



**Thelmo Yllano Cunanan Co A-2**

*A determined soldier from the Philippine Military Academy, enjoying another "Plebe" year in '57, he proved to be a true classmate, respected by all of '61. Thelmo, or Ty as we knew him, was quick to make friends. Few will forget his smile and cheerful personality. "Spoony," "hivey," and respected, Ty is destined to leadership in the Philippines of the future.*

**Born** – 14 Apr 1938, Minglanilla, Cebu, Philippines.

**To USMA** – Came from Balinag, Bulacan, Philippine, Islands Appointed by Republic of Philippines (Foreign Cadet). Nickname – "Ty".

**Died** – 16 Jan 2011 (age 72) at Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines. Buried at Heritage Memorial Park in Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

**Military Awards** – Many Philippine Decorations and Awards – e.g. Congressional Medal of Achievement.

**Schooling** – MBA Degree, University of Philippines.

**Family** - Wife – Belinda Olivares Cunanan - 3 children (Christine, Thelmo, and Conrad) – 2 grandchildren.

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Ty served on active duty in the Philippine Army (Infantry) for 33 years, retiring in 1994, with the rank of Lieutenant General and Chief of the Southern Command, the biggest area command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This was followed by a distinguished career in civilian public service.

In 1986, Ty nearly died during an encounter with communist guerillas in Cagayan Valley. In that firefight, he sustained 27 bullet and grenade wounds. Ty spent nearly three months in the hospital but, after fully recovering, headed back to the field and, as commander of the Second Infantry Brigade based in Laguna, was instrumental in the defense of the administration of then President Corazon Aquino against several coups d'etat. In the most serious threat to the Aquino administration in 1989, Ty led a convoy of troops and armored vehicles 6-kilometers long that reinforced Camp Aguinaldo, which was under siege by rebel forces. In 1993, under Ty's watch as the military's top Commander in Mindanao, the Philippine South enjoyed relative calm and stability. But there were notable peace and order operations. In one highly publicized case, Ty worked closely with then Vice President Joseph Estrada for the successful release of American bible translator Charles Walton, who was being held hostage by Muslim extremists in Sulu.

After retiring from the Army in 1994, Ty was appointed Ambassador to the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia where he led regional efforts to end civil strife in that country. In 2001, Ty was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), where he actively promoted and championed the use and development of renewable energy. In 2004, he was appointed Chairman of the Philippine Social Security System (SSS), where he and his fellow Commissioners were credited with bringing the SSS back from near bankruptcy. Ty passed away on 16 January 2011, from cancer.