



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

Public Affairs Service, DND Annex Building, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City 1110

Website: www.dnd.gov.ph | **E-Mail:** publicaffairs.dnd@gmail.com

Tel: (+632) 982-5679 | 911-6001 to 31 ext. 8229 | **Fax:** (+632) 911-7113

Date Released: 8 March 2018

Releasing Officer: **DIR. ARSENIO R. ANDOLONG, MNSA, CESE**
Chief, Public Affairs Service

Former Defense Secretary Abat passes away

It is with great sadness that the Department of National Defense announces the passing of the 20th Secretary of National Defense, Secretary Fortunato U. Abat, who served as Defense Chief from 16 September 1997 to 30 June 1998. Sec. Abat died at the age of 92 last night while confined at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC).

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Chapels, Commonwealth, Quezon City and will be ready for public viewing by 09 March 2018.

Secretary Abat will be laid to rest on March 13 (tentative) at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City where he will be given full military honors. The schedule of the necrological service will be announced later.

Sec. Abat also served as Undesecretary of National Defense, Administrator of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, and was appointed Philippine Ambassador to China from 1981-1986.

A World War 2 and Korean War veteran, Sec. Abat was a member of PMA Class of 1951 and retired from active military service as Commanding General of the Philippine Army.

He is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren who request that in lieu of flowers, sympathizers may donate instead to the HERO Foundation for the benefit of orphans of disabled or deceased soldiers.

###

--