




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Milliner, Mr M

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (9.27 pm): I rise to give my last adjournment speech for this parliament. Tonight, in the last sitting week of the 57th Parliament, I rise with a heavy heart to speak about a dear friend of mine and my No. 1 supporter as the Labor member for Barron River and also of the Labor Party movement in Far North Queensland who is fighting his own battle. His name is Maurice Milliner. Maurice has received some devastating news in the past few days after a recent health battle over many months. He is currently being looked after by palliative care and his family, who I am pretty sure are tuned in to these proceedings. We are hopeful of moving Maurice home within a few days to be with his partner, Wayne, for his final journey.

Since my election in 2015, Maurice has been out on the streets with me. No matter what we were campaigning on, he was there. No matter what we asked of him, he was there. Nothing was ever too much for Maurice and I am truly grateful for that. From pre-poll voting to election day, he ran the Holloways Beach booth from 8 am until 6 pm. He was always there and he always brought Wayne. He was always loud and always proud. My opposition candidates knew exactly who he was. Some cringed when he arrived for his shift, knowing what they were about to cop. There was no way of stopping the passion from Maurice.

Only in the past few days it was brought to my attention how much the Labor movement has been in the Milliner family. I did some research. The member for Sandgate, our learned House historian, will appreciate this. Maurice's Uncle Bert was Bert Milliner who was a federal ALP senator from Queensland. His 1975 death in office triggered a stoush over his Senate replacement in this very House. The senator sent by the Bjelke-Petersen government, at the opposition of the Queensland ALP, was rejected in Canberra, which cost the federal government supply in the Senate and led to the demise of the Whitlam government. Through his death, Maurice's uncle lit the fuse on one of the biggest political events in this country's history. Maurice's cousin Glen Milliner was a member of this chamber from 1977-98, holding the seats of Everton and Ferny Grove. He served many roles, including as minister. Queensland Labor politics runs thick in the Milliner family.

Maurice, you are a fighter, you are Labor to the bone, you are a supporter of the oppressed and the working class and, most of all, you are a dear friend of Rosie and me. You will always be the 'King of the knob', which refers to the name of his beloved community of Yorkeys Knob in Cairns. Tonight, Maurice, this speech is a tribute to you, mate.