
From: P Ramakrishnan

Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 6:24 PM

Subject: Fw: R.I.P. SARASWATHY DEVI THAMBIAH (Mrs S. T. Sundram) 55-57:20-7-2019

R.I.P. SARASWATHY DEVI THAMBIAH (Mrs S. T. Sundram) 55-57
– 20-7-2019

“There is something about losing a mother that is permanent and inexpressible – a wound that will never heal”

This morning I was greatly grieved to read the following message on the Kirkby chat group from Sumitra:

“My mum passed away at 3:55 a.m. this morning at our home from complications related to liver cirrhosis. She was 85 years old. Her soul now gets to continue its journey. Thanks alot to those who had called on her birthday on 11 July and more recently, those who visited, sent prayers and supported in other ways. I will update here on funeral arrangements once they are set. We are waiting for family members to fly in from overseas.” ❤️🙏

Love from Saraswathy Devi's daughter,
Sumi

Sumitra Sundram
H/P: 013 341 3566”

This announcement came as a shock as only 18 days ago Saras celebrated her 85th birthday.

Her death followed the demise of her son on 19-2-2019 – 5 months and 10 days later. The passing of her eldest son three days after his 59th birthday in the USA must have certainly affected her tremendously. Both mother and son passed away soon after their birthday.

At 8.15 am this morning Bala (59-59) rang me to find out if I was aware that Saras had passed on.

Then later on, I received the following message from Isabel Manuel (55-57):

“Dear Rama,

Just to let you know that Saraswathy Devi Thambyah(1955-57) passed away this morning. Vincent and I visited her on Wednesday as we were in K.L.for the death of my sister-in-law. Saras looked so serene and peaceful. We shared some precious moments with her. We prayed with her and she wanted to have a photo taken. Sumi sent it to me via e-mail and I was looking at it when I received the sad news. We only got back to Adelaide this morning. Sumi, her daughter has been so good, ringing up her friends to come and visit her. Saras was well looked after; may her soul rest in peace. Isabel”

Fui Yoon (55-57) shared the following news:

“Dear Sumi,

When Zauyah told me on Sat that your mom would like some of her same batch to visit her I was going to round them up. Alas your mom left us too soon. My heart-felt sympathies to you and the family. May her soul rest in eternal peace.
Auntie Fui Yoon.”

I first met Saras at the 2012 PD Kirkby Reunion. She was seated behind me in the bus returning to KL. She was a soft-spoken lady, quiet in her own way but friendly when you get to know her.

I had been in touch with her but lately was not able to speak to her because of her health issues. But she was overjoyed receiving all the birthday greetings 18 days ago!

I was not able to contact her or her daughter on her birthday. I messaged Sumitra and received the following message:

“Sorry, Uncle Rama. Dealing with a medical issue involving my mum. Thanks for the beautiful birthday tribute for my mum.”

I was lucky that Saras and her daughter spoke to me on my birthday in May. She mentioned that she no longer was able to go into her email. I asked for Sumi’s email address so that I could communicate with her regarding birthday news, etc. That was the last time that I spoke with Saras.

After the chat with Saras, I received the following message from Sumi:

“Hi Uncle Rama, happy birthday again. Glad my mum & I got to talk to you.

Here's my email address: sumitra_sundram@yahoo.com”

Saras must have been quite close to her Kirkby mates from her batch as can be discerned from the following message:

“Thanks alot for sharing, Uncle Rama. I will let my mum know & also get in touch with Aunty Sarada. My mum and I were at her son Sudesh's wedding in JB years ago. There were a lot of Kirkby folks present. It almost felt like a Kirkby reunion!”

That relationship will continue in the memory of those living. It is truly said, “The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living.”

The truth is, “Death ends a life, not a relationship.”

My dear Sumi, let me, on behalf of the Kirkby Family express our joint sorrow and sadness at your loss – which is also our loss!

My thoughts are with you. I am deeply sorry for your loss.

In sorrow,
RAMA

29-7-2019