




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Greenwood, Hon. JW, QC

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.57 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion for Colonel the Hon. John Ward Greenwood RFD, QC. John was the beloved husband of Barbara and father of Katherine, Elizabeth and Nigel. As we have heard, John started his legal career as a legal clerk for the Brisbane firm Flower & Hart before being called to the bar in 1958, having completed both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Queensland. Not content with simply the practice of law, he contributed to academia through lecturing, serving on the Law Faculty Board and being a member of the University of Queensland's Senate for various periods in the 1960s and 1970s. Appointed as Queen's Counsel in 1980, he was a giant of the legal profession and practised until his retirement in 2017.

In addition to his enormous contribution to the law in Queensland, he also served the people of Queensland as the member for Ashgrove from 1974 until 1983, including serving as Minister for Survey and Valuation from 1977 until 1980. John was known for his keen intellect, his commanding presence in the courtroom and his progressive thinking on issues affecting the community at large including social justice issues and the environment. He appeared as counsel for the conservation interests at the royal commission into oil drilling on the Great Barrier Reef from 1970 to 1972. John also appeared in several constitutional law cases before the High Court and the Privy Council.

As we have heard, John served in the Australian Army for an incredible 42 years. His defence appointments included that of Defence Force magistrate and a member of the panel of reviewing judge advocates, reaching the rank of colonel. John's commitment to the justice system survives through the admirable work of his daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine, who have also been admitted to the bar. John was very proud of all his children and they are each a credit to him.

John was a true libertarian. His commitment to justice and social values through his practice of law and his commitment to his electorate, the people of Ashgrove, bore testament to this. I am thankful to Kate for a small anecdote about her dad. Kate told this story about her dad at his service. What many in this House may not know is that John had a passion for animals, plants and native bees. I understand his home at Fig Tree Pocket had one paddock for animals and one for his own little rainforest. John would often bring back exotic plants from North Queensland for his little rainforest. However, Sadie, one of the family's goats, took a special interest in one of the vines and had to perform Houdini acts to get to this plant, which meant that that vine did not exactly thrive. I understand that John had a special relationship with his native bees and would often seek their counsel. Vale, John Ward Greenwood.