



Speech by
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 6 February 2007

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: DEATH OF MR WB KAUS MP

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.38 am): I rise to second the motion of condolence following the passing of William Bernard Kaus. As the Premier said, Bill Kaus was born on 24 May 1923 and he passed away on 20 December 2006. He was married on 12 June 1948 to Neth Hutchinson and they had two sons, Roger and John, and two daughters, Andrea and Vanessa. It is to those people and their families to whom we extend our condolence today.

Bill was educated at Mount Gravatt and Greenslopes state schools where he distinguished himself by playing Rugby League for Easts and for Queensland. He captained the schoolboys team to Townsville but after a football injury, and upon his mother's insistence, he switched to cricket and became a Queensland schoolboys cricket representative.

Bill was first employed with International Harvester, but towards the end of 1941, at the age of 18 years, Bill enlisted in Brisbane and went to Sandgate for military induction. He sailed for Canada where he was assigned to the 21st Wireless School, stationed in Calgary, Canada, as part of the Empire Air Training Service. Bill was posted to the special operations executive as one of a select group of pilots in the 161 Squadron, dubbed the 'moon squadron', which dropped supplies to the resistance movement in occupied France, Belgium and Holland. These missions were flown by night flights at 30 metres altitude to drop off or pick up secret agents working behind enemy lines.

These escapades were the subject of a book called the *Moon Squadron*. In 1945 the RAAF awarded Bill the Distinguished Flying Cross for exceptional valour, and in 2005, as the Premier has already referred to, Bill and four other veterans were presented with France's highest declaration, the Legion of Honour.

As to his political career and his involvement in this parliament, Bill was first elected in 1966 as the Liberal member for Hawthorne. He held the seat for six years until the seat was repositioned in a redistribution. Bill successfully contested the next election in the newly created seat of Mansfield, which he held until his retirement from politics in 1986. He was party whip and secretary of the parliamentary Liberal Party for 14 years and for 10 years he was also Deputy Chairman of Committees. In 1983 Bill joined the National Party and continued to hold the seat of Mansfield for us until he retired.

The issues raised in his maiden speech are as relevant today as they were in 1966. In his maiden speech Bill outlined his concerns about the disastrous road toll, the standard of driving training, the standard of driver testing and a suggested national safe cycling award he encouraged to be introduced to 12- to 15-year-olds to understand road rules and road safety. He was a strong advocate for subway pedestrian crossings to enhance pedestrian safety. During his representation of his electorates, major building works were approved and all nine schools gained libraries.

Bill also maintained an interest in his community. He maintained a great interest in cricket, being an inaugural member of the Queensland Cricketers' Club, President of the Queensland Rifle Association and President of the Cannon Hill RSL Rifle Club. Lawn bowls was another interest and he played with the parliamentary members and the past members lawn bowls teams, winning the team trophies on several occasions. Bill was the President of the Caloundra Bowls Club and secretary to the board of the Caloundra RSL. He is survived by his wife, his family and 11 grandchildren. I join with the Premier in expressing the condolences of this House to his family today.