




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

ADJOURNMENT

McGrath, Mr BGX

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.17 pm): I rise to advise the House of the passing of Barry Francis Xavier McGrath at the age of 85 years young, a local of Ormeau for some 35 years. Ormeau is in the heart of the northern Gold Coast, and Barry's heart was in Ormeau. Born in Victoria on 12 May 1938, Barry passed away at home surrounded by family on 9 October 2023. Barry finished his schooling at Christian Brothers College before his first job as an apprentice mechanic, later moving to the other end of the motor industry and excelling in his career in car sales.

A friend of Barry's introduced Barry to his sister Mary. With love flourishing and Barry and Mary marrying on 24 June 1961, they celebrated 62 years of marriage this year. Having moved to the Gold Coast in 1986, an opportunity arose to market land in Old Ormeau Town. The family relocated to Ormeau, living in the same home until the present day and eventually opening their own real estate office in Ormeau. Barry and his friend Brien Harris were instrumental in establishing the Ormeau Lions Club, which chartered in 1991. Barry and Mary remained active members up until the present day. Barry and Mary were a driving force for events like the Lions' Ormeau fair and many other initiatives, including the establishment of the Ormeau Driver Reviver. Both Barry and Mary were awarded Lions International's highest honour, the Melvin Jones award, for their commitment to Lions in recent years.

Barry was diagnosed with prostate cancer, which spread to his lungs, and with other health issues he entered hospital and was given just days to live. A real fighter until the end, Barry survived another three months and continued to be as active as he could. In saying that, I was so pleased that I was able to be in attendance at Barry and Mary's home for what was Barry's last Ormeau Lions meeting just weeks before his passing. He was still talking about the future for Lions activities. Barry's life was celebrated at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Beenleigh on 30 October.

In the time I knew Barry, I found him to be a man who was obviously committed to the love of his life, Mary, his family, the Lions Club of Ormeau and the wider Ormeau community. He treated everyone with absolute respect, but on occasion he felt the need to say, 'I object.' I can imagine him saying that about what I am now going to say—with a wry smile on his face, of course. The poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson epitomises the life of Barry McGrath. I quote—

To laugh often and much: To win the respect of 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 best in others, to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.

Rest in peace, Barry. You will be greatly missed by all who knew you.