



Nellie Alison Lansang was born on August 29, 1949 in the small town of Ubay, Bohol, Philippines to Gerardo and Rosamunda Alison. She was the oldest of 4 children and had 3 younger siblings – Boy Noni, Doris, and Bernadette.

Nellie’s most well known traits were instilled in her at a very young age. She was a well disciplined, family oriented child, with a love for music and her Catholic faith.

Growing up on the family farm, weekends were reserved for quality time with the extended family. Her Friday nights would begin with a 3 mile walk with her siblings, parents, cousins, aunts, and uncles to the family farm. During these walks, the family would pray the rosary. Her weekends at the farm included chores such as planting and harvesting rice, washing clothes in the river bed, and riding carabao carts for entertainment.

As the daughter of a musician, she began playing the ukulele at the age of 3, eventually learning the guitar, and was self-taught on the piano as well. Nellie was also well known for her singing, with one of her most popular roles being the soloist for the town reenactment of the Easter Sunday resurrection.

Another perk of being a musician’s daughter allowed for her to spend her summers accompanying her dad to the Cebu City night clubs. These trips started as early as the age of 6 where she would often use her dad’s saxophone case as her bed while he performed late at night.

During her high school years, Nellie attended Divine World College in Tagbilaran, Bohol, but family always remained a priority. Her weekends home from school entailed a 3-and-a-half-hour bus ride starting at 1 AM from the town of Tagbilaran arriving in her home town at 4:30 AM. She would do a quick drop off of her belongings at home and would proceed to her Uncle’s home to wake up and visit with family before the sun would even rise. Her weekends would continue as such, hopping from one relative’s house to another, with only one rule that she return home for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner for meals with her immediate family.

Nellie’s love for music remained strong throughout all her years. She had an ear for music with the ability to play songs simply by listening to the tune. Her love for musicals (beginning with the movie, “The Singing Nun”, and one of her all-time favorites, “The

Sound of Music”) was shared with her children and grandchildren often singing and teaching them the songs from the movie.

Nellie studied nursing at the Bohol Provincial Hospital School of Nursing in 1970. As the favorite of the house mother, she would often play the guitar and sing for her. These impromptu music sessions also allowed for her to distract the house mother so that her class mates could sneak in past their curfew.

Summers would always bring her back to Ubay for annual family reunions with her mom’s 8 siblings and their families. During these trips home she would often discipline her younger sister and would get upset with her mom for allowing her youngest sister, Bernadette, to gallivant so freely. Nellie was not so innocent herself, as she would use these visits home as an opportunity to share stories about her patients knowing it would scare Bernadette.

Upon graduation from nursing school, she moved to Butuan, Mindanao to do post graduate work and continued to work in the Philippines until she decided to join a foreign exchange program that would lead her to the United States.

Nellie worked as a student nurse in Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia with aspirations to still become a nun, that was until she was introduced to a younger navy man who claimed he wanted to become a priest. Instead of becoming a nun, Nellie, and this aspiring priest, Daniel, fell in love and continued to see each other while he was stationed in Patuxent Riverland, Maryland.

In 1973 she moved to Newark, NJ and continued her nursing at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center while still dating Danny. In 1975 Nellie brought him home for the first time and it was during this visit, they got married in her home town at Sto. Nino church. Because her in-laws owned a tailoring business in Manila, her wedding dress was made by her mother-in-law, and the intricate beading was sewn on to the dress by Danny.

Shortly after marrying, Danny was stationed in the Philippines from 1976 - 1979 and their first son, Neil, was born. In 1979 the family moved to San Diego, CA where Danny was stationed at Miramar Naval Airbase and Nellie worked at Paradise Valley Hospital. In 1981, Nellie gave birth to her second child and only daughter, Denise Samantha “Sam”, and later had a third child, Francis, in 1984. It was in San Diego that Nellie and Danny established their roots, allowing for them to petition both their parents and each of their siblings to come to America.

As a member of St. Michael’s Church in Paradise Hills, Nellie became an active participant of the Filipino Cursillo Movement in 1986. It was through this community that Nellie continued her faith based practices, often sharing her love and faith in God with her fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Nellie and Danny eventually moved their family to northern San Diego where they became parishioners of St. Michael's church in Poway, and both were active members of the church choir. Her work with the Filipino Cursillo movement never changed and only expanded and included multiple leadership

roles throughout her years of participation, ultimately placing her in the 2018 Secretariat until she became too ill to actively participate.

Nellie continued her career as a Nurse to provide not just for her immediate family, but her extended family as well. She retired from Scripps Mercy Hospital after being diagnosed in 2011 with Multiple Myeloma, but continued her treatment and care at the hospital simply because of the friendships and relationships she had established with the staff at Scripps Mercy.

Nellie was always loving and had an ability to make anyone who she interacted with, feel like family. She was a natural prankster but also a stern disciplinarian. She enjoyed learning how to bake desserts and eventually became known for the baklava she would bring to family parties. When Nellie wasn't traveling, babysitting, or being an active member of the church, you could most likely find her at "school" – Insert any Casino Name Here.

Nellie's generosity went beyond providing for her family. She and Danny enjoyed hosting for their loved ones and everyone was always welcome to stay at their home. Their home always served as a hub for family to gather and a welcome center for any visitor from out of town including, but not limited to, their tour bus driver who they met while on vacation in Europe. Nellie and Danny were also well known for hosting dinners at their home for the San Diego Filipino Diocesan priests during their annual retreats.

Nellie lived a full life, being the glue that kept generations of family close together, no matter how many miles apart. She and her siblings continued the tradition of family reunions in their home town every 5 years, with the next one planned for 2020. Nellie maintained lifelong friendships from all walks of life and took every opportunity she could to travel all over the world. What truly completed her life though, were her six grandchildren – Evangeline Rose (6), Leona Skye (3), Krisanne Denise (3), Lillian Quinn (2), Zoey Del (1), and Dylan Ger (1).

Her retired years allowed for her to spend quality time with her grandchildren, teaching them the prayers she taught her own children, with the most popular one being "Angel Of God", singing it to them at bed time. She instilled her love for music in each and every one of them, often playing them songs on the ukulele and singing them nursery rhymes and songs from Sound of Music.

Throughout all her years, Nellie's characteristics remained the same. She was family oriented, loving, generous, and well respected by family and friends. Our days without her will never be the same, but just as she believed in Life after Death, we believe that we will be reunited with her again.