

IN MEMORIAM

**Tabby Bernardo**

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) was saddened to learn of the death of past staff member Tabby Bernardo in February 2022. Bernardo—whose full name was Lydia Mae Lilinoe Yuk Ung Choy Bernardo and whose friends called her Tabby—served as executive coordinator at NEHA from 1995–2005. She officially retired from NEHA on December 30, 2005.

While at NEHA, Bernardo worked closely with the association's leadership, including the executive director, board of directors, and affiliate presidents. She was responsible for a variety of administrative duties, as well as management of board elections, oversight of policy changes, and coordination of the Walter S. Mangold Award.

She was a key contact for the presidents of NEHA and was vital in their success. As Ron Grimes, past president of NEHA (2005–2006), stated, "I knew Tabby before I became an officer in NEHA. Having known several past presidents personally, I had always heard about this Tabby Bernardo who kept them focused on their job during their term in office. Until I became an officer and now president, I did not realize how much of an understatement those comments were." For her service, Bernardo was the recipient of the NEHA Past Presidents Award in 2005.

Bernardo enjoyed collaborating with people and being part of a team. This attitude is apparent in her reflections on her time at NEHA: "The chief joy I experienced was being allowed to meet and get to know a lot of people I normally wouldn't get to work with, such as NEHA's members."

Before joining NEHA in 1995, Bernardo was in human resources and administration with two Denver oil firms. She served for 14 years before that as director of public relations at St. Francis Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her journalism degree was from the University of Missouri and her master's in public relations and mass communications was from Syracuse University. She also held an APR (Accredited in Public Relations) credential.

For Bernardo, family, friends, her ties to Hawaii, and her church were important to her. As she stated in her staff profile, "On a personal level, I enjoy mah-jongg, travel, quiet walks, the theater, church activities, extolling the virtues of Colorado, visiting with family and friends in Hawaii, and rooting for the Denver Broncos."

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Tabby Bernardo. She contributed to the organization during her time through her characteristic and unassuming manner of quietly getting the job done with competence and consistency. She will be missed. ✨

Sources

National Environmental Health Association. (1998). Tabby Bernardo—Executive coordinator. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 61(4), 40.

National Environmental Health Association. (2006). NEHA's executive coordinator leaves big shoes under desk. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 68(8), 56.

Editor's Note: If you would like to share information about the passing of an environmental health professional to be mentioned in a future In Memoriam, please contact Kristen Ruby-Cisneros at kruby@neha.org. The *Journal* will publish the In Memoriam section twice a year in the June and December issues, or in other issues as determined appropriate.

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