




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2016

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Miller, Mr CJ

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): I rise to add my personal support and that of the entire opposition for the condolence motion moved by the Premier in respect of the late Col Miller, the former long-serving member for Ithaca. Born in Brisbane in April 1924, Col was a student of the Rainworth State School and later the Central Technical College in George Street—that institution just down the road from us now known as QUT.

At age 19 he became a corporal in the Australian Imperial Force, where he served for three years. The passing of a generation is occurring around us: those who served in World War II and learned many values—values that they brought to public life in this place. I think that is something that we should reflect on as a generation moves on.

After the war he worked as a painter and at the age of 25 Col married his wife, Grace, and they went on to have three sons. It would be almost 20 years before Col made his entry into politics, but his dedication and service would not be short-lived. On 28 May 1966 he was elected as the Liberal member for the then seat of Ithaca in Brisbane's north-west, now mostly taken up by the seat of Mount Coot-tha. During this time he held a number of positions including as a member of the parliamentary delegation to Papua New Guinea and South-East Asia, the parliamentary select committee on education and as a delegate of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to New Zealand and also Sri Lanka, to name a few.

Col never stopped learning, undertaking a study of the Canadian provincial legislature and their committee system at the age of 58. The next year he was appointed minister for environment, valuation and administrative services. As the Premier has noted, that role was short-lived, with Col resigning just 14 days into the job along with six other Liberal members. Two years later Col lost his wife, Grace, and after 20 years of public service Col retired from parliament in 1986.

Col was a charitable man with long affiliations with the Lions Club and Freemasons. He had also served as chair of the Rainworth-Rosalie branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia for six years. Col also considered himself an environmentalist and a conservationist.

In 1991 he found happiness again and married Janice Bartlett. After retiring to Shelly Beach at Caloundra—a place I am sure many in this place are familiar with—he was happiest spending time with his family. Retirement did not diminish his energy for life. He famously took up Pilates later in life and kept up with his weekly sessions well into his eighties.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr NICHOLLS: That might be something for some of us to consider as well. On 4 November Col passed away in Caloundra surrounded by his loved ones. On behalf of the opposition, I support the motion moved by the Premier and extend our condolences to the family of Col Miller.