

Reynaldo Wycoco

Reynaldo Wycoco, known to us as “Wycs”, was a friend of mine. I always enjoyed spending an evening with him during meetings of the Philippine graduates of the J. F. Kennedy School of Government. During those evenings he was always willing to explain to me some of the history of the Philippines and the context of the actions of the Government of the Philippines. How fortunate I was to talk on a casual basis with someone like him who knew the workings of the Government and who sought better understanding of the workings of the Government. In this complicated, difficult world, understanding each other’s problems is crucial. He sought to understand and to be understood.

However, Wycs was more than a talker. He was a doer. He served as Vice President of our group of graduates of the J. F. Kennedy School of Government. He raised funds to help sponsor our activities. He always participated in our activities. He was a good friend to all.

And he did all of this while serving as the Director of the National Bureau of Investigation, one of the most difficult and sensitive jobs in the Government. On more than a few occasions, I watched him on television explaining to all what he and his colleagues at the National Bureau of Investigation were doing and why.

Like all who knew him, I was shocked and so very saddened to learn that he suffered a massive stroke late last November and then passed away on Monday, December 20, 2005. Presidential Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye is quoted in the *Philippine Inquirer* as saying that “We have lost a good man

and a true professional.” Surely Secretary Bunye was correct.

The *Philippine Inquirer* quotes President Macapagal-Arroyo’s adviser for political affairs, Gabriel Claudio, as describing Wycs as a “friend and a Filipino.” Mr. Claudio added that Wycs’ “record and reputation as a dedicated law enforcer, an honest public official and a true gentleman will be very difficult to match, replace or forget.” Mr. Claudio was also correct.

Reynaldo Wycoco was both humble and bright, engaged and committed. Through enlightened leadership, he made a difference and had an impact on people and their daily lives including mine. He followed in the best tradition of others who trained for public service at the Philippine Military Academy or the J. F. Kennedy School of Government, and he provided much needed leadership for all of us to follow.

My most sincere condolences are extended to his family.

I will miss him, but I will always remember him for his friendship, for his understanding of the problems of others as well as his seeking to be understood, and for his leadership.

May he rest in peace.

John Arthur Boyd