

Media Release on the Farewell Ceremony for Mr & Mrs S R Nathan on 12 Nov 2011 at 0900 hrs in Dunman High School @ 10 Tanjong Rhu Road

Mr S R Nathan -Chief Scout (1999-2011)

As the Chief Scout of the Singapore Scout Association for over a decade, Mr S R Nathan had been a pillar of strength and encouragement to the Association. He was consulted on the many initiatives of the SSA and had tirelessly guided the Association well with his wisdom and insight. In support of the Association, he had consistently officiated at many of our events including the Distinguished Service Award ceremony. His presence lent much prestige to the award. Every year without fail, he had taken time to launch the annual Job Week, believing that his officiating the launching ceremony enhance the confidence of our young scouts as it involved our scouts in their interaction with the public and the inculcation of the noble value that *“there is dignity in labour and honest work”*

His generosity was further demonstrated through his kind sponsorship of deserving needy scouts for their participation in the World Scout Jamborees (WSJ) in Thailand (the 20th WSJ in 2003), in UK (the 21st WSJ in 2007), Jamboree in Thailand in 2008 and the recently concluded World Scout Jamboree in Sweden (the 22th WSJ in 2011).

Despite his tight schedule, Mr Nathan had always found time to grace the Scout Annual Charity Golf Dinner, a fund-raising event which had been well-received by many well-wishers and sponsors.

Internationally, he had given tremendous boost to the image of the Association by hosting the following key events:

- a) The Investiture Ceremony of President Scout Chapter in Oct 2006, a historic event which marked another new chapter in the local Scout Movement.
- b) The 21st World Scout Jamboree Flag Presentation Ceremony in July 2007, a formal send off for the 60-strong Singapore contingent to World Scout Jamboree in UK.
- c) The Welcome Dinner for some 100 Chief Commissioners in March 2008 as part of the bid by the Association to host the 23rd World Scout Jamboree.

Mr Nathan continued to demonstrate his unfailing support of the Association by consenting to launch the Centennial book: 100th years of Scouting in Singapore. He had previously launched the coffee table book, “Scouting in Singapore” in 2003. His presence at the official opening of 100th Anniversary cum 3rd ASEAN Jamboree in 2010 added further significance and colour to the 5-day long event.

Undoubtedly, he had contributed significantly and outstandingly to Scouting, specifically in Singapore and generally to the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

In 2005, he was conferred the highest Asia Pacific regional award, the APR Award for Distinguished Service for his solid support and sterling contributions to Scouting. He was bestowed the Distinguished Service Gold Award in 2010, the highest award of the Singapore Scout Association (SSA) which is bestowed on a very selected few.

Mr Tan Tee How, President of The Singapore Scout Association will present the Long Service Award to Mr S R Nathan.

Mrs S R Nathan - Patron, Girl Guides Singapore (1999 - 2011)

Mrs S R Nathan was installed as Patron of Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) on 19 November 1999. Mrs Nathan is a well recognised and loved Patron of GGS. She inspired, encouraged and reached out to all girl members and volunteers. Where there were performances, awards or community programmes, Mrs. Nathan made an effort to be present, extending a word of encouragement to our girls. Her compassion and kindness for the Movement were keenly felt by the girls whenever she visited the schools. In particular, the Brownie and Guide unit at MINDS, a school for the Intellectually Disabled, was among many of the units she took a special interest in.

Mrs Nathan brought to the position her personal charm, grace and desire to raise the profile of Guiding. She personally helped GGS raise funds through the sale of our signature Girl Guide cookies. These funds are much needed to further enhance GGS' programme.

Mrs Nathan's interest in Guiding extended to international levels. She hosted the Chief Commissioners from the Commonwealth Countries and demonstrated her commitment to Guiding in Singapore. Mrs Nathan was awarded the Laurel Leaf Award, the highest Award of the Girl Guides Singapore in 2002.

At the award ceremony on 12 November 2011, Girl Guides Singapore will present Mrs Nathan with the Long Service Award for her twelve years with GGS and the Asia Pacific Region Appreciation Award.

The Asia Pacific Region Appreciation Award is the highest award given by the Asia Pacific Region, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The award honours unique individuals who have given outstanding service and contribution to the development of Girl Guiding in the Asia Pacific Region. The award recognises Mrs Nathan's exemplary leadership as Patron of Girl Guides Singapore and her being an excellent role model for women. Much has been achieved in improving the image and impact of Girl Guiding in Singapore.

Ms Low Lih Jeng, Chairperson of Asia-Pacific Region will present the Asia-Pacific Region Appreciation Award to Mrs S R Nathan.

Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, President of Girl Guides Singapore will present the Long Service Award to Mrs S R Nathan.

Girl Guides Singapore

Started in 1917, Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) is a non-profit Uniformed Group that is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Guide Scouts (WAGGGS). It has over 10,000 members in Singapore and is the largest and choice Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) group for girls. There are more than 10 million Girl Guides and Guide Scouts in 145 countries today.

GGS teaches leadership, promotes resourcefulness and supports cultural diversity in today's world, for today's girls. We offer opportunities and challenges that shape each girl into a leader of courage, confidence and character. As she takes her place and makes her mark in the world, the Girl Guides experience is something a girl will carry with her for life.

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