Remembering Adrian E. Flatt, MD

Rolando M. Solis, MD

Interventional Cardiologist, The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano, Plano, Texas

Dr. Adrian E. Flatt died on October 14, 2017, at the age of 96. He was the former chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas and an eminent hand surgeon, author, professor, and lecturer of world renown.

I had two interesting encounters with him, first, when he became my cardiology patient and, secondly, as a hand caster of famous world personalities.

In late 1995, he was referred to me for cardiac catheterization with coronary angiography for suspected coronary artery disease. At that time, I was starting to do left heart catheterization and selective coronary arteriography using the radial approach. Upon examination, I thought he was an ideal candidate for this new technique because his right radial artery was prominent and bounding. With foreknowledge that he was a preeminent hand surgeon, I hesitantly asked him whether I could do his diagnostic cardiac catheterization procedure by this approach. To my surprise, he consented readily without much ado. The diagnostic procedure went very well. He subsequently underwent successful quadruple coronary bypass surgery on January 4, 1996, performed by Dr. Carl Henry.

Dr. Flatt was also well known for casting and bronzing of hands of famous and interesting personalities the world over. They are now displayed prominently in lighted glass cases at The Adrian E. Flatt, MD Hand Collection located on the first floor of the Truett Building at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

On November 9, 1989, the late President Corazon C. Aquino of the Philippines visited Dallas as part of her state visit to the United States. She was known worldwide as a famous personality—icon of Philippine democracy; cover of *Time*

Figure 1. Adrian E. Flatt, MD, casts President Corazon C. Aquino's hands for the Adrian E. Flatt, MD Hand Collection on the first floor of the Truett Building at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. On the right is Rolando M. Solis, MD, who arranged the casting.

magazine's January 5, 1987, issue as Woman of the Year; Nobel Peace Prize nominee; and recipient of many other accolades. I knew her well because I was her late husband's cardiologist. I thought she would be another good candidate for Dr. Flatt's hand collection.

After she consented to hand casting, Dr. Flatt and I took all of his equipment for the process to the Crescent Hotel in Dallas, where she was billeted. He did the molding procedure right there at her suite (*Figure 1*). Her bronzed hands are now on display at Dr. Flatt's hand collection at Baylor in the same glass case as those of England's former Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

Corresponding author: Rolando M. Solis, MD, 700 Walter Reed Blvd., Suite 205, Garland, TX 75042 (e-mail: rmsolis@mac.com)

Color versions of one or more of the figures in the article can be found online at www.tandfonline.com/ubmc.