

ATTY. TERESITA G. VIDAMO (Posthumous)

District Public Attorney
Public Attorney's Office - Las Piñas
Dangal ng Bayan Awardee, 2005

In the face of death, it is but natural to take a step back and give up that which threatens your life. But that is not the case for this public defender.

Despite serious threats to her life, she stood her ground and refused to give up on the fight of indigent clients against influential landowners. Such professionalism and dedication has earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and cost her her life. Because she chose to remain steadfast in her duty, she was assassinated in front of her house as she was leaving for work in the morning of February 9, 2005.

She has been known to give beyond the bounds of her job, even providing food and shelter for a month to a poor woman who was too sick to travel to and from Manila to attend hearings. She was never weary of the poor and indigenous people who seek her help. She has always held a soft spot for them and gave her best effort to serve them well.

On her free time, she rendered free legal assistance to other less fortunate individuals. Since 2003, she has been spending her weekends at the National Bilibid Penitentiary as a volunteer paralegal officer, helping inmates who are qualified for parole, pardon or clemency. She has also extended assistance to female inmates in the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW). Apart from paralegal services, she also provided spiritual comfort and charity. Through her volunteer work, she has helped inmates and their families find fresh hope amidst the difficulties of their situation.

Generous, God-fearing and dedicated, Atty. Vidamo has exemplified the qualities of a true public servant. Having paid the supreme sacrifice in the name of public service, she has proven yet again the unwavering commitment and courage of public defenders in their quest for justice. With her death, another exemplary public servant has been called to rest. But the legacy she left behind shall remain alive for those whose lives she has touched and changed for the better. •

