



Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2024

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gilmore, Mr TJG, OAM



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.31 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Thomas John George Gilmore OAM, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the State.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Tom Gilmore was born in 1946 in Mareeba, a town he dedicated his life to serving. After being educated at his local state schools, Tom Gilmore set out to be a farmer, but serving the community and politics was in his DNA. As many will know, his father served as a member of this House for the seat of Tablelands from 1957 to 1963 and before that in federal parliament in the seat of Leichhardt. Like father, like son: service to their local community was in their blood.

Tom Gilmore was first elected to office as a councillor on the Mareeba Shire Council in 1982 and elected to this House as the National Party member for Tablelands. In his first speech, he quoted the great Australian cricket commentator Alan McGilvray, who, when selected in a representative team for the first time, was advised by his father to 'ensure that the game of cricket was better for his having played it'. Tom Gilmore told the House they should serve by that ideal and leave this place better for having been here.

Tom Gilmore was elevated to cabinet by premier Mike Ahern in August 1989, but it lasted just a few weeks, until Russell Cooper replaced Ahern. When the National and Liberal parties returned to government in 1996, Tom Gilmore was appointed minister for mines and energy by Rob Borbidge. While he lost his seat in 1998, he never lost the urge or desire to keep serving, returning to the Mareeba Shire Council in 2000 where he spent 20 years, including as mayor. Fittingly, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his decades of service and commitment to his community.

Tom Gilmore passed away last month. I know the House will join me in thanking him for his long service to our democratic processes and institutions and to pass on our condolences and best wishes to his family and friends. Vale, Tom Gilmore.