




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

LIU, DR JE, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.51 am): I wish to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in saying a few short words in relation to the recent passing of Dr Eddie Liu. I first knew Dr Liu as a councillor in the Brisbane City Council. I received a phone call from him out of the blue one day saying, ‘What are you going to do about the toilets at the “Joss House”?’ I really was not too sure what he was talking about, but Eddie was ringing up to seek council funding to fix up the toilets at the Temple of the Holy Triad at Breakfast Creek.

For those of you who do not know the Breakfast Creek area, next to the hotel you will find a small Chinese-looking structure that has been around for over 80 years and which was used as a place of worship by people with a Chinese background over a long period of time. The lavatories there had deteriorated over that period of time. So Dr Eddie Liu said, ‘Well, Tim, you and Hinchie’—I presume he meant Councillor David Hinchliffe—‘should put some funds into looking after this historical area.’ In a rare gesture of bipartisan support, we both did. From that time onwards I think Eddie Liu has been a firm friend of mine and my family.

He then subsequently invited us, as I am sure he did the Premier and others in the Brisbane City Council, to yum cha at the Aspley Hypermarket and to various functions to honour certain dignitaries, whether it was the retirement of Archbishop Bathersby, the retirement of the then Lord Mayor of Brisbane back in 2011 and many others. Eddie Liu was always extending the hand of friendship to many, many people and he did it without fear or favour, both political and business wise. I think that was one of the things that established him so firmly in the heart, of those people who got to know him.

It was always a time of anticipation around Chinese New Year when people would receive an invitation to attend the Chinese Club of Queensland’s New Year celebrations and to see Eddie’s son Frank, as the master of ceremonies, continually changing his jacket. He would have a different jacket for each stage of the seven-stage show. There were as many stages of the show as there were courses for dinner, and many people came from all over the country.

It would be a rare event indeed to go to a Chinese function in the Valley or around Chinese New Year and not see Eddie Liu in his distinctive white suit with a carnation in his lapel at all times. He was, as many have said, a true gentleman. I regret that because of other commitments I was unable to make the memorial service that was held for him at City Hall a month ago. But I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing on behalf of myself and my wife, Mary, our condolences to Eddie’s family and his children.