

The Late Mr Ponnampalam Sundaresan



1936 - 2014

The late Mr Ponnampalam Sundaresan was born on the 4 Oct 1936 in Kandarodai, Jaffna to Murugesu Ponnampalam and Annammal Illayathambi. He was the fourth child and the eldest son in the family of seven children: (Late) Kamalambigai, Saradha Devi, Sivananthavalli, Kumaranayagan, Varatharajan and Thiruuadaian.

His early education was at Skandhavarodaya College in Kandarodai and then Jaffna Hindu College. He excelled academically and graduated with a Chemistry major from the University of Ceylon. He then enjoyed a brief period as Lecturer of Chemistry and Botany for advanced-level students at St. Joseph's College, Colombo, prior to embarking on a long and distinguished career in the Pharmaceutical industry, both in Sri Lanka and Australia. He also completed additional postgraduate qualifications in Pharmacy. He worked at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Sri Lanka for almost 30 years, rising to the position of Manufacturing Director. He migrated to Australia in 1992 and continued his professional career with Pfizer, Australia until his retirement in 1999.

He was a man of principle with values deeply rooted in spirituality, preferring quiet reflection to religious rituals. He was polite yet forthright, always appreciating the individuals around him for their part in his life and acknowledging this through his actions and words. He was a man who applauded the talent and achievement of others, be it family or friends. He always had an encouraging word, advice or praise for them, or indeed a simple 'thank you' to convey his appreciation of their unique capability. He was a warm, friendly and helpful individual who always remained involved in the lives of those close to him without any expectations in return.

After a brief period of illness, Mr. Sundaresan passed away peacefully on the 13 Mar 2014 at the Macquarie University Hospital. He leaves behind Kumuthini, his wife and soul mate of 49 years, his children Purnima and Arunan, their partners, Desigah and Anjella, and his precious grandsons Dillon, Kiran and Rowan, whose lives Mr Sundaresan remained very closely involved with until the end.

A lifetime of service, contributions and achievements, together with his demonstration of determination through times of adversity, dedication, sacrifice and generosity are testament to his love for his family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances, particularly those he perceived to be less fortunate than him. His was a life well-lived, demonstrating what an exemplary soul he was. He is and will continue to be missed in the years to come by his family, friends and all whom he helped and inspired.

The Tamil Senior Citizens' Association and the Benevolent Society deeply grieve his death and pray that his soul Rests in Peace.