



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Thursday, 20 May 2010

GIBBS, MR I AND MRS D

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (10.08 pm): I ask all members to join with me in congratulating retired MP the Hon. Ivan Gibbs and his darling wife, Doris, who today celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Ivan served in this place for 15 years from 7 December 1974 and resigned as minister for health on 7 December 1989.

My wife, Pauline, and I had the great pleasure of joining Doris and Ivan, together with their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other extended family members and friends, last Sunday when this wonderful couple celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Ivan and Doris have been and continue to be pillars of our community, having been married in Victoria on 20 May 1950, moving to Queensland in December 1956 and raising their five children here.

Last Sunday we enjoyed hours of stories from the Gibbs clan and other guests whom Ivan and Doris have befriended over the decades. We heard of the softness of Ivan, known as 'the quiet achiever', from one of his sons who told the 'broken toilet' story, with the truth finally being revealed as to how it happened and the way Ivan tried to protect the culprits. We heard from friends who talked about the persuasiveness of Doris when something was needed for one of the many charities Ivan and Doris support. Even today the call to a friend starts with such words as 'Hello, beautiful'. Then you know that help is needed.

We also heard of some sad times. Sadly, Ivan and Doris lost a beloved son in a tragic accident but, as one of their children said, the tragedy brought the family even closer together. It was obvious from the stories that embraced the whole of their lives that they are loved by all who know them.

In the beginning of his term Ivan was a member of parliament and deputy mayor of the Gold Coast at the same time for a period. During the early years, Ivan and Doris built up a business on the Gold Coast in car and truck wrecking. At one point Ivan was unkindly referred to as 'the Gold Coast Steptoe'. Ivan said in his memoirs, 'It didn't even put a dent in me.' Proudly for both Ivan and Doris, the business continues today and is being ably managed by their children. Indeed, over more than half a century the Gibbs business empire has gone from strength to strength.

During his time in this place Ivan diligently represented the people of Albert, which stretched from Slacks Creek and Kingston in the north down to Southport and Nerang in the south. Even then, at the beginning of the 41st Parliament, the area was known to be one of the fastest growing areas in Australia, with Ivan stating in his maiden speech that the Albert had the greatest potential for development. In addition, Ivan held many ministerial portfolios.

Leading up to my election in March 2009 both Ivan and Doris were of immense support to me and Pauline. Their enthusiasm and sheer ability to muster the troops was amazing, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. But the friendship and affection Pauline and I have experienced from Ivan and Doris are things that surpass anything we expected. I value the advice that Ivan has given to me and the support both Ivan and Doris gave to both Pauline and me at a very low and stressful time in our lives. We knew that they were special people from those experiences and, having witnessed their affection last Sunday, I see that they have spread their love far and wide. Congratulations, Doris and Ivan, on a full, rich and loving life together. Long may you both live.