




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Muntz, Mr GH

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.59 am): Previous speakers have spoken about Geoff Muntz's political life but it is more on his personal life as a respected and successful real estate agent in Nerang, which was my home for many years, that I would like to talk about. There was a fantastic local authority called the Albert shire many years ago. I had the privilege and honour of being the first mayor and the last mayor—that was last century, probably before some of our newer members were even born. Geoff Muntz was part of Albert shire royalty in terms of his family. It was my great pleasure and privilege to meet him on many occasions as he diligently sold real estate right throughout the Nerang region. In fact Geoff's dad, Hughie Muntz, was for many years—as was mentioned earlier—the chairman of Albert shire and he set the groundwork in terms of the rapidly developing area of Albert shire that hosted Jupiters Casino, Pacific Fair Shopping Centre, Dreamworld, Movie World and those wonderful assets we all share today. Geoffrey, and all the crew who were associated with that, brought it to realisation so that we can enjoy a fantastic tourism industry on the Gold Coast today.

Apart from Hughie Muntz, who succeeded the legendary Russell Hinze as chairman of the Albert shire—I came quite a few years later—Geoff's sister, Moira, married Colin Kleinschmidt, who was the deputy mayor of Albert shire. His other sister, Judith, married Ian Hollindale, who was the general manager of the Gold Coast's South Coast Dairy for many years. Again, as I say, this is Albert shire royalty. In fact, Geoff's real estate career took off in Nerang through the former Arthur Earle Nerang land sales group, which was taken over by the illustrious Colin Meagher, who ran the Ekka for many years. Col was the elder brother of a famous guy, Ray 'Meggsie' Meagher—I think they call him 'Alf' on the TV series that I have never watched.

The fact of the matter is they are a wonderful family. Geoff had a fantastic career locally around Nerang and the Gilston areas selling real estate and he was always respected. He worked with Ian MacLean and Bill Hansen and all of his clients who were very pleased and happy with the courteous and respectful manner in which Geoffrey dealt with them. It was a great pleasure for me as a young businessman in Nerang starting off Petbarn, which went national after I sold out but that is another story. Another success story for me! The fact of the matter is Geoff was highly respected in our chamber of commerce areas and in Nerang. It is a pleasure for me to have Jean and his family here today so that I can reflect on a great fellow and a great community guy in Nerang. RIP, Geoff. You certainly leave us with wonderful memories.