



President's Profile

St. Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni Association, Ontario Canada

Name: [Raymond Santiago]



Years as Student: [1956 - 1966]

**Standing with AA,
Ontario**

Presidency: 1991 – 1993 & 2012 - 2014

Member in Executive Committee: Since 1987

Member Since: Chairman during inauguration in 1987

Narrative:

Raymond held the Presidential post twice. First in 1991-1993 during the primary days of our association, and again in 2012-2014. All through his servicing years, Raymond has proven the fact that the basis of true Patrician identity comes from the fraternity of sharing the patrician spirit. He is a gentleman at the fore front of almost every campaign; Fund raising, ticket sales, membership drives, community networking and donations. His explosive skills in aforementioned areas and far-reaching forbearing attitude had helped the association reach the milestones of our must wins hence, sustain its organic growth.

Progression:

During Raymond's period, the following progressive initiatives had taken place in line with the footsteps of his predecessors.

- **JAFFNA SCHOOLS CAROL SERVICES**

Our association supports the above group from its inception in 1991. Our adult members and their spouses participated in the choir during the earlier stages. Mr John Edirmanasinghe (former President) and his late wife Dharmini were the livewires during this time. In the latter years Patrician's progeny took over. We are grateful to Mr. Gilroy Ponniah (a former President), Mr Ajith Pullenayagam, Mr. Herman Vijeyakumar (a former President) and Mr Leo Swampillai for their untiring efforts.

- **CHILDREN'S X'MAS PARTY & DINNER DANCE**

We have the unique distinction of having two dinner dances every year. The above is one of them. During the initiation stages we are grateful to Mr Aloysius for his generous contribution towards catering services and Mr Gerrard Simonpillai (our present President) and his spouse Sitara for their untiring help in the preparation of the banquet halls.

- **SENIORS PARTY**

The above gathering emphasizes the formative years. This assembly accentuates the valuable experience. We depend on our senior stalwarts like Mr R.L Xavier (A queen's medal recipient), Mr X.R. Francis, Mr Thomas Estakey and our esteemed teacher Mr Albert Santiapillai for its success.

- **FUNERALS**

Our final farewells to our members was always a solemn occasion to every member. As we say our final goodbye to our colleagues we remember the legacy left by them. Our Christian upbringing stresses the importance of after-life mitigating our loss.

- **INTER-SECTOR**

We cannot express our gratitude enough to Mr. Eddie Ferdinand (Australia) and Mr Aloysius Sathiajeevan (Canada) for their untiring efforts. They are one of the reasons the whole community of Patricians scattered throughout the universe are bonded together.

- **INTERNATIONAL GATHERING**

They have been four international assemblies of Patricians over the past decade, 2001—Toronto, Canada---2004—London U.K, 2011—Bergen, Norway and 2012—Colombo-Jaffna, Sri Lanka. I had the good fortune to attend the first three of them with my colleagues. The present President Mr Gerrard Simonpillai was also an ardent supporter of this event and attended them. These are on top of mini-reunions by batch members.

- **ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER DANCE**

This is our marquee event for the year. I am very grateful to Mr Anton Savundranayagam, Mr Anthony Luckshman, Mr Reginauld Nicholapillai and a host of others who constantly facilitate the ticket sales. Mr Anton Philip (a former President) was very helpful in carrying out whatever takes assigned to him.

- **CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ALMA MATER**

One of our significant contributions to our Alma Mater was the establishment of the "Vanni Fund" under the Presidency of Mr Gilroy Ponniah. This fund facilitates the education of two students from the Vanni area. The most affected part of Sri Lanka during the recent civil war. Three of our prominent members Dr. Michael Thambynayagam, Prof Alfred Christy and my classmate Dr. M.J.M Thavananthan contributed liberally towards it.

We also established a year end award for biology for an advance level student. The monetary value for these runs in to millions of rupees. We were also able to top-up the Vanni Trust fund reserve by another \$3000.00 from the proceeds and other donations from our well-wishers. I am forever grateful to Mr Anton Rajinthrakumar

our spokesman for the Vanni fund who is our spokesperson for this fund.

- **CONCLUSION**

I conclude with grateful thanks to Mr. Anton Jeyanathan (Secretary during my time), Mr Lloyd Thevarajah (Treasurer during my time) and all committee members for the support they gave me which made my job that much easier.