




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 2 September 2021

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.15 pm): It is with a profound sense of regret that I rise to participate in this debate honouring the life and service of our colleague, Duncan Pegg. Despite evidence to the contrary, we all think we are invincible. We think that the trials and tribulations that face others will not come our way. We think that every word we say in this place and our role as parliamentarians are the most important things we will do. How wrong we are.

Since Duncan announced his decision to leave this House in April I have spent some time thinking about what his contribution has meant. Members will not be surprised to know that Duncan and I did not share philosophical views. For some time I would sit in this place listening to his contributions and question whether I would ever have enough in common to fill even the briefest of conversations with him. That all changed one summer afternoon in 2019 at the Gabba. By good fortune the member for Gympie and I were seated beside Duncan and federal MP Jim Chalmers. As the beers flowed the conversation grew more relaxed. His knowledge of the game and its history was remarkable. On that hot summer afternoon we found common ground through our national sport. In the years ahead, whenever we spoke our remarks invariably turned to cricket. We never discussed politics, family, or even other sports. I did not even know about his misguided allegiance to the Parramatta Eels until the day I attended his service to see the sea of blue and gold jerseys on display.

In assessing Duncan's contribution as a member of parliament, political loyalty and community come to mind. Duncan was wedded to his community and he demonstrated that through his attendance at events throughout Stretton. As recently as last night, the member for Oodgeroo and I were at an event where an attendee spoke glowingly about Duncan's genuine interest in the community. One of Duncan's proudest boasts—aside from the fact his friendship circle involved a former Kangaroo and a test cricketer in Renouf and Khawaja—was that Stretton had the highest proportion of people born overseas. He was proud of that. His promotion of a multicultural Australia was genuine and he lived that experience every day in this House.

The genuine expression of regret and loss from so many community groups that followed his death speaks volumes about the regard in which he was held. The response reflects the high regard in which Duncan was held and the affection from his constituents. I am mindful of some comments made by the federal member for Rankin in a contribution in the federal House where he told the story that on the morning Duncan was diagnosed with that terminal illness he fronted up in the afternoon for constituent meetings. He did not cancel one meeting. That is testament to his genuine engagement in his community.

Duncan also held a passionate belief in the power of education to improve people's lives. As a university graduate he knew the great importance of education and appreciated the life-changing benefits education can bring. There is another feature of his life that even I must recognise today and that is his devotion to the Australian Labor Party and its ideals. While our political views diverged, I

respected the depth and the strength of his commitment to his cause. He contested Stretton in 2012 and it would have been a dispiriting experience. Yet he persevered and in 2015 his hard work was rewarded.

Duncan's appreciation and love for his family was absolute. He spoke of them in his first speech in this place and they were always utmost in his mind. In his final speech his genuine appreciation for what they did for him during his illness was moving.

On the day of his service, Duncan's father, Graham, came out of his way to thank me on behalf of all of the parliament, but particularly the former opposition leader and member for Nanango, for the support provided to Duncan during his absence from this place. I say to all of the Pegg family: to see the bravery with which he fought his illness is a credit to the son you raised. Regrettably, the brave innings of Duncan Pegg has come to an end. I extend my condolences and of those of my parliamentary team to his parents, Graham and Lindsey, and all his family, to all of those on the government benches and to all of us who held him in such high regard.

On the inside page of his memorial booklet there is a photo of a young Duncan Pegg holding a cricket oval cake. On his shirt there is a caricature of a batsman looking nervously at his wife. The writing says, 'Is there anything you need to tell me before cricket season begins?' Well, Peggy, here goes. The people of Stretton still speak fondly of you. Your family miss you dearly. The first test is again at the Gabba and Perrett, Chalmers and I promise to raise a XXXX in your honour. Vale, Duncan Pegg.