




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2022

MOTION

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

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth II—‘Queen Elizabeth the Great’—Queen of Australia, Queen of Queensland and her other realms and territories, and head of the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne on the passing of her father, King George VI, on 6 February 1952. Her coronation took place on 2 June 1953. Her passing is recorded as 8 September 2022. Her reign was 70 years, seven months and two days—the longest of any British monarch.

My dearly departed mother, Irene Dorothy Crandon, was a monarchist, although that is not how she would have said it; she just loved the Queen and her family—so much so that when we came to Australia in June 1960 on the *Fairsea* as ten-pound Poms, Mum decided that I should dress as Anthony Armstrong-Jones—the commoner groom of Princess Margaret—in the fancy-dress function. I still have that photo proudly displayed at home, the standard dad or grandad joke being about my ‘first marriage at age six’. I am unsure whether Mum attended the Queen’s coronation with the estimated three million other people who did but, if not, she would have been there in spirit. If she did not, it may have been because she was carrying me, her third of seven children, at the time. That I was born in the year of the Queen’s coronation has always made me feel a special affinity, especially because of Mum’s love for her. I remember that one of the special ornaments Mum had—long lost now—was a moneybox in the shape of a crown from the Queen’s 1953 coronation celebrations.

The closest I ever got to the Queen was in 2010. Quite unexpectedly a crowd began to gather near Trafalgar Square in London. My wife, Pauline, and I were near the front of the crowd—second row, in fact. Just then a black car pulled up and out jumped Queen Elizabeth, who walked within six feet of us. There was no fanfare or obvious security. The Queen was loved by one and all. We will forever remember that moment.

When I think of the Queen and her devotion to her people—her life of devotion to us, as she pronounced on her 21st birthday—it causes me to reflect on the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson—

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of the intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the beauty in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that one life has breathed easier because you lived here. This is to have succeeded.

The world is a better place because Queen Elizabeth II lived. Her reign brought with it much to celebrate for all of us. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II. Long may King Charles III reign. Long live the King.