




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gamin, Mrs JM

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (10.08 am): Judith Margaret Gamin, or Judy as we knew her, was born in Broken Hill in 1930. She was raised in Broken Hill and attended the local convent school. Later she attended the University of Adelaide and returned to Broken Hill Hospital as a pathology technician. Her family moved to Mount Isa where she worked as a travel agent for TAA. She spent time in London and a friend introduced her to Paul Gamin and she was married the next year in Mount Isa.

Prior to entering politics, Judy and Paul owned a curtain-manufacturing business at Southport. During the 1970s the recession came and the building industry slumped as did the orders for curtains and blinds. To save a wage, Judy went to work in the shop. Her children gained great respect for her: standing on a chair hanging heavy curtains was hard work.

Judy became involved in the National Party and was truly a woman ahead of her time. She was the second woman to be a divisional president in Queensland and the first woman to become a zone vice-president. She ran Paul's campaign for council when he was elected as a local councillor for Burleigh and Miami. It was then that the shop was sold and a new chapter began for them both. Judy was first elected to parliament for the South Coast state electorate district in 1988, and that was quite a tumultuous time in Queensland politics.

Her view about being a woman in politics was that it was the same for any other male-dominated field: first, you had to be better than the male contender; then you had to work harder at many of the other levels, including on the domestic front, in order to stay there. Judy did have a much softer side, which is how I remember Judy Gamin, the member for Burleigh.

I was working as a staff member on the same floor of the Annexe as Judy's office and we had many conversations over that time. I distinctly remember that she had a passion for Scotch Finger biscuits. I was the Scotch Finger biscuit floor supplier who replenished the Scotch Finger biscuits from the little stationery shop over at Mineral House for Judy and many other MPs. We would have the kettle on, and straight after question time Judy would join us for a cup of tea and an analysis of question time or the other issues of the day.

Judy also had a love of roses, especially parliamentary roses. She had a particular liking for the roses in the garden in the middle of the set-down area at the front of the Annexe. Early in the morning she would go out and snip just one rose from the garden to bring back to the office, where she would sit it in a vase to admire for the sitting week. She told me that she was sure the security officers knew she did this, but they never said anything so she continued to do it.

Judy was a role model and a source of practical advice. She had a dry wit and a great love of life. Her example was one of a capable, loving mother, sister, aunt and grandmother, who was also a great local member because she cared so much about her community. She was so very special. We are privileged to have known her as we do.

To Caroline and Peter, Timothy and Christine who are here today: you can be very proud of her achievements for the Gold Coast. I acknowledge her contribution and I extend my deepest condolences to your family. We will all miss Judy, and I suspect that she is very busy reorganising heaven as we speak.