




Speech by

Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

KEMP, MR BAN

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.51 pm): Tonight I would like to pay tribute to Bryan Kemp: a friend to me and my family; a father and grandfather to David, Nigel, Laurelle, Emily, Leonie and Lyndal; and a tireless campaigner for conservative politics in this state.

Bryan Anthony Nugent Kemp was born on 23 May 1928 to a Royal Navy engineer officer and a mother with Navy family connections. So it was little wonder that, at the age of 13, he entered Dartmouth Naval College and went on to become a naval engineer himself. The fact that he married Olwen Gibson, a WREN petty officer, in October 1952 was equally unsurprising; she was perfect for him. Bryan's service with the Royal Navy took him around the United Kingdom, including to Northern Ireland and Gibraltar. But in 1967, after 25 years of naval schooling and service, Bryan retired and moved Olwen and his sons, David and Nigel, to Queensland. Why? He was fed up with the political situation in England. Bryan could only stomach the Harold Wilson Labour government for three years. You could imagine his disgust with the last two decades of government in Queensland.

Bryan took up employment with Sargents Engineering at Rocklea and then set up his own marine and cargo surveying company. When he retired in 1982 he and Olwen moved to Bargara before settling on a flower farm at Chevallum in the north of the Glass House electorate.

Bryan threw himself into conservative politics in his new country. He was initially involved in the Sunnybank branch of the National Party and he was extensively involved in local, state and federal campaigns in the Wide Bay region upon his retirement. He even served as the National Party campaign director for the newly created federal seat of Hinkler in 1984. He did good: the National Party won the seat.

Bryan lost the love of his life in August 2003 when Olwen passed away after a long illness. To distract himself from that loss, Bryan again immersed himself in local politics and resurrected his—and every engineer's—hobby: model trains. It was around this time that I first met Bryan and his son David at the Nambour branch of the National Party. Bryan had a dry and clever wit, a cheeky grin and sage advice. He shared with me many of his campaign secrets and much of his National Party memorabilia. He and David joined me in 2008 when, after the last state redistribution, the LNP reopened our local Palmwoods and district branch. Bryan worked tirelessly on our successful 2009 campaign, and our 2012 efforts will not be the same without him.

Bryan became a friend to my wife, Taryn, and our kids. They would often drop by of an afternoon to pick up a few strawberries and check out the model trains. Bryan passed away in his sleep on New Year's Day 2012. He will be missed by his family, by his party and by me. Rest in peace, Bryan.