



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 August 2017

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Sciacca, Hon. C, AO**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.10 pm): There are some people who enter your life but never truly leave it. The Hon. Con Sciacca AO, who passed away in June, was one of those people. Con was a great friend and source of endless advice and support to many of us in this House, and I know that the Leader of the House, the Attorney-General and many other members of this House would want to associate themselves with my remarks this evening. Con gave me much advice. He was a terrific supporter of both myself and my brother Milton, who now serves in the House of Representatives as the federal member for Oxley. Con was a Labor man through and through and throughout his entire career, both as a lawyer and as a public servant, principally in the House of Representatives, he always had a place in his work and in his life for the battler—for someone who needed a hand up and help. Con was always there.

Con loved politics. He loved it. He played politics hard, but he delighted in sharing a glass of red or Limoncello with friends from all sides of politics. Con was the federal member for Bowman and also served as a minister in both the Hawke and Keating Labor governments across various portfolios including the portfolios of Arts and Veterans' Affairs. In that latter portfolio—Veterans' Affairs—it is fair to say that Con distinguished himself. He left an indelible mark on our nation through the Australia Remembers celebration. That Australia Remembers celebration commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 1995 and that celebration recognised what has been described as the greatest generation—those men and women of our nation who fought in the Second World War, including men like my father. It was a wonderful celebration of those Australians who gave us the freedom and the liberty that all of us in this House celebrate. We celebrate it every day that we come into this House. We celebrate it at every election, and the sacrifice of that generation that Con helped to celebrate is something that will distinguish him and his career.

Con did not have an easy life growing up, yet in true Sicilian style he lived life with great gusto. Following in the footsteps of his hardworking canecutter father, Con was a self-made man. No-one knew Con—his character, his panache and his incredible generosity—better than his family, his brothers and sisters and no-one has felt his loss more than them, including his wife, Karen, his daughter, Zina, his very, very much loved granddaughter, Grace, and his step-sons, Nicholas and Daniel. Thank you, Con, for the service you gave to the Australian Labor Party, to our state and to our nation.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!