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# An ode to late Dr Karunanidhi by Dr Eric Miller of World Storytelling Institute in Chennai

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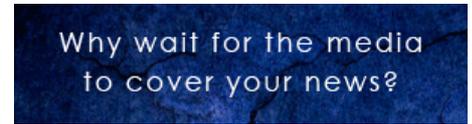
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Much loved by the masses, five-time Chief Minister and leader of the DMK for 50 years, 94-year-old Karunanidhi passed away due to age-related ailments in a private hospital on Tuesday.

Dr Eric Miller, who hails from New York, first visited Tamil Nadu in 1988 and settled here in Chennai in 2002 by setting up the World Storytelling Institute in the city. He was moved by the death of Dr Karunanidhi and wrote the following ode in the memory of departed leader:



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"It has been an honour to live in Tamil Nadu in the presence of Dr Karunanidhi. I hope to be based here in Chennai for the rest of my life, in the presence of the memory of Dr Karunanidhi," he conveyed to his friends via email including me.

He added, "To say a few words about Dr Karunanidhi : He was a writer -- including of dialogue for movies. He loved word-play, including puns."

"The Dravidian Movement -- especially as led by Sirs Karunanidhi and Annadurai - used stories in written form, in oratory, and in movies like no other social / political / human-rights / cultural

movement in the history of the world," he wrote further.

"And unlike many politicians, Dr Karunanidhi was not an angry, hostile public speaker. At speeches of his I attended, he would come onstage, sit down, read from his notes, and comment on the material in an improvisational and conversational way. Then when he would finish, everyone would quietly stand up and go away. There was no condemning the opposition, no shouting," he went on.

He added, "It is a great credit to the Tamil people and culture that a leader such as Dr Karunanidhi was supported here, and that he never lost an election."

"The Dravidian Movement - although of course it is rooted in local conditions - is one of the great social / political / human-rights / cultural movements in the history of the world, and a lot can be learned from it and applied to other related movements," he concluded.

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