



Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gygar, Mr TJ



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 Terence Joseph Gygar, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
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.

Terry Gygar was born in 1947 in Tamworth, New South Wales. He moved with his family to Queensland as a nine-year-old, finishing his schooling at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace. He decided at a young age to serve and protect his country, joining the Army Reserve and then the regular Army in 1967. For two years, he served in Vietnam.

After heeding the call to serve his country, Terry Gygar turned his service to the community. He was elected to this House as the Liberal member for Stafford in 1974. It would be a turbulent and historic time in Queensland politics and Terry Gygar was at its heart. Along with Liberal colleagues who became known as the Ginger Group, he stood up to and took on the power of his coalition partners and Joh Bjelke-Petersen on a number of issues such as the demolition of Cloudland and the Bellevue Hotel.

Political skirmishes led to all-out war with some in his own party, the Nationals and Sir Joh when the Ginger Group stood by their principles over parliamentary reform and transparency, demanding the establishment of a public accounts committee. It would tear the coalition apart, but Terry Gygar was a man of conviction who fought for what was right. He would lose his seat, though, at the ensuing state election. He returned to parliament at a by-election a year later, serving for another five years. I did not know Terry but Lane Calcutt tells me he was a really nice man.

Post parliament, Terry Gygar turned to law and worked as a barrister before the supreme, federal and high courts, before a distinguished career in academia at Bond University. Terry Gygar's was a life well lived: decorated soldier, a politician of principle and conviction, and a successful student and teacher of the law.

Terry Gygar sadly passed away in March. I know the House will join me in thanking Terry Gygar for his decades of service to the military, law, academia and our democratic processes and institutions, and in passing on our condolences and best wishes to Terry's wife, Linda; daughter, Corinne; brother John and his wife, Val; who are with us today. Vale, Terry Gygar.