




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2016

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hewitt, Mr WD

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): It was a great pleasure to get to know the late Bill Hewitt when I served as the state member for Greenslopes in the 53rd Parliament. When I was a boy, Bill was the state member for Greenslopes. Almost 30 years later, I was pleased to represent Bill in this place as his state MP. Bill was one of those old-styled politicians who very much believed in putting his community first. He would almost without fail seek me out for a chat or discussion at any community event or function where our paths would cross. He was greatly respected in the community, particularly on Brisbane's south side, and by those who served with him in the parliament. Bill had an enormous respect for the institution of parliament and for the idea that all members of this House should be well-rounded and engaged parliamentarians. While the contest of wills is always strong in this chamber, members of parliament like Bill demonstrate that civility and integrity matter greatly.

As the Premier has noted, Bill Hewitt's integrity, his belief in parliamentary process and his respect for constitutional convention was demonstrated when he determined not to support the nomination by the then premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen in this House of Mr Albert Patrick Field to fill a casual vacancy in the Australian Senate.

Despite Bill and I being from opposite ends of the political spectrum, he was always very good to me. He was generous with his time and kind and polite in any setting where we met. I would often meet Bill and his wife, Shirley, at various functions in the Greenslopes electorate, particularly functions involving seniors, veterans and Rotary, of which he was a very proud and longstanding member. Bill was very much respected within those groups and the broader community. While it is fair to say that I probably never benefited from Bill's vote, I certainly appreciated the effort he went to to encourage me in my endeavours as a newly elected member of parliament. I acknowledge the presence of the Hewitt family in the chamber this morning, in particular his wife, Mrs Shirley Hewitt, with whom Bill celebrated 60 years of marriage in September this year.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: In conclusion, I join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and other members of this House in expressing my sympathies and condolences to Mrs Shirley Hewitt and the Hewitt family.