

Legislative District 17



## ***Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula (D)***

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### Dr. Kidambi Raghunath

Dr. Kidambi has been a terrific community leader and advocate for the promotion of Telugu Culture in New Jersey. I have known him for nearly 10 years and has been a very good supporter of me as a continued public service. After my election to the NJ State Assembly, I visited Andhra Pradesh in August 2002. He organized my trip to visit a few key organizations, such as the Vaigeshna School for the Handicapped near Hyderabad.

Dr. Vamsee Ramaraju, a very good friend of Dr. Kidambi has undertaken a noteworthy cause of helping handicapped children and instilling cultural values and human dignity. Dr. Kidambi has coordinated many fundraising efforts both in the U.S.A. and India. I truly respect him for his commitment and dedication to noble causes, such as the Vaigeshna School. I have known him as the Editor of Telugu Jyothi, a literary magazine published by TFAS, New Jersey, in which he wrote about political involvement of our community citing my election as the mayor of Franklin Township.

He was a recipient of many awards--Vamsee Gold Medal for Social Service, TLCA Award for Excellent Service, TFAS Award for Editorship, Delhi Telugu Association Ugadi Puraskar, AP Govt. Distinguished Telugu Award, Kalanilayam Visishta Puraskar, Vemuri Chandravathi Ramanadham Memorial Trust Award etc.

As the President, International Products & Technology Exchange, Inc. Piscataway, NJ, and as an advisor to me he began promoting business activities between New Jersey and Andhra Pradesh. Due to his premature death, he had a lot of unfinished business and I miss him very much along with the community.

*(Upendra J. Chivukula)*