I N M E M O R I A M

Ter nagedagtenis



# of Maryanne Anthony Dada

“The Nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten.”

- Calvin Coolidge

It is with deep sadness that I say goodbye to my dear friend, Maryanne Anthony. Some people come into our lives quietly but leave behind memories that remain in our hearts forever. Maryanne was one of those special people.

She was a gentle, kind and caring person who faced many difficulties and suffered more than most people knew. Yet, through her pain and struggles, she held on to her faith in God. Her strength was not always seen in words, but in the quiet way she carried herself and continued to believe, even during the difficult moments of her life.

Maryanne was also a woman who made history. She was recognised as the first Indian policewoman to be permanently stationed in the Transvaal. She completed her training at SA Police, Cato Manor, Training College in June 1987 and returned to Laudium to begin her police career. She carried this responsibility with courage and pride, opening doors for other Indian women who would follow in her footsteps.

But beyond her achievement and her place in police history, I will remember the friend, the gentle soul and the person behind the uniform. Her life reminds us that we never truly know the battles another person is fighting. Sometimes the kindest people carry the heaviest burdens.

Maryanne, life is short, and none of us knows how many days we have been given. When the dust has settled, and the body returns to the earth from which it came, the soul returns to God who gave it. What remains is the love we shared, the memories we created and the lives we touched.

May you now find the peace and rest that this life did not always give you. May the Lord welcome you with the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

I celebrate the life of a woman who embodied the finest values of our police service, honour, humility, and faith. Her kindness and her desire to preserve the memory of others reflect her character. May her memory continue to inspire those who serve. “Death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart” (*Ecclesiastes 7:2*) (KJV). Death reminds us of the brevity of life and that we only have a certain amount of time to live and love well. Farewell.

Rest peacefully, dear friend. You will be remembered with affection, respect and love. Your journey on earth has ended, but your memory will remain in the hearts of those who knew you.

“Death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart” (*Ecclesiastes 7:2*) (KJV). Death reminds us of the brevity of life and that we only have a certain amount of time to live and love well. Farewell dear MaryAnne. We thank and Salute you for serving.”

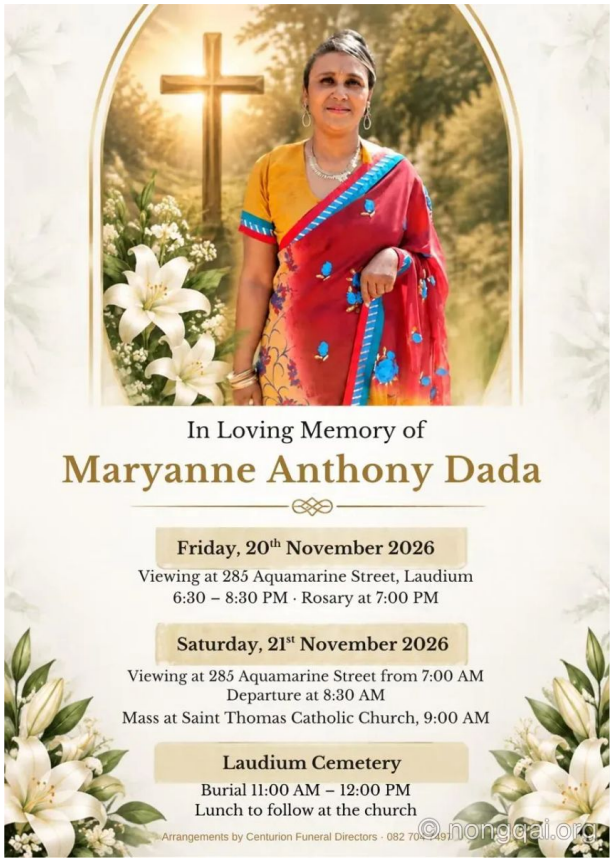
Maryanne makes history

Constable (f) Maryanne Anthony of Laudium has made history by being the first Indian policewoman to be permanently stationed in the Transvaal.

Maryanne, who completed her training at the Wentworth Police Training College in June 1987, returned to her home-town, Laudium to serve as a fully-fledged policewoman. This came upon her as a tremendous challenge, as she is the one and only Indian policewoman in the entire Northern Transvaal division.

Maryanne, one of four daughters, plans to make the Police Force her career, and already she has been thrown in the deep end by having to perform section crew, camp guard, charge office, administrative and enquiry staff duties. “She’s doing a marvellous job,” says her station commander, Lieutenant S A Govender, Brigadier “and we are very proud of her.”

SERVAMUS December 1988”



Funeral Notification



Captain Kercy Pillay, Attorney at Law

A tribute to my dear friend and former colleague, Maryanne Anthony

Farewell, My Precious Friend

It is with a heavy heart and profound sadness that I pay tribute to my dear former colleague and friend, Maryanne Anthony, who passed away this morning after a long and debilitating illness.

Her illness ravaged her body and robbed her of much of the quality, dignity and enjoyment of life that we all cherish. Watching someone endure such suffering is never easy. Yet, as I reflect on her life and the memories we shared, I choose to remember not the illness that eventually took her from us, but the vibrant, courageous and spirited young woman I first met in 1989.

Our paths crossed when I was transferred to SAP Laudium. At the time, Maryanne was, to my knowledge, the first female of Indian origin from Pretoria to join the police. She was a trailblazer in her own right, entering a profession that was, in those days, largely dominated by men.

What I remember most vividly was her vibrant personality. She was a young woman full of life, confidence and enthusiasm. Most of the male members at SAP Laudium were young men who hailed from KwaZulu-Natal, yet Maryanne fitted in comfortably. She developed close relationships with her colleagues and earned their friendship and respect. She was one of us, and her presence added something special to the station.

Our association was not merely one of colleagues sharing the same workplace. We also shared the experiences, challenges and camaraderie that come with police work.

In 1989, MaryAnne and I were part of a police operation under the supervision of Brigadier S Govender, who at the time held the rank of Lieutenant. That operation resulted in one of the biggest drug busts I can recall. We successfully arrested individuals who had attempted to sell us more than 10,000 Mandrax tablets. It was a significant operation, and Maryanne was part of that memorable chapter in our policing careers.

Another operation that remains firmly etched in my memory, Maryanne and I were part of a police operation under the supervision of Brigadier S. Govender, who at the time held the rank of Lieutenant, involved the two of us acting as decoys. Our mission was to apprehend a group of individuals who were targeting couples parked at night in the township of Claudius. It was a challenging assignment that required courage, alertness and teamwork. These are the kinds of experiences that bind colleagues together in ways that time can never erase.

Those were the days of youthful energy, adventure, commitment and service. We were young, determined and proud to wear the uniform. Little did we know that, decades later, those experiences would become treasured memories of a friendship forged in the line of duty.

Although the years passed and life took each of us along different paths, the bond of shared experiences was never entirely lost. More recently, we re-established contact and spent time chatting on WhatsApp.

Those conversations gave us an opportunity to reconnect, reminisce and revisit memories of a time that had become such an important part of our lives.

I am grateful that we had that opportunity to reconnect. Sometimes, we do not realise just how precious these seemingly ordinary conversations are until the opportunity to have them is taken away.

Maryanne, your journey on this earth has come to an end, but the memories you leave behind will continue to live in the hearts of those who knew you. You were a pioneer, a colleague, a friend and a woman who made her mark in a profession where women of your background were few.

Death is a form of release from the suffering that this world can sometimes inflict upon us. I find comfort in believing that the Lord, in His infinite mercy, has finally called you home and relieved you of the pain and hardship that accompanied your long illness.

Your earthly struggles are over. Your suffering has ended. You have been granted your wings, and I choose to imagine you seated among the angels, at the feet of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, where there is no more pain, no more suffering and no more tears.

To your family and loved ones, may the Lord grant you strength, comfort and courage during this difficult time. May you find solace in knowing that Maryanne's life touched people in ways that will never be forgotten.

Maryanne, thank you for the memories, the friendship, the laughter and the experiences we shared in the service of our country.

I shall always remember that vibrant young woman I met at SAP Laudium in 1989.

Rest peacefully, my dear friend. Your watch on earth has ended, but your memory will remain with me.

FAREWELL, MY PRECIOUS FRIEND.

Until we meet again, may you rest in the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

Captain Kercy Pillay, now an Attorney at Law

"*Each day, millions of police officers do the selfless work of putting their lives on the line to protect civilians, frequently responding to or preventing crises completely with no recognition*." – Letitia James

"*Agnoscere et honorare servientibus*" –

"To acknowledge and honour those who served"

"Soli Deo Gloria" - "To God Alone Glory"