



Dr. Helena Jaczek
Member of Parliament, Markham—Stouffville

February 8, 2021

Dear friends,

It is with sadness that I write about the passing of Shri Amar Erry. He was an exceptional man and an extraordinary community-builder. His kindness and wisdom were readily apparent, and they infused his activities. For decades, he brought people together, from York Region's Hindu community, Indo-Canadian communities and beyond, building bridges to groups and individuals of diverse backgrounds.

On Friday, I rose in the House of Commons to honour his memory. I delivered the following remarks:

“Markham has lost a great community, cultural and spiritual leader. In January, flags were lowered to half-mast at Markham's Civic Centre to honour the life and contributions of Amar Erry. He was a cornerstone of Markham's Hindu community, a champion for diversity and inclusion and a friend to many. President of the Arya Samaj Mandir since 1980, and president of the Vedic Cultural Centre's board of directors since 1996, he sat on numerous boards and committees, including the Canadian Federation of Intercultural Friendship. He contributed to interfaith discussions through the Intercultural Dialogue Institute. He was a passionate and dedicated community leader who was well-liked and well-respected. He was thoughtful, kind and gracious—and an inspiration to those around him. He will be missed by friends and family in Canada and around the world. I will miss you too Amar ji. I know these thoughts are shared by my colleague, the Member from Markham-Thornhill. Our sincere condolences to his family, friends and the community.

Shri Amar Erry's impressive legacy lives on in the organizations he helped build, and in the hearts of those who knew and cherished him. It is my hope that his life and memory will serve as an inspiration for all of us and for the generations to come. Om Shanti.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Jaczek', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Helena Jaczek
Member of Parliament for Markham-Stouffville