




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gamin, Mrs JM

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.39 am): The death of Judy Gamin has seen the passing of a great advocate for the Gold Coast, a popular and respected parliamentarian and a dedicated and loving wife, mother and daughter. Judy Gamin's contributions to this House and to her community are well recorded. Those who knew her recognised her commitment, loyalty and willingness to work hard. These are the characteristics that marked her family life, community and business service, and political involvement.

Judy was born in Broken Hill, a daughter of George and Eileen Fisher. It was George Fisher—or Sir George as he became—who made a lasting contribution to Queensland and its mining industry as chairman of Mount Isa Mines. He was responsible for improvements in mine safety, the building of Lake Moondarra, the growth of Mount Isa itself and what he described as his proudest achievement—Mount Isa Mines's subsidising of low-interest home loans for mine workers.

Judy worked as a pathology technician in Broken Hill and as a TAA travel agent after her family moved to Mount Isa—an occupation she pursued while living in London in the mid-1950s. Judy married Paul Gamin in 1957 and created what was to become a formidable political partnership on the Gold Coast. While Judy served in this House, Paul served as a councillor for the Burleigh area between 1985 and 2000. The family moved to the Gold Coast in 1964 and established a successful curtain manufacturing business in Nerang Street, Southport. The Deputy Premier spoke about how strong their desire for success was, when she spoke about cashing in their assets in her maiden speech. In the end of that paragraph, Judy said—

We have learned the difference between working for someone else and working for ourselves. We did it well. Although it was hard work, it was tremendously rewarding.

To Judy, the notion of hard work was second nature. Reward for effort became her catchcry and it was a guiding principle throughout her life. On the Gold Coast, the Gamins became part of the local community, and it was this involvement, as well as her abiding belief, that drove her towards a political career. She held various positions at all levels of the National Party before being nominated to replace Russ Hinze as the candidate for South Coast. After a vigorous campaign—principally between Judy and her Liberal opponent, Bob Quinn—Judy was successful at the August 1988 by-election. The South Coast electorate at the time was one of the fastest-growing districts in the south-east. The newly created suburb of Robina was expanding and the establishment of Bond Uni was having an impact on the area as well as the wider community. Pressures associated with a rapidly growing population—like transport, policing and the environment—had to be confronted and Judy set about doing this. Her enthusiasm was infectious and she was able to cast an optimistic eye over any situation and lighten the burden of those who might have thought things were getting on top of them.

However, in a testament to the political instability of the time, Mr Quinn defeated Judy in the December 1989 state election. Judy confronted defeat head-on and refused to be covered by it. In fact, in 1992 she won the new seat of Burleigh, which had been created from her former seat of South Coast.

She held Burleigh until 2001—a further testament to the uncertainty of politics. In all, she contested seven elections, both state and federal, winning four and losing three. Throughout her parliamentary career, Judy put her community first. She championed small business and, importantly, the Gold Coast's tourism industry. She saw the need to provide educational opportunities and employment advantages for young people as well as care for the frail, sick and elderly. Her commitment and her ability to help her constituents were some of her great features.

Her Catholic faith was important to her, as was her love of and commitment to family. In a tragedy of unimaginable proportions, her mother and two of her children were killed in a plane crash near Winton in 1966. Despite this, she was able to succeed in the tasks she set herself, whether personal or professional. In her maiden speech, she explained what guided her—

If in my future parliamentary or representational career I evince any particular characteristics of forthrightness, honesty, caring and helping ordinary people in their day-to-day concerns, those characteristics come to me from my mother, her training and her upbringing ... And so, between my mother and my father ... I have some terrific standards to live up to.

We are privileged to have in the gallery this morning members of Judy's family, both the Gamin and McDonald families. I spoke with Peter earlier. He said that in the beginning having two parents involved in public life was a source of embarrassment for him, as he would drive past and people would point at signs. However, that turned to pride when seeing what they did for the community. He spoke about her work ethic, her dedication to her community and the long hours. I asked what he remembered during that period. He said, 'Not a lot from here, but there was a guy called Vaughan with a really firm handshake'—don't we all.

Judy Gamin's legacy is one that this House should be very proud of. It is one the Gold Coast should be proud of. Most importantly, it is one her family should be proud of. Vale, Judy Gamin.