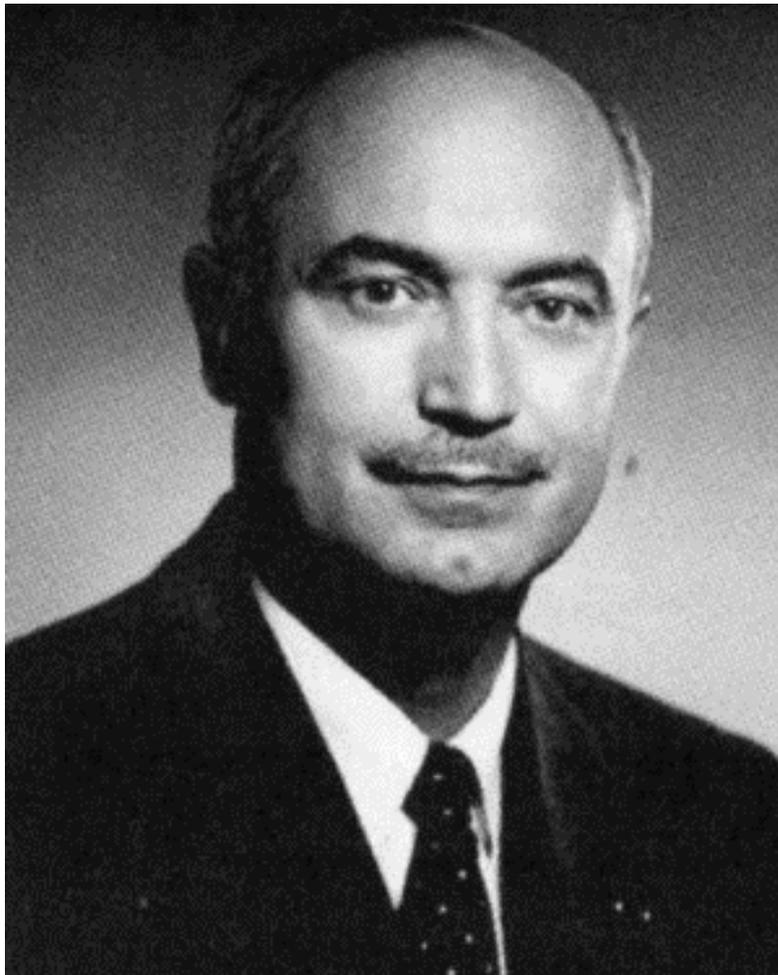


Col. Joseph R. McMicking

Spy

Business Man

**My Great Great Uncle and
My Great Famous American**



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Col. Joseph Ralph McMicking is my famous American but everyone called him Uncle Joe. He was born March 23, 1908 and he died October 5, 1990. He was born and grew up in Manila, Philippines. His parents were Jose La Madrid McMicking and Maria Anisa Angelina Ynchausti. He was the oldest of five children. His father was a lawyer and his mother was interested in horticulture and she did a lot of work at the Botanical Gardens. During World War II his mother smuggled in medicine to prisoners of war captured by the Japanese.

Uncle Joe went to De La Salle high school in Manila. When he was 16 year old he traveled to the US on a boat. He finished his last two years at a boarding high school called San Rafael Military Academy in Marin County. Once he finished high school he went to college at Stanford. After three years he went back to Manila and started to work many jobs, first at a camera store, then as car salesman, and at an insurance company. He took flying lessons and became a pilot and joined the Philippine Air Force Reserves. He flew planes until he was 70. America recruited him to be an intelligence officer in the US Army. General Douglas MacArthur chose him to join his staff at the beginning of the World War II. He became an American citizen when he was on MacArthur's staff.

He married a childhood friend who was also born and grew up in Manila. They never had children but he considered his nephews and nieces as their children. The nieces and nephews called her Aunty Cissy. Uncle Joe was famous during the war because he helped the Filipino guerilla groups fight against the Japanese. He helped them by bringing supplies to them and worked for the Philippine government after the war. He also developed the spy network in the Philippines against the enemy. "Joe McMicking, not quite 34 years old, was the most junior of twelve officers and the only Filipino, representing the Philippine Army, participating in that heroic midnight escapade by PT Boat with General MacArthur leading the perilous flight by sea." (Buddy Gomez).

When the war ended he became president of a big company in Manila. He built the new city of Makati in the Philippines. Uncle Joe and Aunty Cissy also built the Ayala Museum in Manila. Uncle Joe helped develop the first video tape recorders. He provided scholarships for many students to go to college. He developed a residential community in Southern Spain.

He loved his family and friends. He is my maternal Great Great Uncle. He was always thinking about new ways of improving life. He was a visionary, a planner and innovator and had many ideas. He was always ready to help and inspire others. He was hardworking and expected the same of others. He was a good citizen. My grandma said this about Uncle Joe, "I admire him because he was smart, loyal, tough but fair and was not lazy. His family always came first and he showed us how much he loved us. I loved spending time with Uncle Joe and Aunty Cissy." (Consuelo Hall McHugh) We are inspired by him because he did so much for both the Philippines and the United States. He was a hero not only in war but in peace and helped many people and that's why he is my famous American.

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Interview with Consuelo H McHugh, niece of Col. Joseph R. McMicking.