

Dr Geoff Gallop; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr John Kobelke; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Monty House; Mr Arthur Marshall; Mr John D'Orazio; Mr Ross Ainsworth; Ms Katie Hodson-Thomas; Ms Jaye Radisich; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mrs Cheryl Edwardes; Mr Norm Marlborough; Ms Margaret Quirk; Speaker

MR EDWARD JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM

Condolence Motion

DR G.I. GALLOP (Victoria Park - Premier) [2.02 pm]: I move without notice -

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Edward Joseph Cunningham and tenders its deep sympathy to his wife Julie.

Edward Joseph Cunningham was born on 26 November 1937 in Clayfield, Queensland. He was the son of Edward Dennis Cunningham, a shop assistant, and Genevieve Ethel Winifred Walton. He married Julie Matias on 7 May 1966.

Ted was educated at Saint Joseph's Primary School, Hendra Secondary School and Brisbane Technical College. He worked as an apprentice compositor for *The Courier-Mail* and for the *Darling Downs Star* in Toowoomba from 1952 to 1957. A compositor or hot metal printer meticulously typeset newspaper print using a linotype machine consisting of iron letters and molten lead. Ted moved to New South Wales in 1958. He worked at the *Illawarra Mercury* in Wollongong and at *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He then worked at the Canberra Television Company in Sydney until 1971 after which time he moved to Perth. Ted worked as a marketing manager with Montreal Holdings from 1978 to 1986 and as an executive officer for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet from 1986 to 1988.

Ted, of course, had a very long association with the Australian Labor Party. He joined the Labor Party in Toowoomba in 1957 and became very active in the printers' union in New South Wales. He was a delegate to the New South Wales ALP conference from 1960 to 1970 and president of the party's New South Wales youth council. Indeed, many of the friends that Ted met at the youth council went on with their political careers and when he met some of his friends from those days he always spoke very fondly of them.

When Ted came to Western Australia, he was very active in the Labor Party. He held various positions at the Victoria Park branch of the ALP from 1971 to 1988. He represented various unions on the state executive and was a delegate to all state ALP conferences from the 1970s onwards. He was also a regular at ALP national conferences where he loved to make contact with old friends from the New South Wales youth council. He was a proxy delegate to the ALP national executive from 1986 to 1988.

We knew Ted as a member of this Legislative Assembly. He became a member of this House as the member for Balga at a by-election on 19 March 1988 - the same day that the member for Belmont was elected to Parliament - and replaced former Premier Brian Burke. He retained the renamed seat of Marangaroo in 1989 and the renamed seat of Girrawheen in 1996 until he retired in February 2001.

During his time as a member of Parliament, Ted was the president of the state parliamentary Labor Party from 1994 to 1997 and the Opposition Whip in the Legislative Assembly from 1997 to 2001.

There are many things for which we can remember Ted. One of them, of course, was his sense of humour, which he certainly did not suppress in Parliament. Some of his speeches and antics in Parliament entertained us all. We were secretly pleased to have our softer side revealed when, during the animal welfare debate, Ted read our pets' names into *Hansard* one by one. On another occasion during a late night sitting - the member for Avon will remember this well - he began to talk on his shoe phone. We all remember the incident well. He said to his shoe "This is an awful debate." I am sure he was not reflecting on the speech that was being given by the member for Avon.

Beneath this very jovial exterior, Ted had deep convictions and very strongly held passions. His working class roots, strong commitment to the Catholic Church and his powerful support for ethnic communities made him an ideal local member of Parliament. Indeed, Ted was a model local member of Parliament. He was deeply concerned about the welfare of the people who lived in his electorate. He counted the naming of drug dealers operating in his electorate as one of his successes as a member of Parliament. He was also a very hard worker and, most importantly, an innovator. Ted's electorate newspaper was called *The Leader*. It was the first of its kind, and I mean no disrespect to current members of Parliament when I say that *The Leader* will probably never be surpassed. It focused on the life of the community and its sporting, religious and cultural activities. All of those who were part and parcel of Ted's electorate found their way into *The Leader*, usually, of course, with a photograph of Ted beside them. This personified Ted's commitment to make every person feel special. I think all of us recognised that feature of his character.

In his maiden speech to Parliament in 1988, Ted said he was not one to single out people, but felt that he must mention a few special people. Ted's valedictory speech, which was delivered on 23 November 2000, is a truly

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wonderful and outstanding speech, and I urge all members of Parliament to read it. He individually thanked every single person that had helped and supported him during his long parliamentary career. He prefaced his words with his favourite saying "Without friends, the world is nothing but a wilderness." Of course, Ted especially thanked his extended family. He called them his foot soldiers and his inspiration. I know that Ted's wife, Julie, was a great source of comfort and support to him during his years as a member of Parliament. Ted valued that support. He often called Julie a godsend and a saint.

Ted was a lover of greyhound and horse racing. On Melbourne Cup day he would visit every pub, club and association in his electorate to wish all the punters the best of luck. I am told that Ted did not have a lot of luck with the horses, but that he liked to see other people have a win. Every St Patrick's Day many of us risked alienation from our Irish friends and left the pub to attend Ted's St Patrick's Day Chinese restaurant fundraiser. It was a legendary event. We did it for Ted - as many have commented over time, we did not do it for the food! Anecdotes abound in Labor Party circles about Ted's famous raffles. During the eulogy delivered in the church, his very good friend Batong Pham said of Ted that "As sure as we are sitting here today, Ted will be organising a chocolate wheel in heaven". Most of us remember that great chocolate wheel incident when Ted was raising money for the Labor Party and sold more tickets than there were numbers on the wheel! However, it was all in the interests of the Labor Party. Whenever Ted had a request to make of someone, he gently took his arm and guided him down the corridors of the Parliament. It was generally impossible to refuse him.

Having joined the party ranks as a very young man, Ted took on the important role of bringing young people into the political system. He strongly encouraged those he thought had the potential to make a contribution to public life. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous support that Ted Cunningham gave me as a young member of the Labor Party, a Labor Party candidate and a member of Parliament. I will never forget the role that Ted played in supporting my career as a politician.

Ted and Julie did not have children of their own; however, a stranger to Parliament House would have never known it. Ted was rarely seen without one or more of his adopted children - the nieces, the nephews, the godchildren and the political protégés - close by his side. They were generally on their way to a wonderful lunch as Ted's special guests in our dining room. His gift was to make people feel special and as if he was the privileged one to be in their company. A cynic might say that he was a consummate politician, but there was a real joy about and genuineness in Ted's relationships with people.

I was so pleased that, with some of my colleagues, including the president of the Australian Labor Party, the member for Midland, I was able to visit Ted in hospital on the Friday before he died. I was very proud to present to Ted his life membership of the Australian Labor Party. He was immensely proud of and humbled by that, and the plaque immediately took pride of place above his bed.

Ted, thank you very much for what you have done for this Parliament. Thank you very much for what you did for so many people who became involved in politics. Thank you very much for the friendship you showed to many people throughout Western Australia. I feel very lucky to have had a friend like Ted Cunningham. On behalf of all members of this House, I extend our deepest sympathy to Ted's beloved wife Julie, and his extended family.

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the Opposition) [2.13 pm]: On behalf of the Liberal Party, I join in this condolence motion for the late Ted Cunningham. Ted devoted his life to the Australian Labor Party. For 13 years, he was a dedicated representative for not only that party but also his local community and indeed this Parliament. As we have heard, he spent his earlier working life as a printer and subsequently a marketing manager in media industries. He had a long record of service to the ALP in Queensland and New South Wales, and in Western Australia after he arrived here in 1971. Although the record shows that Ted Cunningham was successfully the member for Balga, Marangaroo and Girrawheen between 1988 and 2001, he represented substantially the same part of the northern suburbs over those 13 years and built a strong rapport with his electors. All four of his electoral contests occurred during an extended period in which the electoral tide was not running in his party's favour, and his results reflect well on his personal standing and performance within his electorate. Starting with a tough by-election for the Balga seat in 1988, at each election Ted Cunningham received consistent primary vote percentages of 55 to 59 per cent. Although he represented what were clearly Labor electorates, they also contained suburbs with more volatile voting records. By all accounts, Ted Cunningham never took voter support for granted. As we all know, he worked hard and successfully to earn the respect and support of his constituents. It is a great mistake to imagine that the only worthwhile parliamentary activity lies in achieving ministerial office. Ted Cunningham did not seek the front bench; in any case, he sat in opposition for the bulk of his time as a member of Parliament. He made his mark very strongly as opposition Whip from 1997 until his retirement; and as a member of the Legislative Assembly he was never afraid to speak

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out forcefully on issues of conscience and issues that he thought were in the best interests of his constituents. As the Premier said, he was president of the Parliamentary Labor Party from 1994 to 1997. That in itself reflects the respect his colleagues had for him. Ted Cunningham was very much liked and well respected by members of the Liberal Party - indeed, all members of this House - in his capacity as both a member and a representative for his electorate. He was known to be a straightshooter on all counts. After retirement from Parliament, Ted continued his close involvement with the Australian Labor Party and also actively represented racing interests, including to members of Parliament.

Fortunately, it is rare to lose a member who served in this House such a short time after his retirement. Most members served with Ted Cunningham in this Chamber only two and a half years ago. He was the one of the older-style politicians. He was a person with integrity who did not mind a bit of humour. The Premier referred to a couple of incidents. I think we all remember the Maxwell Smart phone episode in which he reduced the whole Chamber to hilarity. His newspaper, *The Leader*, was a legendary publication. I have a copy here. As every issue was released, Ted would come into this House and proudly show it, particularly to Liberal members of Parliament, to demonstrate how hard he was working. Each time we would ask Ted if the paper contained a photo of him, and there would be the odd photo of Ted. The challenge was to find a page in which there was not a photo of Ted! We rarely found that.

As an advocate of the racing industry after his retirement from Parliament, Ted spoke to many members. On many occasions he invited me to have lunch. I regret that I did not take up those invitations, but I am going to the Perth Cup next year. His final lobbying success was in getting me to the Perth Cup, and I regret that he will not be there. Perhaps I will get a tip on the winner from above. Ted was a fine man and parliamentarian. He will always be remembered for his humour, good nature and integrity. Most of all, he stands above all of us in the way in which he served his constituency. On behalf of the Parliamentary and lay Liberal Party, I extend my sympathy to his wife Julie, and his family and friends. He was a very fine man.

MR M.W. TRENORDEN (Avon - Leader of the National Party) [2.17 pm]: On behalf of my colleagues in the National Party, I will add to the list of tributes to Ted Cunningham. I am sure there will be many speakers after me. The wonderful thing about Ted Cunningham was that he had a capacity to relate to people from all walks of life. He seemingly had an instant rapport with people from all political persuasions. He was an engaging person and had a wonderful sense of humour. As long as I am alive he will live in my stories. About once a week I dine out on a particular story. It is one of my favourite stories in politics. It is no denigration of Ted whatsoever; it was a wonderful event. It is a pity that it is not totally recorded in *Hansard* because the proceedings were reminiscent of a John Cleese skit. It was a wonderful night and showed Ted's character. Like all stories, it has been amended slightly as the weeks, months and years have gone by. Another good humorist in this Chamber, the member for Moore, was speaking. His dissertation on the virtues of the goods and services tax encouraged Ted to get to his feet and put the mobile phone in his shoe into action. It was a great night and showed the character of the man.

Although in the past few months Ted was very ill, he continued to do what he always did - he reached out to and touched people. That is a credit to him and the way in which he conducted his life. He has made a lasting contribution to Western Australia and, in particular, to his own community. Not many members in this Chamber and in politics can transcend their own party and relate to people from across the spectrum, but Ted did that with comfort. I am sure he is remembered with great affection by all the members in this Chamber and by the parliamentary staff.

Ted was very proud of his history as a hot metal printer. He regularly spoke to me about his capacity as a printer. He was exceedingly proud of *The Leader* magazine. I will not be as nasty as the members who spoke before me about the number of photos of Ted in *The Leader*. However, I must agree that if the photos of Ted were not included in the paper, it would be only two or three pages long. It took Ted an enormous amount of effort to put that paper together. It was a substantial effort on his part to get sponsorship for the paper and to have it printed. I agree with the Premier that none of us will repeat that process. It was an enormous effort and is a great credit to him. Ted was a courageous man and he will be sadly missed by us all.

MR J.C. KOBELKE (Nollamara - Leader of the House) [2.21 pm]: I had the privilege of knowing Ted Cunningham for over 20 years, and for 12 of those years he and I shared adjoining electorates. I got to know him on a party basis because we were also factional colleagues in the Labor Party. I knew him as a local member. We worked together with individuals and community groups. I am privileged to say that I got to know him also as a friend. It was a privilege also to get to know his wife Julie, and the members of his extended family.

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Ted was a great local member who worked very hard. He took his role of representing his constituents very seriously, and he did it very well. Ted was a party activist for some 50 years. Through the Australian Labor Party, he was dedicated to advancing the interests of the people he represented. All of that grew out of the person of whom we all knew a little. We all saw different parts of Ted Cunningham. What shone through to everyone was that he was a warm, genuine individual. He did not see people as belonging to different classes or groups. He was able to cross boundaries, whether that meant making friends with people who might be seen as political enemies or whether it meant visiting different groups within his electorate and being open to all sorts of different interest groups and communities. As someone said very well at his funeral, he was able to build bridges and to build rapport and relationships with people from all walks of life.

By doing that he encouraged many young people to become involved in their communities. That was evident when he and I visited the schools we shared in our electorates. He encouraged young people to make the best of their talents not only by the words he spoke to them but also by the friendship he extended to them. Of course, if he thought the students were particularly good, he might take out his Australian Labor Party membership book and suggest they become members. He was very genuine in his endeavours to get those people to contribute to the community and to do the very best they could to advance themselves.

That ethos was very much based on his firm Christian principles. Ted was a staunch Catholic. He grew up in the days of the Young Christian Worker movement. That Christian apostolate was not just about what might be considered to be religious matters; it was very much about committed Catholics being part of the community and advancing the interests of working men and women. Ted very much came from that mould, and I do not think that he ever lost that. That sat very comfortably with him being a staunch member of the Australian Labor Party. People could see not only that they were committed to a faith in which they respected and did their best for other people, but also that there was a need to organise and advance their interests. Ted saw in the unions and in the Australia Labor Party a model by which he could seek to fulfil that.

During the 50 years Ted was a member of the Labor Party, he did a lot to encourage people to join the party and to work through the party to achieve what they saw as the betterment of our community. He did that in the way in which he was able to understand the interests of people with different perspectives. Through that understanding, he could get people to work together and try to resolve issues. I was with him on the night of the by-election when he won his seat. There was a big swing away from the Labor Party in that seat, which had been held by the former Premier, Brian Burke. I tried to cheer up Ted by pointing out that I had done the numbers and found that when Sir David Brand stood down in Greenough there was an even bigger swing against the Liberal Party. However, that did not console him very much. The next day he was determined that he would improve his vote by working hard for the people he represented. At every subsequent election he increased the percentage of the vote for the Australian Labor Party. He was very genuine in making sure that he did the very best for the people in his electorate.

As has already been alluded to, Ted used *The Leader* newspaper for that purpose. In fact, it was so successful, and Ted put so much effort into it and encouraged and cajoled so many other people to become involved in it, that he was nicknamed Rupert - as in Rupert Murdoch. He would always answer to the name Rupert. He put a great amount of effort into publishing that newspaper, which was respected throughout his electorate. He used to get complaints when an edition had been published and people had not received it in their letterbox, because people looked forward to receiving it. It was not just an issue of Ted recognising people's efforts; it was part of his effort to build a community in his electorate so that people could see all the good things that happened in his electorate. *The Leader* might have included the odd political story but, on the whole, it informed the community about the good things that were happening in the community.

I count it as great privilege to have worked alongside Ted Cunningham and to have been his friend. We are much the worse for his passing. He made a great contribution to this House. I pass on my condolences to Julie and his family.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland - Minister for Police and Emergency Services) [2.26 pm]: I place on record my condolences to Ted Cunningham's wife Julie, and to Ted's extended family, many of whom are sitting with Julie today in the Speaker's gallery. There are also friends of Ted's in the public gallery. I express my sympathy to Ted's brother and sister who live in Queensland and who have been in Western Australia recently but have now returned to Queensland.

I first met Ted Cunningham in the early 1980s. At that stage, I knew Ted's reputation as a numbers man. I am sure people in this Chamber are familiar with that terminology. It means someone who is very good at getting the votes, particularly in internal party elections and pre-selections. Ted was not just good at this activity, he

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excelled at it. No doubt a number of former and current members of Parliament in the Labor Party have a lot for which to thank Ted.

Of course, as has been illustrated by comments made today, Ted was much more than a numbers man. Ted was a supreme organiser. It might be more appropriate to call Ted a people person. As members on both sides of the House can attest, Ted was one of the nicest, friendliest and most sociable people that one was ever likely to encounter. He was always ready for a drink, a chat or a bite to eat.

The telephone was one of his favourite tools. I am sure there were times when the phone had been at his ear for so long that it would almost have required surgery to detach it. Ted was in constant communication with people and spoke at length on the phone.

Ted organised all kinds of things. He organised lunches, dinners, numbers and social get-togethers. He organised anything from a meeting in a phone box to a meeting in trades hall. He organised advertising, fundraisers, sweeps, raffles and, as has been mentioned, even his own local newspaper, *The Leader*. Not only did Ted feature at least once on every page of *The Leader*, but also many other members on this side of the House were regularly featured in that newspaper. Ted Cunningham organised our lives on so many days throughout the year. The Premier alluded to the fact that we were almost compelled to go to St Patrick's Day functions at Chinese restaurants. Ted also tried to organise our lives on Melbourne Cup day, Philippine national day, Easter, Christmas and just about every festival in between.

One of Ted Cunningham's outstanding qualities was that he never discriminated - race, age and gender were all irrelevant. He counted among his closest friends men and women, old and young and people of many diverse ethnic origins and religions.

For the first few years that I knew Ted, he genuinely thought that my husband Greg and I were Jewish. It was not until we genuflected at Ed Dermer's wedding, at which we were both guests, that he started to have some doubts. Having noted my husband's renewing acquaintances with a former Christian Brothers, Highgate, boy, he asked me incredulously whether my husband had attended Christian Brothers. I said yes, and he replied that that was very interesting. He asked where I went to school, and I told him Mercedes. He said that that was very interesting. He asked me whether many Jewish girls were at Mercedes. Still not catching on that anybody could possibly think I was Jewish, I said, "I suppose there were a few." A little later he asked me why I thought Jewish people would send their daughters to Catholic schools, and I said, "Frankly, Ted, I've no idea." Somebody as a joke, I think, had once said to him that one of my uncles, who he knew pretty well, was Jewish, and he had taken it literally. He assumed that if he was Jewish, I must be, too.

People have also mentioned that Ted had a great rapport with young people. In those early 1980s, I was certainly one of those young people in the Labor Party who Ted encouraged to have greater involvement. I was about 24 or 25 years of age when Ted first told me that he thought that I should be on the administrative committee of the Labor Party. At that time, I did not know there was an administrative committee of the Labor Party. Ted soon acquainted me with that committee and the party's state executive, and indicated what a fantastic contribution I could make. Thanks to Ted, I have continuously been on the Labor Party's administrative committee since 1986; I now have the role of president.

People mentioned this afternoon that Ted loved children. He genuinely loved children. He was a great friend to, and spoilt, my children. He spoilt many people's children. He spoilt his nieces and nephews and his and Julie's many godchildren. All those children were treated as though they were family, and were regarded by Ted and Julie as family. My children certainly regard both Ted and Julie as family.

As history records, Ted organised his own numbers and entered Parliament on 19 March 1988. People have alluded to that date. It is worthwhile noting that 19 March is St Joseph's Day, which, indeed, is the same day of my election at a by-election in 1994. It could not have been a more fitting saint's day for Ted to be elected. People alluded to Ted's strong Catholic faith. St Joseph was the worker, and Joseph is Ted's second Christian name. As members know, Ted was an exceptionally hard worker in Parliament representing the workers' party. It was fitting that his election to Parliament was on St Joseph's Day.

In the nearly 13 years Ted served in Parliament, he undoubtedly showed himself to be an excellent member of Parliament. Many people have commented on his fantastic grassroots constituent work - it was legendary. Such work in his constituency was clearly reflected, as the Opposition Leader has highlighted, in his increased majorities at every successive election following his first election to Parliament. Ted also held a number of positions in the State Parliamentary Labor Party. He was President of our State Parliamentary Caucus between February 1993 and December 1996, and he went on from that role to be our Opposition Whip between 1997 and 2001. He did a great job in both those roles.

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As has already been mentioned, Ted entertained his colleagues on many occasions. The shoe phone incident, in which, as was his wont, he said “wing, wing”, is legendary. I note that with the new code of conduct, he would not be able to say this any more: I heard him say one night that a member had a good head for picking up things, and he followed up that comment by saying he should have been a chook. Ted always said those things very much in jest, and most members remember those incidents very fondly.

I also reflect on some of the strong and principled stands that Ted Cunningham took in Parliament. Although Ted was a fabulously good-natured person who enjoyed a joke and a laugh, he also took very seriously the principles in which he believed. Many of us will remember his contribution to the abortion debate and his unswerving commitment to unborn children. Many will recall that Ted Cunningham chose during 1999 to name drug dealers and certain drug houses in his electorate. That was a very principled stand. He used phrases at that time describing those drug dealers as “the leaches killing our youth”. I can only commend Ted for what he did then. He followed the strength of his conviction and genuinely abhorred those people who put the lives of our young people at risk. He decided to do something about it.

We can learn a lot from everybody we meet in life. Many people inside and outside this Parliament learnt a lot from Ted. He touched the lives of thousands of people. A number of eulogies were given at the church service for Ted's funeral in which people spoke about the ways Ted had touched their lives. The impact he had on people's lives was phenomenal. Since that day, an enormous number of people have told me how Ted Cunningham had touched their lives, too. It seems remarkable that one individual can have had such a huge impact on so many people's lives.

Only this week, a mutual friend of Ted's and mine was over from Canberra. This gentleman first met Ted in 1986 when he would have been only 20 or 22 years old. He met him at a Hobart conference, and Ted convinced him that he should work for the Labor Party in Perth. That fellow did so between 1987 and 1989. Well over 10 years later, that person still reflected on the impact Ted Cunningham had on his life and some of his life choices and how much he learnt from Ted - this was as a result of knowing Ted for only two years. Likewise, Ted was a fantastic influence on the lives of his many nieces, nephews and other family; he was enormously supportive of them all.

Throughout the highs of political life, another noteworthy factor with Ted was that he remained incredibly humble. A member has already reflected today that Ted's aspiration was not to be on the front bench. He remained humble right to the end. The Premier already mentioned the excellent final speech that Ted gave in Parliament, as part of which he said -

I stand here today with many of the same feelings I had some 12 and a half years ago when I delivered my first speech in this House. On that day in 1988 I was filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and humility.

...

We are all fortunate people to be members of Parliament, and I have never taken my position for granted. It is indeed a great honour to be elected to represent those people who put trust in me . . . I am grateful to the people of those three electorates.

Ted also commented in that final speech -

No member of Parliament can be successful without loyal and supportive staff, friends and family. I have indeed been very much blessed to have had that support.

Ted was known for thanking people who helped him. He was also known for mentioning more people in his speeches than any other member of Parliament has done. In the final speech he recognised and thanked just short of 200 people by name. Ted was very grateful to each and every one of those people for their support. As the Premier has already alluded to, he especially thanked some of his closest friends, including Batong Pham, Bob Tanasoski and members of this House. He also thanked his former electorate officer, Carmel Macri, who had been his electorate officer for the whole time he was a member of Parliament. It also says something about Ted that someone was happy to work with him for a full 12 and a half years without looking for other employment. He also profusely thanked his wife Julie, whom he described not just in the Parliament but also at many public forums as a godsend and a saint. Julie is indeed a wonderful person and, like us all, is blessed to have known Ted.

I believe we are all the greater for having known Ted, and his passing leaves a hole in our lives and in our hearts. One of Ted's favourite sayings, as has already been mentioned by the Premier, was “Without friends, the world

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is nothing but a wilderness". Sadly, for all of us, with the passing of Ted there is a little more wilderness in our lives.

Ted certainly had a big impact on me and my family. My husband Greg, daughters Elizabeth, Candice and Eleanor, will never forget Ted. He was one of the best friends any of us could have wished for. Ted told me to ask people to remember the good times, to remember him fondly and to remember him happy. That is what we will do. It is hard at times, but it would be very difficult to forget that mischievous grin of Ted's and that sparkle in his eye. We will also certainly remember the strength, courage, loyalty and humility that he exhibited right up until the end.

MR M.G. HOUSE (Stirling) [2.41 pm]: I want to add a few words of condolence for Ted Cunningham's family and say that during my years in Parliament only four other members of this Chamber that I served with have passed away. I guess that bodes well for many of us, and I certainly hope there are no more. I am saddened to think that Ted Cunningham happened to be one of those few.

Previous speakers have paid tribute to Ted's association with the Australian Labor Party and with this Parliament. I endorse all of those comments. I want to focus on a slightly different aspect of Ted's parliamentary service and his service to this State. I had the pleasure of chairing the Select Committee on the Right to Farm, of which Ted Cunningham was a member. He made a major contribution to that select committee, and it was a select committee he enjoyed serving on. He was one of those happy and jovial people who, when the going got a bit tough, added humour to our lives. At one stage during the life of that select committee we travelled to America, as is the wont of some select committees. I do not know that Ted had been overseas many times, but he had some set ideas about travelling, one of which was to lose his passport as often as he possibly could. In fact on one occasion he left it in a taxi. We telephoned the taxi company and then held up the plane somewhere in America while the taxi company searched for his passport. Members can imagine a large city in America - I cannot remember which one it was - being searched for a taxi with a lost passport. Finally, the company managed to find it. When we all got on the plane I happened to be sitting near Ted. When we were about to get off at the next airport and I asked him whether he had his passport and he said, "No." I looked down and he had stuck it in the pocket in the seat in front of him. He was about to leave the aeroplane without his passport again. I also remember an instance one morning when we were being briefed about where we were to go and we were told that we would pass within 10 kilometres of Niagara Falls but we would not have time to go there. Ted shuffled around a bit, looked at us all, and said, "I think we have got time to go there; we won't get this close to Niagara Falls again." So we were fortunate enough to go to Niagara Falls, thanks to Ted. The highlight of that trip was a meeting with a young American governor - the Governor of Arkansas at the time - who was a pretender to the presidency; and he was only a pretender at that stage. He gave us all quite a long audience, including Phil Smith, who was then the member for Bunbury, and my colleague Paul Omodei. I show members a picture of that meeting with Bill Clinton, who was then the governor, soon to become President of the United States. Members will notice that Ted is right beside him - he had a great sense of moment. The rest of us were shuffled a bit further away, but Ted was shoulder to shoulder with him. I think that photograph might have appeared in *The Leader* from time to time, if not on a regular basis. He was very proud of that time. At that stage none of us knew that Clinton was to become President, but we soon formed this great association where we all claimed we had been friends with him forever.

I could not speak more highly of Ted Cunningham. He was one of those genuine, friendly guys who was always willing to help people; he was never the sort of fellow you could take offence at. You could have a difference of opinion, but you could never take offence at him. His contribution has been outlined in more detail by others and stands for itself, but I want to relate one final story. Ted and I were in the same room on this particular trip and we were talking about something when a phone call came through from Julie. He picked up the phone and said, "Julie, oh Julie, I love you." I thought that really epitomised Ted Cunningham - he said it straight away; he meant it. I am sure that our hearts go out to Julie and her family. He is a man that I will remember forever.

MR A.D. MARSHALL (Dawesville) [2.45 pm]: As captain of the parliamentary sports club, I feel it is important to record that Ted Cunningham was a member of the Western Australian parliamentary bowling club for eight years. He was lead bowler of the winning WA side that took out the 1995 interstate carnival in Caloundra, Queensland. History will show that Ted, with Tom Butler, Tom McNeil and Bob Thomas won the title of champion rink at that time. Ted was very proud of that achievement. He was also a member of Western Australia's team that won in Perth in 2000. He played bowls as he played his life - competitive and friendly, with a never-stop-trying-to-improve attitude. Ted was one of the most popular bowlers at the carnivals, and he could spin a yarn over a drink with the best of them.

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I enjoyed Ted's company. We often pooled our knowledge about racehorses. We could trust each other and talk openly about life in general. A couple of years back I took Ted and Julie crabbing in Mandurah, and that opened his eyes to what was happening in Mandurah. It opened his eyes to another style of life. It opened his eyes to the waterways. We laughed and joked about that day for a long time.

As Opposition Whip, he was my "mate", setting up pairs just about any time I needed them, for which I was forever grateful. I always looked forward to Ted's budget speeches, because as a betting man I would bet on how many people he would mention. He would talk about his electorate and he would mention every nun, priest and person who ever helped him. He was a very kind person. Someone once said that wisdom is derived from a lifetime of listening when you prefer to talk. Ted Cunningham was a good listener and his wisdom, in his own special way, was far reaching. I will miss him. Helen and I extend our heartfelt sympathy to Julie and her family.

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura) [2.48 pm]: I also want to indulge in this condolence debate. I knew Ted for 20 years. I first knew Ted when I was the mayor and he was working for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. In those days, whenever you wanted something done, Ted would make sure it happened. I also knew him when he was the member for Girrawheen, Marangaroo and various other electorates. He covered the suburb of Ballajura, which is part of the electorate of Ballajura. I took over the electorate from him after a Liberal member, Rhonda Parker, had held it for four years. I know that the community is sad at his passing. I visited him on the Thursday before he passed away. I had just come from a meeting in Ballajura and the first thing I was asked at the meeting was how Ted Cunningham was; they did not ask me how I was or what I was going to do for them! That shows that, even eight years after he had ceased to be the member, the community still held him in high esteem. Not only did he work very hard for his community, but also he made sure to extol the virtues of every member of the community who achieved something. At the rosary the priest mentioned how people were recognised for their achievements in *The Leader*. Ted had great pride in showing off his community and its achievements. Although *The Leader* was full of photographs of Ted, it was also full of the achievements of his community. He was very proud of that. I later knew Ted as my keen supporter. I remember my fateful preselection and Ted, through principle, stuck up for me. If it had not been for Ted, I would not be a member of this place today. There are a number of other members who would also not be in this place if it had not been for the principled decisions that Ted and others made.

Ted was an absolute gentleman. The racing association did a great thing in getting Ted to be its ambassador. Fortunately for the Leader of the Opposition, Ted is not here to give him any tips. Ted's tips were not anywhere as good as the person. I used to go to the races quite often with Ted but I am still waiting for a winner! The racing fraternity implored him to get more politicians to the racetrack so that we could lose our money! Ted was held in great esteem by both sides of the political spectrum because he opened doors to people who needed help. More importantly, he did it genuinely for the benefit of people in the community. A number of his supporters are in the House today. I acknowledge Julie Cunningham, Carmel Macri - Ted's electorate officer during his time in Parliament - and Batong Pham, his last protégé. I promised Ted that I would look after Batong. Now that I have announced it in Parliament, everyone will know I will look after Batong's interests.

Ted was an absolutely wonderful person. The words that sum him up are loyalty and passion. He was absolutely loyal to his wife Julie and his family. He was absolutely loyal to, and passionate about, the Catholic community. He was absolutely passionate about the ALP. This February would have been 50 years since Ted became a member of the Labor Party. He was absolutely committed to his community and individuals. His loyalty never failed. If Ted said he would do something, he would do it. Not only did he do it, he did it with kindness and love. He left no stone unturned to ensure that he was successful at whatever he did. The image that will stick in my mind forever is that of the Premier and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services - as President of the Western Australian Labor Party - giving Ted life membership. He was lying in bed with a mask on his face, and he was not feeling the greatest. The Premier handed him a certificate and pinned his medal to his lapel. Ted smiled, gave us the thumbs up, and the old Ted Cunningham wink. That image will remain with me forever. That was something very special that I will remember forever. He was very happy that the Labor Party recognised him as such an important member. He did not realise how important he was. He guided a number of members of Parliament and others, who are coming through the ranks.

Ted will be dearly missed because he was a special person. I know Ted had a number of friends on the other side of the political spectrum. Within our ranks, no-one had a bad word to say about Ted Cunningham. He was a nice person who would always look after the best interests of the community. People talk about *The Leader*. When I was about to become the member for Ballajura he suggested that, as it was part of his old electorate, we should share *The Leader*. He asked me to get him some advertising to help pay for an extended edition. It was

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normally eight pages but he wanted 16 pages. The only trouble was that he wanted 12 pages and I was to have only four! It was full of Ted's photos. He told me I would learn. We struck up a great friendship. During the first election campaign I remember him taking me to all the community groups: Vietnamese, Filipino, Korean, Macedonian and Italian. He was like a godfather to them. I think that is where his nickname came from - Father Ted. We all knew him affectionately as Father Ted because he looked after all of us. Apart from that, he also looked like a priest! He was known by all the communities and he stuck by them. Sometimes, he did not understand what some community members were saying. Nevertheless, he would nod and try to help them. He would help anyone who was an underdog. If someone did not have a voice, Ted Cunningham would give him a voice. More importantly, Ted knew the way to achieve results for people.

I will never forget the story of Batong Pham. He said at the eulogy that he went to Ted for help. Not only was he helped, but also he was given a pile of ALP membership applications to join the party! That is the calibre of Ted. I greatly miss him, as not only a member of the community but as a friend. We were all privileged to have him as a friend and colleague. I thank him for making sure I am a member of this place today.

MR R.A. AINSWORTH (Roe) [2.56 pm]: I send my condolences to Ted Cunningham's wife and extended family. Ted was a friend to all in this place. I appreciated that as a member because, quite often, the general public believes that government and opposition members do not get on because they are in different parties and have different points of view on some issues. That is true; we do have different points of view on some issues. There was never any doubt where Ted stood. He was unashamedly a strong advocate of the Labor Party and had been for his entire life. He was a staunch member of his church and made no bones about that. One always knew precisely where Ted was coming from in respect of what he believed. He also believed in the value of people. The political or general background of a person did not matter to Ted. It was always a pleasure to work with Ted in this place because he was always good-humoured and a great person to get on with. As we have heard, he was a good humorist. The speeches in which he mentioned people from his electorate were legendary; they will never be forgotten by those who heard them. I sometimes wondered whether he was quoting a list of people who had helped him or whether he was just reading the electoral roll because the list was so long! I have no doubt that the people he mentioned were his helpers and had done something for Ted because, conversely, Ted had done something for them. It has been made very clear by members today that that was the case. If more people in this place behaved in the way that Ted Cunningham did, people would stick to their principles unashamedly and, at the same time, get on with people as people. If they did, the world would be a better place. We are much the worse for the loss of Ted Cunningham.

MS K. HODSON-THOMAS (Carine) [2.58 pm]: I want to speak more about the private person. Many members of the Government would have heard me speak at Ted's eulogy during the funeral. I was probably a bit stronger that day because I had my son with me who told me that Ted would not want me to be sad; he would want me to remember the good times. Others have already spoken about Ted and his commitment to the Labor Party and his political career, but I want to reflect on our friendship.

As I said at his funeral, our friendship was unusual, given our different political affiliations, but it was a friendship that was not encumbered by our politics; rather, it was a friendship based on similar values and beliefs. Ted affectionately referred to me as his Liberal friend and I to him as my Labor friend. I know that many did not understand our friendship, but we did. It was based on a mutual understanding and respect for each other and I was truly blessed to count him as a friend - a kindred spirit.

Our friendship was cemented as a result of our attendance at the Second World Congress of Families in Geneva. We both represented our political parties. I remember the Premier said to me when he was the Leader of the Opposition, "Make sure you look after him." In fact, Ted looked after me. It was an amazing conference, made all the more special because of Ted's enthusiasm and his good humour, and particularly when we were presented with our name tags. I must say this so that it is recorded in this place. Ted was given the tag of the Leader of the Opposition and I was given the tag of the Premier of Western Australia. We both realised we would never aspire to those positions, but we never stopped laughing about it. I felt we should correct the record, but Ted kept saying, "No, no, no. I'm finally the leader of the Labor Party of Western Australia!" It was during that time that Ted shared his sadness about not seeking re-endorsement for the seat of Girrawheen, and he talked about his commitment to his political beliefs and the sadness he felt about the events that led to that decision. I endeavoured to be a good listener and to offer him some moral support, encouraging him to enjoy the future journey and to give back to his lifelong companion, Julie, who is a wonderful person. Ted referred to Julie as his angel. He also told me about the other two angels in his life - Michelle and Carmel - and he spoke of them with deep admiration and fondness. For some reason after that conference he decided to make me his fourth angel. I am not sure why; I am absolutely certain that I did not deserve it, but he seemed to think so.

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As I said during the eulogy, Ted was a man of the people. He had an enormous heart and a generosity and kindness that could overwhelm people. He gave and gave and never expected anything in return. One of his most endearing qualities and what I admired most about Ted was his humility. It stood him apart from the rest of us. He was truly one of nature's gentlemen, one of a kind, incredibly special, thoughtful, compassionate, selfless and always willing to give. He never did anything by half. Even when he invited me for fish and chips, Ted would arrive with silver cutlery and glasses. I thought we would eat our fish and chips out of paper, but Ted arrived with the crockery and the glassware and he made every occasion special. That was just the way both he and Julie were. Ted had an innate sense of seeing the good in people and he drew the best out of us. He showered my family and me with his love and kindness and we were the luckier for it. He enriched our lives in many ways.

One of the things I will remember most about Ted was the day we went to Chamonix at Mont Blanc when we were in Switzerland. I was very enthusiastic and I said to Ted about 15 minutes before the bus left, "We have to hurry. Let's go." I dragged Ted along. As it is known, I probably crippled Ted on that trip. I walked him everywhere and I should have been a bit more mindful that he was 20 years my senior, but it never showed in Ted. He was one of those people who never complained. We went to Chamonix and we went through the tunnel. I remember Ted saying to me that it could be all fogged in when we got there, and I said that it would not be fogged in; it would be beautiful. When we arrived through the tunnel, the sun was shining and we went up in the cable car. We got to the top of Mont Blanc and looked at those wonderful mountains and it felt like we were on top of the world, seeing one of God's great creations. I will remember a special photograph I have of Ted and me up there.

As some would know, both Ted and Julie took an active interest in my family, particularly my son Carl. They sponsored him at his confirmation. Ted was a wonderful role model and godparent to Carl. However, he was never able to convert him to Labor politics!

Mrs M.H. Roberts: There's still time!

Ms K. HODSON-THOMAS: No; that is one young capitalist! It was an awkward moment for me when Ted asked me to his testimonial dinner - the roast. It was really important to Ted for me to attend. He told me that he really wanted me and my family there. I must tell the Labor members opposite that I felt like a fish out of water, but Ted certainly made me feel welcome. I know that my colleagues on this side may not understand it, but it was important to Ted and it was important to me as his friend.

I would like to include a couple of remarks that my son made at his funeral. I know that Ted's family is gathering different stories to compile for his memoirs. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I would like to record his comments; they are brief. During the eulogy at Ted's funeral Carl said -

My dearest friend Ted:

At first I found it difficult to try and put words on how great a man Ted was, because I didn't know where to start!

But;

Ted's greatest attribute was what he shared to everyone he met. His unconditional friendship... He had no hidden agenda, or ulterior motive to being a great friend. He was solely interested in making those around him happy.

Ted acted in Solidarity to everyone he met.

When I initially heard about Ted being ill, it reminded me of a Latin saying I once read, it is: Quod me nutriet me destruit. Meaning - What nourishes me destroys me.

I think Carl was looking for a bit of a laugh at this point, but it did not really happen for him, unfortunately -

As we all know Ted enjoyed indulging in an occasional drink!

I am sure we have all had a drink or two with Ted.

Reminiscing... I cannot help be sad about Ted's passing but I know that Ted will be there looking down on all of us... Regardless, I also know that he'd want us to be happy for the fond/happy times we shared.

Ted and I shared so many fond moments. Things I'll surely look back on for many years to come. Ted often came to my school and club rugby games. I shared many significant memories with Ted and Julie

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after these games. The most memorable of which would be the Grand Final we won last year, Ted and Julie came and shared the moment with me. This was followed with some Ba-Tong strawberries! The funny thing was, it wasn't... "Go Nedland's" ... coming from the sideline it was... "Go Carl"... from dear Ted. Last night mum and I talked about the good times we shared with Ted. There are too many funny good moments to speak about today... I will always remember Ted as being a hilarious person. But, unless you were there you cannot appreciate the hilarity.

Ted I will always remember you... You made such a positive impact on my life, and I hope that you left knowing that I really cared for you, and found myself blessed to have a friend like you.

I also think you left the same impression on everyone in this room.

If I could leave this world with even half the impact Ted contributed to it, I'm sure I would die happy and content.

It's quite true to say that you don't appreciate how good they are until they are gone...

I also would like to convey my condolences to Julie and the entire family. Julie has been a remarkable friend to me as well. She is somebody I have drawn a great deal of strength from during Ted's illness, and I will always be there for her.

MS J.A. RADISICH (Swan Hills) [3.10 pm]: I express sadness at the loss of my friend Ted Cunningham. I am also privileged to be able to stand in this place today as a member of the Western Australian Parliament and join in the condolence motion. It is fair to say that Ted had his part to play in my being here today and I thank him for that.

I have been thinking about Ted a lot lately, about my relationship with him and about his personal characteristics. The words that keep coming back to me when thinking about Ted are: encouraging and generous. There is a third adjective actually that comes to mind when I think of Ted, and that is cheeky; he was very, very cheeky. I admired Ted because he always encouraged others to bigger and better things. He offered inspiration and he promoted aspiration; in my view two fine qualities for a person involved in public life.

As the honourable member for Midland outlined in her speech, Ted always looked past one's physical qualities. Colour, ethnicity and especially age were transparent to Ted; he was interested only in the true person. Ted extended his unconditional friendship and support to many people of different colour, ethnicity and age. I am grateful to have known Ted and to have had him play a part in my life over the past number of years. I am also honoured to be a beneficiary of both his encouragement and his support.

I appreciate the opportunity that Ted offered to me when I was a member of his staff together with Carmel, although my time with him was a short period. I do not, however, regret that I declined Ted's kind offer to help me establish *The Leader* in Swan Hills! I will always remember Ted's jovial, welcoming spirit and our special dim sum lunches together in Girrawheen. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife Julie, who is a wonderful woman with a strong faith that will serve her well in this difficult time.

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.14 pm]: I pass on my respects to Julie Cunningham, family and friends here today and elsewhere. I have known Ted for about 10 years. I always found him to be a very engaging, interesting and humorous human being. Those who were members of this place in the last term of government will remember that there always appeared to be a crowd of people in the corner opposite where Ted, as Opposition Whip, sat, and whenever a member was speaking, laughter always interrupted them from that corner. Ted also had a very serious side. I sat next to Ted in those four years in the spot now occupied by the member for Dawesville. Whenever I wanted advice and thoughts from an older head, I would always ask Ted and he would give me advice born of decades of experience as a political activist and as a politician. He had a very long history in the party that went back to before the great split in the Australian Labor Party in 1957. Despite the fact that many people of the Catholic faith left the ALP in 1957, Ted remained with the party and remained loyal to the party. After that time, Ted had a lot of different occupations. He became a small business man at one time and although a lot of small business people strayed from their loyalty to the ALP, Ted always remained strictly firm and devoted to the ALP, despite those two significant events that took place during his membership.

Ted was a devoted member of Parliament. He served the Balga-northern suburbs area for 12 years. The Premier omitted to mention that back in 1986, when preselection became available for the seat of Victoria Park, Ted - who lived in that area - was an unofficial rival to the Premier for that seat. He did not succeed in obtaining preselection and he often said to me that he was much better suited to Marangaroo than to the electorate of

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Victoria Park. The electorate of Victoria Park has, of course, gentrified in many respects; whereas the area of Marangaroo has remained much more a grassroots working-class area that suited a person like Ted Cunningham.

Ted was a devoted MP; no issue was too small for him. If members have ever read *The Leader*, they will know that there was always an article in it from Ted about traffic lights, local parks, kerbs or guttering. He was always devoted to helping other human beings. He showed his devotion to the people of Marangaroo by living in his electorate of Marangaroo in his time as a member of Parliament. After leaving Parliament he remained living in that working-class area of Marangaroo.

The members of Parliament who were here for the last four years of Ted's time in the Parliament, from 1996 to 2001, will recall that often they walked past brand new Fairlanes, Falcons and Calais and so forth in the members' carpark outside the Parliament. However, if they walked past Ted's car, they would have seen an old, beaten-up Sigma that was kind of held together with rust, with a little paint covering up the rust. On the back windscreen of Ted's Sigma was a sticker that said, "Annoy a liberal, work hard and be happy". I asked Ted once where he got that sticker. He said that he obtained it when he went to the United States on what I think was called the right to farm delegation or the farming delegation referred to by the member for Stirling. It was a right-wing Republican sticker that Ted had purloined from the United States and adopted as an ALP slogan in the northern suburbs of Perth. That showed Ted's style; he was very adaptable and not afraid to do things like that.

Ted was a devoted member of Parliament. He had a long history in the youth council in New South Wales. He knew a great number of the Labor greats. He was the President of the youth council when Paul Keating joined as a 15-year-old and when Laurie Brereton and Bob Carr joined. Ted was actually their superior at one time in a political sense; he knew all of them. I often asked him about those iconic figures. I am not sure about Ted's view of them. Ted was much more of a hard-working, devoted person; whereas I think he regarded those people as a little too hungry and ambitious for his liking. Nevertheless, Ted became a very good member of Parliament. My major contact with him was, as I said, as opposition Deputy Whip in this place when I sat next to him. I recall when I was elected opposition Deputy Whip at my first Caucus meeting in late 1996 I was very nervous about taking on the role. I thought it might be too demanding. I was very nervous about my electoral responsibilities versus that. Ted said, "Don't worry about it; as Whip I'll look after everything and you won't have to worry about it." Then I inquired about the allowance that might be applicable to the opposition Deputy Whip and he said, "Don't worry about that, I'll look after everything." Needless to say, Ted performed the job of Opposition Whip extraordinarily well. He did it so well because he was devoted. He was always in the corner opposite in this Parliament at all hours. He was never off running around the place, which meant that my responsibilities as opposition Deputy Whip were never onerous. Ted's only real exasperation or frustration - he expressed it regularly to me - was with two members of Parliament: one was the former member for Perth, Diana Warnock, and the other the current member for Armadale. Whenever Ted was trying to assemble the troops - we had only 18 or 19 troops at that time - he would turn his back and those two members would be gone. He once said to me, "It's like trying to herd cats with a blindfold on." They were always on the move.

Ted had a great sense of humour. I recall that early on I used to go to the gym at the Parliament. I was down there on one occasion with Julian Grill, the former member for Eyre, and we concocted a plan to tell Ted, who was a large man, that the national secretary, Gary Gray, had put together a new rule that would be implemented, which meant that, to gain preselection, a candidate had to be within a certain weight range. Ted, of course, was outside the weight range. Ted was a very trusting person and when we told him this, he believed us and thought he would have to undergo an exercise regime. We then tried it on the member for Peel, but the member for Peel saw through our little ploy and informed the member for Girrawheen accordingly. He was a good man, and I am sure all of those in the Parliament who served with him will miss him greatly.

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.20 pm]: My condolences to Ted's wife Julie, and his extended family. I have known Ted since 1989. Like Ted, I spent many years in New South Wales. We often used to laugh about the different culture and attitudes in Labor factional politics in Western Australia compared with those in the east - Sydney in particular. We had attended the same conferences in New South Wales but we had not known each other. Had we known each other we certainly would not have been mates. It is very doubtful that we would have even spoken to each other. However, from the beginning of our association in Western Australia we used to laugh about that. Even though we were in different factions, Ted and I got on very well. Over the past few years, I was very proud to call him a friend.

Like the member for Ballajura, I owe Ted Cunningham a lot for the support and encouragement he gave me when I entered politics, and I wish to record that in this Chamber today. He was a kind and good man who tried

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to apply in life the principles of his party and his religion, and I believe he succeeded. Ted will be sorely missed by his family and colleagues and by my family in particular, Vivien Burnham, my wife, and Doris Burnham, my mother-in-law.

MS A.J. MacTIERNAN (Armadale - Minister for Planning and Infrastructure) [3.22 pm]: I very briefly join this tribute to our friend and colleague, Ted Cunningham. He certainly, at times, made this very difficult place a better and happier environment. As has been said in this place today, he enjoyed great relations with members on both sides of the House. Many of us knew him as "Mr Whippy". It is true that, particularly in my early years in this place, I missed a division or two! However, Ted had a rigorous reform program in place. I also learnt a thing or two. I realised that requests for pairs - I am sure coincidentally - were always much more likely to be successful if those many raffle tickets that Ted used to have draped over his desk were picked up by the requestee. I am pleased to see that our current Whip, when quizzed recently by Ted about whether my reform program had been continuing, was able to report that I had demonstrated model behaviour in not missing divisions!

One of my highlights in opposition was making it into *The Leader*. The member for Fremantle and I had a weekly competition to see who got into the media most often, and we compared notes. The week I was able to come into the Parliament with a copy of *The Leader* was the week I definitely won. That came after Ted and his lovely niece, Dr May, had come to our day at the races. The photograph of me with Ted and May at that event rated inclusion in that prestigious rag. I think, for many of us, the neddies will never be the same now that Ted is not around.

As has been said, Ted cared extraordinarily for his family and his electorate. It would be fair to say that he really did deal with the people of his electorate very much as though they were part of a very big extended family. To Julie and his family, who were the core of his world, our very great sympathy goes to you. He is deeply missed.

MRS C.L. EDWARDES (Kingsley) [3.25 pm]: I also take this opportunity to place on the record my deep appreciation for Ted Cunningham's friendship, not only during his time as a member of this House but also before that. We may have been on opposite sides of the political fence but our work in the northern suburbs often brought us in close contact. In fact, any member wanting to undertake a course in community relations would do well to read one of Ted's budget speeches or his Address-in-Reply speeches. I commend them to members. They give a real insight into the amazing extent to which he worked throughout his electorate and, accordingly, the esteem in which he was held. Ted and I held each other in high regard for our approach to our constituents and we enjoyed a close working relationship. The fact that we may have been political opponents competing for the same vote was irrelevant. We were both doing our best for our constituents and that was what mattered. Our offices worked very closely together. Sometimes, he and I played good cop, bad cop against ministers, depending on which party was in government, but only in the best interests of our constituents. He was always prepared to focus on outcomes and on achieving the best he could for the community he was serving.

As was illustrated at some of the Vietnamese functions, Ted took a little ribbing with his usual good humour. He and my husband Colin used to have competitions eating the Vietnamese spring rolls, which Ted always won. It was not until some time later that he realised we kept giving the empty plates to our host to fill up and put back in front of Ted to which he could not say no. He continued to eat those spring rolls placed in front of him and, lo and behold, another plate full of rolls was put in front of him!

Colin and I enjoyed Julie and Ted's company at the many community functions. In every respect, Ted Cunningham was a genuine individual. In a very real sense, he was a great member of Parliament. Ted took a very personal, kind and genuine interest in our young son Scott and saw him grow up. Our special condolences to Julie and the family.

MR N.R. MARLBOROUGH (Peel - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.27 pm]: I rise to pass on love and condolences to Julie and all of the family from Ros, Patrick and me. While listening to some of the speeches today I felt like the father of the House. Ted and my association go back to 1976 when the Labor Party was in opposition under the leadership of Colin Jamieson, another departed colleague.

When I first met Ted in 1976 he came to Western Australia with a reputation in politics, as people do. When we have been involved for a long time our reputations precede us and people have various preconceived views of us. When I first met Ted in 1976, a number of people in this room thought that his position in the Labor Party should be questioned. However, Ted Cunningham became part of the great history at that time of the Labor Party. I became involved with Ted because I had won preselection in 1976 for the seat of Pilbara where I was living. Mal Bryce, a very good friend of mine at the time, said that he would send me the best political organiser the party had to help run my campaign. I was first introduced to Brian Burke - an introduction that led to a life-long

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friendship. Brian had been in office for less than six months and had won the seat of Balga from Herb Graham, who had retired mid term. He won with a reduced majority from 3 500 to some 49 votes, yet I was to accept him as the best political organiser we had! It was within that context that I first met Ted and Julie. Anyone who knows anything about Ted's history in the Labor Party knows that he had a very close relationship with Brian in those early days and for many years to follow. The success Brian had in those days was shared completely by Ted. Anyone who knows the workings of a political party knows that people in leadership positions need good lieutenants around them, and, without a doubt, Ted Cunningham was the measure of a good lieutenant. He wanted nothing for himself. He wanted success for the Labor Party and he was ready to handle all the legwork necessary to support a leader who would then lead the party to success.

Ted played an integral role in not only the preselection of the individuals who spoke today, but also the 1970s and early 1980s in getting Labor into office in 1982. He should never be forgotten for that. Of course, to do that, he had to have the skills. The skills he needed were to understand human beings. He was able to do that because he had a natural flair for people. He loved people. Politics was a great love of his life. We were very fortunate that, in loving people, he particularly loved people from the Labor Party. He was willing to go to all lengths necessary all the hours of the day and the night to make sure that we were successful. I remember having been defeated for the seat of the Pilbara, returning to the city and winning preselection for the seat of Cockburn on 6 June 1986. The Premier was involved at the same time in a by-election for Victoria Park. I well remember, as I am sure the Premier does, Ted sacrificing his early ambitions to go into politics and working extremely hard to make sure that I had the numbers to win the preselection. I can remember him upstairs in my house ringing people at midnight and being back there at nine o'clock the next morning. He was constantly on the phone to make sure that we had all the numbers in place for the preselection.

Of course, he was not always correct with his numbers and he was very cute about how he got people's support. I remember one classic example of an evening for the selection of someone to fill an Australian Labor Party administrative position. One position was available. The three candidates for that one position were Kim Beazley, John Dawkins and Peter Walsh. Every one of them at the beginning of the evening approached my wife Ros, who was on the state executive, to thank her for putting them No 1 on the ballot paper. Ted had told them that Ros was voting for them. There was only one position, but all three of them were convinced that Ros was voting for each of them as No 1. I think it was an administrative position.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: I think so too. Your wife is a very clever woman.

Mr N.R. MARLBOROUGH: She reminded me of it this morning when we were talking about the good times we had with Ted and Julie. He was a great numbers man and a great Australian who loved people. He even named Chips our dog during the debate on the Animal Welfare Bill. Because I am one of the last speakers, some of the stories I want to relate have already been touched on, but I am sure the member for Stirling would agree that the Bill Clinton story needs to be finished. I am sure the member for Stirling will agree with what Ted did.

Mr M.G. House: I thought he did a numbers job, didn't he?

Mr N.R. MARLBOROUGH: That is certainly the position he took. When Bill Clinton became President two years after Ted met him, Ted all of a sudden whipped out the old photograph - this time framed. His claim to fame was that he put Bill Clinton into the White House and that he had picked him as an up and coming young star two years before when he was in America. Of course, that was the Ted we all loved. Chinese meals and raffle tickets are all part of the legend of Ted and his love of the Labor Party. I was lucky to be part of that. It would not be unfamiliar territory for Ted to be ringing me and asking me to go to a function to run the auction for the night. I remember a classic one held at a Chinese restaurant in Northbridge. I ran the auction. I decided to bring some prizes along with me.

Dr G.I. Gallop: The crayfish?

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Or the ducks?

Mr N.R. MARLBOROUGH: I brought crayfish and ducks. As the auctioneer, I could use the crayfish and ducks as I wanted. What I did not tell Ted was that the crayfish were alive. They were monsters. I put them out on somebody's table and they flapped and went everywhere, scattering food and drink. The ducks were also alive. I let the ducks out the box and they flew everywhere in the restaurant. I thought that everybody had a great night and we raised lots of money, but Ted phoned me the next morning and said, "Norm, it is very unlucky to let birds out in a Chinese restaurant - it is very bad." I did a number of other auctions but did not involve any live birds or crayfish.

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As has been said, Ted was a great humanitarian, a great local member and a great colleague to have in Parliament. When he decided to make a friend of people and decided the issue they wanted support on was right, he gave them that support. In politics, unfortunately, particularly the longer we are in politics, we must make some tough decisions. It was sad from my point of view that some of the decisions we had to make on preselections on this side of the House strained that relationship later on in life, but the relationship never ceased at a personal level. It never stopped Ted and me being great friends. He was always the gentleman. We were all deeply hurt and very concerned about him in the last few months of his life when regularly, regardless of how ill he was, he came into the Parliament. We were all very concerned about his health. However, that is the sort of person he was. He would put his problems to one side. He was usually here during those latter months trying to help the next generation of politicians come along, trying to assist with the next issue and helping the turf club. That was the Ted Cunningham we all loved.

At a personal level, as I have said, he worked very hard for my preselection in Cockburn. He worked hard for the Labor Party. His love of children was legendary. I think he idolised everyone he knew. He loved Patrick. He came to every one of Patrick's birthdays until Patrick was 12 years of age. He always brought a gift. He would always phone on his birthday. The second or third call I would get at home on Patrick's birthday on 3 October would be Ted ringing up to wish Patrick a happy birthday. That is the man we all love. I was fortunate enough to meet Julie at the same time that I met Ted; in fact, unbeknown to us when we met, Julie and I worked for the same company. Julie worked on St Georges Terrace for Cliffs Robe River Iron Associates and I worked at Cape Lambert for Cliffs Robe River Iron Associates. They have been great friends to Ros, Patrick and me and great and loyal supporters of the Australian Labor Party. Most importantly, as a couple, they have been unique Australians. We will always remember them for that as well.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.37 pm]: The good people of Girrawheen, as Ted was wont to say, have lost a very good man. We have lost a very good friend and colleague. Over the past few weeks, many people in the electorate have kindly shared with me their thoughts about Ted Cunningham, their local member for almost 13 years. A common thread runs through those comments; that is, that he was always willing to help those in need without a moment's hesitation.

With the indulgence of the House, I will recount some of those remarks. Councillor June Copley, who is a long-term councillor of the City of Stirling, said, "Ted was a true gentleman. He did a lot for Balga and never forgot about the area. Ted was very well known and well liked around here. He liked a drink and liked a bet." Principal Merv Hammond of Balga Senior High School was very kind in his words about Ted when he spoke at the school's recent year 12 graduation. He also told me, "Ted was a tremendous servant to Balga Senior High School and many of the wonderful programs we have running in the school have their foundation in Ted Cunningham. Ted always wanted to help the marginalised. He always had a kind word to say about the kids no matter what their background was."

Bob Tanasoski, who was a friend and former colleague, observed, "Ted was a good working partner, a pleasure to work with. He did a lot to help the community. If you went to Ted looking for help he was always there." Jenny Gately, another friend and constituent, said, "He was epitome of the ALP. He tried so much to help people. He couldn't help everyone. That was par for the course, but he tried so hard. He will be very much missed." Mick Wilkie, former president of Girrawheen Koondoola Junior Football Club, the Pumas, for nine years - a club Ted supported very enthusiastically as its patron - said, "Ted was highly respected around the football club and was someone that I had a very high regard for. If anyone needed help, Ted didn't hesitate to assist and had no problems bending over backwards for anyone. He will be sadly missed by myself and my family and the football club. Ted was a plain old gentleman."

Nguyen Huu Hao from the Vietnamese seniors association of Western Australia repeated the views of many ethnic groups in the community when he said, "It is no exaggeration to say Mr Cunningham was a benefactor of the association. He helped us in many ways tirelessly and with a sense of devotion. We respected him as a politician and we came to love him as a man with a great heart. We would like to take this opportunity to express our enduring gratitude towards a benefactor and a friend."

Ted was a regular attendee at the Balga Autumn Centre, and especially loved going to its Christmas concert every year. Barbara Price, the current secretary of the Balga seniors club and a broadcaster for 6EBA told me, "I found him to be a very good man who always helped everyone . . . he wasn't one to say no. Ted did a lot for the different clubs in Balga. He established *The Leader* magazine which was missed . . . it gave you a chance to know what was going on with other clubs in the area. Ted was a tremendously helpful gentleman."

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Carmel Macri, who has been mentioned on a number of occasions today, was Ted's long-serving and very faithful electorate officer. She noted that Ted's favourite saying was the "good people of Girrawheen". She said, "He always went to great pains to be honest with everyone. He was a man who loved the people, loved going to the tavern, loved watching all the local sporting teams play. He definitely wanted to be part of the community and he was."

As has also been said, Ted was very active in his church. Auxiliary Bishop Don Sproxton was the parish priest at Saint Gerard Majella Church at Balga for many years. He noted, "I will always be grateful for the help Ted gave me in my pastoral work in Mirrabooka. He was of the old school, one who felt the concerns of the people are the most vulnerable in our society. He assisted where he could with applications made for family reunions by recently settled migrants. We worked together on a number of occasions to assist families which had suffered the trauma of marriage breakdown and who found themselves moving into Mirrabooka, not knowing who to turn to with their issues. Ted was one of those special, down-to-earth people who understood ordinary people and their struggles. In this way he showed his great humanity and his Christian spirit of compassion and service for his brothers and sisters."

City of Stirling Mayor Tony Vallelonga was another great friend of Ted's. He noted that Ted was a great supporter of the work of the City of Stirling and a man who was very respectful, worked very hard within his electorate and was well respected within the community. Mr Vallelonga observed, "We will always remember him as a good friend of the City of Stirling." Tony Calabro, the publican at the legendary Girrawheen Tavern describes Ted as "a great bloke to have a beer with". He said, "He always had a funny story to tell. He could handle any stick anyone dished out to him and could give it back. Ted and I were fierce competitors in the footy tipping competition."

Quach Cam Toan, a Vietnamese cultural association committee member, regarded Ted as a person with a heart of gold. He said, "He always tried to help our organisation, he always listened and encouraged us to keep our culture, especially to take care of our younger generation and to work with others to create harmony in the community. We are very sad that he has died." Finally, Del Dewhurst, a parishioner at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Girrawheen told us, "Ted was a very caring person. I've never seen anyone ask for assistance and not have Ted bend over backwards for them. Ted did a lot for his church . . . Ted always had time to listen." That is a mere fraction of the many wonderful and affirming comments about Ted Cunningham that people in the electorate have made to me in recent days. Ted touched countless more lives in his own inimitable style.

Some of the issues for which he was a committed advocate were the scourge of illicit drugs, the family, education, the sanctity of human life, animal welfare and chaplaincy. These were all matters he fiercely embraced during his time in Parliament. He was a man of strong moral conviction and his proudest moments in this place were those in which his convictions were put to the test. It is not without irony that in the last weeks of his life, while doctors were still canvassing the possibility of a liver transplant for Ted, we discussed the work he had done on the issue of organ donation and transplantation as a member of the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Intergovernmental Agreements, which was chaired by the then member for Greenough. In his valedictory speech he made special mention of the importance of this work. Typically, as with all his endeavours, Ted strongly empathised with individuals. In the course of his speech following the tabling of the committee's report, Ted movingly referred to an encounter with a couple he had met in England whose 20-year-old son had died and had his organs donated. I commend that very touching speech to members in the House.

Mention has today been made of Ted's time as Opposition Whip, and I think that deserves special recognition. In my short time in this place I have observed that the job of Opposition Whip is one of the most challenging. It is a thankless task. It requires a level of commitment and loyalty to team and good humour not demanded of other members. From both the accounts of his colleagues and my personal observations, I know that Ted performed those duties exceptionally well with the rare combination of compassion, fairness and toughness that is required for the job. He instinctively knew where some latitude was required whilst being tough on the recalcitrants.

One of the hallmarks of Ted's term as the local member was that he embraced and rejoiced in the great richness and diversity of our community. In Girrawheen there are people from approximately 60 countries of origin. Ted did this at a time when it was not necessarily fashionable to celebrate diversity. He did so because, at its simplest, Ted was the kind of person for whom race and ethnic origin were irrelevant. He judged everyone as he found them and he abhorred racism. Consistent with that, Ted worked tirelessly for many ethnic communities in the area. I particularly mention the Macedonian and Vietnamese communities, for which Ted had special affection. He formed many close friendships and special bonds with individuals from those communities.

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Similarly, as we have seen today, Ted was one of a rare breed who could boast of having friends on both sides of the House. That is yet another indication of Ted's capacity to build on what we share and have in common rather than dwell on our superficial differences.

On a personal level and as I said in my inaugural speech, I owe Ted an enormous debt of gratitude. To me, he was a person of great kindness, generosity, humility, charm and, above all, steadfast loyalty. In recent years, that loyalty was sorely tested and a few other individuals were found wanting. Throughout trials and internecine spats, Ted had no problem knowing the right thing to do and sticking by it. I know that was not without some considerable personal detriment and heartache. However, as others have said, Ted had no difficulty sticking to his guns because he instinctively knew the right thing to do.

Ted said in this place that he considered himself a worker first and a parliamentarian second. That was typical of his tendency for self-deprecation and obscured his capacity to inspire and lead. It has also been said that that was no more evident than in his enthusiasm for mentoring many young people to become active in the party.

No speech about Ted would be complete without mentioning his wife of 37 years, Julie. My deepest sympathy goes to Julie. Even those with but a passing acquaintance of Ted could not help but observe the deep and enduring love and respect that Ted and Julie shared. They were truly equal partners in everything. I am confident that by relying on the strong faith that both Ted and Julie shared, Julie will know that Ted is now in a place where his many kindnesses and compassion will be rewarded and where he will suffer no pain.

Finally, I want to dwell on one of my fondest memories of Ted: the annual round-up in March of the Labor tribe on St Patrick's Day to celebrate our Irish cultural heritage. Those purists concerned with cultural integrity might have expressed some reservations about whether combination fried rice was authentic Irish fare, but such qualms were peremptorily but cheerfully dismissed. Similarly, the Macedonians, Filipinos and Vietnamese present at those functions far outnumbered those of us with a claim to Irish roots. However, that was not the point. To Ted, it was a terrific excuse to get together with 300 of his closest friends for a drink and a laugh, and to joyfully celebrate each other's company and friendship.

In the words of the traditional Irish saying: always remember to forget the things that made you sad but never forget to remember the things that made you glad. In the spirit of that Irish sentiment, we will fondly remember the countless happy times and wonderful memories we shared with Ted.

THE SPEAKER (Mr F. Riebeling): I simply wish to state that Ted was a mate of mine and I will miss him greatly. I ask members to show support of this motion by standing and observing a minute's silence.

Question passed, members standing.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I seek your guidance for taking a short suspension, which the Opposition has suggested. This has been a lengthy condolence debate, as it rightly should have been. The House would like to take a short recess after this solemn debate before continuing with the business of the House. Also, the Government may need to consult with the Opposition on how to arrange today's important business. It would be appropriate if you, Mr Speaker, sought to leave the Chair for a 10-minute break.

The SPEAKER: I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 3.53 to 4.09 pm