



Dr. Estrella Madjus-Poblete 2020 Humanitarian Service and Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Estrella Madjus Poblete was born on Feb 28, 1937 in the quiet and beautiful fishing village of Dimiao Bohol. Her parents Josefa and Serapion were both educators. She spent her early years reading voraciously and playing with the numerous family dogs. They would have many dogs in the house as she grew up, fostering her love of animals. She attended elementary education in Dimiao Bohol and high school in Holy Spirit School in Tagbilaran the Capital City of Bohol. In the mid 1950s as a teenager her family moved to Manila for her father's work. Her father, Serapion, had become the Confidential Secretary of Carlos P. Garcia, then Governor of Bohol. Garcia would go on to win the Presidency in 1957. Her father stayed on as his Confidential Secretary through his Presidency and would remain his friend and confidante until President Garcia's death in 1971. She enrolled at the University of Sto. Tomas for premedical and medical school where she graduated in 1960. After graduation she worked as a medical resident at a busy North General Hospital in Manila for two years. It was during this exciting time that she would meet a charismatic over achiever and her future husband, Dr Honesto N. Poblete, who happened to be working as a rotating intern from 1961 to 1962. In June 1963 they both went to the United States in Westchester County New York. She worked as a rotating intern at St. Johns Riverside Hospital from 1963 to, 1964. From there she went for one year pathology residency at Wyckoff Heights hospital from 1964 to 1965. In 1966 she was married to her husband Honesto in Brooklyn New York where they would start their family. Their first child Fredrick was born in 1967 followed by their second son Honesto Jr. in 1969. Both were delivered in Brooklyn Hospital. At the same time she began her family she began her Ob _ Gyn residency at North Shore Hospital then transferred to Brooklyn Hospital where she completed her OB_ GYN residency in 1969. In 1970 they decided to move back to the Philippines to live and practice. They returned to an atmosphere of political turmoil and unrest with street demonstrations and protest against the government becoming more frequent. In 1971, they welcomed their third and favorite son, Gerald, to the family. With 3 young sons and in the face of political uncertainty and impending Martial Law she and Honesto decided to move back to New York and raise their family. In 1973 they both passed their licensure examination. She is also board certified in OB_ GYN. She became a fellow of the American College of OB _ GYN. In 1974 they moved to Trenton NJ through the invitation of Dr Catalino Arenas her uncle in-law At the time she was the only female Obstetrician In the area and quickly developed a thriving practice. At her peak she was delivering well over 300 babies a year and practiced for 38 years, you do the math! There was a time she delivered eight pairs of twins in one year. She was a member of the staff of Robert Wood Johnson then called Hamilton Hospital and Capital Health System then called Mercer Medical Center for her entire career. She has touched thousands of lives in central NJ, literally bringing thousands of lives into the community. She has supported countless family and friends in the Philippines by putting them through primary and secondary school. Some of them Drs and Nurses practicing today. She assisted on numerous medical missions in the Philippines conducting free clinics and performing free surgeries. in 2012 after 38 years in private practice she decided to retire. She now spends her time surrounded by her loving family, socializing with her prayer group, traveling and enjoying her 3 beautiful grandchildren, Maddy, Pippa and Lincoln.