




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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MOTION

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

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.01 am): It was as much a Christmas dinner tradition as having pudding and custard: like many in this chamber, at around 7.30 pm, along with the rest of the family, we would find a comfortable chair or place to sit and watch the Queen's message. In fact, that became a much liked tradition on Christmas night for my family and many others around the nation. Her Majesty's address tended to become a snapshot of the times within which we lived. Rather naively, over the decades one became so accustomed to it that you would simply believe that this remarkable woman would be around forever.

I am very honoured to make a contribution to this condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth II. Some quotes are etched in time. As a young woman ascending to her role as Queen, she delivered a memorable line that has already been used often in the chamber today. That line has stood the test of time. She said—

I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service...

Reflecting on those words decades later, during her silver jubilee in 1977 she declared—

Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgement, I do not regret nor retract one word of it.

In 2010 she surpassed Queen Victoria to become the longest reigning monarch in British history. For seven long decades her declaration to public service lasted, right up until just before her passing. The image of the Queen, only a couple of days before her passing, receiving the new British Prime Minister, Liz Truss MP, was truly remarkable. As a keen student of history, what I find even more remarkable is that her reign spanned 15 British prime ministers, starting with Winston Churchill, who was born in 1874, and including Ms Truss, who was born 101 years later in 1975. During her extraordinary reign, Queen Elizabeth II met 16 different Australian prime ministers, 13 different US presidents and five popes.

Her Majesty the Queen was stoic and had a prodigious work ethic when it came to fulfilling her public duties. Incredibly, at the age of 92 she attended over 270 official events during the preceding year. I still find that remarkable. She was 92.

The day after the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I wrote that she set the gold standard in public service and that the world seemed a little different today. For most of us in this hallowed chamber, the Queen was an ever-present symbol of stability in an ever-changing world. Like other members in the chamber, I was extremely honoured to attend Government House and sign a condolence parchment on behalf of the constituents of Chatsworth. I take this opportunity to thank the late Queen Elizabeth II for her outstanding level of devotion to public service on behalf of the constituents I am so honoured to represent, the people of the Chatsworth community.

As was customary with each of my address-in-reply speeches, in which I would always reaffirm my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, now I affirm my allegiance to the new king, King Charles III. As a very small act to acknowledge Queen Elizabeth's 70 years of outstanding devotion to public service, I place my Queensland member of parliament lapel pin on the desk for 24 hours. If I was to leave it here for the next 70 days to symbolically represent one day for every year of her outstanding service and devotion, I would not collect that lapel pin until 20 December this year. Seventy years of unstinting and stoic public service is amazing.

I express my sincere condolences on the passing of this remarkable woman, Her Majesty. May she rest in peace. Vale. My closing remarks are simply: God save the King.