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Aquino will always hold a place in the hearts of Filipinos

by ROCHELLE C. PANGILINAN
A/Press

MANILA—The people who wanted to catch a glimpse of Cory Aquino's funeral procession started to gather at Osmeña Highway to Buendia Avenue, near Cash & Carry Supermarket, a few minutes before noontime. These people braved the rains,

which would pour torrentially one minute and stop the next, so they could see Cory's funeral cortege pass by on the way to Manila Memorial Park, where she will be buried besides her husband, former Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr. As we made our way to find a good spot, we saw most of the people, young and old alike, armed with their jackets

and umbrellas, donning yellow shirts, emblazoned with either Cory's face, Cory's name or the mantra we have long associated with her and her husband Ninoy, "Di ka nag-iisa." A quick glance of the crowd and you will feel that that slogan truly rings true on this day.

At about 1pm, the crowd, which started light and barely noticeable, started to thicken, you can't help but wonder where they came from (perhaps even thinking that the country is indeed in dire need of population control). At a corner, a firetruck is on standby, with firemen holding up "Maraming Salamat Cory" posters, their radio tuned into an AM station where the announcer is providing every detail of this remarkable event. More and more people wearing yellow begin to line up the streets, practically marking their spots and patiently standing their ground amidst the rains, even though the funeral procession was a good two hours away from passing by. To pass the time away, some were texting away on their cellphones and others were munching on snacks, which probably were their lunch even. It was a good time for business for many of the vendors in the area who took advantage of the event to enjoy brisk sales of their wares—a man was even selling yellow polka-dotted umbrellas. It was also a good time to share sentiments with others who have long been Cory followers and wanted to show their support for the former president, even up to her death.

Jocelyn Capino, has followed the life of Cory Aquino—from a simple housewife to the president of the country—ever since the assassination of Ninoy back in 1983. She joined the rally at EDSA, known around the world as the People Power Revolution, which eventually toppled the Ferdinand Marcos administration back in 1986. She is no stranger to the value of loyalty, having worked for the Treasurer's Office at the Manila City Hall for 25 years. Today, she proves how loyal she could be as she and her husband Jose chose to forego their lunch to go to Buendia Ave. as early as 1130am and wait for Cory's funeral cortege

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