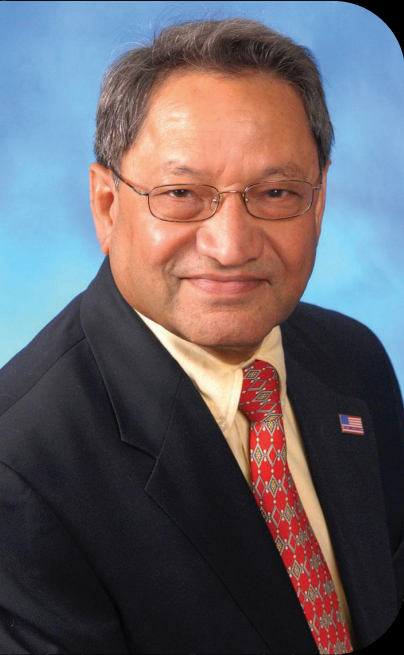


TRIBUTE TO NIPPANI RAO

rest in peace



Our dear friend and colleague,

Nippani passed away early Tuesday evening, January 19, 2021, at Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills. He was 81. Nippani was born November 15, 1939, in Hyderabad, Telangana, India, to the late Bhimsen and Ghodavri (Baru) Nippani. He married Joan M. (Burns) on February 28, 1969, and together they enjoyed nearly 52 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, Nippani is survived by three sons, David, Eric, and Stephen (Michelle); and siblings, Rama Nippani and Lakshmi Veena. In lieu of customary remembrances, those who wish to further honor his memory are invited by his family to consider a contribution to the Wounded Warrior Project.



Pat Farrey, SPE CEO said: Nippani was an active member of the Society of Plastics Engineers, where he received the "Honored Service Member" award – the highest award for service to the Society and the industry. His friends and colleagues at the Society appreciated and respected him, both personally and professionally. We share his family's sadness."

Nippani was a long time Board member of the SPE Detroit Section, the SPE Automotive and the SPE Composites Division. His kindness and leadership helped create the success of all three chapters and he will be greatly missed by so many. He was a chair of the SPE Automotive Div. Lifetime Achievement and Automotive Innovation Hall of Fame Awards and served as a judge on the Blue Ribbon Committee for the SPE Automotive Innovation Awards and ACCE Part Competition and played a leadership role on numerous other committees for many years.

Nippani was one of the Detroit SPE TPO's founders and was active in the TPO Conference since its inception in 1999. He was most recently the Chair of the Detroit SPE Awards Committee and the Annual Golf Outing but had served in many roles in support of the Section over the years.



Nippani worked as a materials engineering supervisor at Chrysler from 1986 – 2008; Technology manager at Asahi Kasei from 2008 – 2010; and as president of RAO Associates from 2009 until his death. One of the highlights of his career was the engineering responsibility of the award-winning Dodge Viper Body innovations with resin transfer molding. He held numerous patents. He held Chemical Engineering degrees from Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati and an MBA in marketing from Xavier University.

The Detroit Section will not be the same without Nippani. He is remembered for his good humor, his smile, his kindness, his wisdom and willingness to serve.

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Tributes:

In 2009, when I became a member of the SPE Detroit Section Board of Directors, one of the first people to welcome me to the Board was Nippani Rao. During that time, we worked together on several committees, including the Awards Committee and the Golf Outing Committee. When I became Awards Committee Chairperson, Nippani shared his extensive experience in helping me to understand this new responsibility. He was an excellent coach and mentor, and I learned this new role very quickly thanks to his support.

Nippani always enjoyed bringing members of the SPE Detroit Section together for social gatherings. In 2013, Nippani led a committee to bring back an event to the Detroit Section Calendar that had not be held in years; the SPE Detroit Section Golf Outing. Since then, this event has now become a major fund-raising event to support educational programs in the Detroit Area.

Nippani is gone, but his contributions to the SPE both in Detroit and on the international level will never be forgotten. We will miss him deeply. — **Pete Grelle**

“Nippani was very close friend and SPE colleague since 1990. I will always cherish the beautiful memories working together at several SPE events with his amazing dedication. I will miss going out for a leisurely lunch at his favorite Indian restaurant “Biryani Express”. He will be greatly missed but his kindness, smile, good attitude and gentle spirit will be remembered forever. With love and deepest sympathy as we remember a very dear friend”. — **Suresh Shah**

Nippani gave me a lasting impression as warm and kind gentleman albeit briefly via my interview for the SPE Detroit Section board member position. I cherish the interactions at our in-person board meetings and will always remember him fondly. — **Fang Wang**

When I heard that Nippani had passed away the day before, it was like a giant sack of rocks had fallen on my head. Nippani and I have worked on SPE together for 20 years. We golfed together, roomed together for 6 years when he served as councilor for the Automotive Division, and I had the same position for the Detroit Section. Nippani always volunteered for committee chair positions. He became the chair for the Divisions at Council several of the years we worked together. Everyone got along with Nippani, and I never saw him without a smile on his face. He will be missed, and I feel very fortunate to have had him as a friend. — **Tom Powers**

I worked with Nippani in the past and keep very good memories of him. Visiting FCA with him was like walking with a celebrity! He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers to his family. — **Rodrigo Orozco**

Nippani was one of the most genuinely kind and supportive members of the SPE Automotive Division.

Nippani was always so nice to work with and very helpful to me personally. I will miss dearly and always remember his warm smile. — **Teri Chouinard**

I am very sad and surprised to hear about Nippani's passing. Nippani has made significant contributions to the Detroit Section and the committees he has served on over many years. He will absolutely be missed. — **Laura Shereda**

