



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

**O'Leary, Mr K**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (11.08 pm): I rise to join my colleague, the member for Nudgee, in paying tribute to a true Labor man and stalwart on the north side, Kev O'Leary. Kev passed away on 8 July surrounded by his loving and dedicated family. The last time I had a chance to share a beer with Kev he was similarly surrounded by his loving family and an extensive array of friends. That was on the occasion of Kev's 100th birthday party in March. Similar to his recent funeral service, that occasion was a celebration of Kev's life, a celebration of his love for his family, his commitment to his country and his loyalty to his party. The milestone of his 100th was closely followed by that of his 85 years of continuous membership of the Australian Labor Party, a mark unmatched, as far as anyone can tell, therefore making him not only a life member but also the celebrated No. 1 ticketholder of the ALP.

Kev joined the party on Labor Day 1930 and renewed his ticket every year, including by leaving money for his mother to take out his tickets while he served in the RAAF during the war. On his birthday and at the funeral, Kev was praised and eulogised by our local federal member of parliament and Kev's close friend, Wayne Swan. Wayne referenced his conversations with Kev in his shed at Tolmie Street Zillmere, which passed on Kev's experience across a life that saw the Great Depression, the Second World War and the highs and lows of postwar Australia. During his time as federal Treasurer at the height of the global financial crisis, Wayne Swan said he drew upon his reflections of conversations that they had in Kev's shed over a coldie about how a Labor government should respond. The Premier attended Kev's birthday celebrations and he was very happy to accept her best wishes on the day.

Over my 26 years of membership of the Labor Party on Brisbane's north side, I came to know Kev and his great mate the late Les Thorpe—both legendary life members with legion experience of campaigning—and I learned some amazing tricks of the trade from them, some that really cannot be shared. I know that former colleagues in this chamber such as Bonny Barry and Neil Roberts would want to have their names associated with a tribute to Kev. It is a testament to his commitment to Labor that that includes current colleagues, including the member for Nudgee, who has already spoken, and the member for Logan, who on at least one occasion travelled with Kev to Barcaldine on May Day.

I express my condolences to Kev's children, Barry and Pat, and her sons and daughter. Considering his passions, it is fitting that Kev's last wishes be honoured: that half his ashes be buried with his beloved wife, Iris, and half be scattered under the Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine on May Day.