

Another Kirkbyite takes his leave - we will miss Raju

With very warm regards,
RAMA

R. I. P. RAJU SUPPIAH (55-57) 28-1-2019

It is with profound sorrow and sadness that I announce the passing of Raju Suppiah (55-57).

This evening close to 5 pm, Leong Yut Wah (58-59) called me to inform me of this sad news. According to her, a man called at her place and enquired for Raju's house and told her that Raju had passed away.

Yut Wah, who lives close by, rushed to Raju's place and was shocked to learn from Raju's wife that he had indeed passed on yesterday. His body was still at the mortuary.

I called his wife, Mary who was very distraught and disorientated by the loss of her beloved husband. "I'm alone now," she stammered. She was overcome with emotion and could hardly speak.

I told her that I will inform his Kirkby friends and asked her whether it would be alright for them to call her. She said it will be difficult for her. So I told her that I shall ask the Kirkbyites not to call her. She was grateful.

You can drop a letter or a card. That would be meaningful.

On May 20, Raju would be 83 years old.

The last four days or so, I had this urge to call him but somehow kept postponing it. I had only spoken to him about a

week ago and there wasn't the urgency to speak to him again. I will regret this for a very long time.

I think, the wake will be tomorrow night followed by the funeral the next day on Thursday.

Raju was from the fifth batch of Kirkbyites. His Option was P.E.

He went back to Kirkby in 1962.

Many of you might recall that Raju had his leg amputated in 2013. When this news was circulated many Kirkbyites rallied around him in his moment of pain and agony.

So many Kirkbyites especially from his batch called him and this really boosted his spirit. He was over the moon that so many friends whom he had not met or spoken to had cared to call him and chatted with him. As a result he was in high spirits.

He had been in the Ipoh GH for more than two months and the daily calls from and contacts with his former colleagues really cheered him up!

He attended the 2014 Penang Kirkby Reunion in a wheelchair and was so glad to once again relive the Kirkby spirit among Kirkbyites. This was the first occasion that I had met him.

His first posting was to Trengganu – Kemaman, I think. Jean Moey was also posted to the same school as was R. K Nathan both from his batch. Raju played rugby for the Trengganu state.

Subsequently he was transferred to Perak and he also played rugby for the Perak state.

I understand that he wrote a book on Health Science which became a text book in schools. Subsequently he wrote a book on English Grammar.

In 2017 Poh Yuk and I went for a holiday in Damai Laut in Lumut. Raju invited us to meet up with him for lunch on our way to Damai Laut. It was a sumptuous lunch! He and his wife made us very welcome.

He is a very well read person. His knowledge on religion was fantastic. I could very comfortably put across my point of view on religion regarding certain facts and rituals and he could accept my views with an open-mind. He is well-versed in Christianity and would explain certain sensitive aspects of Christianity cheerfully. He recommended a book, "A Search For The Historical Jesus" which I asked my daughter in the States to get for me which she did last month.

He enjoys watching western movies and he would rattle off titles of films he had enjoyed. This helped me to catch up with some movies!

He is an avid listener to songs and he had mentioned many great songs which I had also forwarded for "SATURDAY'S SONG".

He leaves behind his wife Mary and a daughter residing in UK. Many years ago his son, a brilliant scholar in Form 6 was involved in an accident and died. That had affected him greatly all his life.

Personally, I shall miss him. He used to call me ever so often and we used to have very interesting conversations.

Please do not call Mary just yet. A few weeks later it may be alright.

The contact details are:

Tel: 05-5062 312;

Address: 3 Hala Sin Lok, Taman Sin Lok, 30010 Ipoh, Perak

Yours in sorrow,

RAMA