




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Barton, Hon. TA

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.58 am): I rise to make a brief contribution as I knew Tom Barton and his lovely wife, Traute, through his role representing Beenleigh. I dealt regularly with them because the Beenleigh area was part of the magnificent Albert shire and we worked closely together. He was a different colour politically, obviously, than the Albert shire basically was, even though we were all independent.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I think that might be why the Albert shire doesn't exist anymore!

Tom was a wonderful member to work with. He was only ever positive in the many efforts we made to bring Beenleigh up to the standard that it deserved—in terms of the roundabouts in the area as well as the new art centre that burned down and then we put up a brand new one. Tom was always very supportive. He was a great member of parliament and a very supportive person for that community. I would meet Tom and Traute at many functions out there. The other people who were at those functions were Wayne Goss and Roisin. I was in the era of having some very important people in that Beenleigh area, and they were always very supportive of the growth of Beenleigh.

I believe that a mate of mine, Peter Lawlor, was in the same faction that Tom was in. I could not believe that Tom was the leader of the Left faction, as I understand it. Margaret Keech was in it. Tom's nickname was 'Elvis' and he had this magnificent crop of hair swept back just like Elvis. The only other one who competed for that title of Elvis was Billy Baumann, who had the same sweptback hair. Tom had a love of cars, as we have heard already. I think he had a big Cadillac, or whatever it was, that he drove around from time to time.

It was a pleasure to do our government work together with him. He was always very positive. He was well received within the community and the business community. It was a pleasure to work with him, and that is how people and governments should work together, for the betterment of our communities. I have very fond memories of Tom Barton. My deepest sympathies and condolences go out to Traute, a lovely lady who supported him magnificently—as all our partners do in this difficult job. To Traute and your family, my deepest sympathies. To Tom, rest in peace. You were a good bloke.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!