

Cuong Trinh – Eulogy
May 17, 1959 to May 30, 2023
Given June 4, 2023

Basic Intro – who I am and how I know Cuong.

Hello, my name is Britt Smith and, for those of you who do not know me, I am the owner of GSC, the company where Cuong worked. And I am honored and privileged to stand before you today and speak about the wonderful person that Cuong was.

Detail Intro – GSC, where he worked and what he did, state Significance of Cuong here?

As most of you know, Cuong worked at GSC and was in charge of putting together all of the fixtures that we made. While I did not realize this early on, this is probably the most important job at GSC because he is responsible for making the fixtures function for all of our customers. If it does not work, then GSC does not get paid by the customer. Even though I have now been at GSC for over 16 years, I just recently realized how difficult this must have been during the first 5 years of me being at GSC because our machining practices were lacking. This meant that Cuong would get parts for a fixture that were not made to specification and have to put them together anyway. SOMEHOW HE FIGURED OUT HOW TO DO THIS TIME AND TIME AGAIN. As a result, our customers were kept satisfied and we had enough time to go through the process of improving our machining practices. Thank God!

Significance to me – he meant everything!

As a result, I would not be here today standing before you as the owner of GSC if it had not been for Cuong. Very few people in my life have had such a significant effect on it as Cuong did. And I am truly blessed!

Believer in Jesus Christ – I am a believer ...

I am a believer in Jesus Christ which means that I believe that He died for me, forgave me and gave me the greatest gift of all: eternal life. As a believer in Jesus Christ, that means that I believe in the both the natural world (where we live on earth) and the supernatural world (what we cannot see around us). In the supernatural world, there are Angels that exist and they can become present in one's life and I believe Cuong was a Guardian Angel that was sent to protect GSC and ultimately me and all of us. I did not realize this until recently but I am still eternally grateful to him for protecting GSC, me and everyone even though I did not recognize it at the time.

Cuong indeed was a special person. He had a big smile that penetrated your very soul! He was so proud of his new teeth and rightly so after they were put in. It was like the presence of God was right there in front of you because of the unlimited joy that you could see in his face when he smiled. Another way to say it is that he was "big-hearted" and his big smile was a way to see his big heart inside him.

Cuong traits:

When I think about Cuong, I think about his many traits that made him wonderful.

- Kind – always willing to help anyone who needed it
- Respectful – rarely would he speak to me first before I spoke to him even though I always wanted to hear what he had to say

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- **Caring** – after I announced we were starting a matching 401k retirement plan, he came up to me afterwards and told me that it was “so good to do this for the young people”. And even though he was in his 60’s, he signed up for the 401k and began making contributions.
- **Loyal** – in the sense that he always wanted to do whatever he could to help GSC and everyone here. One of his last acts of loyalty was for him to come to the GSC lunch on the Friday before he passed on the next Tuesday. He wanted to display the loyalty that he had for GSC and model the strong desire he had to be at GSC no matter how bad he felt.
- **Diligent** – when I went to see him on the day he passed I found out that he put together GSC parts at home until the day before he passed.
- **Resourceful** – during the first 5 years of me being at GSC, we were not very good at machining parts for the fixtures that Coung put together. As a result, Cuong would have to use all kinds of “tricks” (I called Coung “C-O-U-N-G” Fu) to get the fixtures to assemble properly and function properly. **I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR THIS BECAUSE IF HE DID NOT DO THIS AT THAT TIME GSC WOULD NOT EXIST TODAY.**
- **Generous** – He was always willing to give you whatever he had if he thought you might need it: water, chips, prints ...
- **Loving** – Everything he said to me came from the perspective of how he can be helpful.
- **Driven** – once he arrived for work at GSC, he rarely stopped working for breaks or even lunch. I remember many times looking out into the assembly area during lunchtime and there he was working away.

In summary, I could not be more blessed than to have had Cuong in my life. After my wife, Coung was one of the most **SIGNIFICANT** people I was fortunate to have in my life and I thank God everyday for that blessing. He was truly a Guardian Angel for GSC and me and with all the gratefulness that is possible on this earth, I thank Coung for loving me! Lastly, I say to Coung – Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! As a believer in Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life that he gave us, I will not say, “goodbye” to you but instead, I say, “until we see each other again”. Thank you for listening and Amen