




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 2 September 2021

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise with a heavy heart to speak to this motion and pay my respects to the former member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg. Duncan and I shared a lot. We had always been around the party, from different parts of the party, both committed trade unionists and sport tragics. I had the privilege of sitting next to Duncan in this place and enjoyed his quick wit and fierce intellect close up. He was the first person I ever got to sit next to in this place, because when I was first elected there was the pandemic and we were all distanced.

As chamber neighbours do, we would always chat about the way of the world and our place in it, both inside and outside of political life, and more often than not we would share a joke. The favourite recurring joke on each sitting day for Peggy concerned the parliamentary business item of appointments. He lamented that there was rarely ever any appointments announced and he was concerned that the item seemed superfluous, so he took great delight in sharing some appointments with me in hushed tones which included gems such as, 'I've got a dentist appointment this Friday—not real keen,' or, 'Mate, did I tell you the servo closest to my place got a new casual staff member?' Often he would share the names of players that he thought would make the best appointments to his favourite sports teams.

One time, at Peggy's insistence, we even cooked up a plan on how to bring back the old South Queensland Crushers. I was trying to prepare for a speech, which Peggy knew full well, but he flashed me that cheeky grin and said with enthusiasm, 'Come on, mate, let's bring 'em back—you and me.' It was clear that resistance was futile, so I acquiesced and joined in, which maybe at the time seemed a little ill-advised but in retrospect was in fact investing in a now treasured memory.

Sitting next to someone, you also get a close-up of their passions and values, and Peggy's commitment to fighting racism and celebrating our rich multicultural tapestry was matched only by his dedication to public service and his community. Of course, we also spoke about how he was feeling, be it his treatments or his mental health and whether he was feeling up or a little deflated. Peggy was values driven, which means he was also strong and determined, and that stood him in great stead as he showed incredible courage in the face of the reality of his terminal illness.

We all keenly remember Duncan's valedictory speech in this place. Afterwards I walked with Peggy, just to make sure he was okay, and accompanied him to your garden, Mr Speaker, for the quiet celebration afterwards. It was one of those things that you do without even thinking about it. The next day I got a text from Peggy saying, 'Thanks, mate. You really helped me out yesterday.' It absolutely floored me. Here is a bloke who, amidst fighting an insidious terminal disease and who the day before had been forced by that illness to resign from representing the community he loved for the party he loved, still took the time to drop me a line to say thanks for something that really deserved no acknowledgement at all. It is a real measure of the man. It is the small private moments that most define us, and that moment told me everything I needed to know about Duncan.

I was and remain honoured that Duncan asked me to succeed him as co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis and this week we joined, along with you, Mr Speaker, and many other members, and the team from Tennis Queensland to celebrate Duncan's contribution as the founding co-chair.

Peggy's funeral at his beloved Gabba was truly special and beautiful. The sheer number of people who attended to pay their respects was a testament to that. They included the former member for Stretton, Stephen Robertson. It was just one example of how much Duncan meant to so many, and that includes Duncan's great mate the current member for Stretton who, as the new champion for the Stretton community, will carry Duncan's legacy forward.

To Duncan's family—Lindsey, Graham and his brothers—and his broader family I offer my sincerest condolences on your loss. Thank you for sharing Duncan with us and with his community. Peggy, thank you for your great contribution to the Labor Party, to this place, to your community and to the state of Queensland. Vale Duncan Andrew Pegg.