




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2018

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Davis, Mr BJ

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I rise to add my support and that of the opposition to the motion of condolence for Brian John Davis. On behalf of the opposition, I extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends, particularly those who are in the gallery today.

Mr Davis was the member for Brisbane from 1969 to 1974 and the member for Brisbane Central from 1977 to 1989. As honourable members have heard, Mr Davis was born in Toowoomba and was educated at Christian Brothers' College Toowoomba. Prior to his career in politics Mr Davis had a number of professions. He was the official organiser of the Transport Workers Union Queensland branch, a taxidriver, a truck driver and a van salesman. He also held many positions in the Australian Labor Party: president of the Fortitude Valley branch, a delegate of the QCE and state president of the Young Labor Association in 1963.

In 1969 in his maiden speech in parliament, Mr Davis said he was proud to represent the city dweller. He was only the fourth representative of Brisbane since 1912, a span of some 57 years. Mr Davis spoke about his friend, tutor and predecessor, John Henry Mann. Johnno had held the seat of Brisbane for 33 years from 1936 to 1969. Mr Davis spoke in his maiden speech about one quality in particular he saw in Johnno and that was sincerity. Mr Davis said he wished to possess the same sincerity to his electors that Johnno did. In his maiden speech Mr Davis discussed the need for beautification of our city, improving public transport and road safety. He said that city dwellers were equal to their country cousins and that the ALP at the time believed in a fair deal for all sections of the community.

Mr Davis earned the role as shadow minister for welfare, sport and tourism in 1972. Mr Davis lost the seat of Brisbane at the 1974 election and in a sign of the sincerity he held for the electors he successfully contested the 1977 election and returned to parliament in the new seat of Brisbane Central which included the bulk of his old seat. He would serve his electors with that sincerity for more than a decade until his retirement.

Mr Davis, as we have heard, held many positions in his long parliamentary service. His roles included opposition whip, leader of opposition business in the House, opposition spokesperson for transport and opposition spokesperson on works, water and resources. Mr Davis's wife Jeannie also fiercely supported the party and ran as a candidate for Brisbane Lord Mayor in 1988. Mr Davis retired in 1989 and was successfully succeeded by Peter Beattie in the Brisbane Central seat.

Local branch president Jack Camp paid tribute to Mr Davis as a loyal and committed person. Opposition leader Wayne Goss said he was responsible for a lot of publicly unrecognised good work. On the announcement of his retirement Mr Davis said, 'There is more to life than politics.' His interests outside of politics included gardening, horseracing, motoring and reading. He was the patron of the

Mayne Australian Rules Football Club. All in this House would agree that almost two decades in high office is worthy of great respect. I take this opportunity to place on record the opposition's thanks for those many years of service Mr Davis gave to this House and the Queensland community. On behalf of the LNP and its members of parliament I wish to extend my condolences to Mr Davis's family and friends.