



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Mackenroth, Hon. TM**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.49 am): We were divided by ideology but united in our love for the Chatsworth electorate. Much has been said and written about the Hon. Terry Mackenroth in relation to his 28-year career as the member for Chatsworth and his elevation to the role of deputy premier, treasurer, as well as several ministerial portfolios, including his beloved sports ministry. I would like to make my contribution on behalf of the people he formerly represented for just under three decades and whom I am honoured to represent today.

The electorate of Chatsworth, like many areas of this great state, has changed remarkably over the past few decades. When Terry was first elected to parliament in 1977, Carina and the surrounding suburbs were predominantly blue-collar working class, where people genuinely looked after each other because most families had enough to get by, but that was about all. When Terry was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, Carina was pretty much the end of the Brisbane city limits in the eastern suburbs. The Belmont trams terminated along Old Cleveland Road and it was where the Carina bus depot was built once the tramway was consigned to history in 1964. Old Cleveland Road down to Capalaba was a two-lane goat track and people got dressed up whenever they ventured into town.

It was in the housing commission area of Carina Heights where Terry grew up and the strength of the family unit and helping out the battler is what forged his deep-seated political ethos. Terry had a keen sense of social justice and he had his political ambition materialised during a school trip to Parliament House. Therefore, it came as no surprise that this Carina boy joined the Australian Labor Party when he was in his late teenage years.

Like many kids from Carina, sport was the great enabler and it had an indelible impact on Terry throughout his life. No matter how far up the ministerial ranks he ventured, the sport portfolio was always dear to his heart. He always said that sport was a great metaphor for life in general. It was on the sporting field that you learned how to win with grace and lose with dignity. Terry once told me that the sporting arena was a place where you saw the essence of the character of people.

It is interesting to note that Terry got on well with many non-Labor politicians. He had a great respect for and great friendships with Bill Hewitt and Don Cameron, among others. For many years Terry and Bill stood side by side as committee members of the Clem Jones welfare association. In fact, Terry was particularly proud of his role as chairman of the association and would always comment on how unique the Clem Jones sporting facility is, with over 24 sporting clubs contained within the one precinct only roughly eight kilometres from the CBD. 'The Fox', as he was known politically, was right about that. It is testament to the character of Terry that he concurred with his great mate Bill Hewitt that no one side of the political chamber had a mortgage on the best and the brightest.

In the lead-up to the election in 2012—and I mean this with respect—owing to the extraordinary circumstances of that time many Labor Party supporters had decided to not get as actively engaged in the political campaign as those of us on this side of the chamber were used to, but not Terry. He refused to yield and was actively involved in the Chatsworth Labor campaign in 2012, again in 2015, and in the most recent campaign late last year. Terry Mackenroth was indeed a true believer of the Labor Party.

In fact, Terry was so instrumental in campaigning against me that it came as no surprise last November when I turned up at the Belmont primary school booth, after walking along covered school walkways festooned with Labor supporters and their trademark red T-shirts, to turn a corner to see Terry standing there as the last line. He turned to me and said in his gravelly voice, 'There are no prizes for second place today.' I summoned all of my inner courage, looked him in the eye and said, 'I guess I'd better win then, Terry.' He smiled with that famous gapped-tooth grin. For months he would plot my political downfall—for months he would do it—but he was one of the first to congratulate me at the Labor Party's spiritual home in Chatsworth, the Carina Leagues Club, in 2012, 2015 and again last year. That was the respect I had for the man. He was indeed from a different political generation. I believe you can learn a lot in life from those around you and Terry Mackenroth was very generous with sage political advice to me when I first won back in 2012. This indeed was the true class of the man.

Terry gave me two pieces of invaluable advice. Firstly, he used to have a private Boxing Day party for friends outside of immediate political circles whereby you could simply be yourself and relax in a politics-free zone—even if for just one day. My parents considered it a privilege to attend this Boxing Day get-together with Terry and a select group of friends who never once spoke outside of the gathering—never once. Terry suggested that I do something similar to stay real and not get caught up in thinking that politics, whilst important, was the only thing in life. The second sage piece of advice Terry gave me was simply 'cufflinks on, cufflinks off'. In other words, put them on when you are in the boardroom, or maybe having a wine with the top end of town but know how to take them off when you are working the electorate with everyday people and having a beer at the local club, particularly the Carina Leagues Club that he loved very much, and know how to be comfortable in all political environments. As a mark of respect to Terry, today I will leave one cufflink on and take one off.

Beside every great man is an equally great woman and I acknowledge Terry's wife, Mary, and other family members who are with us today in the public gallery. I extend to them my personal condolence and also the condolence of the Chatsworth state electoral council. I want Terry's family to know that just occasionally someone enters your life who makes a lasting impression. Terry Mackenroth was indeed such a man and his legacy will last. To The Fox, rest in peace my political foe but respected friend.