



Speech by

Dr Bruce Flegg

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard Tuesday, 6 February 2007

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: DEATH OF MR WB KAUS MP

Dr FLEGG (Moggill—Lib) (9.41 am): I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party and the coalition to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to pass on to the family and friends of the late Bill Kaus our sympathies and condolences and to support the Premier's motion. William Bernard Kaus, as we have heard, was born at Kangaroo Point on 24 May 1923 to his parents, William Kaus and Doreen Baker. Bill attended Mount Gravatt and Greenslopes state schools and was a talented sportsman in his youth, being selected in the Queensland schoolboys team in both Rugby League and cricket.

In 1941 at the age of 18, Bill enlisted in the Air Force and sailed to Canada where he trained in the Empire Air Training Scheme. After completing his training he was posted to Bournemouth, where he struck up a friendship with cricketer great Keith Miller. Bill was posted to Special Operations Executive and undertook many secret missions into occupied France, Belgium and Holland. After his first tour of duty he asked his wing commander to do another tour.

When Bill was not flying he worked at the Australian Comforts Fund and played cricket for several English county sides. In fact, he was enjoying himself so much in England that when the war was over he missed five ships home and the military police had to put him on the boat to get him back to Australia. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1945 and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, and in 2005 was awarded France's highest military award, the Legion of Honour. Bill Kaus was a war hero in the service of our country. When Bill returned to Australia he worked in his family's bedding manufacturing business and married Neth Florette Hutchinson in 1948 and they had two sons and two daughters.

Bill entered parliament in 1966 as the member for Hawthorne after an earlier unsuccessful tilt at state politics three years prior. His maiden speech is devoted almost entirely to road safety, with many of his insightful comments and suggestions relevant today. His devotion to road safety was a passion that he continued throughout his parliamentary career, with his crowning achievement being the introduction of lollipop road safety personnel in this state. Bill served as member for Hawthorne for two terms and then, following a redistribution, as member for Mansfield until his retirement in 1986. For honourable members who worry about their margins, Bill won his seat in 1969 by four votes.

During his time in parliament, Bill served as Liberal Party whip and party secretary for four years and Deputy Chairman of Committees for 10 years. In 1983 he and Bob Moore, the then member for Windsor, caused major controversy by switching from the Liberal Party to the National Party after losing their preselections. It was a precursor to the monumental events that took place later in that year. Many of us—certainly those in my age group—remember that particularly turbulent time in the politics of our state.

Bill during his time in parliament and in retirement was a tireless community worker. Just some of the interests and commitments he had was as a state selector for Queensland Cricket, inaugural member of the Queensland Cricketers' Club, President of the Queensland Rifle Association, President of the Caloundra Bowls Club and he was an active Mason. Bill Kaus gave outstanding service to his community, his country and this parliament in both the Liberal and National parties. He passed away on 20 December 2006 and is survived by his wife, Neth, his children, Roger, Andrea, John and Vanessa, and 11 grandchildren. My colleagues and the Liberal Party organisation join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in extending our heartfelt sympathies to his family.