



Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Kingston, Dr JA



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.38 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 Alan Kingston, 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.

Over the past 50 years the seat of Maryborough has sent to this parliament a number of members with what can be regarded as a very broad spectrum of interests. They have come from diverse backgrounds and have represented all parties. There are few better examples of this than Dr John Kingston, who served in this House from 1998 until his retirement in 2003. Throughout his brief time in this parliament John Kingston was a vocal advocate for Maryborough and its people.

John Kingston was born in Brisbane 1935. He embarked on a life that took him to multiple countries throughout the world, gave him a broad education and involved him in a diverse range of professions. With formal qualifications in veterinary science and pharmacy, John Kingston assumed ownership of Kingston's Pharmacies in Maryborough but pursued further studies in agricultural economics and environmental science. His qualifications and experience led him to pursue a host of diverse interests—as a university lecturer; as the owner and manager of rural properties producing beef, horses, seed and vegetables; and as a director of a management and consulting company.

What also drove him was his commitment to Laos and its people. Through his Laotian wife, Joy, he developed a passion to assist the people of that country which was struggling to emerge from the impact of the Vietnam War and its own internal struggles. In his first speech to this House in 1998 he said, 'I now regard Laos as my second home.'

Against this varied background, John Kingston found himself in the middle of the 1998 state election. As a councillor on the then Maryborough City Council, Dr Kingston contested Maryborough on behalf of One Nation. He won the seat from the Labor Party and became one of 11 One Nation members in the Legislative Assembly. Like his colleagues, his time in the party was limited and he served the remainder of his time in parliament as an Independent.

Despite economic difficulties, Dr Kingston remained a strong and vocal advocate for Maryborough, its people and its industries. He was an optimist who saw encouraging signs in Maryborough's long-term manufacturing and processing firms and the primary industries that supported many of them. Throughout his time in this House, as well as in his professional life, John Kingston was a champion of innovation. He always sought better ways of doing things so that industries could better serve the communities in which they were based. John Kingston retired from parliament prematurely in 2003. Having left the formal parliamentary environment, he never lost his willingness to serve elsewhere and to pursue the changes to which he was committed.

His passing sees the loss of one of Maryborough's most vociferous advocates. His loss will be felt by many in the community that he served. We offer our condolences to Joy and their children and trust that their memories will sustain them in this time of grief.