




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2015

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: NEWTON, MR LE

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.51 am): I rise to pay tribute to the service of Bill Newton to this House and the people of Queensland, but also, and more importantly, I acknowledge Bill's tireless service to the people of the Caboolture region as the member for Caboolture from 1983 to 1986 and as the member for Glass House from 1986 to 1989. As we have heard, Bill passed away on 2 August 2015 only a few days after his 80th birthday. He is survived by Margaret and his children and grandchildren.

I knew Bill. He was a legend of the Caboolture region. He was a stalwart of the area and was involved in many community organisations. In fact, Bill was so involved in the local community that generally if something was happening Bill had something to do with it. As I said, I knew Bill and I always had an opportunity to catch up with him and his wife at market days or out and about in the community. He was a colourful character and very committed to his politics. Despite being on the other side of politics to me, he always had a kind word for me and was always very generous with his time and courtesy. Bill was a very principled man, especially when it came to proving a point. I remember that for a number of elections Bill made a stand at the Upper Caboolture Farmers' Assembly Hall polling booth. If memory serves me right, many elections ago the Electoral Commission decided to make the Upper Caboolture Farmers' Assembly Hall a polling booth for the Kallangur and Pumicestone electorates, but not the Kurwongbah electorate. That is interesting because the polling booth was only a couple of minutes away from the Kurwongbah electorate and only a couple of minutes away from where Bill lived. The trouble was that Bill lived in the then Kurwongbah electorate only a few minutes down the road from this polling booth. Despite being only a few minutes from the polling booth, many residents of the then Kurwongbah electorate had to either vote absentee or had to travel some distance to vote. To show his upset with that arrangement, Bill stayed all day at this polling booth in a Kurwongbah shirt handing out Kurwongbah how-to-vote cards to very limited Kurwongbah voters. He was very committed to making his point on that day and in subsequent elections as well.

On my temporary departure from this House following the 2012 state election I received a very kind card from Bill and Margaret wishing me well for the future and thanking me for my service to the people of our local area. Bill did not have to send that card, but it meant a lot to me, especially as the reality of the 2012 state election result sunk in. In the same spirit in which that card was given to me, I acknowledge Bill's service to the people of the Caboolture region and thank him for his contribution to this parliament and the people of Queensland. My thoughts are with Margaret and the rest of Bill's family and friends.