



**Thuraiappah Kanagarajah**

164/117

1921 - 2013

We are gathered here today to celebrate the life of Thuraiappah Kanagarajah, and I am privileged to deliver a eulogy.

Kanags as I call him, was born in Malaysia in 1921, and came to Ceylon at the age of 12 along with his family. He was schooled at Jafna Central College along with his brothers. Here he was an outstanding footballer and cricketer.

He worked as a station master in the Ceylon Government Railways, and was Station Master Fort, a senior appointment.

I first met Kanags at the Tamil Senior Citizens' Association New South Wales in March 1992 when he enrolled as a member.

Kanags was a regular attendee at our seniors meetings. He was a keen scrabble player and won prizes as winner in the scrabble competitions. His English and spelling was good having been educated in the English medium. At our meetings he would want to make everyone happy and gay in the sense happy and care free, and would burst into song at any opportunity. At the nursing home where he spent his last he used to sing from his bed and entertain the other inmates.

He was the Assistant Secretary of the Tamil Senior Citizens' Benevolent Society.

Kanags and his two brothers Sivasithamparam and Sivasubramaniam are members of the Tamil Seniors Association and were like the three musketeers, even in school they were always together like the three musketeers, and abided by the motto, "all for one and one for all".

I remember his favourite song was "Where is my wandering boy tonight". He would also repeat sayings from Shakespeare. He composes poems in his spare time, and one of his poems won an American award and he was invited to attend the award ceremony in Washington, but he could not attend due to some constraints.

He was one of the founder members of the Tamil Seniors Association in Mt Druitt. He was the President of this association and was later appointed its patron.

Kanags was a winner in the Seniors Week Achievement awards 2007 for his outstanding contribution to the community in the field of community service/volunteering.

Kanags was such a keen singer that he came in his wheel chair and sang at the last seniors Christmas Carols Service in December 2012. This was his swan song to the seniors.

Since Kanags was a poet I would like to quote an extract of a poem written by Charles Swinbourne 1900 titled Swan Song

From too much love of living,  
From hope and fear set free,  
We thank with brief thanksgiving  
Whatever gods may be  
That no life lives for ever,  
That dead men rise up never;  
That even the weariest river  
Winds somewhere safe to sea

Col. Ramanathan