the presidency after the death of his predecessor; President Osmeña became the second President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines after taking his oath in Washington, D.C. on August 1, 1944. President Osmeña died on October 19, 1961. Republic Act No. 4840 mandates that the Ayuntamiento Building, which is currently being rebuilt, as the Osmeña Memorial Building.
The second president buried at the North Cemetery, he served as the third and last President of the the Commonwealth of the Philippines and as the first President of the Third Republic. President Manuel Roxas passed away unexpectedly in Clark, Pampanga on April 15, 1948, without finishing his term. He was succeeded by President Elpidio Quirino on April 17, 1948. First Lady Trinidad de Leon Roxas, who died on June 25, 1995 is buried in the same rotunda as her husband.

Also buried in the same rotunda as his father and mother, is Senator Gerardo Roxas, who was a key opposition leader against the Marcos dictatorship. He sought the Vice Presidency unsuccessfully in the 1965 election against incumbent Vice President Fernando Lopez, losing by less than 1% of the vote. Senator Roxas died on April 19, 1982.

Gerry Roxas’ son, Rep. Gerardo Roxas Jr., died on April 4, 1993. He was the youngest Representative of the 8th Congress representing the 1st District of Capiz alongside the oldest member Rep. Cornelio Villareal of the 2nd District of Capiz.

The third president to be buried in the North Cemetery and the third President who passed away in office. Magsaysay was killed in a tragic plane crash in March 17, 1957. Also buried in the same plot are First Lady Luz Magsaysay, and the president’s brother, Senator Genaro Magsaysay.
He was the leader of the Senate and from the Province of Cebu, he served for a total of 2 years as Senate President but was one of the casualties of the Liberal Party rout in the 1951 election falling halfway through the term of President Elpidio Quirino. Senator Cuenco died on February 25, 1964.

He was a former Senator of the Philippines and Representative of the Zambales. Died on December 25, 1978.

He was a statesman, served as Philippine Solicitor General, speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives from 1929 to 1931. He died on July 30, 1973.
SENATOR CLARO M. RECTO
He was a poet, intellectual, and oppositionist, considered one of the foremost exponents of Nationalism. He died on October 2, 1960.

FRANCIS BURTON HARRISON
He was the American Governor-General from 1913-1921 of the Philippines, noted for his Filipinization policy. He was made an honorary Filipino Citizen by an Act of the National Assembly. Harrison was an adviser to Presidents Quezon and Quirino, developing the initial arguments for the Philippine claim on Sabah made during the Quirino administration. His love of the country led to his final instruction to be buried in the Philippines. Buried in the North Cemetery in 1957, his tomb was later moved to a more prominent spot in the 1990s.
She was the first elected female councilor and a prominent prewar oppositionist.

He is the first Mayor of Quezon City, appointed by President Manuel L. Quezon on 1939. He subsequently served as representative of Quezon Province.

Francisco Guilledo, was a professional boxer, the first Filipino holder of the World Flyweight title belt. He died at 23, on July 14, 1925.
He was a hero of the Propaganda Movement and one of the two artistic geniuses hailed by Rizal, for his prizewinning 1884 painting *Las Virgenes Cristianas Expuestas al Populacho* or *The Christian Virgins Exposed to the Populace*.

Ronald Allan K. Poe, popularly known as Fernando Poe Jr., was a cultural icon of tremendous audience impact and cinema artist and craftsman—as actor, director, writer and producer.
Jose Corazon de Jesus, who also wrote under Huseng Batute, who wrote the lyrics of the nationalist anthem, “Bayan Ko.”

Honorata “Atang” Dela Rama was formally honored as the Queen of Kundiman in 1979, then already 74 years old singing the same song (“Nabasag na Banga”) that she sang as a 15-year old girl in the sarsuela Dalagang Bukid.
MAUSELEO DE LOS VETERANOS DE LA REVOLUCION

It was meant to be the pantheon to the heroes of the Revolution, built under the auspices of the Veteranos de la Revolucion, the organization headed by General Emilio Aguinaldo. For many decades it contained the tombs of many notables but over recent decades, many of these remains have been transferred elsewhere. It remains a National Shrine, and is a favorite structure of occultists who note the many Masonic and other symbols embedded in its architecture. Designed by Architect Aradio Arellano and inaugurated on May 30, 1920.

BOY SCOUTS CENOTAPH

The Boy Scouts Cenotaph, in honor of the 24 Boy Scouts killed in a plane crash—the Philippine contingent to the 11th World Scout Jamboree of 1963.
American public school teachers who came to the Philippines onboard the *USS Thomas* in 1901. The Jewish Cemetery is also in the North Cemetery.

Established in 1925, at the southern part of the City of Manila. The Manila South Cemetery has an estimated total capacity of 52,234 graves; President Elpidio Quirino leads the names of the notables interred here. For more information, please visit the dedicated page from the City Government of Manila, which holds jurisdiction over the cemetery.

The sixth President of the Philippines Elpidio Quirino was second man to assume the Presidency after the untimely demise of his predecessor. President Quirino’s wife and three children, mother-in-law, and brother were massacred by the Japanese during the Battle of Manila in February 1945—leaving only himself, his daughter Victoria, and son Tommy as survivors. A poignant story recounts how President Quirino loaded the corpses of his family members on a plank and ferried them toward the Estero de Paco over four days.

- **Mayor Ramon Bagatsing** died on February 14, 2006 was the longest serving Mayor of Manila, from 1971 to 1986. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March of 1941 and the bombing of the Plaza Miranda in 1971, where he lost his left leg. He became known as the only disabled person and Indian-Filipino to serve as mayor.
- **Mayor Leon Guinto** died on July 10, 1962, and was the former governor of Tayabas Province, and wartime Mayor of Greater Manila (the precursor of Metro Manila).
- **Ambassador Rafaelita Soriano** was a noted diplomat and historian, as well as an exponent of Kapampangan history and culture. He died on January 1, 2007.
- **Senator Lope K. Santos** died on May 1, 1963. Santos is more popularly known as a poet and was the first chairman of the *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino*. He was also a Senator of the Philippines, Governor of Nueva Vizcaya, and Governor of Rizal.
- **Lucresia Kasilag**, National Artist for Music, died on August 16, 2008. Kasilag also served as the president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and was among the pioneers of the renowned Bayanihan Dance Company.
On February 29, 2016, the remains of former President Elpidio Quirino was reinterred at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani in Taguig to mark his 60th death anniversary.

Toward the end of the Spanish Colonial period, the city government of Manila opened Campo Santo de La Loma or the La Loma Cemetery, which then served as the foremost Catholic cemetery of the time. As such, it is now the oldest cemetery in Manila still in use. The area was also called “Paang Bundok,” and this was where Rizal had wished to be buried. Unfortunately, in Rizal’s time, La Loma refused burial to non-Catholics and Filipino insurgents. La Loma likewise served as one of the Japanese execution sites during World War II. A Japanese artillery gun remains within the premises. A shortlist of prominent figures interred in La Loma Cemetery:

- **Felipe Agoncillo**, known as the first Filipino diplomat for going to Paris and trying to plead the Philippine cause to the representatives of Spain and the United States during the talks for the treaty of Paris.
- **Marcela Agoncillo**, known as the woman who sewed the first Philippine flag.
- **Cayetano Arellano**, the first and longest-serving Chief Justice of the Philippines. Arellano was Chief Justice from 1901 to 1920.
- **Victorino Mapa**, the Second Chief Justice of the Philippines. Mapa also served as Secretary of Justice in the Cabinet of Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison.
The second oldest cemetery in Manila, and was designated as the resting place for Chinese citizens denied burial in Catholic cemeteries—primarily the La Loma Cemetery—during the Spanish Colonial Period. The cemetery was site of numerous executions during the Second World War—among them, of Girls Scouts Founder Josefa Llanes Escoda, and of Boy Scouts of the Philippines founder and Hero of Bataan (and also the first Filipino graduate of West Point), General Vicente Lim.

The Libingan ng mga Bayani was formerly known as the Republic Memorial Cemetery established by the Philippine government in 1947, as a tribute to the Filipino soldiers who fought and died in World War II. In 1954, Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay rededicated the cemetery and renamed it as the Libingan ng mga Bayani. In 1967, President Ferdinand Marcos reserved 142 hectares from the Fort Bonifacio Military Reserve (formerly known as Fort McKinley) in consideration for the Libingan to serve not only as a cemetery for military personnel but also as a national shrine for fallen heroes. As an official cemetery it also includes areas reserved for prominent Filipinos who have served in the government, such as an area for presidents and vice presidents, general officers of the armed forces, jurists, members of the legislature and National Artists and Scientists.
Presently, Libingan provides grave and internment services for military men who died in the line of duty or who were honorably discharged. Libingan is also open as final resting place for former Philippine presidents, Filipino veterans, notable government statesmen, dignitaries and national artists.

The eighth President of the Philippines, as well as a poet, former Governor of Bohol, and former Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He was the third President who assumed the position after the death of his predecessor. Garcia was an exponent of the Filipino First policy. Read more about the administration of President Garcia.
The ninth President of the Philippines. Diosdado Macapagal was the only President to serve exactly one term in the third Republic. He moved Independence Day to June 12. Read more about the administration of President Macapagal.

On February 29, 2016, the remains of former President Elpidio Quirino was reinterred at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani in Taguig to mark his 60th death anniversary. He is the third Philippine president to be interred there, the other two being Carlos P. Garcia and Diosdado Macapagal. The ceremony was arranged by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and led by President Benigno S. Aquino III.
Vice President Salvador H. Laurel
Former Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, Sr.

Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo

- Former Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro
- Former Chief Justice Enrique Fernando
- Former Senate President Arturo M. Tolentino
- Former Secretary of National Defense Manuel Salients
- Former Secretary of National Defense Alejo Santos
- Former Secretary of National Defense Angelo Reyes
- Former Secretary of National Defense Ernesto Mata
- Former Secretary of National Defense Rafael Ileto
- Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Blas Ople
- South Commander Romulo Espaldon
- PCGG Chairperson Heidi Yorac
- Undersecretary of MND Manuel P. Syquio
• Undersecretary of MND Jose Crisol, Sr.
• Former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Arturo Enrile
• Former Congressman Marcial Punzalan Jr.
• Deputy Prime Minister Jose Roño
• Former Ambassador Alejandro Melchor Jr.
• Publisher Maximo Soliven
• Publisher and journalist Teodoro M. Locsin Sr.
• SSS Administrator Gilberto Teodoro Sr.
• Levi Celerio, National Artist for Music and Literature
• Nicomedes Joaquin, National Artist for Literature
• Dr. Guillermo E. Tolentino, National Artist for Visual Arts
• Vicente Manansala, National Artist for Visual Arts
• Victor Edades, National Artist for Visual Arts
• Dr. Cesar F. Legaspi, National Artist for Visual Arts
• Ang Kiukok, National Artist for Visual Arts
• Jose T. Joya, National Artist for Visual Arts
• Leonor Orosa, National Artist for Dance
• Francisca R. Aquino, National Artist for Dance
• Ernan Cuenco, National Artist for Music
• Jovita Fuentes, National Artist for Music
• Dr. Antonio J. Molina, National Artist for Music
• Col. Antonio R. Buenaventura, National Artist for Music
• Prof. Nestor V. M. Gonzales, National Artist for Literature
• Mr. Francisco A. Arcellana, National Artist for Literature
• Dr. Alejandro Roces, National Artist for Literature
• Dr. Carlos L. Quirino, National Artist for Historical Literature
• Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero, National Artist for Philippine Theatre
• Gerardo Ilagan de Leon, National Artist for Cinema
• Ramon O. Valera, National Artist for Fashion Design

Dr. Perla Santos Ocampo

• Dr. Francisco Fronde
• Dr. Eduardo A. Quisumbing
• Dr. Geminio de Ocampo
• Dr. Hilario G. Lara
• Dr. Julian A. Banzon
• Dr. Gregorio T. Velasquez
• Dr. Carmen C. Velasquez
Manila Memorial Park was established in 1964 and has since expanded into other sites all over the Philippines. The combined total area of its parks are 427 hectares. Among the prominent personalities interred in the Sucat park are President Corazon C. Aquino and Senator Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr., media mogul Eugenio “Geny” Lopez Jr., and boxing icon Gabriel “Flash” Elorde, who was the first Filipino World Flyweight title belt holder.

The first woman President of the Philippines and also the first female president in Asia. She served as the 11th President of the Philippines and is known as the leader of the People Power Revolution in 1986, which restored democracy in the country, ending the Marcos dictatorship. She died on August 1, 2009. [Read more about President Aquino’s administration.]

- **Senator Benigno Simon “Ninoy” Aquino Jr.** served as a Senator of the Philippines and as Governor of Tarlac. He was incarcerated for 7 years for his opposition of the Marcos dictatorship and upon his return from the United States to the Philippines, he was assassinated at the Manila International Airport (MIA) on August 21, 1983. The anniversary of his death is remembered as Ninoy Aquino Day, a national holiday in the country.

- **Senator Sotero Laurel** was the son of President Jose P. Laurel, and who ironically served as private secretary of Vice President then President Sergio Osmeña in the Commonwealth Government in Exile. A pillar of the Lyceum University established by his father, he was also a senator in the post-EDSA Senate, brother to Vice President Salvador H. Laurel and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.

- **Narciso Ramos** was the father of President Fidel V. Ramos. He was Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the first Marcos administration, and a pre-war assemblyman who co-sponsored the bill naming Quezon City.

- **Senator Robert Barbers** died on December 25, 2005. Barbers was a former Secretary of Interior and Local Government and also served as a Senator of the Philippines.

- **Mayor Pablo Cuneta** died on June 30, 1998. He served as a Mayor of Pasay and was the father of the actress Sharon Cuneta.

- **Helen Vela**, one of the hosts of *Student Canteen*, and a pioneer in the radio advice program genre with her show “Lovingly yours, Helen.”
- Mariano Contreras, aka **Pugo Contreras**: One of the famed wartime duo of Pugo and Togo during the Bodabil Era, and famous in Philippine comedy up to the 1970s.
- Ma. Lourdes Carvajal, aka **Inday Badiday**: Queen of Showbiz Gossip.
- **Bayani Casimiro**, “The Fred Astaire of the Philippines.”
- Francisco Bustillos Diaz, aka **Paquito Diaz**.
- Jose Surban Chua, aka **Dindo Fernando**.
- Victor Silayan, aka **Vic Silayan**.
- Renato Requiestas, aka **Rene Requiestas**: Comedian.
- Ricardo Carlos Yan, aka **Rico Yan**: Matinee idol.
- **Diomedes Maturan**: Crooner.
- **Teodoro Valencia**’s column, “Over a Cup of Coffee,” was the widest-read and most influential opinion column. He became a pillar of the Martial Law media.
- **Eugenio “Geny” Lopez Jr.**, Chairman Emeritus of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation.
- **Dodjie Laurel**, sportscar driver and son of President Jose P. Laurel.
- **Gabriel “Flash” Elorde**, prominent Filipino boxer.

Paco Cemetery, originally **Cementerio General de Dilao** then **Cementerio General de Paco**, was built in the suburb of San Fernando de Dilao. The construction of the cemetery began in 1814, and a cholera epidemic prompted the use of the cemetery in 1820. The cemetery housed the remains of Spaniards, indios, and mestizos from different parishes adjacent Manila, which included Intramuros, Binondo, Quiapo, San Miguel, Sta. Cruz, Sampaloc, Tondo, Ermita, and Manila. The remains of Dr. Jose Rizal were interred in the cemetery immediately after his execution in Bagumbayan (now Luneta), in the ground between the inner and outer walls; Rizal’s remains were then exhumed in 1898. [Visit the Official Gazette’s page on the death and burial of Rizal.] The bodies of the Gomburza, three priests executed in February 1872, were also buried in Paco, although the exact location is unknown.

During the Second World War, the cemetery was used by the Japanese as a fort and an ammunition and central supply depot. Paco Cemetery was converted into a national park in 1966; its niches now stand empty and are no longer used for burials.

Himlayang Pilipino was built in 1976, on the forest where “Tandang Sora gave Bonifacio and his men refuge and healing.” The remains of Tandang Sora herself were once interred in its grounds. Today, **Emilio Jacinto**—known as the “Brains of the Katipunan”—counts as among the many heroes of the Philippine Revolution that are buried in Himlayang Pilipino. Jacinto wrote for the Katipunan’s paper, Kalayaan, under the pseudonym Dimasilaw; he authored the Kartilya ng Katipunan as well. Jacinto died of malaria on April 16, 1899 at the age of 24. The monument for Emilio Jacinto in Himlayang Pilipino was created by the sculptor Florante Caedo and unveiled on December 15, 1976.

The Quezon Memorial Circle is a national shrine and national park located in Quezon City, which used to serve as the capital of the Philippines (1948-1976). The site was supposed to be the National Capitol in the original Quezon City plan; President Osmeña designated it the site for a Memorial to be built through public donations. Its construction began in 1952 and finished in 1978, in time for the centennial of the birth of **Manuel L. Quezon**, first President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, whose remains were transferred to the Memorial from Manila North Cemetery on August 19, 1979. The mausoleum contains the remains of Quezon, and his wife, **First Lady Aurora A. Quezon**.

Located in Batac, Ilocos Norte, this houses the remains of **President Ferdinand E. Marcos**. His remains are currently being preserved since its arrival in 1992. The Mausoleum also houses memorabilia of the late President.
The Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite marks the place of the declaration of independence of the Philippines from Spain on June 12, 1898. Today it serves as a national shrine and museum where the Philippine flag is raised on June 12th of each year to celebrate the Araw ng Kalayaan (Independence Day). President Emilio Aguinaldo was interred in the garden of his home after his death on February 6, 1964, which he had donated to the nation on June 12, 1963. The Gat Apolinario Mabini Shrine in Tanauan contains a museum and a library, designed by National Artist for Architecture Juan F. Nakpil. It was inaugurated by then-Vice President Carlos P. Garcia and First Lady Luz Banzon-Magsaysay on July 23, 1956. The remains of Mabini, originally buried in the Manila Chinese Cemetery, were transferred to the Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion, and transferred again to Tanauan in July, 1965. Visit the NHCP page on the Mabini Shrine.

This was the birthplace and the house of our National Hero Dr. José Rizal. It was destroyed during World War II but was eventually restored by virtue of Executive Order no. 145 s. 1950 with donations from school children. President Elpidio Quirino commission architect Juan K. Nakpil to rebuild the house considering its original make. The parents of Jose Rizal, Francisco Mercado and Teodora Alonzo, are buried here.

Angono Rizal, coined as the “Arts Capital of the Philippines”, is the site of the grave of the National Artist for Visual Arts Carlo “Botong” V. Francisco, who died on March 31, 1969. It houses the oldest known work of art in the country: the Angono Petroglyphs.

San Agustin Church is a Roman Catholic church constructed during the occupation of the Spaniards in the Philippines. Today it resides within the walls of Intramuros, Manila, under the auspices of the Order of St. Augustine. It was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1993 and was marked as a National Historical Landmark by the government of the Philippines in 1976. It houses the tombs of Spanish conquistadors, Governors-General, other Spanish officials and archbishops, as well as the remains of Filipino laypersons. A shortlist of prominent figures interred in San Agustin Church:

- **Martín de Goiti** – Spanish Basque conquistador who led the expedition sent by Legazpi in 1569 to conquer Manila; killed in the expedition that fought Limahong.
- **Miguel López de Legazpi** – Conquistador who claimed the Philippines for Spain, founder of Spanish Manila.
- **Juan Luna** – Considered the foremost Filipino painter of the Propaganda Era patriot, arrested at the onset of the Revolution, returned to Spain, member of the delegation to Washington to assert Philippine independence, died in Hong Kong on his way home after the assassination of his brother, Gen. Antonio Luna.
- **Pedro A. Paterno** – Negotiator of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato, second Prime Minister of the First Republic, member of the First Philippine Assembly and Resident Commissioner to the United States Congress.
- **Trinidad H. Pardo de Taverna** – Intellectual, member of the Propaganda Movement, brother-in-law of Juan Luna.
- **Juan de Salcedo** – Deputy of de Goiti, succeeded his commander in the fight against Limahong, died en route to Vigan in 1575.


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