

Tony Borg (1962-2018)

His Life was One of Continuous Service to the Gozitans

LINO BRIGUGLIO

Tony Borg was 56 when he died (born in 1962), after a battle with cancer which lasted six and a half years. I got to know him when he was a student at the University of Malta during the 1980s. I was one of his lecturers and we remained friends since then. I also got to know his parents very well.

During my time as Director of the University Gozo Campus, I often resorted to Tony's assistance when he headed the secretariat of Minister Giovanna Debono. Liaison between the University and the Gozo Ministry was of major importance for imparting tertiary education in Gozo and Tony's support in this regard was invaluable.



Tony was known for his good humour and his willingness to assist anybody who required his help. He was very energetic and a multi-tasker, as a public officer, in his capacity as Mayor of Fontana, as well as a family man. People who knew him had only pleasant things to say about him, especially because he was so generous with his time in helping others.

It was a great shock to me when I learned that he was suffering from cancer, and I admired his courage in fighting this illness over many years. According to Mario Calleja, in an appreciation which appeared in The Times of Malta of 6 January 2019, when cancer was diagnosed, the doctors had informed Tony that he would die within a couple of years at most. However, through perseverance, Christian faith and his love for life he lived for more than six years suffering from cancer during which he remained active against all odds, even swimming and going to the gym daily till the last days before he was hospitalized.

Tony passed away on 29th December 2018, at the Gozo General Hospital. His funeral took place on Thursday 3rd January 2019. The funeral mass, held at Ta' Pinu Sanctuary, was led by Archbishop Alfred Xuereb and attended by a large number of personalities, including the then President Marie-



Tony, with his wife Mary, and sons Alex and David

Louise Coleiro Preca, whom he got acquainted with through the Malta Community Chest Fund, and by many relatives, friends and acquaintances. The large congregation that attended to pay their last respects was a clear sign of the high esteem which Tony enjoyed. When his coffin was carried shoulder-high, those present saluted him with loud applause.

Tony left to mourn his loss his wife Dr Mary DeBono Borg, his sons Dr Alex and David, his sister Antoinette, his brothers George and Saviour, his wife's sister Sonia, their spouses as well as many nephews and nieces, relatives, colleagues and numerous friends.



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