




Speech By
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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.01 pm): As the state member for Moggill and as a life member of the Australian Monarchist League it is an honour to rise in support of today's motion and pay respects to a friend beloved by the people of Queensland as well as citizens across various state and territory jurisdictions of the Commonwealth of Australia and also many countries around the world. I wish to place on record my formal condolences to Her Majesty the Queen for the unimaginable grief that Her Majesty is enduring and for the sheer weight of the loss for both the Queen and her family—the loss of a husband, a father and a grandfather.

For more than 73 years there have been countless stories that have been written and shared about Prince Philip. These stories have ultimately been stories of both love and sacrifice. There can be no doubt that there was an unwavering love and unbreakable bond between Prince Philip and Her Majesty the Queen.

For almost 74 years Prince Philip had been the Queen's constant companion and, in her own words, her strength and stay. With Her Majesty's coronation in 1952, Prince Philip also eventually became the longest serving consort of a reigning British monarch. Their marriage has been a true embodiment of partnership, companionship, loyalty and support. Always by Her Majesty's side, Prince Philip never sought or permitted his own position or voice to dominate that of the Queen such as was the ultimate love and respect he had for the monarchy, the associated royal institution and Her Majesty.

Prince Philip's life was one which was forever devoted to service, whether to Her Majesty, the Royal Family, the military, the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth of Nations including Australia. For nearly 14 years Prince Philip served in the Royal Navy. It was a celebrated maritime career and one which saw him participate in key engagements and battles across the Mediterranean, and particularly through the Pacific during World War II.

By 1942 Prince Philip had become one of the youngest lieutenants in the Navy and by 1952 he had risen to the rank of lieutenant commander. It was often said that if not for the marriage to the future Queen, Prince Philip would likely have continued to serve in the Navy and progress even further within the ranks of the Royal Navy. However, such was the true dedication to his future beloved wife that Prince Philip knowingly and willingly abandoned his own personal aspirations and potential future achievements to support Her Majesty as the Queen's royal consort. As the royal consort, Prince Philip wholeheartedly delivered, and he dedicated his life to furthering the future prosperity of the Commonwealth of Nations. Australia has certainly been strengthened and enriched by his service.

It is no secret that Prince Philip had a deep affection for Australia and it was one which saw him visit our nation on more than 20 occasions, including a number of visits to Queensland. As the Prime Minister of Australia recently remarked, among these visits to Australia Prince Philip bore witness to some of our country's most historic moments, including the opening of the Royal Australian Mint in 1965, the Sydney Opera House in 1973 and the new Parliament House of Australia in 1988.

Globally, Prince Philip was patron of more than 800 charities and here in Australia nearly 50 organisations were fortunate to have the Duke of Edinburgh as their patron. Prince Philip's lifetime of service ultimately served as a lifetime of inspiring others. This is perhaps nowhere more evident than in the positive impact we have seen with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program. Since its inception in 1959, more than 775,000 young Australians have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program. Each year more than 44,000 young Australians participate in this outstanding program. My eldest son, Nicholas Rowan, has been a recipient of a Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Every year more than 275,000 hours are devoted to volunteering in Australia by Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants. What is more, 86 per cent of participants continue to volunteer regularly following their completion of the award, with 68 per cent of those who take part in the program stating that they now feel as though they are part of their own community.

The impact of Prince Philip's death, which has been felt and seen locally here in Australia, is one that has been replicated throughout the Commonwealth of Nations for which Prince Philip cared deeply and was entirely devoted to during his life of service. Whether it was the peoples of Canada, India, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand or Fiji, to name just a few of the 54 sovereign Commonwealth states, Prince Philip was certainly instrumental in building and maintaining our great Commonwealth of Nations.

On Friday, 16 April 2021 preceding the funeral of Prince Philip, I visited Government House here in Queensland to personally sign a message of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen and the entire Royal Family. Prince Philip's life was one of service, loyalty, commitment and devotion. Prince Philip's profound legacy will certainly endure and, in doing so, ensure the strong continuation of Australia's democratic system of government.

Finally, I wish Her Majesty the Queen a happy birthday, although I know this year will be incredibly difficult given the recent death of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.