

My dear Fellow Kirkbyites,

Many of you must have known that Kirkbyite Urmila Nandey from the second batch (52-54) was married to the late former President of Singapore, Mr S R Nathan who passed away last month. I wrote a letter of condolence on 28 August 2016 on behalf of the Kirkby Family and passed it on to Ambassador Kesavapany to deliver it on our behalf. This letter was delivered today through the niece of Urmila.

This letter is attached for your information.

With very warm regards,  
RAMA

28 August 2016  
P Ramakrishnan  
4-D Lorong Delima 14  
Island Glades  
11700 PENANG

My Dear Madam Urmila Nandey,

For some moments in life there are no words. That's how it was when we learnt of the demise of your beloved husband, the former President of Singapore, Mr S R Nathan. It came as a terrible shock to all Kirkbyites.

Death is always a painful parting that drains you emotionally. It deprives you of a soul mate who has been part and parcel of your life. To be parted from someone whom you have known and loved for 74 years is something very difficult to accept.

But take comfort that you have had a very long and wonderful married life. You have been married for 58 years. That is a long time in the life of human beings. Both of you have been truly blessed to have shared your lives as friends, lovers and as companions for nearly six decades. God has been really good to both of you. You have been abundantly blessed.

Having been part of each other's life for such a long period of time, it must be extremely hard for you to bear this loss. But take comfort in the words of Lord Tennyson, "God's fingers touched him, and he slept."

You are truly blessed to have shared your life with such a distinguished and remarkable man who has left a deep impression on Singaporeans with his devotion to duty and service to the nation. He will long be remembered as the longest serving president of Singapore. He has left behind an indelible mark in the history of Singapore. And you are part of that history.

Please accept the heart-felt condolences of all Kirkbyites who share your grief and sorrow as members of the Kirkby family.

I hope the following quotations will provide some relief and comfort:

*When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.*

*~Kahlil Gibran*

*Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal. ~From a headstone in Ireland*

*When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. ~Author Unknown*

*Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow,  
May looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow.*

*~Author Unknown*

*To live in the hearts we leave behind  
Is not to die.*

*~Thomas Campbell, "Hallowed Ground"*

*For certain is death for the born  
And certain is birth for the dead;  
Therefore over the inevitable  
Thou shouldst not grieve.*

*~Bhagavad Gita (250 BC – 250 AD), Chapter 2*

Take care and keep well.

Yours in sorrow,

P Ramakrishnan,  
On behalf of the Kirkby family