




Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

LIU, DR JE, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.48 am): On behalf of the opposition and the broader Queensland community, I join with the Premier and the government today in expressing our sincere condolences for the loss of Dr James Edward ‘Eddie’ Liu OBE OAM. Mr Liu, as I am sure all members will be aware, was an integral part of the very fabric of our Chinese community—indeed he was an integral part of the very fabric of our diverse multicultural Queensland. I know that his passing has had a profound effect on that community. I know he will be sadly missed.

Eddie Liu was born in Hong Kong and arrived in Australia in 1937, when he was just a teenager. From an early age he was dedicated to the community. As he moved into adulthood Mr Liu was renowned for his tireless dedication and commitment to Brisbane’s cultural fabric, particularly the Chinese community. He co-founded the Chinese Club of Queensland in the 1950s and he is best remembered as the ‘Father of Chinatown’, a title he deservedly earned. Eddie once said, ‘The best thing you can achieve is to do something for your community’—and he certainly practised what he preached. He worked tirelessly for Queensland’s Chinese community and raised much needed funds for a wide variety of charities. As the former minister for multicultural affairs, I also had the privilege of meeting Eddie Liu on a number of occasions and I was very impressed that he was at so many multicultural events right across South-East Queensland.

I attended the funeral service for Eddie at City Hall last month, and it was a tribute to this great man that so many hundreds of people came to pay their respects. I think the lines spoken at that service by his son Peter said it all. I know the Premier has quoted some of them. Peter said of his father—

He didn’t feel sorry for himself and during his life he never asked for anything other than an opportunity.

So his sense of self-worth would be anchored on the traditional Chinese principle of self-provision.

That is something the Chinese really believe in. Self provision.

Peter went on to say that all of his life his father had strived to become a gentleman. ‘He came from abject poverty,’ he said. ‘So he dressed up, he looked like a gentleman, he spoke like a gentleman, he behaved like a gentleman and he treated people like a gentleman.’ Madam Speaker, that is a quality we should encourage in young Queenslanders.

Eddie was deserving of the many honours he received in his lifetime, including the Order of the British Empire and an Order of Australia, as well as being named Local Hero for Queensland in the Australian of the Year awards.

His passing is a great loss to the Chinese community and the broader Queensland population. My thoughts are with his six children, and I offer them my condolences and the condolences of all members of this side of the House. Eddie Liu passed away on 25 June 2013, aged 91. He was a great man. He was a true gentleman and he will be sadly missed.