

FATHER ANTHONY TRETHOWAN

Condolence Motion

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [12.01 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Father Tony Trethowan and tenders its deep sympathy to his family and friends.

Father Tony Trethowan served as the member for East Melville in the Legislative Assembly for six years, before later serving as a respected and dedicated Anglican priest. He is remembered as a highly intelligent, idealistic member who, I am told, found his true vocation after standing down from Parliament. Anthony Markham Trethowan was born in December 1945. He was the son of a doctor and farmer and a grandson of the mining entrepreneur Claude de Bernales. He was educated at Christ Church Grammar School, Hale School and the University of Western Australia, and from 1968 until 1979 was the executive director of the Austmac group of companies. He was a fellow of the Institute of Directors in Australia and of the Australian Institute of Management until 1987.

Tony Trethowan was active in the community as a pilot officer in the RAAF Reserve for 20 years after 1966 and as an enthusiastic foundation member of the Tangney division of the Liberal Party after 1973. In 1979, he was endorsed by the Liberal Party to contest the seat of East Melville on the retirement of the late Sir Des O’Neil. At the 1980 election, he was elected unopposed when the candidate for the Australian Labor Party failed to lodge his nomination on time. In 1983, Tony Trethowan was re-elected by a comfortable absolute majority of over 1 000 votes against the ALP candidate and future Premier, Carmen Lawrence, and the late Shirley de la Hunty from the Australian Democrats. In opposition, Tony Trethowan was the shadow Minister for Local Government; Planning; and Consumer Affairs for two years from March 1984. However, in 1985 he decided that he would not seek a further term. It was remarked by his colleagues that Tony was too kind and too gentle a man for politics.

After leaving Parliament, Tony Trethowan trained for the Anglican ministry, obtaining a Bachelor of Divinity from Murdoch University. He was made a deacon in 1991 and became a priest the following year. For 15 years, Father Tony served in the different parishes of Westfield, Canning, Wongan Hills–Dalwallinu and Roleystone until 2006. In subsequent years, despite ill health, he continued to serve as both an associate priest in the parish of Mt Pleasant and a locum priest in other parishes. He leaves a legacy of respect and affection within the Anglican Diocese of Perth.

On behalf of the Liberal Party, I express our condolences to Father Tony Trethowan’s three children, Elena, Chris and Alistair, and to their families who are present in the Speaker’s gallery today.

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition) [12.04 pm]: On behalf of the state opposition, I join the government in passing on our condolences on the passing of Anthony Markham Trethowan. Mr Trethowan was born in 1945 and passed away on 6 May this year. From 1980 until 1986, a period of six years, he was the member for East Melville in Parliament. Over that period, he was the shadow Minister for Local Government; Planning; and Consumer Affairs, and he was also the Deputy Chairman of Committees. Prior to entering Parliament, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Western Australia and he served as an officer in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve.

I had a look at Mr Trethowan’s first speech in this place on 7 August 1980 and it very much reflected the concerns of the time; it was like reading a period of history. He expressed concerns about the expansion of the Soviet Union at that time and he said —

... I do not believe it is an understatement to describe the current world outlook as grim.

Of course, 11 years after he made that speech, the Soviet Union ceased to exist. He said further in his first speech, which I think reflects the principles of Mr Trethowan —

We in Western Australia are most fortunate in another area. We have one of the most successful systems of parliamentary democracy in the world today. Each of us can claim a greater degree of political, economic, social, and religious freedom than citizens in almost any other country of the world. Our freedom seems so secure that it is well for us to remember that, even at this very time in other parts of the world in other countries which are less fortunate with their political systems, men and women are being tortured and are dying in an attempt to win or defend the basic rights which we in this country take so much for granted.

He was a keen defender of democracy and freedom and the things that we hold dear in Western Australia.

In his post-parliamentary career—his parliamentary career was relatively short—he went on to become ordained as a priest in 1992 and was deaconed in Perth in 1991. I sought some advice from the Archbishop of Perth about Mr Trethowan and I was advised that Tony was deaconed in Perth in 1991 and was ordained a priest in 1992 and he served in the parishes of Westfield, Canning, Wongan Hills–Dalwallinu, Roleystone, Mt Pleasant, Lockridge—

Eden Hill and Bicton–Attadale and then at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Lynwood–Langford–Ferndale, Lesmurdie, Kwinana, Spearwood, Hilton and Lakelands until February this year. That is very extensive service around Western Australia on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Perth. If we consider his upbringing in regional areas and the areas that he served, he certainly experienced and participated, in both his religious and parliamentary duties, in some of the best communities throughout Western Australia.

I also received from his daughter, Jodie Elena, who is in the Speaker's gallery today, a copy of the eulogy that was delivered at his funeral. Interestingly, when I read it, I found that his interests were wide and broad; he was a scholar, he had a great interest in the natural world—the Australian bush—he participated in bushwalking, and he loved his grandchildren.

During his parliamentary career, he served for six brief years but he served with some of the more significant figures in Liberal Party history, including Sir Charles Court, Richard Court, Andrew Mensaros, Bill Hassell and Barry MacKinnon, so it was certainly an interesting time to have participated in Parliament.

I understand his family members are here today. I would like to acknowledge them as well, and thank them for the service of their father to the Parliament and the people of Western Australia. I would like to thank Elena Trethowan, Alan Lawson, Macgregor and Maia Lawson, Christopher Trethowan and Trish Trethowan, who are here today, for the service of their father to the Parliament of the state.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Deputy Leader of the National Party) [12.09 pm]: I rise on behalf of the Nationals to offer our condolences to the Trethowan family on the passing of Father Anthony Trethowan. From reading the *Hansard* from his time in Parliament and listening to the comments of those who have spoken previously, it is clear that Tony strongly believed in making a contribution to the local community. I read and understand that he was in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve for 20 years, and was also a very keen supporter of various sporting organisations. After leaving Parliament, as we have heard, he became an Anglican priest and continued to serve the people of Western Australia in that role.

He was the rector of the Wongan Hills parish for three years in the early 2000s, and was also the area dean for Moore—that takes in part of my electorate of Central Wheatbelt and also the member for Moore's electorate, covering Moora, Morawa, Perenjori, North Midland, Dandaragan, Eneabba, my home town of Wyalkatchem, Koorda, Wongan Hills and Dalwallinu—and continued to act as a locum for places such as Northam. He has left a mark in these places, and on behalf of those regional communities, I would like to offer my sympathies to Father Tony Trethowan's family, his friends and colleagues.

The SPEAKER: I ask all members to stand and observe a minute's silence to carry the motion.

Question passed; members standing.