




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MOTION

Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III, Address of Condolence and Congratulations

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.15 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion on the passing of Her Majesty. I congratulate the many members of the House who have made their contributions thus far in acknowledgement of the great life of the late Queen Elizabeth II. There is no doubt that every individual in this state, country and across the Commonwealth is able to admire the dedication and service the Queen committed across her life.

Grace, dignity, honour, commitment, humility and class; we have heard many of the same words in the last few weeks as we try to describe the Queen's life and come to terms with the end of what was always about the only constant in our lives. Her Majesty gave unwavering stability to an otherwise unstable world. Many have struggled to find the right words to give justice to Her Majesty's service, and I believe that is because the English language has never had to describe someone of such calibre before. Her dedication was not only to duty, family and country but also to God. Her faith no doubt guided her through some of the many trying times the world faced under her reign. In the Queen's own words—

At the centre of our lives ... must be the message of caring for others, the message at the heart of Christianity and of all the great religions.

This statement also showed her maturity above all—that she was able to acknowledge that caring for others should be the basis of our lives, regardless of religion or demographic. Without care for others, we would not have neighbours, we would not have friends and we would not have family as we know it today.

Another statement she made that well and truly resonates with me is one she made well before I was born. In 1990 she said—

Nowadays there are all too many causes that press their claims with a loud voice and a strong arm rather than with the language of reason.

If more causes and people within the modern world heeded this advice I have no doubt we would live in a calmer, more stable and more advanced world than the one we currently live in. That said, much of the stability and the luxuries we have in this day and age are a direct result of the monarchy and everything the Commonwealth has brought the Western World. Without the monarchy and, in turn, Queen Elizabeth II we would not be in this House today and we certainly would not be serving under a Westminster system. Some would argue this would be a good thing, but I am not afraid to thank Her Majesty for her contribution to the system we live and work in and that gave us much of what we have today.

Many members in this House knew no other monarch for our entire lives until her passing. I have the honour of being the last in the Queensland parliament to have sworn an oath of allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II. I was only able to serve in this parliament under her reign for 78 days and for that I am

forever grateful. In total Her Majesty served as Queen for 25,782 days—a huge milestone and one that the Commonwealth may never see succeeded. Her service alone lasted more than 2.6 times the time I have been alive, which is something I find difficult to comprehend.

We know that she was fond of Australia and visited a total of 16 times. I have no doubt that she would have loved it even more if she had the opportunity to visit Callide. While she did not visit our towns, she did not have to to have a great connection with the many who grew up with the Queen. To my grandparents the Queen was like an older sister in their lives—always guiding them through to the next opportunity.

My grandmother passed away only a week after Her Majesty, and we do believe that she thought that if the Queen was able to go then so was she. My grandparents were married for just over 69 years, and my pop is no doubt struggling without grandma by his side. This is a struggle we all saw the Queen go through after the passing of her beloved Prince Philip, having spent nearly 74 years married.

Now Her Majesty is reunited at rest with her lifelong friend and partner—and rest she deserves after everything she has achieved throughout her life. I express my sincere condolences on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, who shall forever be remembered as Queen Elizabeth the Great. The Queen is dead. God save the King.