

Mr Eric Ripper; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Alan Carpenter; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Jim McGinty; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr Mark McGowan; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr John Kobelke; Mr Tom Stephens; Mr Bill Johnston; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Mr Terry Waldron

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**BEVERLEY GALLOP**

*Condolence Motion*

**MR E.S. RIPPER (Belmont — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.31 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Beverley Gallop, and extends its deep sympathy to her husband, former Premier of Western Australia Geoff Gallop, family and loved ones.

I rise today to pay tribute to Beverley Gallop, a special woman who touched the lives of so many and whose death is being mourned by people on all sides of this house. On Wednesday, 4 March Bev lost her battle with cancer, a battle she fought with all the grace, strength and dignity with which she lived her life. Our thoughts today are with our friend former Premier Professor Geoff Gallop, and his sons Tom and Leo. The Gallop men have been steadfast in their care and love for Bev during her final days at their home in Balmain, and we hope they find comfort in the memories they share. Today many of us are mourning the loss of a friend who shared the political journey with us for the past 30 years. We mourn the loss of a talented artist and ceramist, a loving wife and mother, a gifted teacher and a generous, witty and warm woman.

Beverley Diane Jones was born at St Anne's Maternity Hospital in Mt Lawley on 14 January 1951 to proud parents Rowland and Maureen Jones. The young Bev was educated at several primary schools as the family moved to a number of towns, including Kulin, Rockingham and Tammin, throughout her childhood. During her high school years Bev studied at Governor Stirling Senior High School in Woodbridge and was a boarder at nearby Swanleigh Residential College in Middle Swan. She completed her leaving certificate in 1968, achieving five distinctions in the seven subjects she studied. Bev went on to complete a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education at the University of Western Australia, and began her career as a high school French and English teacher. In fact, the first time I met Bev Jones was in French 1-0 at the university in 1969.

In 1975 she married a young Geoff Gallop, who had also studied at UWA. This was the beginning of a formidable partnership, a partnership built on a strong foundation of love and respect. Many Western Australians came to know Bev during the years Geoff served as Labor leader and Premier, but those of us in the Labor Party know that she was a constant companion and support to Geoff during his long career. All of us who serve in public life know the importance of having the support of our loved ones. Bev shared Geoff's passionate commitment to Western Australia—its people, its sporting teams and its art and culture. Behind the scenes she was a constant presence, a trusted sounding board and adviser and a vigilant media monitor. As she worked away in her studio, she would always have an ear on talkback radio and be ready to give Geoff an assessment of the day's media and the performance of Labor ministers. I was always acutely aware when I was giving a radio interview that Bev Gallop would be listening and would be reporting to Geoff about the nature of my performance. I hope my colleagues were similarly aware of this phenomenon. It was not a worry to me because in my role as deputy leader to Geoff I always had warm support and encouragement from Bev and the benefit of her wisdom and integrity.

At home in Victoria Park she created a sanctuary for Geoff and the boys away from the frantic pace of political life. There was always a warm welcome guaranteed and, as Geoff pursued his political career, Bev pursued her passion for ceramics. Her natural ability, coupled with passion and discipline, drove her to create a varied portfolio of work, and Bev Gallop earned a reputation as one of our state's most accomplished ceramists. She was honoured as a Fellow of the Craft Council of Western Australia and won many accolades for her work, including the Sydney Myer International Ceramics Award and the City of Perth Craft Open Award for Excellence. Her work has featured in more than 20 exhibitions and has been shown nationally and internationally. Bev taught ceramics at the school of visual arts at Edith Cowan University and at the Central Metropolitan College of TAFE, and recently completed a Master of Studio Art at the University of Sydney. Her art was a constant passion and a source of intellectual challenge throughout her life. It is fitting that some of her pieces are now held in the permanent collection of the Western Australian Art Gallery and will remain as a testament to her talent.

The Labor family in Western Australia has lost one of its dearest members. Her tireless support of our cause, her loyal friendship to so many and her love of our state will long be remembered. To Bev's sisters, Merrilyn and Tracey, and her mother, Fay, I offer my deepest sympathy for their loss. On behalf of the Western Australian Labor Party I extend our deepest sympathy to Geoff, Tom and Leo. Our love and thoughts are with them at this very sad time.

**MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier)** [2.36 pm]: On behalf of the Parliament and the people of Western Australia, I offer condolences to Dr Geoff Gallop and to the family and friends of Bev Gallop.

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Bev Gallop was raised in Tammin and attended Governor Stirling Senior High School in Midland, where she was head girl in 1968. As we have heard, she was a graduate of the University of Western Australia and Perth Technical College.

Bev married Geoff in 1975 and they had two sons, Thomas and Leo. As many will be aware, being the wife of a politician can be a very demanding task, but above that role, as a lecturer in art at Edith Cowan University, Bev contributed to this state by helping to develop young artists. Beverley Gallop was also a well-regarded artist in her own right, with some of her ceramic artworks being held in the Art Gallery of Western Australia and having been exhibited in the United States and New Zealand. Bev was a well-liked figure in Western Australia. She was an exceptional woman with diverse skills. She made an important contribution to this state in a variety of areas. I spoke to Geoff Gallop in the days leading up to Bev’s passing and Geoff told me that the two of them were enjoying their final days together with their family and friends.

On behalf of the Western Australian government and people, particularly on behalf of the Liberal Party and members on this side of the house, I extend my sincere sympathies and condolences to Geoff Gallop and to the Gallop family and friends. Bev was a lovely person; she had friends, and was respected, on all sides of politics.

**MR A.J. CARPENTER (Willagee)** [2.38 pm]: It is very unusual to accord a condolence motion to the spouse of a former politician—it may well be unique in the history of the Parliament. That uniqueness says a lot about the role that Bev Gallop played in Western Australia and in public life. She was not a member of the Parliament but she played a very, very important and positive role in public life in Western Australia. She contributed to the good of this state, not standing behind her partner but standing next to him, offering advice to him and to other people in public life and addressing issues with a degree of wisdom, humour and wit. She was a woman of great strength. I think everybody who knew Bev came to understand that there was a strong personality at work. With a partner like Geoff Gallop, that was a very, very powerful adjunct. Geoff was a person who, if I can use a sporting analogy—and I hesitate to do it, but I will—never took his eye off the ball. Geoff Gallop never descended into personality politics. He always kept his eye on the ball. The policy game, “what’s good for the state”—that element of public life—attracted him. He needed a person to protect him from those who did not have their eye on the ball all the time, and provide him with advice on how to deal with that element of public life. Bev provided that protection and that advice. It was invaluable for Geoff that he had such a person. All the people in the Parliament, certainly all the people that came across Bev, would have held her in high regard irrespective of where they sit in the chamber.

There is another element that needs to be reflected upon—you are a very lucky person if, in life, you find an equal; a person who can return the love that you provide to them in equal measure. That is what Bev did for Geoff and what Geoff did for Bev. They were equal in that regard as well. It is not an overstatement to say that in my observation they were devoted to each other. It is also true to say that Bev and Geoff were very good parents. A manifestation of their attitude to life and their attitude to each other can be seen in their two sons, Tom and Leo, who are now both fine young men contributing to society. I believe Tom now works in Sydney for BHP and Leo works here in Perth in the field of law. They are great people and it is a great reflection on Bev and Geoff that they raised these boys to be the sort of men that they are.

There are two individual times that I would like to reflect on very briefly—one was at the engagement party in October 2005 for the now member for West Swan. Bev and Geoff were there, of course. Geoff was his usual self, chatting with people at the function, engaging them in some humour. Bev engaged me and Anne-Marie in some conversation, which gave a hint of what was to come. It was very interesting and a little bit frightening because Bev painted a picture of what might well turn out to be the case. It is so sad to think that now, just three years later, Bev has died, when, after all that time in public life and in the public eye, Geoff got out of public life and moved to Sydney and left behind many of the negative influences that were affecting their lives, and they were ecstatically happy. They loved their life in Sydney and in Balmain. I do not know if ironic is the correct term, but it is very sad that after such a long period, more than 30 years, just to have those two short years in Sydney in a new environment should come to such a terrible and sad end.

The other time I reflect on is just three weeks ago when the member for Rockingham and me, at the member’s suggestion, flew to Sydney with the specific purpose of saying goodbye to Bev. We went to her home in Balmain. If there is beauty in sorrow and sadness, this was a beautiful time. Bev was in a hospital-style bed in the house and the treatment had stopped. The battle was effectively over; it was a time to say goodbye. There had been a parade of people coming through, including some of the most famous—the Blairs, the Beazleys and others—and a whole succession of ordinary people both from Western Australia and from the lives that they both built in Sydney respectively to say their goodbyes to Bev. She dispensed advice with humour on how to meet the challenges of life from the bed in which she was being cared for. Both the boys were there and it was an

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intensely personal but in a sense public time for everybody. I am very glad and very grateful to have had that opportunity to say goodbye personally in that way.

Bev Gallop was a wonderful person. She contributed huge amounts to Western Australia in not only her own field, but also the broader field of public life and she will be remembered as having contributed that way. I hope that everything turns out okay for Geoff and the boys. The boys are growing into their own lives. I hope everything goes well for Geoff, that he can cope with this. If I can put it in this way, I pray that he can manage this circumstance because it is going to be very challenging for him having lost a person who was his partner in life in this way.

**MR B.J. GRYLLS (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party)** [2.46 pm]: On behalf of the Parliamentary National Party, we certainly support this condolence motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I think we are all shocked to hear of the very untimely and sad passing of Bev Gallop and would like to recognise her contribution to Western Australian public life. Although not an elected member, the role of the partner of a senior politician such as Geoff Gallop comes with a certain level of public recognition and in my knowledge, Bev Gallop handled that in a most wonderful way and I think that the whole state was saddened by her passing. We would like to pass on to Geoff Gallop and his family, as well as the two boys Tom and Leo, the condolences of the National Party and wish them well as they deal with this very untimely tragedy.

**MR J.A. MCGINTY (Fremantle)** [2.47 pm]: I also rise to extend my condolences to Dr Geoff Gallop and his sons, Tom and Leo, on the sad loss of their wife and mother. To lose someone at age 58—Bev only turned 58 earlier this year—leaves one with a great sense of injustice that she was not able to fully enjoy her life and also that those who remain were not able to enjoy her as part of their ongoing enjoyment of life.

At Christmas time, Bev and Geoff Gallop came to Perth and I met up with them for several hours over coffee at Fremantle. They used to live in Fremantle and it is an area of the state that they enjoyed very much. Bev was seriously ill at the time and notwithstanding that, we spent many hours discussing life, Bev's circumstances, things that are important in life and her role as Geoff's political confidant. After that pleasant gathering, I reflected on Bev's role as the rock in Geoff's life and in particular in his political life. Eighteen months ago in Sydney, Bev said to me in a comment about life post-politics that there is absolutely nothing in Geoff's life that he has not been able to completely enjoy. Now I am sure that is no longer true as a result of Bev's sad passing on 4 March.

During the three years post-politics, Geoff established himself as a professor at the University of Sydney and Bev further developed her already extensive reputation as a ceramicist both in her academic pursuits as well as in her production of fine pieces of art and pottery, and they loved life in Balmain in Sydney. Many years ago, Bev made a collection of plates and cups for me and they will remain one of my most valued possessions; they will be treasured every time we use them. Bev will be fondly remembered as a woman of dignity, intelligence, ability, humour and compassion.

**MS A.J.G. MACTIERNAN (Armada)** [2.50 pm]: My colleagues have spoken very eloquently on the passing of Bev Gallop. It is interesting that we all individually have developed our thoughts and that we have a unanimity of view about Bev. I also want to put my thoughts on the record. Bev Gallop was a great woman. She was strong and direct, and very loyal. She was also very intelligent. Notwithstanding all the expositions today of her great achievements, perhaps members do not know that Bev achieved several general exhibitions in her TEE—or matriculation as it was called then—in the sciences and could have gone on, obviously, to a great academic career.

I want to record, like so many of my colleagues, just how much her friendship, support and great hospitality meant to us over the years, and how much her partnership with Geoff enabled him to serve the party and the state with such distinction. I agree with my colleague the member for Willagee that it was not the woman behind the man; it was the woman beside the man. It was truly a great partnership. Like the member for Willagee and the member for Rockingham, I had the opportunity to say goodbye to Bev in the week before her death. It was an extraordinary experience. I came away from that very sad event with a feeling of great comfort. Bev maintained until the end her characteristically strong opinions and her sense of humour, notwithstanding the position that she was in. She still very much wanted to comment on what was going on in the world around her. She also had this extraordinary sense that she was going to make her death "her own death", as she put it. She was going to do in death what she had done throughout her life and forge her own path. There was no sense of grievance or complaint. There was very much an appreciation that death is a part of life, and that she was going to go through it with great dignity.

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Geoff and their sons, Tom and Leo, had done the most extraordinary job. They had surrounded Bev with a cone of love that created a quality of experience for her that, as I said to them, was as good as it can get. I know that this is an immensely sad time for Geoff and the boys, and for her mother and her sisters. However, I believe that Geoff, Tom and Leo will get through it. The love of a woman like Bev is an empowerment. They will live on, remembering her, and ensuring that her contribution to this planet is not forgotten and that she will live on through the work, the love and the goodness that they will continue to take forward into the world.

**MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham)** [2.53 pm]: I say first that I am very grateful for the opportunity to be able to use the time of the Parliament to pay tribute to Bev. I think that Geoff as a parliamentarian, and as a person who excelled in and loved this place, will appreciate the fact that it is being used to acknowledge him and his wife in this way. I also pass on my regards and condolences to Geoff, Tom and Leo, and also to Bev’s mother, Fay, who lives just near me in Rockingham, at this incredibly tragic time for the family. I know that the last nine or so months must have been extraordinarily difficult for Bev’s family, as will be the months, and probably years, to come.

Bev was always a supportive and friendly person towards me. She was always kind towards my wife and me and full of good advice for us. Indeed, every time we went to their house, that beautiful bungalow in Victoria Park, she was welcoming and ready with a cup of tea, advice, help, support and ideas on what we should be doing. Perhaps that advice was built on experience, because she had already been through what I was going through at that stage of my political life. She was always ready to provide me with the benefits of her experience, not in a lecturing or hectoring way, but in a sensible and helpful way that I found to be very beneficial. Bev had great judgement. I think it would be fair to say that there were no shades of grey with Bev. She understood what she thought about issues. She understood what she thought about people. She had an uncanny intuition with which she analysed things. She also had a wonderfully dry sense of humour, a dry wit. She would often make a remark that would sum things up in a way that was very amusing.

Bev loved her family. That must be said. She absolutely loved her family. She loved her husband. She loved her boys. They are fantastic young men. Both of them are extremely capable. The genetic material they received is second to none. They are very lucky to have Bev and Geoff as parents, and Bev and Geoff are lucky to have boys like that. They are terrific young men and have achieved a great deal. Whenever I visited their house, Leo would come out of his room, where he had been studying—evidently following in the old man’s footsteps—and make some humorous remarks about what had been going on. I remember Bev telling me on one occasion that Leo had christened me “Mad Dog” McGowan after listening to me on the radio, so from that point on I was known as “Mad Dog” around the Gallop household. They were funny people and it was always a pleasure to go to their home.

Bev was very supportive of Geoff and everything he did. The life that Geoff led was full of hardship. There was a lot of hardship in being Leader of the Australian Labor Party for 10 years, including for his period as Premier, and Bev also went through that hardship. As we saw with Geoff’s resignation as Premier, some hardship had been building up in his life for a long period. Bev also had experienced this hardship for a long time. Perhaps it was not a financial hardship or a hardship that other families experience, but certainly she experienced the pressures and stresses of political life; however, she supported Geoff absolutely. I do not think he would ever have achieved the great heights of political life that he achieved without Bev standing beside him, providing advice and making sure that the home environment was a supportive and loving one. In that way, each day Geoff could get up in the morning and face what he had to face as member, minister, leader and Premier in the knowledge that he would go home to a safe and loving environment.

I also want to relate two brief stories. I had the pleasure of accompanying Geoff and Bev when Geoff led the inaugural Anzac student tour in 2004. We travelled around the battlefields of northern France. As the senior Australian representative on that occasion, Geoff had to make speech after speech. He made all the major addresses and attended all the major functions. I had never seen Bev close up like that, day in, day out, but she was always there, supporting Geoff and listening attentively to every word of every speech he made. She was always so proud of him. Geoff was a bit like a racehorse; she would always make sure at the end of the evening, when we had finished with the last function, that Geoff got his rest. I remember on one occasion—in a city called Amiens, which is near Villers-Bretonneux—Mike Board, Guy Houston and I wanted to head out after a function, and Bev said, “No, it’s a dawn service tomorrow, Geoff. It’s time for bed.” She had a sensible approach to life, and I think that was good advice. I wish I had followed her advice! She always had a sensible approach to things, and she knew that as Premier of the state, Geoff had to be in top form and represent the state well, so she gave him that advice.

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Along with the member for Willagee, I went to Sydney and saw Geoff, Bev and the boys a few weeks ago. I have never really had an experience like that; maybe I have, but it was an extraordinary experience to go to their townhouse and visit Bev. Despite her condition and the state she was in, she was still full of interest. She asked me about my children and remembered their names. She asked me about my wife and her pregnancy, and asked about all sorts of things to do with our lives rather than talk about her predicament. It was fantastic that she had that level of engagement and interest right to the end. She was surrounded by Geoff and the boys; Geoff was supportive and dutiful, and very much attuned to making sure that her last days and weeks were comfortable and enjoyable, and filled with the support and love of the family. The boys were also supportive—two young men approaching 30. It was a wonderful example of what a family can and should do.

I pass on my regards to Geoff, Tom and Leo, and to Bev’s mother, Fay. This should not have happened so soon after their moving to a different life, and I hope that they remember Bev as such a wonderful person in their lives, continue with their productive lives, and remember the great life that Bev gave them.

**MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland)** [3.02 pm]: The loss of a loved one is always hard to bear; the loss of a loved one unexpectedly is even harder to bear. Although, of course, there was some warning of Bev’s condition, it is true to say that at this time last year the Gallop family could not have known what was in store for them just 12 months hence. At 58 years of age, as some have commented, there is no way that one would contemplate something like this happening in such an untimely way. I am privileged to have known Geoff and Bev for more than 25 years. I think most people in the community are very much aware of Bev’s support role throughout Geoff’s public life. I have certainly been touched by the number of people who have spoken to me in recent days about how they feel about Geoff’s loss. There is a genuine concern throughout the community for what has occurred to Bev, and for Geoff’s wellbeing.

People will remember that Geoff first entered public life as a councillor with the City of Fremantle, and then as the member for Victoria Park. Bev stood with Geoff through all that time; she accompanied Geoff to functions and events, and she was a wonderful homemaker, mother and wife. She managed Geoff during his campaigns, often giving those of us whom she thought might have some influence on things advice as to how his personal wellbeing could be enhanced. During a campaign she would always insist that he got his daily swim in after morning media because he would be in much better humour if he had had his swim for the day and a bit of exercise. She would also make sure that he had some time to rest in the afternoon so that he was ready and bright for the following day.

She would even comment as the campaign went on, “This is no good for Geoff; he’s lost his bum again”, as Geoff would try to hitch up his trousers, as he always lost weight during the campaign. She certainly added a very human touch and made sure that Geoff did not overdo things. That was not only for his good, but for all our good, because it was important that he be well enough to perform during the campaign. Many have commented on Bev’s homemaking and support role, and also on Bev as an individual. People should be in no doubt that Bev was a very strong individual in her own right. She was highly regarded, highly principled, and forthright. She provided magnificent support and wise counsel to Geoff.

When I first went teaching at John Curtin Senior High School, in a sense I followed in Bev’s footsteps; Bev had taught there a few years previously. She had left an indelible imprint on John Curtin, and the staff spoke of her with both fondness and respect.

I remember at my place, one time early on, at a Young Labor barbeque—that is how long ago this was—in the lead-up to the preselection for the seat of Victoria Park, whilst Geoff and the late Ted Cunningham, who also aspired to preselection for that seat, steadily burnt a steak on the barbeque while they talked courteously to each other, Tom and Leo ran around my backyard rampaging, tearing limbs off trees and defoliating—I nicknamed them “agent orange” at that point because they defoliated most of my backyard. Bev proceeded to give a little advice, in case I needed it in the future, on raising boys and the nature of boys and how to bring them up. Fortunately, or unfortunately, that was advice I did not need, as I then proceeded to have three girls.

Bev and Geoff were a team in politics. We did get the feedback, as the Leader of the Opposition has commented, when we had been on radio. Geoff was always willing to give us feedback and always prepared to say if he was wrong. In politics there are always things we disagree about. I remember, in particular, those issues on which Geoff and I had disagreed and I had proceeded to go on radio. Whilst I did get a number of things wrong, Geoff always rang through and said, “Bev said to let you know that you handled that really well”, or that this went well or “You were actually right on that and I was wrong.” So he had obviously taken the discussions home to Bev, and we would get the feedback as to whether our view had paid off or not. Her role there was very constructive and they were very much a team. All of us had feedback from both Bev and Geoff.

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She was an extraordinarily talented woman. Her artistic and creative work, her pottery and ceramics, as people have commented, were absolutely world class. She was a strong-minded and genuinely decent individual. Greg and I extend our most sincere sympathy to Geoff, Tom and Leo, and Bev's family, on what is certainly a tragic loss.

**MR J.C. KOBELKE (Balcatta)** [3.08 pm]: Mr Speaker, I would like to make a small contribution to this condolence motion. There are so many things one could say—and many people have already in their contributions alluded to the breadth of Bev's contribution, her strength and her intellect. I would like to briefly say how I am privileged to have known her and feel that she contributed to me, as she did to so many others and to the wider community in Western Australia.

I was always so impressed with her ceramics. Someone who had the ability to produce such beautiful works really must have had some inner strength and inner peace. The artistic merit that I personally know nothing of could be seen in the works that Bev produced. Also she had the ability to go from things of great beauty to the simple practicalities of producing a work of art. That practical approach is seen in what quite a number of people have already said about the way she applied herself throughout her life.

I would like to relay to the house a couple of instances of Bev's input when Labor was in opposition and Geoff was the leader. Bev offered real words of support to not only Geoff, but also others around him. In opposition the leadership group gathered for many weeks on a Sunday morning at the Gallop household in Victoria Park. Although Bev was not involved in the discussions on the tactics we would use, she was always there providing coffee and something to eat. After our discussions she would have a word in our ear about the various views she had. Bev was always supportive. It was not as though she had her own barrow to push.

Bev was a very strong woman with very clear views but she engaged with others on the basis of respect, understanding, caring and love and by doing that had great influence on many people. In the lead-up to the 1996 election everyone was saying that Labor would lose, but Geoff always put on a positive face and went out to fight the good fight. While people within the party were supporting Geoff, his real support came from Bev. Bev did not just give Geoff her support at that time. It was evident that throughout their lives when the going got tough Bev gave her support and love to Geoff and, of course, Geoff gave his support and love to Bev.

I offer my condolences to Bev's mother and sisters and also to Geoff, Tom and Leo.

**MR T.G. STEPHENS (Pilbara)** [3.11 pm]: I appreciate the house extending to members the opportunity, through this condolence motion, to pay tribute to Bev Gallop. Bev's death is a reminder of what life in politics is like. It only seems like yesterday that Geoff arrived in this place. I had to refresh my memory and, yes, it was 1986 when I saw him arrive as the new member for Victoria Park. The members who were in this place at the time knew that Geoff came to this place with a strong academic background. However, there was something more special about him; that was his partnership with Bev. His strong partnership with Bev Gallop became self-evident in his contributions to this Parliament. Previous speakers have referred to when their partnership, which had many dimensions, played itself out.

Visits by the then party leader, who subsequently became Premier, to the north west presented many opportunities for me, as a bush parliamentarian, to travel with Geoff and Bev, when she was able to accompany him. Those members from the bush who have had the opportunity to travel within their electorate with a leader would have witnessed how he or she responds to local circumstances.

One thing that Bev did was to tutor and educate Geoff in the artistic, not only in ceramic art, which Bev was very good at, but also fine canvas work, which he came to appreciate. Occasionally Geoff would turn up at an Aboriginal art gallery, community or exhibition and select the finest piece of art, and that was because of the good advice he got from Bev.

I was lucky enough to have caught up with Bev and Geoff over Christmas and to have had an extraordinary yarn with Bev, who expressed such optimism, and Geoff, who was perhaps more realistic. I was fortunate to catch glimpses of them on Cottesloe Beach over Christmas while they enjoyed what was their last visit to Perth together, although I experienced a sense of sadness for the inevitable loss of their partnership.

The members for Midland and Armadale referred to the commentary that Bev provided for Geoff. All the members of the team in those early years were exposed to Bev's media monitoring. How she had the stomach to listen to the talkback radio programs is beyond me, but she listened to them to keep herself in touch with what was taking place. By providing Geoff and us with a commentary on our performance she was able to keep us in touch with what was taking place in the wider community.

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The impact we might be having was relayed to us, sometimes a bit brutally. Some of the feedback was positive and some gave the full blast of community feeling. In the ups and downs of political life, Bev was able to provide all that direction through Geoff. Oftentimes a call from a leader could be the portent of bad news. Oftentimes that feedback was coming directly from the media monitoring that Bev did for all of us, and particularly for Geoff. She displayed equanimity and the strength of fair play. One can picture that day in 1986 and their arrival in this place when there were turbulent times for the Labor Party. Bev was a particularly important part of that partnership. Her ability to be a real bulwark and give a sense of strength against some of the pressures that were on I think augured well for Geoff’s political foundations. The hospitality that Bev extended to all of us in that home in Teague Street and the support that she provided to our partners is a great reminder that the political life for so many of us is an amazing partnership between us in the profession and our partners and families and the role that they play in our lives. That role can be quite exhausting, demanding and challenging. Bev did it all with an extraordinary skill and with enormous generosity of spirit. I think the Western Australian community has picked up on the fact that this was a partnership and that she was able to provide a real upbeat, optimistic approach to political life, which helped Geoff through some of the grimmest times in politics one can possibly imagine.

Bev leaves a lasting and loving legacy, not only with Geoff but also especially with Tom and Leo. I say to Geoff, to Tom, to Leo and to the extended family that my wife, Anne, and I would like to be associated with the condolence motion that extends sincere sympathy, profound respect and an assurance of earnest prayers for them at this sad time.

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington)** [3.17 pm]: I support the condolence motion. I will speak very briefly. As a former assistant secretary and secretary of the party, I worked closely with Geoff. Of course, I was not in this place. I was also a neighbour of Geoff’s. Kate, I and our children lived around the corner from Geoff and his family. One morning just after the 2001 election my son came to me—I think he was about four years old—and said how he had just been talking to Dr Gallop and his wife. There was my four-year-old son dressed in his jocks. They were important contributors to the Labor movement in Western Australia. The work done by a leader in an election campaign is unparalleled. Geoff’s ability to deliver so extraordinarily well for the Labor Party in those three election campaigns was made possible by the support he received from Bev. Such a loss is a tragedy after a person has served 20 years in this place. I cannot imagine that Geoff ever expected to lose Bev so soon after leaving this place. She made such a sacrifice for him, as everybody’s spouse does to enable them to serve in this place. For them not to be able to share a longer period of retirement is unfair. I extend my condolences to the Gallop family and note Bev’s contribution, which made our work so much easier.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan)** [3.18 pm]: I rise to support the motion. I first met Bev Gallop in 1997 when I started working for Geoff. As a staffer for Geoff for more than eight years and as someone living in Victoria Park, I got to know Bev relatively well over that time. My sincere sympathy goes out to Geoff, Tom and Leo and to Bev’s mother and sisters. Over recent days I have spoken to a number of former staff members of Geoff’s and we have shared our memories of Bev. We all had very similar thoughts and observations, and most of those have been mentioned already today. We all respected her greatly. We were aware of her sharp, critical mind and her wise observations. Although we all believed that the advice we gave to Geoff was indispensable, we knew it was Bev’s voice that he listened to the most. To be honest, we were all a little bit scared of her. Bev was fiercely protective of Geoff’s time and space. She knew that Geoff found it hard to say no to appointments and requests for his time, and she tried to make sure that Geoff had time for himself and his family, and that he was not exhausted. I recall the phone calls to Sean Walsh about the number of appointments in Geoff’s diary. Bev would often ring Sean and let him know that Geoff’s diary was far too busy. Sean would walk away from those discussions shocked and dazed. Poor old Sean: it was often Geoff who had accepted those appointments, against our advice.

As we have already heard, Bev was very protective of not only Geoff, but also the Labor Party and the Labor government. We heard about her media monitoring skills. She would often ring our office and Geoff immediately, and those phone calls came a lot quicker than the emails from the Government Media Office. She was also very supportive of Geoff, as we have already heard. One of my earliest memories of working with Bev was the Christmas sundowner that she basically organised and ran. I know that the current member for Victoria Park is carrying on the tradition of the Victoria Park Christmas sundowner, and I now, as a member of Parliament, use the Bev and Geoff model for Christmas sundowners in my electorate, down to the kinds of sandwiches we offered last Christmas.

As a number of members have already said, Bev was a very talented artist. She did some incredible work, and anyone visiting her house would see her latest creation. Another point not yet mentioned was her passion for

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gardening. Her garden was fabulous, and she and Geoff were very proud of it. Returning to her work as an artist, each staff member would receive each Christmas a piece of handmade pottery from Bev, usually a beautiful coffee cup. Visitors to homes of former staff members will find Bev’s glorious pottery still being used.

As I said, I visited the Gallop household on many occasions. During the 2005 election campaign, I visited Geoff nearly every day because I was involved in the policy preparation process. As we all know, elections are very intense and stressful periods, particularly for leaders. I witnessed the enormous support and insight Bev provided to Geoff during this time. I remember sitting around the table with my coffee cup in my hand talking about the day’s events, with Bev supporting and assisting all of us, including Geoff, during that time. She provided excellent insight. Every time I visited the house I was in awe of that family unit—Geoff the Rhodes scholar and Premier, Bev an immensely talented and gifted artist, and Tom and Leo, very smart and good young men. However, in that household I felt a true sense of family, a humbleness and an honest and genuine approach to life. When I think about how strong that family unit was, I believe that a lot of the credit for it goes to Bev. My thoughts go out to Geoff, Tom and Leo, but I know that the members of that family that Bev created will be there to support each other for years to come.

**MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park)** [3.23 pm]: In speaking to this motion, I note the comments that have already been made. It is a rare occurrence when the house debates a condolence motion for the spouse of a former politician. It is clear from the words that have been spoken on both sides of the house that Western Australia has lost someone of great consequence in Bev Gallop. As the member for Victoria Park who replaced Geoff Gallop after his retirement from politics, I too was a little bit scared of Bev. When I had to present myself on her doorstep a few times to meet with Geoff on a number of matters, she cast a discerning eye over me and gave me regular pieces of advice. In the light of the circumstances that led to the retirement of Geoff Gallop, the fact that she would take the time and care to offer me advice is something that I will always remember. It also became apparent to me that, as the new member for Victoria Park, I was replacing two members for Victoria Park in both Bev and Geoff. For half of the 20 years of Geoff’s political career he was leader of the Labor Party, meaning that he spent a lot of time outside his electorate. Bev filled a lot of that gap, and to this day, including at the Christmas sundowner, which has already been mentioned, people ask after both Geoff and Bev.

Bev was the patron of many organisations in Victoria Park. She was very active in the Victoria Park Croquet Club, which was very distressed by her passing. Indeed, the boys at the Bentley “Blues” Cricket Club are just as distressed by the passing of Bev. She was someone who was very active in the local community. I do not think there is a community group in Victoria Park that does not have something that she made and donated to the community group, whether it was a fundraiser so it has been passed on, or whether it was simply a donation to that particular community group. I think that really showed and displayed not only her support of Geoff, but also her love of the people of Victoria Park who supported Geoff for so long as their local member.

It has been a difficult time for the people of Victoria Park. Indeed, my office has been flooded with calls and people coming in wanting to know when Bev’s funeral is and wanting me to pass on to Geoff, Tom and Leo their sorrow and distress at the passing of Bev, because she was someone who over a long period was very involved in my electorate from where she lived in Teague Street. So I want Geoff, Tom and Leo to know that the people of Victoria Park are very distressed and are mourning the loss of someone who had such a great impact on our local community. She will always be remembered in Victoria Park as someone with great dignity, great strength and great commitment to the people of Victoria Park.

**MR A.P. O’GORMAN (Joondalup)** [3.25 pm]: I also support this condolence motion. My history with the Gallops does not go back quite as far as that of some of my colleagues on this side. However, my early recollection of first meeting Bev Gallop was immediately after the 2001 election, and then also after the 2005 election. All new members were invited to the Gallop household in Teague Street in Victoria Park, where Bev made us very welcome and extended some advice to us newbies on the block, and also to our spouses. She did not give this advice just immediately after an election; she had our spouses or partners at her place on a number of different occasions and gave them various bits of advice about how to look after their politician partners, which was invaluable advice.

I have also heard today about the ministers and how Bev kept watch on the media and critiques of the performance of the ministers. She also kept an eye on us backbenchers. My wife has mentioned to me a number of occasions on which she spoke with Bev, and she outlined that Bev actually passed comment on some of the things that I had done in my electorate and in my political career.

She was indeed a great lady and a great support for Geoff. I extend my condolences to Geoff, Tom and Leo, and to Bev’s extended family. It is a sad loss, and a loss that I think will be felt for a long time.



Mr Eric Ripper; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Alan Carpenter; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Jim McGinty; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr Mark McGowan; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr John Kobelke; Mr Tom Stephens; Mr Bill Johnston; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Ben Wyatt; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Mr Terry Waldron

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**MR T.K. WALDRON (Wagin — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [3.27 pm]: I wish to briefly support this condolence motion. Although I did not know Bev Gallop as well as many others in this house did, I was privileged via functions and events and just being here at Parliament House to meet and get to know Bev Gallop, which was indeed a privilege. It was obvious that she was a very friendly, very warm and very talented creative person. I know that my wife, Noelene, always enjoyed Bev's company and always enjoyed the chats that they used to have, particularly on artistic matters. There is no doubt that she was a great support to her husband, our former Premier Geoff Gallop, and carried out her role very well and with great dignity. My thoughts and sympathies are with Geoff and his family, and I wish them well.

**The SPEAKER:** In support of this condolence motion, I ask members to stand and observe a minute's silence, please.

Question passed, members standing.