



Speech by

## Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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Hansard 19 August 2003

### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

#### Death of Mr R. C. Kruger, MP

**Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.55 a.m.): I rise to speak to the condolence motion for the late Joe Kruger moved by the Premier. Joe was born on 28 February 1935 and died on 24 July 2003 at Redcliffe. Joe was son of Frederick and Mabel, nee Goff. Although christened Raymond Charles, we was always known fondly by the nickname given to him by his father, Joe.

The Kruger family owned a small crops and dairy farm at Kallangur which they farmed from 1930. Joe Kruger was educated at the Kallangur State School and then went to work on the family farm, the general routine of the time. In 1954, at the age of 18 years, Joe was drafted into the army to complete his national service. At the age of 20 Joe took up axemanship and competed at many local shows. That is something that many of us still enjoy today when we go to our shows. Another of Joe's interests was dancing. It was at a dance that he met Helen Margaret Brockhurst, whom he later married in 1960. Joe and Helen had three girls: Debbie, Narelle and Joanne.

In 1973, Joe was elected to the Pine Rivers Shire Council, following in the footsteps of his father and brother Norman. His popularity saw him elected to state parliament as the member for Murrumba, which had been held by the Country Party but made more urban by a redistribution. In parliament, Joe Kruger was a strong advocate for public transport, particularly the Redcliffe rail link. Another issue which drew strong support from Joe Kruger was the provision of housing commission homes and increased funding to local government in order to establish employment schemes to develop parks and construct kerbing and channelling.

The 1985 redistribution altered the boundaries of the Murrumba electorate. Although the sitting member, Joe Kruger was not endorsed as the ALP candidate for Murrumba for the 1986 state election. He resigned from the ALP and stood as an Independent but lost to the ALP candidate at the time, Mr Dean Wells. In his semi-retirement, with the farm sold, Joe Kruger concentrated on, as the Premier said, breeding prize-winning beagle dogs. I am sure Joe would be comforted by the fact that we have another beagle dog breeder in parliament, the member for Cunningham—although he assures me that his are not necessarily prize winning.

He also worked tirelessly with local community organisations. Joe Kruger is survived by his second wife, Hazel, three daughters, four grandchildren and two stepchildren and their families. Again, I pass on to his family the strong sympathy and condolences and support of the opposition.