




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 26 February 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Gamin, Mr P

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.07 pm): I rise to express my condolences and pay tribute to former councillor Paul Gamin who for 15 years dedicated himself to serving the community of Burleigh. Paul joined local government and was elected to council as an alderman in 1985. At that time he was 57. He was devoted to Burleigh and Miami. He was elected twice, both times unopposed.

In the mid-1990s Paul even had the opportunity of serving with our colleague the member for Mermaid Beach when Ray was the mayor of the Gold Coast. I am sure Ray has some stories about Paul that he could share, but I suspect he might well say the same as everybody else I have spoken to has said about Paul, 'He was a true gentleman.' Many remember how focused he was on improving his beloved suburbs and how he was always striving for the best for his community.

After his retirement in 2000 Paul continued to live in Burleigh with his wife, Judy—a name many in this place will recognise as the member for South Coast and then Burleigh. Judy was a member in this place for 13 years and Paul was in council for 15 years. I guess they liked politics. More recently they both enjoyed spending time with their four grandchildren—which I assume they enjoyed much more. After politics, Paul was still actively involved in local issues, such as the extension of light rail from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads. I remember Judy and Paul rang me one afternoon and said, 'What are you doing to stop this monstrosity coming down the esplanade', which is where they lived.

Anyone who knew Paul would agree that he was an exceptional man who was deeply passionate about his community, especially keeping his treasured esplanade clean. He would pick up fallen branches on his daily walk from the poinciana trees he had planted along the famous Burleigh foreshore. He will be remembered fondly for his generosity and kindness to the Burleigh community. I believe his wife, Judy, said it best when she said that Paul was 'the last of his kind'.

Paul passed away in early January aged 90, and a memorial service was held at Calvary Catholic Church in Miami on 21 January. Along with family, friends and Burleigh locals, the service was attended by a number of former and current MPs and councillors from the Gold Coast including both me and the member for Currumbin. On behalf of my family and the people of Burleigh, I offer my deepest condolences to Judy; their children—Elizabeth, Caroline, Peter; their grandchildren—Matthew, Timothy, Madeline and Sophie; and their extended family and friends. Please know that our thoughts are with you tonight. Rest in peace, Paul.