




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Greenwood, Hon. JW, QC

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.48 am): As the Liberal National Party state member for Moggill, I rise to contribute to the condolence motion, as moved by the Premier of Queensland, for the former state member for Ashgrove Colonel the Hon. John Greenwood RFD, QC. In doing so, I wish to formally acknowledge the lifetime of distinguished service that John Greenwood gave to the people of Ashgrove, Queensland and, more broadly, Australia. On 23 December 2023, the Hon. John Greenwood RFD, QC passed away peacefully at the QEII Jubilee Hospital at the age of 89 years.

Born on 29 April 1934 in Kingsford, New South Wales, John Greenwood's formative years saw him attend some 12 primary schools across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, including schools in Kedron, Wilston and Milton. After high school, John Greenwood attended the University of Queensland where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1956 followed by a Bachelor of Laws in 1957. In 1961 he married Barbara Conrad, with them as a family having three children, Katherine, Elizabeth and Nigel. I take this opportunity to acknowledge that in the gallery today we are joined by Barbara, Kate and Nigel. I also note that John is the much loved grandpa of Nigella, Viola and Annika. At the funeral service and celebration of the life of John Greenwood held at St John's Cathedral Brisbane on 22 January 2024, it was remarked that life's John was significantly dedicated to three main areas, each interwoven throughout his life—the law, Australia's Defence Force and politics.

I first wish to acknowledge his military service. From 1952 until 1994 John was a member of the Australian Army. From 1952 to 1960 John was with the Queensland University Regiment. Then from 1960 to 1968 John was a member of the Reserve of Officers, Infantry Division. He transferred his commission to the Army Legal Corps in 1973 and served as captain of the Reserve Army Legal Corps from 1974. As the Queensland Law Society recently reported, John also served as a senior legal officer in the counterterrorism exercises for Expo 88 with his defence appointments including Defence Force magistrate as well as being a member of the panel reviewing judge advocates of the ADF with the rank of colonel.

Concurrent with his military service, John Greenwood was also a distinguished lawyer, having started his legal career as a law clerk with the Brisbane firm Flower & Hart before being called to the bar in 1958. From 1959 to 1961 John Greenwood served as honorary secretary of the Queensland Bar Association and was a barrister from 1959 until 1976. In 1980 John Greenwood was formally appointed as a Queen's Counsel practising as a QC until his retirement in 2017.

Beyond being remembered as a colonel in the Australian Army and Queen's Counsel, we remember John Greenwood for his service as the Liberal Party state member for Ashgrove from 1974 to 1983. During this time John Greenwood's parliamentary service included Minister for Survey, Valuation, Urban and Regional Affairs from 1976 to 1977 and later the Minister for Survey and Valuation from 1977 to 1980. He was also a member of both the Select Committee on Subordinate Legislation and the Select Committee on Privileges.

The month of December of this year will mark 50 years since the election of John Greenwood as the state member for Ashgrove in 1974. As many in the Queensland parliament will know and indeed remember, in 2024 we also recognise the 50th anniversary of the devastating 1974 Brisbane flood. John Greenwood's ministerial and western suburbs colleague the former state Liberal member for Mount Coot-tha and first state member for Moggill, the Hon. Bill Lickiss QGM, was instrumental during the 1974 flood relief efforts, especially for the residents of Bellbowrie. In recognition of outstanding bravery and rescue efforts during the 1974 Brisbane floods the Hon. Bill Lickiss MLA was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

The passing of John Greenwood is a loss that has been felt by Liberal National Party members given his years of faithful service to local party units across the western suburbs of Brisbane, including as chairman of the Keperra branch from 1972 to 1975, serving as the Brisbane campaign director for the 1972 state election, chairman of The Gap ward campaign committee in 1982 and serving on both the Ryan and Brisbane federal electorate area executives.

In preparing to speak on this condolence motion, I spoke with the former Liberal state member for Indooroopilly, Denver Beanland, and the former Liberal state member for Toowong, Ian Prentice. Both former Liberal state members described John Greenwood as a gentleman, a true Liberal, a legal scholar, a man of principle and a fine Australian. On a personal note, I certainly appreciated the wisdom and advice that John Greenwood gave to me during various election campaigns and policy matters and also with respect to legislation in the Queensland parliament. As the Liberal National Party state member for Moggill, I acknowledge and recognise the service of the late John Greenwood to the western suburbs of Brisbane. Vale, the Hon. John Greenwood RFD, QC.