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**Media Contact:** Rupa Mohan Brooks  
(310) 895-4455  
rupa.mohan@gmail.com

**109-YEAR-OLD SAN DIEGAN WITH RECENT CANCER DIAGNOSIS  
HOPES TO CELEBRATE CENTENARIAN'S DAY  
ON SEPTEMBER 20**

**Mira Mesa Resident Khen Ngo Looks Forward to “Reuniting” with  
Late Wife Amid Stage 4 Lung Cancer Battle**

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – September 14, 2020 – To honor his 109<sup>th</sup> birthday, family members gathered in a socially distanced manner at the home of Khen Ngo on July 4, 2020. With masks on, they celebrated the family's patriarch with a video collage and cake large enough for their multigenerational, Vietnamese family. Later that month, Ngo felt a “funny” side pain, which turned out to be stage 4 lung cancer. He hopes to celebrate his life with more cake on Sunday, September 20 (in honor of National Centenarian's Day on September 22).

A resident of San Diego for 35 years, Ngo is known for his jolly disposition and gratitude for life. Before the Coronavirus pandemic, he would attend Good Shepherd Catholic Church several times a week. Fellow churchgoers would flock to him for his faith, humor, and friendly demeanor. To Ngo, one can overcome challenges through the power of prayer. He prays before meals and bedtime and, on a typical day, enjoys watching Mass, soccer, and Korean dramas on TV.

A former recreational soccer player, Ngo attributes his longevity to the sport and daily cups of green and jasmine tea. He lives with his oldest daughter, her husband, and his adopted daughter, Kinh Nguyen. When Nguyen's parents passed, Ngo and his wife, Sam, raised her. In 2007, Sam passed away. During their 67-year marriage, she and Ngo had seven children, 21 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

(more)

When doctors revealed Ngo's grim cancer diagnosis, he and his children decided that it was best for him to stay at home, rather than at the hospital where visitors were prohibited. Though cancer has spread from his lungs to his ribs and spine, he rarely complains of pain. He is the last living sibling in his family and looks forward to "reuniting" with his late wife.

Born in 1911, Ngo and his entire family fled from Vietnam in a boat after the Fall of Saigon. They made a stop in the Philippines, then Guam, and eventually settled in California. Despite being partially deaf, Ngo worked as a small business owner for most of his life. He is a U.S. citizen.

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