



Speech by

Lawrence Springborg

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE - DEATH OF HON. SIR WALTER CAMPBELL AC, QC

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.50 a.m.): Walter Benjamin Campbell was born in Burringbar, northern New South Wales, on 4 March 1921—a new member of the Campbell clan. He was educated at Downlands College in Toowoomba where he was school captain and dux in his final year. He won an open scholarship to the University of Queensland. Walter Campbell's studies were interrupted in 1941 when he became a flight lieutenant pilot and flying instructor in the Royal Australian Air Force.

In 1942 he married Georgina Pearce and they had two children. After war service he returned to the university and graduated with a Master of Arts in 1947, followed by first-class honours in law. In 1948 he was admitted to the Queensland bar, taking silk 12 years later. He continued to teach law part time at the university, and in 1954 he was appointed to the law faculty's board. In 1963 he was elected to the university senate.

Between 1965 and 1967, Walter Campbell was president of the Queensland Bar Association and also held the position of president of the Australian Bar Association until he was appointed to the Supreme Court at the age of 46. Walter Campbell was appointed chancellor of the University of Queensland in 1978. In the same year he was knighted for services to government, the law and education.

Outside his busy business and professional life he found time to engage in a busy public life as well. Other positions Sir Walter Campbell held included president of the Queensland branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs; chairman of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust's Queensland selection committee; chairman of the Queensland Law Reform Commission; and president of the Utah Foundation.

Sir Walter Campbell served as the state's chief justice from 1982 to 1985 before becoming governor—a position he held from 1985 to 1992. Sir Walter was a very popular governor. He and Lady Campbell travelled the length and breadth of the state many times, and their charm and personalities enabled them to communicate easily and serenely with people from all walks of life.

Sir Walter Campbell was a talented and dedicated man. In his eulogy at Sir Walter's funeral, Chief Justice Paul de Jersey reflected on Sir Walter's 'remarkable legal talent, his brilliant intellect, and his rare capacity to influence and inspire others'. The Chief Justice described Sir Walter Campbell as 'a great judge and a great chief justice'. I would like to add that Sir Walter Campbell was a great governor and a man of great honour.

As a proud member of the Campbell clan, Sir Walter upheld its motto—strive to do right—throughout his 83 years. On behalf of my parliamentary colleagues I extend the Nationals' deepest sympathy to Lady Campbell and all of her family.

Over my time in this place I had the opportunity to meet and get to know Sir Walter and Lady Campbell and a number of members of the family. They are people of absolute integrity. When I told my wife of Sir Walter's passing, she was very personally traumatised by it. She reflected upon our first meeting with Sir Walter and described him as an extremely dignified and kind gentleman. I think that is the very fond recollection many Queenslanders will continue to have of Sir Walter Campbell.