




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2024

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Flynn, Dr JG

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.39 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Dr John Gerard Flynn, 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.

John Flynn was an extraordinary man who lived an extraordinary life and achieved extraordinary things. He was an outstanding scholar, scientist, doctor and MP whose time in this place was not long enough; a man of compassion, a man of conscience who cared for community, who tried to make life better and easier for all not just through his decades as a GP but through the organisations he set up and worked for. John Flynn wanted to make things right—from brilliant school and uni student to researcher at the Royal Women's Hospital and to his medical practices. In the mid-1970s John spearheaded the free and groundbreaking Caxton Street Legal Service. It not only helped launch the careers of Wayne Goss and future attorney-general Matt Foley but to this day continues to help those in trouble and in need.

By 1989, in the wake of the Fitzgerald inquiry and after decades of Joh Bjelke-Petersen, a political career came calling. He took on the might of the National Party in Toowoomba North, winning the seat by just 374 votes and becoming part of the team that swept Wayne Goss and Labor to power after so long in the political wilderness. As part of his sweeping overhaul of Queensland parliament and its institutions, Tony Fitzgerald recommended a Public Accounts Committee—a crucial reform to make parliament and government more transparent and accountable—a committee that Wayne Goss set up and John Flynn chaired during his time here. That was cut short by a redistribution and John lost his seat by less than 200 votes after just one term.

John Flynn was lost to parliament but not to medicine. As I said earlier, John was a man of compassion and caring. After returning to general practice he helped establish Algester Aged Care Medical Services, a 24/7 service that allowed staff at nursing homes to call at any time for free medical advice. John's sense of caring and his social conscience came from the man he was. As his son Tom said in his eulogy, his dad was kind, brilliant and compassionate; a devoted, loving family man; happy helping others; happiest being wrapped in the love and company of his family.

Sadly, John Flynn passed away in February, but not before a life very well lived and not before leaving Queensland very well served. I know the House will join me in thanking John Flynn for his decades of service to medicine and our democratic processes and institutions and in passing on our condolences and best wishes to his family—his wife Kelyn, daughter Julia and son Daniel, who are here today, and his friends, some of whom are with us. Vale, John Flynn.