

Honoring the life of



Chemmangot Velayudhan Nayar

(2 April 1946 - 16 September 2021)



“


*wherever a
beautiful soul has been,
there is a trail of
beautiful memories*

”

a tribute from

MAWA

Compiled by

- Dr. Raj Kurup
 - Bisha Balan
 - Bindu Arjun
- 



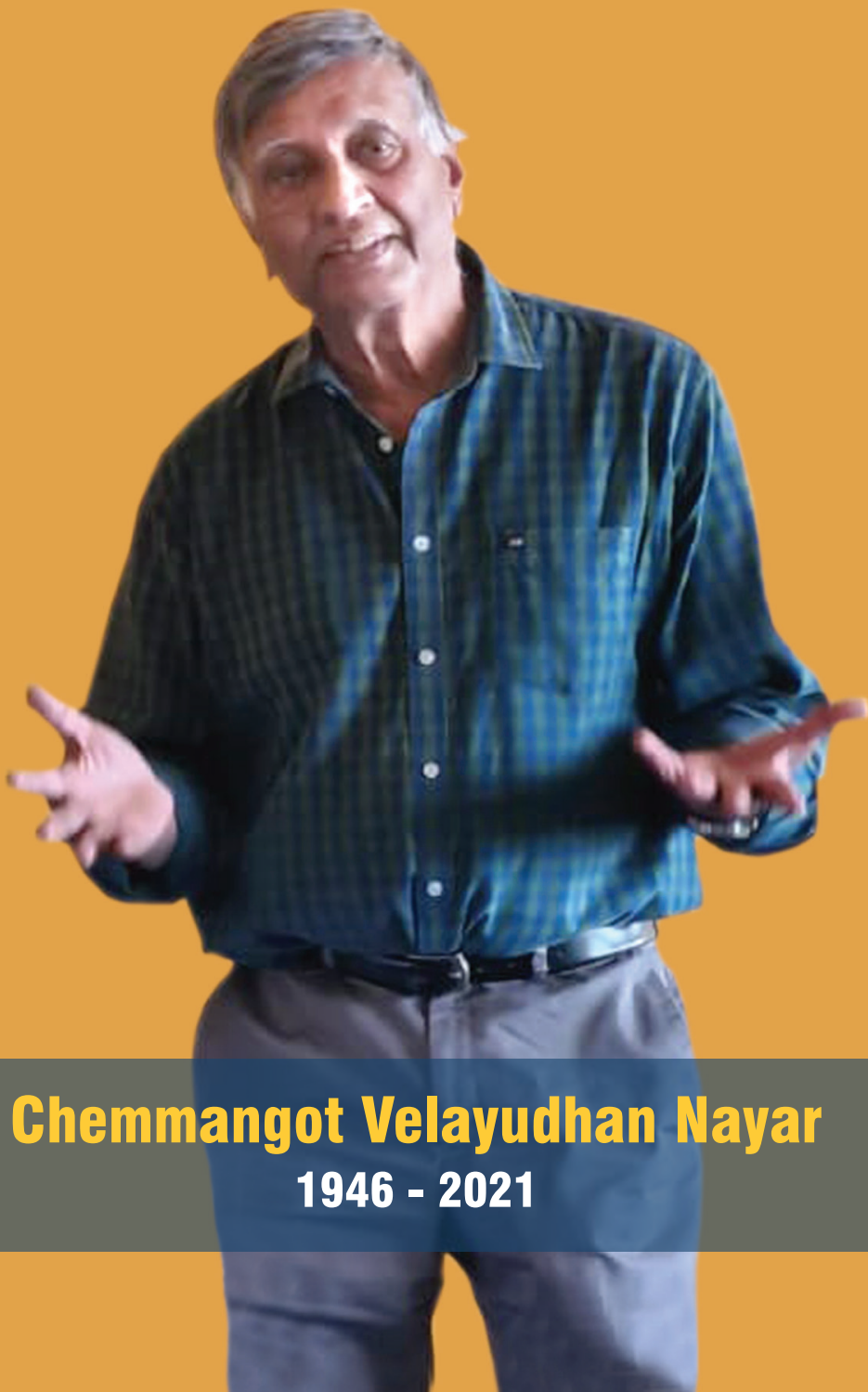
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the life of*



**Chemangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

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Chemmangot Velayudhan Nayar
1946 - 2021

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■ Presidential Message

We are saddened at the loss of an incredible man whose accomplishments, contributions, and ideals we have long respected. Prof. CV Nayar was a visionary, innovator, and fearless leader committed to sustainable energy solutions.

This memorial book is published in the memory of Prof. Chemmangot Velayudhan Nayar to pay tribute to his noteworthy accomplishments, continuous contributions, strong morals, and relentless compassion. This book highlights his outstanding work and includes adoring messages from his family, close friends, and colleagues.

Emeritus Prof. Chemmangot Velayudhan Nayar, former CEO of Regen Power and ex-president of Malayalee Association of Western Australia, dedicated years of his life to advancing sustainable energy. He pioneered practical applications and research of technology, focusing on remote islands and communities.

His vision, ideas, and designs generated public awareness and contributed to economic growth. He was a natural leader who inspired future sustainable power innovators by being a hands-on educator championing real-life engineering work.

Numerous awards and accolades have recognised Prof. CV Nayar's contributions. Some of his major achievements include:

- Designing and delivering renewable energy systems to remote areas and communities, immeasurably improving living conditions, increasing connectivity, and developing self-sufficiency.
- Establishing Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable

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Technologies Australia (CRESTA) in 1992. CRESTA's continued leadership in applied research and development of power conditioning and control systems solved unique challenges for remote supply systems and weak electricity grids as a Founder Member of the Australian Cooperative Research Centre for Renewable Energy.

- Securing over \$9M in research funding for creative, practical renewable energy solutions specifically designed to support a wide range of communities and applications across Australia and overseas.
- Achieving Sustainable Energy Association Awards' Ambassador Award 2011, which recognised his philosophy, attitude, and actions. It demonstrated his commitment and leadership in sustainable energy.
- Receiving First Fellow of Australian Solar Academy and First Australian Power Institute Lifetime Achievement Award.

His resilience and tireless efforts to improve the lives of many, particularly in remote areas, are certainly an inspiration for us all. No matter what comes, we all will continue to be inspired by the passion, dedication, and character Prof. CV Nayar exhibited throughout his life.

I would also want to extend my appreciation to the editorial board members Dr. Raj Kurup, Bisha Balan and Bindhu Arjun who worked tirelessly to bring this book to life and made it possible to pay tribute to an inspirational man.

We honour his legacy and mourn the loss alongside his family and our friends.

Arun V Nair (President)
Malayalee Association of Western Australia (MAWA)

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■ Ajita Krishnan

The world just does not seem like the same place without Uncle Velayudhan.

Sitting here in Seattle, miles away and literally locked out of Perth, Uncle's smiling face, warm voice and accepting personality are so clear in my mind's eye - and I realize just how very blessed we were - growing up in the 80's, away from extended family - but with such an affectionate, earnest and fun-loving uncle always there for us in the stead of actual relatives.

Uncle was finishing his PhD when we first met him - how on earth did he make it look so easy to juggle family while managing research, advisors, and the dissertation defence - he always had that special, light-hearted contentment in all that he did.

I keep picturing his welcoming smile and teasing voice as he would open the door to their flat in Nedlands for our regular weekend get-togethers - a warmth that remained unchanged over time and place and fortune. He always made one feel at home, and happy to be alive. Being so far away I can almost fool myself, freeze time and imagine that nothing has changed.

He was very generous to give me summer work experience with his research team in my second year at uni - despite knowing next to nothing and being so much younger, he dispelled all potential anxiety and I left with much more interesting experiences and learning to report than any of my classmates and their summer internships. He was engaged in important, cutting-edge research and globally recognized for his contributions, yet was so thoroughly approachable and empathetic.

I have countless fond memories from all our various community

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gatherings and activities over the years in Perth, how he verily beamed with pride when he and Aunty came to Ann Arbor for Lakshmi's graduation in International Law - and how they were my very first out of town guests when we moved to Seattle.

I am honoured to have known Uncle Velayudhan - his wonderful and gentle soul will forever remain in my heart. ■



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■ Ajay and Nisha Nalonnil

Velayudhan uncle you will be missed. My fondest memories are your warm and positive spirit, always with a smile. I have always looked up to you and aunty - your love and kindness.

Fishing MAWA brought our families together. Weekends were occupied with catching up in someone's house. And if the men caught fish, the catchups were a day event - with the cleaning, the spicing and barbecuing - so much fun! We had chooma get-togethers and birthday catch-ups too. With such a big group this meant meeting often - our bonds and friendships grew. I remember we'd jokingly share that Monday at work was the day to rest from



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the hustle and bustle of the weekend! Then we had the overnight getaways, driving for hours with the string of cars tailing each other and we 'd literally take over a restaurant as we pulled many tables together to accommodate us all! We even managed an international FM holiday - so good! Ahhh the good old days.

Uncle's smartness as he excelled at work and then his own business was not something he boasted of - a humble attitude that not many have. We left Perth a couple of years later - so my words are cut short. But I could not pass this chance to say I am so glad our paths crossed - you will be remembered always. ■

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■ Ameer Pichan

Unique creativity and innovation

An internationally renowned expert in renewable energy, a person with high creativity, innovative mind, an entrepreneur, and recipient of many awards. But nobody knew all about his accomplishments until it was revealed during the memorial function on 1 Oct 2021.

The year was 1994. I just moved into Perth with a young family and started living in a small apartment in Mosman Park, with



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zero knowledge about Australian culture, life, and what to expect. Finding a job and putting life on track was the priority, but the job was too hard to come by on those days. One evening, someone knocked on the door and we had two surprise visitors, Prof C V Nayar and Ambika Nayar. Whom I called Velayudettan and Ambikechi. They dropped in with a helping hand, as we are the newcomers to this country. The warmth of their visit was such a memorable event, which can never fade away, especially for someone with a high stature, who is originally from my hometown, Calicut. The connection and close relationship established then with Nayar's family continued to grow and flourish over the next months and years, and that still lives and would ever live.

Velayudettan was someone with very high accomplishment, an embodiment of knowledge, an Emeritus Professor, highly acclaimed researcher, with an innovative mind, and an entrepreneur. His entrepreneurship was obvious when he first started, the design and manufacturing of electrical motors for spinning mills in Calicut during his period at NIT Calicut (which was REC then). Later, he founded Regen Power, now a leading renewable energy provider in Australia and Radiant Solar – an offshore solar panel manufacturer.

Prof Nayar was an internationally renowned renewable energy expert and received many excellent awards, patents, and research grants. His achievements are too many to list here anyway. But he was a man of humbleness, simplicity, and very low profile. For me, he was a role model and mentor, to whom I can always "go-to".

During their visit to Vienna, I used to have long discussions with Velayudettan in the evenings (after roaming around for sightseeing during the day) while Ambikechi was busy cooking sumptuous dinner. The discussions exhibited the depth and breadth of his expertise and knowledge in all aspects of life and were a rewarding and rejuvenating experience for me. He inspired me to go back to

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Uni and take up the doctoral program and provided me with all the links and connections. Later, I enrolled for Ph.D. program which, now I am struggling hard to complete! But will definitely complete it – with your blessings – Velayudettan.

Velayudettan - as a family, Shahitha, myself and our kids, will always cherish, the love, empathy, and benevolence that you have shown. You will always remain in our hearts. ■



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■ Bindu Arjun

When we moved to Perth in 2006, my dad mentioned to me that he has a very good family friend in Perth and asked me to get in touch with Velayudhan uncle.

Once we settled in, we invited Velayudhan uncle and Ambika Auntie home for a meal. They gladly accepted the invitation and spent a few hours with us and put us completely at ease and mentioned we should reach out to them if ever we needed any sort of assistance.

Arjun's family also knows Ambika Aunties family for over 50 years, so it was so great to find that connection too.



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Velayudhan uncle was one of the great storytellers of our time. He had an incredible sense of timing and during any discussion he had a story to tell - and always good experiences which he shared with us.

He visited various places where his expertise was required and always shared his experiences with us. He was great company and had a permanent smile which we will cherish forever.

He was an inspiration for us, and we loved his humble, positive nature.

We will dearly miss him at community functions and even at home where he and auntie loved entertaining guests.

Rest in peace uncle. ■

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■ Bisha and Sunil

Uncle (as we called him) has left behind a huge legacy, shoes too large to fill!

We miss his views of life, his ability to talk at length and depth on practically every subject, his generosity, his willingness to challenge the unknown, his deep love for meeting new people and diving into new projects around the world, his breadth of knowledge, his humbleness and the list goes on and on.

The true value of a human being can only be determined by the contribution of that individual to society. Uncle made a huge impact on the people he met, and by extension to people he never met. Uncle was an invaluable human being!

We met Uncle just before he went into hospital for chemotherapy. He was relaxed, philosophical, optimistic, and even smiled talking about what he knew was going to be a very difficult treatment. That was the essence of the man.

We miss Uncle! ■



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■ Debbie Prasad

The Sun in my Universe

Velayudhan Uncle was the sun in my universe.

He was the brightest star who always shined his love, light, generosity and warmth on me, my family and everyone who knew him. He was always there for us, through our happiest moments and biggest challenges, and we loved him so much.

When I lost my father-in-law in 2008 and my father in 2010, Uncle not only filled a void I thought was irreplaceable, but he also became one of the most beloved people in my life. I will never forget the way I felt every time I walked into his welcoming and reassuring embrace. I could really feel how much I meant to him and how genuinely happy he was to see me. Uncle was the best father to us and the most loving grandfather to my children. I loved doing little things for him when he would suddenly drop by, such as make him a hot coffee, share a funny story, and clean his hazy glasses.

I have been so very lucky to have had Uncle in my life and I will never forget all the love and affection he showered on me. He was always so positive, supportive, encouraging, non-judgemental and funny. I loved being in his presence, listening to him sharing his knowledge, stories, and life experiences. I realised how hard he worked over his career, how focused he was and how many work-related and personal challenges he had overcome in his life. I respected Uncle so much and was in absolute awe of his work ethic, academic and business achievements. Uncle's innovative research into renewable energy has changed the world and is making Earth a cleaner planet for generations to come. What an amazing legacy

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he has left behind. Yet, he was so humble, happy-go-lucky, always laughing about something and simply a lovely person to be around.

In recent years, due to overseas travel restrictions and Uncle and Aunt's relocation to Riverton, our families were lucky to spend considerable time together and we created many happy memories. Not only did Uncle entertain us with his endless humour, but we also enjoyed seeing him lovingly tease Ambika Aunt and you could see how much he absolutely adored her. We really looked forward to spending time together, whether it be going out or catching up during the evening – both of which were filled with lots of laughter, delicious food, and great conversation.

When Uncle was diagnosed, I will never forget the way he, seeing my distressed reaction, hugged, and assured me that he was going to be okay and would be fine after the treatment. He pacified me despite the emotions he was going through. But that was Uncle, always thinking of others before himself. Over the coming months, Uncle's health slowly deteriorated, however the willpower, positive outlook, determination, and strength he displayed was unbelievable. Despite his pain, he never complained, never gave up and still had a smile for everyone. He was a true gentleman and a wonderful role model for us all.

Uncle, I was blessed to have held your hand and gently comfort you during your final hours. As I write this, with tears streaming as I recall that heartbreaking night, I know you will always be there to hold my hand and give me strength and guidance.

You were, and always will be, my guardian angel. ■

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■ Gowri Menon

My Valiyachan

I was too young to remember my two late Grandfathers, but I feel God blessed me with Valiyachan's presence to fill that special relationship in my life.

Valiyachan had a unique ability to make people feel warm and welcome, never making anyone feel out of place. He was so intelligent, loving, content and the most charming man I've ever met. Valiyachan was very special to me. He taught me so much about how to be a better sister, a better daughter, and a better person. His carefree attitude was such an inspiration to me to not take matters so seriously, but it was important to put the hard work into everything you do.

Valiyachan was such an honourable man, accomplished in so many ways, yet the humblest man I've ever met. He never belittled you or made you feel less, instead he took every opportunity to celebrating your accomplishments no matter how insignificant. He would ask me about my volleyball games and the joy he had on his face when I told him I won a game was priceless. Every time we met, he would ask me about school and at times, I would confide in him about my struggles with extension maths. Yet he would always find a way to make light of the situation and make me laugh. He believed in me more than I did in myself, and I was able to overcome these challenges thanks to his support. It is this quality that I admire so deeply about him. His desire to never give up and go the extra mile to accomplish something.

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Valiyachan helped me get my first job at McDonalds. He would "interview" me at the dining table, then laugh at my responses to his questions because I really didn't know why I wanted the job and why someone should employ me! He gently guided me on how to respond and needless to say, I got the job and when I told Valiyachan, he was happier for me than I was myself! It just proved, once again, how kind-hearted, and selfless Valiyachan was.

There was something so mature and dignified yet so childish and fun about Valiyachan. Maybe that's why we all gravitated towards him. He'd make light of every situation, pulling jokes and getting away with his infectious smile. The way he loved and cared for his dearest wife, children, grandchildren, family, and friends was something that no one could compare to. He had this amazing ability to walk into a room and automatically it would just brighten up. Nothing mattered when you were with Valiyachan because he made you feel like you were the most precious person to him.

He was a huge father figure in so many people's lives and without Valiyachan, the world's a little less bright.

Valiyachan, I was truly blessed to have you as my grandfather.

I love you. ■

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■ Harikrishnan Menon *I Love You Valiyachan*

Velayudhan Valiyachan was one of the most important people in my life. He was funny, kind, caring and was always there for a helping hand. He was always there whenever we needed help with something. He always knew what to say and how to make people feel better. Even when Valiyachan had fallen sick, he was still cracking jokes and telling his stories to us. He will always hold a special place in my heart, and it will stay there forever.

Whenever I think about Valiyachan, I always think about the funny times that I had with him and how he made me feel. I would like to share three favourite moments with Valiyachan that always come to my mind when I think about him.

Valiyachan always made me laugh - no matter what. He would always have jokes up his sleeve for the situation. I can remember one time when Velayudhan Valiyachan, Ambika Valiyamma, Achan, Amma, Chettan, Chechi and I had gone out for dinner to a Lebanese restaurant, and we had to wait quite a while for the food to arrive. After waiting for about an hour or so, everyone started to get hungry and while we were all wondering when our food was going to arrive. Valiyachan joked around by saying "Where is the food? We've been waiting for an hour. What are they doing back there? Hari, have they gone to the farm to catch the chicken and then cook it?" All of us burst into laughter hearing that. The other families around us must have been wondering why we were laughing so much.

I can also remember another time when Valiyachan and Valiyamma

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were moving back to their Willetton home. We had been helping them move their items from their Riverton home. One late evening, Valiyamma and Valiyachan decided to take us out for dinner. The options were Indian or Chinese. Some said Indian and some said Chinese. Valiyamma then called for me to take the decision because she knew that no one else would, so I chose Indian. We then went to the Indian restaurant 'The Kauphy Place'. We had ordered our food and we were sitting down talking about tomorrow's work. After a while the food started coming and everyone had their food except for Valiyachan. Everyone was willing to wait until Valiyachan had his food, but he told us to start having before the food became cold. We all started eating and finished the food quickly because we were all hungry. By the time we had almost finished, Valiyachan still didn't have his chappathi and dhal. We were all wondering why it was taking so long for them to bring Valiyachan's food out. I was starting to feel bad for Valiyachan because the restaurant was my choice that night and his order was so delayed. I think he sensed this because he told me jokingly "Oh Hari, we may have to go back home to sleep and then come back tomorrow if it is going to take them this long! Have they only made the dough now and are waiting for it to rise?" We all started laughing and he made me feel so much better.

Another favourite moment is when I started washing Valiyachan's and Valiyamma's cars. I really enjoyed washing their cars and they loved how it looked after. One evening, after I had finished washing their cars, they had invited Acha, Amma and I to come over to have tea and snacks. We were just talking about how everyone was doing and how their days were, when Valiyachan had the great idea of me starting a car washing business. I was hesitant at first because I didn't know how any of it worked, but I soon agreed. That turned out to be one of the best decisions I have made. Once I had that idea in my head, I couldn't let it go. I had asked Valiyachan what to do

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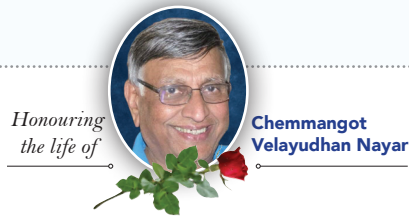


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and how to start my business. He said I just need to ask Valiyamma and Amma to tell all the aunties or message them and then they would spread the word. Just like he said, many people now use my car washing business. He then said I need to start growing my business and gave me the idea to have a Facebook account and to advertise on there. I was very excited to do this, however, Acha told Valiyachan that I couldn't because I was too young. But by then, my lovely uncles and aunties kept coming back every month. I was extremely grateful to Valiyachan then, and I still am now. Due to his advice, I have a small business of car washing. He gave me a lot of advice but the best advice he gave me was to work hard and that all the effort I put in now would help me in the long run.

Thank You Valiyachan, I will always try and have your sense of humour because that was one of the best things that everyone loved about you. I will always love you in my heart. I miss you deeply and I think about you every day and when I don't know what to do – I wish you were still here so I could ask you.

I love you Valiyachan and I miss you. ■



■ Jaikrishnan Menon

*"You may no longer be by my side,
but you are forever in my heart".*

I am blessed to have friends and family who have supported me throughout my life. But one person who has loved, cared, and encouraged me to be the best of myself in a way that few could, was Emeritus Professor Chemmangot Velayudhan Nayar - my dearest Valiyachan. He was a highly respected and hardworking individual, a loving family man and a great role model for everyone. But for me, he was much more than that. A grandfather with whom I could share anything and everything, a close friend with a great sense of humour, and an amazing mentor who nurtured me through my studies, passions, and dreams. Valiyachan has had such a profound impact on me, and I would like to share three essential life lessons that he taught me through his life, that I will cherish and hold dear for eternity.

The first life lesson Valiyachan taught me was the importance of hard work. From establishing the Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies Australia to being the Managing Director of Regen Power to being a leading Emeritus Professor in electrical engineering and sustainable energy, Valiyachan taught me how hard work, determination and a love for learning can lead to one's success. He would regularly stress the importance of hard work and encouraged me to apply this at university, work, and my music. He advised me to achieve my goals by striving hard and not taking any shortcuts in life. Valiyachan explained that if I consistently worked hard over a consistent period, success would be a by-product of the hard work I had put in. I will never forget this lesson as all the



achievements I have been blessed to be awarded, are all due to Valiyachan's words of encouragement to consistently work hard and never give up.

Valiyachan's second life lesson that I would like to share is the power of selflessness. Valiyachan always put his friends, family, and his community first and above himself. He would listen attentively and offer the right solutions, whether academically, business-related or any problem where Valiyachan could impart his wisdom and give a helping hand. He ensured that he went out of his way and to do kind acts for others and could always be counted on when a problem arose. I will never forget this life lesson because Valiyachan taught me the value of giving without a thought of receiving anything in return. He showed me that by helping others, we serve from our heart, and it's the right thing to do. He highlighted that by assisting people, our hearts will be filled with much satisfaction, and that there is no greater joy in life.

Lastly, the third life lesson, probably the most important one that

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I learned from Valiyachan, was during the latter stages of his life, with his fight against cancer. As bad health started to get the better of him more regularly, Valiyachan taught me to always smile, even when life got tough. After radiation or chemotherapy, Valiyachan would often feel extremely fatigued, quite sick, and mentally not himself. Yet, despite the struggles he faced, whenever I used to meet him, most times quite late in the night after work, he would always greet me with his big warm smile and say to me in his soft, calming tone:

“Jaikutta, how are you Monu?”

Despite going through life's most challenging experiences in battling cancer, Valiyachan always managed to smile, be happy and spread positivity to me and those around him. It's this lesson that I will apply the most from Valiyachan. Life can sometimes be tricky; you may face adversity - physically, mentally, emotionally, or even a combination of all of three. Life's challenges may be from our own making, but many confront us through no fault of our own. Valiyachan showed me that whilst we cannot pick and choose the problems we want to face, we can definitely choose our attitude towards them. He taught me that the best way to rise above problems is to respond with a smile and through happiness. Tackling each issue with the right spirit can uplift your mood but finding reasons to smile when things get tough, pushes you to keep going. Even in the darkest of hours.

It has been a true honour and privilege to have known a gentleman like you, Valiyachan. We had a very special bond between us. Valiyachan, you taught me so much about life and have made me the person I am today. You may no longer be by my side, but you are forever in my heart. I will miss you very much, and I promise to make you proud every day of my life.

I love you, Valiyachan. ■

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■ Jithu

Our paths first crossed way back in 1982 when I had joined NIT (formerly known as REC) as an undergrad where Velayudettan was a lecturer. Years later, Velayudettan used to joke saying that Kattangal was not large enough for the 2 of us and hence he had decided to leave for Australia. Although I didn't know him then, nor did he teach me, he always introduced me to others as “Nammudé student”. It made me feel immensely happy and important, like I was in the same league!

Years later, when we moved to Perth, Velayudettan was amongst the first people to visit us at Kishorettan's and Sabithechi's place where we were staying. We got to know each other very well and



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did many things together. In 1999 he was the fourth president of MAWA, I was the secretary of that committee. Our committee meetings were always fun.

There were of course, the fishing trips, volleyball games and our trips South which were all memorable occasions and will be truly missed. Not to mention his various avatars on stage—numerous unforgettable performances!!

Despite his immense technical knowledge, he was very humble and willing to share his own experiences all the time. Velayudettan was a hardworking and giving man. Not only was he committed to his profession — he was also committed to giving back to the community.

It's not a cliché to say that Velayudettan was a giant among men. We'll always remember him fondly and I'm sure most who have had the good fortune to know Velayudettan would agree, that he had so much goodness and charisma that we all came away feeling good and invigorated after meeting him. We will miss his laughter and frivolous comments that he used to make, especially his frequently used expressions while speaking to me!! The Kannur basha. ■

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■ Kavitha Pillai

Velayudhan Uncle... my 'Perth Dad' as I fondly call him... and with good reason!

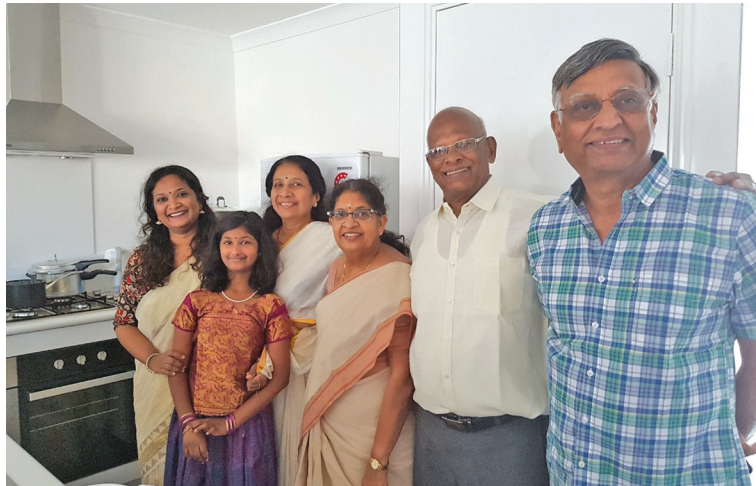
Like every father would, he silently yet strongly supported me, when I came first to Perth with only a suitcase and a modest hope to make a life for myself and my little girl here. He was just a phone call away. A phone call I made quite late in the night, when I was almost ready to give up... I mean, how dare I dream, that I could move to another continent and start life once again!? Uncle suggested meeting up with me and my parents who were visiting me then. Or rather who had come prepared to take me back to India. That meeting became the reason, 'oru nimitham', that life was going to be okay. Uncle and Aunty took me and my then 7-year-old under



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their wings, allowing me to spread my own, giving me a chance to live the life I had dared to dream! Calmly re-assuring my parents, saying, "Don't worry. We will take care of her."

Every visit to 'Kochu Veedu', Willetton, I would find Uncle sitting at their round dining table and working away on his laptop. Researching on what he could do next, how he could contribute towards making the world a better place... never the idle mind! When I walked in, I would be greeted with his customary 'what's-up', "Aa Kavita, enthokke ondu? Enganne ponnu?" and a hug and pat on my shoulder. It meant the world to me! Also, when a couple of years later he recounted his version of our first meeting, saying that he was so impressed with my decision of moving to Perth and how far I had come along in my journey here... I slept really well that night knowing that I had his blessings and that I had made a sane decision after all.

His advice was always very valuable to me. He gave me the courage

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**Chemmangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

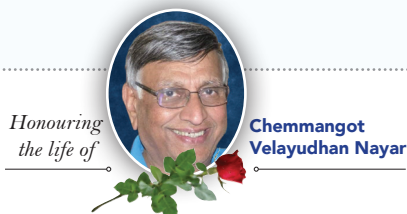
and motivation to dream of owning a house of my own. And finally at the day of my housewarming, told me that he was so proud of me!

Uncle took it upon himself to take care of my parents too. Always planning an outing, a get-together, or a trip to show Achen and Amma around. Uncle and aunty soon turned out to be the main reason to visit Perth after my daughter, I was way below the food chain! Our trips would also include Tanuja Chechi and Giri Chetan. Every trip turned out to be memorable and heaps of fun – the friendly discussions and arguments between Tanuja Chechi, Achen and Uncle, the leg-pulling, quibbling and teasing would result in all of us roaring with laughter. Going on these trips meant another thing for me. It was the opportunity to ride his 4-wheel drive. Uncle would blindly trust me with his car keys and hand them over to me because he knew my love for driving SUVs.

Of all the months in the year, September has been the cruellest to me. The month of losses. 12 years ago, was when my world came crashing down with the passing away of my husband. Overnight I turned from a life that was sunny, bright, and happy to a world that was gloomy and lonely. Meeting Uncle and Aunty was a big turning point and played a huge part in my life turning warm and happy again. Only to be cruelly taken away from me again, this September. Though, among all the lessons I've learnt from Uncle, a very important lesson has been resilience. Whatever life threw at him, he fought like a warrior always with that pleasant smile on his face.

Many people walk through one's life, but rarely does someone leave a footprint so deep! Uncle, I consider myself truly blessed to have met and known you in this lifetime and I know I'm one among those who will always have your blessings and your hand over my head.

See you on the other side, Uncle! ■



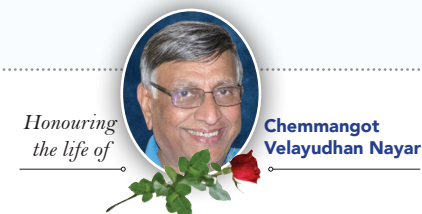
■ Dr Kuruvilla Mathew

I consider myself privileged to have known Prof Nayar – Velayudhan as we call him, from the time of his arrival in Perth in 1982 for his Post Graduate studies at the university of Western Australia. From my initial encounters, I found in him a budding engineering academic with a pleasing nature and helpful attitude. We developed a sincere friendship over the past forty years.

The period of study for PhD is expected to finish by three years but most of the people four or more years. Prof Nayar finished by two years. Very extraordinary achievement indeed.

As Australia opened its doors to Asian immigration in the early 1970's, many Indian professionals including those from the state of Kerala sought opportunities to make Australia home. As the number of Kerala migrants increased, the need to form a Malayalee Association of Western Australia (MAWA) became paramount. I can say with pride that Velayudhan together with his family had been strong supporters of such a movement. I had the privilege of working with him while he was chosen as president of MAWA in 1999. Currently MAWA has more than a thousand members, contributing to the country socially, culturally, and technologically.

Velayudhan's expertise and technical know-how in renewable energy coupled with his entrepreneurship led him to form an engineering firm called Regen Power, promoting solar and wind power both in Australia and across the world. This venture received many national and international awards and accolades. Velayudhan had his mind pondering on innovative renewable technologies and transferring them to the new generation. He was a key supporter to improve energy supply to rural and remote communities of Australia. Several times he had joyfully participated in coordinating



international conferences organized by the Murdoch University Remote Area Development group where I had been working for many years. I thankfully acknowledge his financial support as well as his technical expertise in organising such conferences. I am proud to say that even in his last months of his life, he shared with me his plans for expanding his vision.

As a professor in the university, he has helped many students in providing proper guidance and direction. I personally know many cases he has helped in masters and Ph D studies. I am very much indebted to him for such help he has offered to students I have introduced to him.

Professor Nayar has also established commercial enterprises that specialises in commercial and residential solar power systems named REGEN Power. He has provided opportunity for many people job training and employment. Many of my friends are also helped by him through this enterprise.

Velayudhan, while being a dedicated Engineering Academic, was also a very soft-hearted person who was socially well connected and supportive of many social and community needs. He had been a keen supporter of Compassion International, a charitable organisation in our community. As a professor he took personal interest and care of his students and staff who worked with him. Being so much younger to me in age, I find it difficult to say farewell to him. Yet he had a fruitful and purposeful life. He will be affectionately remembered for what he has done. Long live Velayudhan my friend. Cheers. ■

*Honouring
the life of*



**Chemmangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

■ Nikhil Jayaraj

Professor Chem Nayar was a great man. I can vouch that he was the best boss one could ever dream of. Though it sounds cliched, everyone who worked with him would acknowledge it.

Truth, Honesty and Fairness are just a few enticing traits of Professor worth emulating.

Eleven years back, during my interview at Regen Power Professor was honest with me in providing a platform to start my career. He admonished me to uncover the rewards by putting in a little leg work.

His academic brilliance and passion for renewables knew no bounds. Various awards won by him testify it. He was very keen on



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coming up with new and fresh ideas to build unique projects.

At par with his academic brilliance is his calibre as a salesperson. I have never seen him coming out of clients meeting without grabbing a sale.

Professor was my go-to person for both personal and professional advice. He has always provided opportunity for freshers and supported the staff personally & professionally. He made sure that the staff are building up their portfolio while working at Regen.

With his loss, world has lost a magnanimous person, a caring father, a doting husband, and a nurturing boss. When I say that Professor will be missed, I speak out the heart of entire staff of Regen Power. ■

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**Chemmangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

■ Nisha Suresh

A truly wonderful person. We will always cherish the moments we spent with our dear Uncle.

The cheerful smiling face and the inspirational discussions we had will always be in our heart.

But we know Uncle, now you are in a better place of warmth and comfort,

where there is no pain or grief, no days, or years

Uncle, you will always live in our hearts

Our heartfelt Condolences and Prayers for Ambika Aunty, Lakshmi and Sujith, for the loss.

With Prayers

Suresh, Nisha, Krishna and Athira ■

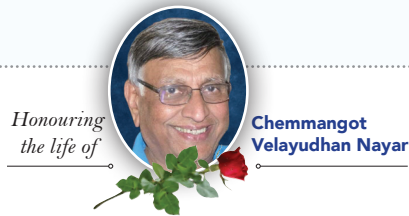
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**Chemmangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

■ Rahul Ramesh Nair

Writing this short remembrance message was something I could have never fathomed when I missed a phone call from Prof, followed by his message "will talk to you later" in early 2021. Prof has had an unusual influence on my professional and personal life. My first meeting with him was at an engineering conference organized by my alma mater. From that encounter onwards, where we spend more time talking with each other rather than participating in the conference, he redefined my belief of how an academic and researcher should be. It is humbling to be one among the many students whom he has influenced and supported during their "what-now" phase in life. He acted as a gateway through which I met some amazing friends and other mentors in Perth. Remembering the few weeks, I lived with him and Ambika mam, during my first winter in Perth, makes me repent missing his last call even more. Keeping aside my hefty heart, the personal relationships and professional status he has built are testaments to his legacy and the wonderful and productive life he had lived. I am happy to have met and spent time with such a remarkable individual. ■



■ Dr. Raj Kurup

Goodbye to an engineering legend

I received an early morning call around 6.30 am on the 16th of September from Krishna Prasad, informing me that Velayudettan had left us in the early morning. Unlike the usual calls between K P and me, this time the call was short and mostly filled with utter silence except for a few words.

In late May this year, Velayudettan sent me a WhatsApp message saying that he had been diagnosed with a type of cancer called Myeloma. I visited him on the 13th June. He was in his usual form, very relaxed. Our chats normally go around our professional and business worlds, nothing much of personal life. This time he asked me about my daughter Thankam and how she was coping with the lockdowns in Melbourne. I never thought it would be my last meeting with him.

I vividly remember the first time I met Velayudettan in early April 1994, when I came to Perth from New Delhi to present a paper at a conference organised by Uncle Kuruvilla at Murdoch University. I was invited for a dinner at Velayudettan and Ambikechi's home. Our conversation was mainly about my research work in bioenergy at TERI and my future plans for higher studies. I left their home with two unforgettable memories, one was meeting a stalwart in engineering and the other was the taste of the aviyal that I had at that sumptuous dinner, prepared by Ambikechi. Although I had the privilege to taste aviyal prepared under her direction for MAWA Onam feasts, I should say nothing could be compared to the first



time I had it at their home.

Velayudettan was a mostly unassuming mentor to me and was quick to respond to my messages or rare phone calls when I needed to discuss some important decisions during my early career. There were a few crucial decisions I had to make in terms of my academic life which would require long-term relocations to different countries. One was in 1995, when I had two scholarships offered for research masters, one from the University of Western Australia, and the other one was from EAWAG near Zurich while I was completing my masters in Delft, The Netherlands. I was not sure which one I should accept. I contacted him via email for his advice. He took the time to discuss the pros and cons through email, though I had met him only once and he was a very busy professor and head of the department. Of course, the discussions convinced me to take up the offer from UWA, which resulted in Perth becoming my permanent home.

In 2001, I was in a similar situation. I had two research scholarships offers for PhD from two prestigious universities, one from the

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Cambridge, and the other one from the Oxford. I was very much excited to accept either of them. Then the practical side kicked in. I had just started a consulting business then, bought a new house, and was father of a two-year old child. I was utterly confused. I had also received an offer for a substantial industry scholarship to do a PhD at any university in Australia. He was again generous with his time, explained each and every aspect, and instilled confidence in me. Maybe his own interest in combining academic work with business was useful as the discussion helped me realise that my interest was not in pure academic research but working with industry to implement the findings in the real world and being a part of it. Well, as you would know I did not relocate to the UK and continued my research and consulting business while having the unparalleled pleasure of seeing my offspring grow and fly away. Thank you Velayudettan for helping me with this decision. I never had to look back and regret the choice I had made.

I also remember some social interactions with Velayudettan. There was a team of beach fishers under the leadership of Ajay Nalonnill (now located in Brisbane) and a few of us including myself as followers. I remember along with his son Sujith, Velayudettan also joined the fishing trips. The fishing team organised a memorable family holiday trip to Kalbarri in August 2002. With Sujith and Chechi, he also joined. On the return trip, he was in our car, and we had a long conversation about renewable energy – environmental engineering areas, so much so that we ended up deciding to work on a winery project. For some reason, the project did not materialise.

Due to both of us being very busy with research and entrepreneurial activities, our social meetings became rare for a long time. However, whenever either of us won an award, the communication would start again, and our phone calls would last for more than an hour. In the last decade or so, we mostly talked about engineering projects and

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research papers - we were both editors of journals. In the last few years, the contact has been mostly through WhatsApp, connecting various people with shared interests or and congratulating each other on the awards we were fortunate to win.

When I informed the General Manager of the WA Division of the Engineers Australia on Velayudettan's demise, I was told that they were planning to award him the highest and most prestigious level of membership, Honorary Fellow at the WA 2021 End of year Celebration and Recognition Event. Unfortunately, the title would not be given posthumously. The event was held on the 8th of December 2021, and I was also honoured for winning the Australian Professional Environmental Engineer award. I was very much saddened by the fact he could not be there on that occasion to receive his award as the Hon. Fellow of Engineers Australia.

He was a true engineering legend, his contributions to both academic and practical side of engineering had been appreciated so much by means of various awards and fellowships. Not many academics retire to enter the entrepreneurial world and become very successful in that. The numerous awards that his business Regen Power has won and, the wide variety of international and national projects Regen has completed confirm that he was great both as an entrepreneur and as a professor.

I do not know how to conclude this short memoir, but I just wanted to say Thank you Velayudetta for being my mentor. Rest in Peace. ■

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■ Shiju Mathews

My memory with Uncle goes back to early 2000 when I came to Perth to pursue my higher studies and I met Velayudhan uncle at the Bluegum community centre, Brentwood. Those days most Malayalees in Perth gathered as one big family at the Centre to enjoy a game of volleyball, have coffee and as a community get together. I still remember Uncle, Sujith and many others forming teams and taking the lead to play the games. Uncle's enthusiasm in sport, the leadership with teamwork, hard work and the courage to face any challenge was among the best examples that I got to learn from him.

Ambikachechi and many other Aunties played a key role in ensuring we felt at home, both in their homes and when we met outside. We newbies found the love and care of elders while we were miles away from our home in a new land.

Uncle's passion in research and development within the Renewable Energy sector made a significant contribution to the Energy industry. He motivated us to start a subsidiary of AICA within the Engineering discipline and he spearheaded many projects both nationally and internationally; and we were able to successfully execute those projects. It was through his mentorship that my brother completed his higher studies & research from Curtin, starting with Regen before fully engaging with AICA in the early days of inception. Under his leadership both Regen & AICA participated in multiple Australian Research Linkage projects in association with Curtin University.

In the past two decades, there are multiple instances where my wife, Reny and I have been supported by Uncle and Aunty. When our daughters were born and later at every phase of our lives their support and encouragement meant a lot to us.

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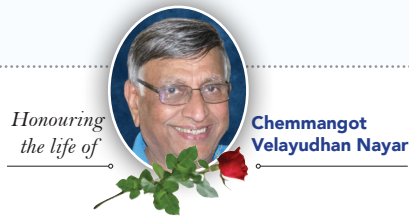
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Unfortunately, during the Covid times I was away and unable to pay my last respects to Uncle in person. But though afar I take this opportunity to fondly reminisce about his mentoring, advice and ponder on many of his research attributes. This is a major loss to the Indian community as a whole and Malayalees in particular, as not many have such keen entrepreneur acumen and research interests at the same time.

Uncle, you will be missed and as a family, I, Reny, Amacia & Ecclecia join together to offer our support and love to Aunty, Sujith, Lakshmi and all sorrowing family members.

With deepest sympathies. ■



■ Dr Kadambot Siddique *Hackett Professor*

Emeritus Professor Chemmangot Velayudhan Nayar has been a great friend to many of us. Velayudhan had such a full life that I don't know where to start and end!

Velayudhan was born in Calicut, Kerala in 1946 and he lost his mother during his early childhood. Velayudhan's father took care of his elder brother Satheendran and him. Perhaps early loss of his mother gave Velayudhan the resilience to withstand many challenges later in his life.

Velayudhan completed Engineering degree at the National Institute of Technology formerly known as REC. After his graduation, Velayudhan worked in the same institute as a lecturer.

Velayudhan got married to Ambika in 1973 and following the birth of their daughter Lakshmi – Velayudhan undertook his Masters at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. This was a turning point in his life, and Velayudhan did not stop there. He returned to REC as an academic.

Velayudhan was always interested in research and development. His aspiration for further studies continued when he obtained a prestigious scholarship from The University of Western Australia to undertake his PhD research on Wind Power, which was the first of its kind in Australia.

My wife Almaz and I first met Velayudhan, Ambika, Lakshmi and little Sujith in April 1982, when they arrived in Perth. We developed a firm friendship and became close family. When our daughter

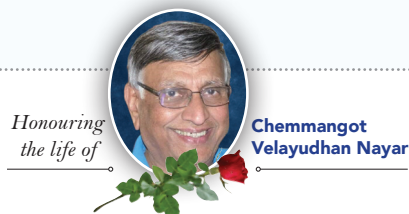


Nidha was born, they supported us throughout. Since then, Nidha has always adoringly call them as Valiyachan and Valiamma – her second parents.

During our early days, there were very few Malayalee families in Perth; we as students participated in all community events that included Onam, picnics, mother's day and so on.

As we were relatively new to Perth and had children of a similar ages, our group of four families became very close. Kishor and Sabitha, Babu, and Suraja, Velayudhan and Ambika and us. We spent countless weekends at each other's homes, day trips and holidays in the southwest. One of our most memorable trips was when we went on a Caravan camping adventure down south in 1984. There was no GPS or google maps in those days and despite many wrong turns, arguments and laughs, we ended up at our destination.

Velayudhan was easy going and participated in all community activities and he was the president of Malayalee Association of Western Australia (MAWA) during 1999-2000. He always cared about others and helped numerous people to settle in Perth, provided jobs and recommended them to others.



Multi-award-winning Emeritus Professor Nayar's outstanding contribution to the Australian and global clean energy industry cannot be overstated. His pioneering research and innovative projects have substantially advanced solar and wind systems as economically viable and sustainable energy sources.

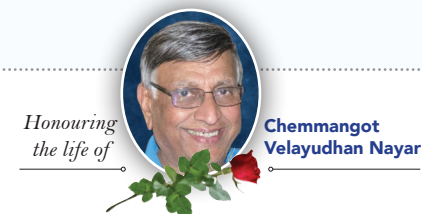
A natural leader, he inspired future sustainable power innovators by being a hands-on educator championing real-life engineering work. Velayudhan has supervised 40 PhD and Masters Students. He was the:

- First Fellow of Australian Solar Academy and First Australian Power Institute Lifetime Achievement Award winner.
- Finalist Western Australian of the Year (Profession Category) 2021 and Australian of the Year WA Finalist 2020.
- Published over 135 research papers including 80 journal articles.

After almost four decades dedicated to advancing the clean energy industry, Velayudhan showed no signs of slowing down. He continued to contribute, offering expert consultancy for several UN and government aid agencies.

Post retirement from Curtin, Velayudhan did not sit idle. He quickly established a business related to his passion for clean energy industry. He was one of the pioneers who saw the potential for solar energy as part of the solutions to climate change and global warming. This was translated to cheap and clean energy for commercial and residential consumers and established Regen Power in 2003 in Perth and branches in India and elsewhere.

Regen Power is a National solar company providing renewable energy products and services to residential, commercial, and off-grid mining and remote community markets, with a vision to create affordable access to power through sustainable solutions and



innovative technologies.

Under Velayudhan's leadership Regen Power has won various awards and recognition for its sustainable development and product development, vouching for its existence as a reputable brand in the solar power business of WA. Consecutively for two years, Financial Times listed Regen Power among the Top 500 Asia-Pacific High-Growth Companies. With a client base over 30,000, and exclusive agreements with major suppliers like Tesla, Velayudhan with the help of Nikhil made Regen Power an important name in the renewable energy industry.

From all this it is evident that Velayudhan was an outstanding visionary, entrepreneur, and businessman.

Due to Covid-19, since March 2020, both Velayudhan and I were unable to travel for our work. We were stuck at home with our wives, who now made us regularly go out for dinner and lunches, which we previously were able to avoid. Our recent trip down south as a family in December/January 2020/2021 is now the most cherished trip. We had great fun, watched movies, smashed few bottles per day, played cards and regularly went to the beach for walks in the morning and evenings.

Since March this year, Almaz and I have regularly visited Velayudhan at home and in the hospital. He always had positive attitude throughout. Our topics of conversation included Kerala politics, Covid-19, University politics and various aspects on life.

Velayudhan was a remarkably hardworking, fun-loving person; he was a person of great devotion, integrity, love, compassion, and people oriented. Above all, Velayudhan believed in family values, community, and compassion.

He always said: "Life is too short, so enjoy it while you can". May God bless Velayudhan in heaven – I salute you brother. ■

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■ Soby Mathews

There is a phrase that says if you have a strong, big tree with good roots and everybody hangs onto that tree, that makes a better person and the neighbourhood better.

For me that was Velayudettan.

Coming to Australia as a student in 1999 where you are so anxious about approaching professors, he made things very simple and human.

Since then, I never had to look back – I was so blessed to have a dad & mom home away.

Fishing, endless feasts, picnics, get-togethers, and trips—never knew those good times become the golden memories of today!

One thing I learned from this great soul – keep smiling, it's the best we can give for others. ■



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■ Dr Suman George

Velayudhan Uncle's Gift that keeps on giving

It was when an urgent medical emergency in the form of cancer suddenly reared its head in the family which caught us all off-guard. But we heaved a collective sigh of relief when we became aware of an almost 'silver-bullet' remedy if a matching blood stem cell donor could be found willing to donate blood stem cells through a simple blood transfusion, not even undergoing a very invasive bone marrow harvesting. We started scouting for the elusive match. Since statistically speaking, only 25% of such matches are found within the family while the rest is from unrelated registered donors on a searchable database. The probability of finding a match is highly related to ethnicity. We discovered that south Asians are very underrepresented on this database with a bit of disdain. We all were entering an uncharted territory of hematopoietic stem cells (cells that can develop into any type of blood cells), donor registries and global donor database. To increase the probability to find a successful match, we need more individuals of similar ethnicity on the database, like more needles in the haystack.

Making the people understand the concept of stem cell donation and getting them registered on the database became Uncle's new project. With the support of Soby Mathews, K. V. Hari, and Ajay Warriar and a dedicated army of volunteers, stem cell donor registration drives began to be organised with Uncle's vision and Ambika aunty's charismatic organisation acumen, amply supported by Almaz Siddique. Uncle and Auntie's daughter Lakshmi Nayar

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coordinated the activities from the US and organised a series of drives there. However, even with a considerable amount of support from the Malayalee and larger Indian community, factoring in the demography of the South Asian diaspora in Perth and across Australia, the pace of donor registration was painstakingly slow. That is when Uncle had the brainwave for going to the source - which being India - to cajole more people to come on the stem cell database. We came across DATRI, Indian's largest blood stem cell registry and in association with them, we embarked on conducting drives in Kerala and across India.

The first of many such drives was conducted in Uncle's native Kozhikode. During this drive, I had the chance of meeting many relatives from Uncle's side of the family who came in full force to support this inaugural drive. The drive was well organised with Ambika auntie's niece Latha, one of my friends Valsala Devi, and continuous support from Aby John from DATRI involved in coordinating the arrangements. There was a press conference at Calicut Press Club, and many of the local newspapers and some TV news channels covered the drive. Uncle was constantly on

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the phone, working out every detail connected with the drive. I remember my wife, Dr Priya Chowalloor was interviewed by All Indian Radio for promoting this drive and helping in understanding the concept behind stem cell donation.

We also discovered that India, many European countries, and the US have opted for a cost-effective and logistically simple method of sample collection using cheek-swab compared to the needle-based blood sampling method in Australia. We are still taking hesitant baby steps in Australia by still trailing this simple cheek-swab sample collection method for potential donors. Currently, Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry's Strength to Give programme is on hold again due to reassessment of cheek-swabbing funding. However, organisations like U R the Cure's Pamela Bousejean, who have helped us liaise and organise many drives in Perth, continue to put pressure to revive the cheek swab programme.

With uncle's vision of scouting for donors in Indian, we were able to mobilise many drives, mainly across Kerala and some in other parts of India, resulting in 1000s of potential donors registering on the database. Uncle also organised meetings with the Rotary and Lions club in an effort to continue the drives. Currently, the pandemic has slowed down direct drives in India, but DATRI, side-stepping the lockdowns and other bottlenecks continued with postal delivery and collection of swab kits.

Many of us have stood in front of audiences at schools, colleges, Gurudwaras, Diwali melas trying to convince people who have never heard about blood stem cell transplant to register. I still remember many of us trying to guesstimate a person's age before approaching them to query if they would be interested in registering - currently, one needs to be between 18 and 35 years to register. Many of us even tried broken Hindi or Punjabi to converse with people hoping to convince them to join the registry. Now, Australian Indian

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Medical Association Western Australia also has come onboards in supporting the quest for getting more people on the donor registry.

Even though we are still searching for the proverbial needle in the haystack, we have come a long way on this journey. Uncle's far-reaching thought to organise registration drives, especially in India, will continue to yield rich dividends as many have already found matches for blood-related disorder -Velayudhan Uncle's Gift that keeps on giving. ■



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**Chemmangot
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■ Tanuja Nayar

It is with a very heavy heart, overcome with grief that I sit down to pen my thoughts about our dear Professor who was a mentor, good friend and teacher for my husband and myself. There are no words in the dictionary to express my feelings after his passing away which was so unexpected and difficult to come to terms with.

Not only was he one of the most generous persons I have known, but his warmth and kindness enveloped everyone who met him whether rich or poor, old, or young irrespective of race, age, and



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gender. He was a person one could never forget and whose image becomes etched deep into everyone's heart once they meet him.

Being Giri's professor at Curtin, he developed a great friendship with Giri during his studies. Our friendship with Ambika Chechi and Prof grew even deeper after we came to Australia, and they became our family. Whether it was personal or professional, Prof was the first person we often turned to for advice and to share any happiness or distress. We spent several entertaining, informative, and happy occasions with Ambika Chechi and Professor. He was extremely passionate about his chosen field of expertise and though I was not fortunate to be his student, I benefitted greatly from his knowledge through the several interactions and discussions we had at home.

Prof had an excellent sense of humour and enjoyed baiting me or teasing me on our divergent views on different topics. We shared several memorable outings with Prof and Ambika Chechi. We were overjoyed at his nomination to be the West Australian of the Year and deeply disappointed when he did not win. But his stoicism and his endorsement of the person who was selected as being deserving of the honour is a true testament to the depth of his heart and nobility of mind.

There are not many people in this world who remain young at heart till their last day with such purity of mind and who is the epitome of everything that is good, joyful, and compassionate. In other words, I know God must have broken the mould after he created Professor as he was inimitable and personified everything that is good in humanity.

Prof had promised to take me out to dinner after the last Kerala Elections if Pinarayi Vijayan came to power (or not, he had added as an afterthought) a dinner that I can now never have with him. ■

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**Chemmangot
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■ Vaidehi Sidharth

Velayudhan uncle was definitely one of a kind. To be someone so hard working and successful but constantly remain so kind-hearted and genuine is not a very easy thing to do but it was in his nature to put everyone first and make sure they are happy at all times. Uncle has been one of the most influential pillars in our community to me since I was four and growing up watching everything that he a constant reassurance that I am safe and always a smile and a hug when no matter where I am. Growing up there are always certain people you look up to for inspiration, people you turn to for comfort, that bring you a sense of safety, always make



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you smile and that you can turn to no matter what. Velayudhan uncle and Ambika Aunty have always been those people to me, and I will forever cherish every moment I had with uncle, every laugh, and every dinner we had to celebrate our birthdays and achievements because they make up a lot of why my childhood was so memorable and special. Uncle has been one of the most influential pillars in our community to me since I was four, and to be someone so hardworking and successful but remain so kind-hearted and caring was always such an inspiration to be around and grow up with. Thank you for always greeting me with a hug and a smile and for making the space around you a safe space for all. 'Til I can greet you with a hug and a smile again, lots of love always, Vaidhu. ■

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**Chemmangot
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■ Vaishnavi Sidharth

When I think of some of my most memorable childhood memories, Velayudhan uncle and Ambika Aunty always come to mind. Having dinners at their house over the years, celebrating every birthday or milestone in my life, uncle and Aunty were always there for me. It's sad to think I will not get to speak to uncle again, but it brings me peace to know he is not in pain anymore. I hope this is not a goodbye but 'til we meet again next time, may your soul Rest In Peace. Love, Vaishu. ■



*Honouring
the life of*



**Chemmangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

■ Varghese and Tessy Puthussery

Our beautiful memories of Professor Chemmangot Velayudhan Nayar

"As is a tale, so is a life: Not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters"- This quote by the Roman Stoic philosopher, Lucius Annaeus Seneca is so true of our dear friend, Professor Chemmangot Velayudhan Nayar who we lovingly called, Velayudettan.

We have known Velayudettan and his beautiful family for over 29 years and became really good friends with the family. We were all part of a close-knit group, we called 'Fishing MAWA' as we often got together as a group and to go fishing. We have very fond memories of our trips, especially to Kalbarri, Golden Bay, Malaysia, and Bali, with some unforgettable memories that we often laugh about to this day!

Velayudettan was a real sport. During our get-togethers, we organised games and Velayudettan would happily join in. I remember one of the games we had for New Year's eve, a few years ago, where Velayudettan and Ambikachechi had to compete with other couples in our fishing MAWA group and race to the other end balancing an inflated balloon between them. It was hilarious!

Velayudettan had a lot of funny anecdotes and we all loved listening to them. One anecdote that stands out in my memory is the one about their first train journey together as a newly married couple.

Velayudettan will always be remembered for being an inspiring, kind, compassionate and fun-loving person. He always had a smile on his face and that is how we will always remember Velayudettan. He will be dearly missed by us all. ■

*Honouring
the life of*



**Chemmangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

■ Venugopal and Deepa *Professor Chem Nayar, the Titan*

My favourite Greek myth is about Prometheus, the god who brought fire from the heavens for the benefit of man.

Prof. Chem Nayar, Velayudhan Uncle, as we called him, was no less a legend for us. A pioneering figure in renewable energy in the scientific community both in Australia and internationally, he was a finalist in the prestigious Australian of the Year award. Rather than rest on the laurels of his achievements, he persevered to harness the power of the Sun for the common man.

A scientist, an entrepreneur, a successful businessman - all these adjectives are undoubtedly shining medals on his mantle, but I would like to also remember his human side, the man you could always turn to, for advice, help and support. He has helped a lot of people, personally, academically, and professionally, and was always ready to lend a hand, when one was needed. Uncle was a kind soul who you could turn to, and beside him stood his pillar of strength, Ambika Aunty, his wife.

We shared countless stories and laughs during our meetings over the years which I look back on now with nostalgia. Evenings with Uncle greet you with resounding laughter and the stories of his yesteryears, the efforts and struggles that made him. These were strewn with hilarious accounts of his artistic pursuits with the Malayalee community in his early years in Perth.

Uncle told us colourful stories about his travels, of journeys

*Honouring
the life of*



**Chemmangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

to different countries, cultures, and institutions, spreading the message of safe, clean, and renewable energy and through this he has made innumerable contributions to the world. The visionary in him succeeded in paving the future for all of us, through showing us how we can build a sustainable future.

Uncle leaves a lasting legacy, a still beating heart though his family, friends, pupils, and his companies (Regen Power and Radial Solar). His life is a message for all of us that through perseverance, effort and caring for humanity we can keep the flame for the future burning brightly. We salute you, Velayudhan Uncle. ■



Flash back



**Chemmangot
Velayudhan Nayar**

1946 - 2021

