



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2014

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Hanlon, Mr PJ**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.06 pm): It is a considerable honour to rise in this House to speak on the condolence motion for Patrick Joseph Hanlon, who passed away peacefully on 30 October this year. Pat was the son of the much honoured, the Hon. Ned Hanlon, Labor Premier of Queensland from 1946 to 1952. Pat leaves behind his loving wife Aileen and three sons, Peter, Mark and Bernie and their families, and I take this opportunity to extend my most sincere condolences to them.

Pat was born on 19 March 1930 in the family home in Guthrie Street, Paddington, where he lived for virtually his entire life. He used to walk up the long hill along Guthrie Street to the Sacred Heart Convent School followed by the Marist College, Rosalie and finished his schooling at Marist College, Ashgrove. Pat was a conscientious student, achieving nine As in junior and then, despite the tragic loss of his mother when he was 16, he also had excellent senior results which allowed him to enrol in a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Queensland. Pat then worked as an accountant at the Olympic Tyre and Rubber Company.

Politics was never far from his blood, however. Pat's father had been the member for Ithaca from 1926 until his death in office as Premier in 1952. Before the luxury of electorate offices Ned held meetings with constituents on the front veranda of the family home, with young Pat tearing around on his tricycle between their legs. He absorbed much from his father: his vast knowledge, his wisdom and his great love of, and for, the ALP and the workers who they represented.

After the Premier's death he was replaced in that seat by Leonard Eastment, who served for four years before himself dying in office in 1958. Pat was elected to this House in a by-election held in December. He was married on St Patrick's Day 1956, two days before his 26th birthday, and he took the oath of allegiance in this House on his 27th birthday. At the time he was the youngest person ever elected to the Queensland parliament.

In his maiden speech he referred to the practice in the chamber of a new member being allowed to make their speech without interruption, as clearly that was not happening. Unfazed, he told the Speaker—

I do not seek your protection, Mr. Clark, because I can hit to the boundary any of the innocuous lollypops bowled up to me by Government members.

After the 1957 general election Pat Hanlon was appointed shadow Treasurer, despite being in parliament for only a year. He held this position until he retired from the parliament due to ill health in 1974. He served as the member for Ithaca until 1960 and as the member for Baroona until his retirement. He was lucky enough to serve in this chamber with his brother-in-law and great friend Marty Hanson, the member for Port Curtis, from 1963.

Pat was a devoted local member of his community and committed to his campaigns. His son Peter told a story at his funeral about the life of all children of politicians delivering pamphlets to letterboxes. Peter was chased by a not so happy dog and dived headfirst through the half open window of the waiting Datsun. Pat was undeterred. He returned the next day armed with a cricket stump as a precaution and personally delivered the pamphlet. No letter box was left empty.

Pat was also a charitable and compassionate man. Constituents would telephone Pat directly at home or drop into the house with any concerns. He had a great relationship with the local councillor, and together they would attend to urgent issues themselves including unblocking drains on the weekend or personally fixing all sorts of things.

Pat told a story about the local woman who used to ask for money on a regular basis for different reasons. Pat, having a sneaking suspicion that his hard-earned money that he was handing over was most probably being spent on a cold beer at the Paddo at the top of the street, had explained to her that this was the last time he would give her money and explained that other avenues would be available for her to get support. A few days later a gentleman called by the house and asked for money to get a taxi to work. Pat asked where he worked and offered to give him a lift as he was going out. This gentleman was a bit reluctant at first, and Pat soon discovered why. At the first corner he saw his passenger look over his shoulder. And when Pat looked he managed to see, out of the corner of his eye, the woman tucked behind the wall and probably cursing her partner in crime for taking off with the spoils to be used at the Paddo.

But the story about Pat that is the most telling is in relation to the redevelopment at the bottom of Guthrie Street. The Brisbane City Council and the department of housing had plans to redevelop the large block at the bottom of Guthrie Street that used to be occupied by SEQEB. Pat had heard that the development included a proposal to include a park and for it to be named Hanlon Park in recognition of the long and significant history and the vast amount of work that the Hanlons had done for the community in that area. On hearing this, Pat wrote a letter stating all the reasons it should be named Bedgood Park and not Hanlon Park. The original owners of the property were the Bedgoods and they operated the bakery there for many years. Pat ensured that the Bedgoods got the recognition they deserved; hence, the park was named after them.

Pat did not do what he did for the recognition he would receive; Pat was a kind and gentle man who served the people through real concern and care for them. He was a great man of the Labor Party and a great man of this parliament. He is remembered in this House with honour and respect.