

# REMEMBERING RICHARD VELU

## GENTLE Was His SMILE

**H**IS steps were as gentle as his smile. Velu's gentleness inspired many.

I was one of them. But frankly, I never came anywhere near his gentleness.

the Sports Flame event at the Concord KL.

For that, I thank George Das, Lazarus Rokk, Fauzi Omar, and Velu, who always had me on their invitation list.

There he was. But Velu never showed that he was fighting the Big C. He remained gentle.

That's why Velu's passing hit me hard in many ways. I survived close battles with liver and spleen abscesses. It's a miracle that I still survive.

I cried when I heard of Velu's passing.

I was not able to attend his wake nor his funeral, but I had him in my prayers.

RIP, dear Velu.

Our meetings were rare as I was at The Star Bureau in Johor Baru, and he was in Kuala Lumpur. We only crossed paths during local or international assignments, which left me awed.

December 9, 2023, was the last time we met, and it was at none other than the get-together of the old timers at



*Velu (left) with Rizal Abdullah.*

**BY RIZAL ABDULLAH**