Here’s how they want him honoured

By M. NIRMALA

SOME Singaporeans want former president Wee Kim Wee to be immortalised in a National Day song or by having his statue placed at a prominent public place. Alternatively, they would like to see a road named after him.

These suggestions came yesterday as more Singaporeans joined the queue at the Istana to pay their last respects to a man they felt should be remembered for his contributions to Singapore.

Among them was MediaCorp TV actor Nick Shen, 29. He said a statue of Mr Wee at Changi Airport would be appropriate. Or it could be at the Esplanade to symbolise his support for the arts.

Another possibility: Make a movie on Mr Wee for the younger generation to learn about his contributions to Singapore as a leader, diplomat and journalist.

Retiree Lawrence Cheng, 57, suggested that a monument be built in Mr Wee’s name while Madam Yeo Ah Moey, 60, director of nursing at Ang Mo Kio Hospital, urged that an educational or medical trust fund be named after him.

Professor Eddie Kuo finds it more meaningful to have journalism scholarships made in Mr Wee’s name.

The interim dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University noted that its professorship in communication studies bears Mr Wee’s name. It could be expanded to include the scholarship scheme.

At the Singapore Management University, the Wee Kim Wee Centre is for better understanding of cultural diversity in the business environment.

Although past presidents have been remembered by naming buildings and bridges after them, a personality cult has never been encouraged here.

Singapore’s first president Yusof Ishak died in 1970 but it was only in 1999 that currency notes featured his portrait.

Only one school bears his name: Yusof Ishak Secondary, which opened in 1966.

WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY ARLINA ARSHAD