

REMEMBERING RICHARD VELU

A SKILLFUL WRITER



RVELU was a soft-spoken and unassuming man I came to know after joining the sports desk at The Star in 1976. A man of few words, he was often deep in thought, especially when writing — a skill he both possessed and enjoyed.

He loved to read during his schooling days at Penang Free School, not very far from his home in Kampung Baru, Air Itam. Ever willing to help, he readily offered guidance whenever I was stuck with my writing.

Without a motorcycle or car, he frequently walked and relied on buses for assignments. Only later, while working in Kuala Lumpur, did he own a car.

When I last met him with old friends George Das and Terence Netto on 24 December 2024, at his home in Damansara Legenda in Petaling Jaya, cancer had already ravaged his body.

As I was leaving, he raised his feeble left arm to bid goodbye. I turned back, held his hand, and hugged him — my eyes teary, knowing I would soon lose a dear friend.

True to his nature, Velu fought the disease with calm resolve and deep Christian faith until he was called home to be with the Lord on 5 January 2025.

BY K.H. ONG