



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2016

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Miller, Mr CJ**



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Colin John Miller, a former member of the parliament of Queensland and minister of the state.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Colin John Miller was born in Brisbane on 28 April 1924 and was educated at Rainworth State School and Central Technical College, Brisbane. From 1942 to 1946, during World War II, Mr Miller served in the Second Australian Imperial Force of the Australian Army. I note that Mr Miller would have been around 18 years of age when he first joined the AIF and that we acknowledge in the parliament today the passing of another person who served their country.

In 1966, Mr Miller successfully contested the inner-city seat of Ithaca for the Liberal Party. He served in this place for 20 years, deciding to retire at the state election of November 1986. During his time in the parliament Mr Miller served in many parliamentary, party and executive government roles. He was a Temporary Chairman of Committees—or Temporary Speaker as we call the position today—from 1975 to 1980 and served as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees from March 1981 to August 1983. He also served on a number of parliamentary committees over many years including the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education in 1978 and 1979.

He was a member of a parliamentary delegation to Papua New Guinea and South-East Asia in 1974. He was also a delegate to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conferences in New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the Isle of Man. In August 1983, Mr Miller was elevated to cabinet as minister for environment, valuation and administrative services. However, his time in the ministry was to last only 14 days when the Liberal Party ministers of the then coalition government resigned from the cabinet on 18 August 1983.

Following the 1983 state election, Mr Miller had the support of Liberal and Labor members for the election of Speaker. Then deputy Labor leader, Ed Casey, said in support of Mr Miller for the position of Speaker—

We want a Speaker who will create a contemporary Parliament. We want a Parliament in which the views put forward by Members represent the views of all people throughout the State.

Mr Miller was defeated by the Nationals candidate John Warner, 42-39. He served the term of parliament but decided to not recontest the 1986 election. I understand that during his time in the parliament Mr Miller was a long-time member of the Queensland Parliamentary Bowls Club. He was a member of the Queensland team led by Bill Kaus and Nev Warburton that first won the annual Interstate Parliamentary Bowling Carnival for Queensland in Sydney in 1979.

Mr Miller was widely regarded for his interest in the environment and conservation. I also understand that there is a building at the Bardon Community Kindy named after him in recognition of his time on the board of trustees of the kindy and as the local member.

Col John Miller passed away on 4 November 2016 aged 92 years. A service to commemorate his life was held at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Bokarina on 11 November 2016. I place on record the government's thanks for his years of service. He gave a long and distinguished service to the Queensland community and to this parliament. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mr Miller's family and friends.