



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Gygar, Mr TJ

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.34 am): The opposition supports the motion moved this morning by the Premier to recognise the service to this House and the state of Queensland by Terry Gygar, a former Liberal Party member for Stafford. Terry created for himself three distinct careers: as a soldier serving in Vietnam, as a member of this House and as a lawyer and academic at Bond University.

Born in New South Wales, Terry Gygar completed his schooling at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, before joining the Australian Army in 1967 after a period in the then Citizen Military Forces, now the Army Reserve. Terry's time in the Army was characterised by accelerated promotion. After gaining a commission from the Officer Training Unit at Scheyville, serving in the infantry and graduating with flying qualifications from the Army Aviation Corps at Point Cook, Terry was promoted to lieutenant and served in the 161 Independent Reconnaissance Flight unit in Vietnam in 1970 and 1971. In December 1972, he resigned his regular Army commission with the rank of captain and continued to serve in the Queensland University Regiment until 1986.

Commencing a law degree at the University of Queensland in 1973, Terry was instrumental in aiding the Liberal student responses to the newly elected Whitlam government on campus. It was here that he honed his skills as an accomplished debater and vocal advocate for his cause in what was regarded as a challenging domain for his side of politics. The December 1974 election, which saw Terry elected as the member for Stafford, was groundbreaking: 17 National Party members took their seats for the first time as well as a further 10 new Liberal members. That election did much to change the face of Queensland politics and, in time, Terry Gygar would be at the forefront of that change.

Terry will be remembered as one of this House's most vocal advocates for a new approach to politics in the last quarter of the 20th century. He believed the best debate was robust debate, whatever the issue. He was determined never to leave the House in any doubt as to exactly where he stood on an issue.

On one occasion, Terry moved a motion condemning the demolition of the Bellevue Hotel on the corner of George and Alice streets in April 1979. Though defeated by 30 votes to 41, 12 other Liberals voted in support of the motion. This morning I spoke with Linda over coffee with you, Mr Speaker. She informed me that, when Terry found out where the bricks were sent after the demolition, he went and grabbed them and built a front fence for somebody. That shows the fortitude of them both as a couple.

At the same time, Terry Gygar served on a range of parliamentary and party committees, believing that such involvement could only improve the effectiveness and the standing of the parliament at a time when it was not held in high regard. Despite all this, Terry remained an assiduous worker in his electorate. Before electorate offices acquired a capacity for direct mail and extensive technology,

Terry pioneered the use of the limited resources available at the time—a dictaphone, a typewriter and, later, a word processor—to keep in touch with his constituents. Over time, his pioneering efforts were adopted by a number of his parliamentary colleagues to strengthen their connections with their own electorates.

In 1983, Terry Gygar was defeated but returned to the House in a by-election in August 1984. His defeat and re-election did nothing to curb his desire for change or his impassioned advocacy of those things in which he believed. He never took a backward step and was always prepared to defend his position.

In December 1989, Terry lost his seat and was propelled towards his third career as a lawyer and academic. He completed a law degree at Bond University, graduating with honours and being awarded the university's inaugural Gold Medal in Law. Upon graduation, he was offered an appointment as assistant professor in the Bond University Faculty of Law. At various times, he held the positions of Associate Dean of Law, Chief of Staff to the Bond University Vice-Chancellor and Acting Director of External Relations. Terry Gygar's academic achievements were significant, including gaining a Master of Laws in 2014.

Terry's time at Bond University provided a further opportunity to demonstrate his preparedness to fight for causes in which he believed. In 1999, when Bond University's existence was threatened, he was a vocal advocate for the campaign to keep Bond University as a private institution and celebrated when it won its full independence.

Whatever challenge Terry Gygar took on he did with enthusiasm, unstinting drive and dedication. His success in three careers—as a soldier, a member of this House, and a lawyer and academic—are to his great credit and for which different communities will remember him. Yet it is as a husband and father that Terry will be remembered by his family. We offer our condolences to his wife, Linda; his daughter, Corrinne; and his brother John and his wife, Val, who are present in the gallery today. Terry Gygar fought the good fight and will remain in the memories of very many people. Vale, Terry.