




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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MOTION

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

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (12.47 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. It comes as no surprise to me to find that for some in this chamber it is of vital importance that they make a contribution to this condolence motion and yet for others it is not that important at all. Acknowledging that, for me it highlights the complexities of this person's role, along with other significant and intricate divisions created by the history of the institutions and establishments of which she represented. However, today my small contribution will be focused on the person who we called Queen Elizabeth.

At a young age, as we have heard, her world was inextricably changed and the expectations upon her were absolutely immense. Her life was already determined for her. It was always going to be one of service. What I found impressive was not her statement about the commitment that she made at 21, but her resolve to stay true to that commitment for her entire life. For me that created a growing respect. The longevity of that commitment has only seen that respect increase.

The Queen must have made many thousands of speeches. The one which stands out for me was the speech made by her in 2011 in Dublin Castle, the capital of a free and independent Ireland, the home of my ancestors. In her speech she spoke of how it was impossible to ignore the weight of history and how this trip reminded her of the complexities of the histories of the two islands and its many layers and traditions, but also the importance of forbearance and conciliation and of being able to bow to the past and not be bound by it.

The Queen also spoke of the sad and regrettable reality that throughout history their islands have experienced more than their fair share of heartache, turbulence and loss, but that she believed in the kind of future that their grandparents could only dream of. I found those comments to be warm and extremely genuine. Like many on those islands she had felt firsthand loss in her family but was not trapped by anger or bitterness. Rather, she wanted to share the important common goals of family, friendship and affection, which she identified as the most precious of resources. She wanted what everybody else wanted.

As Queen for over 70 years, Queen Elizabeth witnessed the demise of the once all-powerful British Empire. She experienced a world war and saw massive structural changes not only on her island, affecting her people and economy, but also around the world, including obviously the Commonwealth. The Queen lived in a period when the media used to report the news and then moved to creating the news, targeting her family and herself. At all times she was graceful, respectful and resilient. There are many who could learn much from this unique and amazing mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Vale, Elizabeth Windsor.