



Speech By  
**Jimmy Sullivan**


**MEMBER FOR STAFFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Gygar, Mr TJ

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (9.39 am): I rise to support the motion of condolence for the former member for Stafford, Terence 'Terry' Gygar. It was touching to meet his family before this morning's debate. I thank the Speaker for enabling that. Over the years since Terry's service the electorate of Stafford has changed in terms of demographics. At the good will of the ECQ, boundaries have moved in and out. The seat was abolished by the ECQ in 1992 but recreated in 2001 with the amalgamation of the then Chermanside and Kedron electorates. It is indeed an honour and a privilege to speak on behalf of the broader northside community to pay tribute to Terry Gygar and his service. I did seek permission from his family to refer to him as Terry rather than 'the former member' to be more personal. With the reintroduction of the electorate of Stafford it is an even more meaningful honour to speak as the member bearing the name of the electorate that Terry served.

I never had the privilege of meeting Terry—perhaps we mixed in different circles—but I did know his name, and I will come back to that shortly. I want to associate myself with the contributions from the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition because what is clear is that Terry's life was a life of service. From the research I have delved into and as has been outlined, his life really was one of different versions of service: the military, at home and abroad. As it turns out, his time in Vietnam coincided with that of my uncle and godfather. Political differences aside, he served his community well. He was a supporter and member of many local organisations. I do not want to be flippant on a day like today, but I am not sure his family will have this front of mind. I want to share that research has shown that back in the day he was patron of the Kedron Heights Kindergarten, a beautiful community kindy that is thriving today. I hope Terry found it amusing, as I do, that the Kedron Heights kindy is at the bottom of a hill.

In terms of political service, he was first elected in 1974 until his defeat in the 1989 Goss government election. I mentioned earlier that I did not have the privilege of knowing Terry but that I knew of him. Having grown up in a somewhat political household—I do not want to be referred to the Ethics Committee—having grown up in a very political household—mum and dad—I was taught about this almost mythical creature 'Terry Gygar' who lost his seat to our own legend Denis Murphy but who had the political skill and community connection to win it back for the Liberals at the by-election, even when that by-election was only caused because of the death of Denis Murphy. Politically that is saying something. It is also obvious from Terry's background that he was a member of substance. Again not of my political persuasion, but I respect the work that he did internally on his side of politics, in youth politics, in policy committees and then in this House in state committees. He was not a flake. He was not a blow-in. He was the real deal. He was a man of substance.

I have thought long and hard about how to convey this next contribution with honesty, sensitivity and respect—and I genuinely hope that his family and the Leader of the Opposition take it in the spirit in which it is intended: the time that Terry served in this parliament was one of great cultural change for Queensland, but also linked to what could be delicately described as a time of great challenge to

integrity and institutions in government and to democracy itself. I believe the history books will record Terry Gygat to be on the right side of history. I believe that he should rightfully be remembered as a man of impeccable character and community focus. Those words, of course, mean nothing compared to the grief felt by his family, and they are foremost in our minds, but let the record show that in uniform, in this House, in law and in academia, he leaves a fine legacy indeed. Vale, Terry Gygat.