

REMEMBERING RICHARD VELU

KIND, HELPFUL AND UNASSUMING

VELU was a journalist whose integrity, curiosity, and compassion were unmatched. He approached every story with a relentless pursuit of truth, but it was his humanity that truly set him apart.

My interactions weren't as often as I would have preferred. But when we did, Velu's soft affable smile would draw me into a warm embrace and handshake with him.

He was at his best telling the quiet, powerful stories of ordinary people. Velu had a way of making everyone feel seen and valued.

One of his stories I will never forget is about the late Lydia de Vega of the Philippines — how he described her metamorphosis from cocoon to butterfly.



(From left) Johnson, George, R. Selvarani, Olivia Jalleh & Velu.

More than a brilliant journalist, he was unassuming. Velu was a gentlemanly journalist. He was kind, helpful. A tremendous human being.

Not one to pull rank, he mentored younger journalists as well, even when he had moved into sports marketing.

His absence leaves a void that can never truly be filled, but his legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched and the stories he so beautifully brought to life.

BY JOHNSON FERNANDEZ