

HON DOUGLAS JAMES SHAVE

Condolence Motion

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [12.01 pm] —without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Hon Douglas James Shave and tenders its deep sympathy to his family, who are here today.

I acknowledge members of Doug's family in the Speaker's gallery today in recognising an important man who made a significant contribution to Western Australia both from within the Parliament and as part of our state's broader community, particularly in Western Australia's business community. As is the case with most people, Doug's values were cultivated by his parents and his education.

Douglas James Shave was born in Perth on 4 January 1947. His parents were George Robert Shave, an automotive engineer, and Mary Magdalene Pullman, a nursing sister. Doug would go on to be educated at Nedlands Primary School, Scotch College, Christ Church Grammar School and Hollywood Senior High School. In 1977, at the age of 30, Doug married Heather Turton at St Luke's Church in Mosman Park. Doug was a committed and loving father to his two children, Anna and Georgie. Very happily for Doug, Anna and Georgie made him a proud grandfather with the birth of Ava, Felix, Lola and Macleod. At the time of his death, Doug was also a respected father-in-law of Tom and Alister, and treasured partner of Claudia, playing a significant role in Claudia's family life also.

Doug Shave was the first Liberal member elected to represent the seat of Melville, winning it from long-term Labor member of Parliament and minister Barry Hodge in 1989. It was as close a competition as could be; the sort of nailbiter that keeps us politicians up at night. The two candidates finished neck and neck on first preference votes, with 8 129 votes each. When the two-party preferred vote was calculated, Doug won by just 32 votes, creating a wafer-thin margin of 0.2 per cent. Through hard work, Doug grew this margin to 10.3 per cent by the 1993 election, turning Melville into a relatively safe Liberal seat. It is said that Doug won in 1989 on the back of an unrelenting doorknocking campaign, such was his work ethic and commitment to change. In fact, in my first term, I regularly heard stories of the extraordinary doorknocking of Doug Shave. He was considered to be legendary in his efforts in his local community.

The electorate of Melville was abolished in 1996 and Doug saw off internal competition to contest the new seat of Alfred Cove, which he won in that year's election with a 2.4 per cent margin. Doug held Alfred Cove until 2001, serving 12 years in Parliament. For nine of those 12 years Doug was a shadow minister, parliamentary secretary or minister. Doug Shave was minister for almost half his parliamentary career, holding the portfolios of Tourism; Housing; Sport and Recreation; Employment and Training; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs; Lands; and Fair Trading.

He was passionate about small business, having been a publican before entering Parliament and becoming one again afterward. In 1970, at the age of just 23, Doug Shave became the owner and operator of the Railway Hotel in North Fremantle, which remained under his management until 1987. Doug's commitment to hospitality and his success in the industry was recognised in 1984 when he was appointed president of the Australian Hotels Association (WA), a position he held until 1998. In this role, Doug took on the responsibility of delivering special training courses for the unemployed, skilling them for the hospitality industry. He was very keen to ensure that people had a way out of poverty and believed that work was the way to achieve that.

Doug Shave's inaugural speech revealed a man passionate about supporting small business and strengthening free enterprise. Doug saw the work of government as essential in providing care for those who could not care for themselves and believed that the central role of government is as an "overseer of a fair and just society". After his long and active parliamentary career, and after having been a leading minister in the Richard Court government, Doug Shave returned to business. Over the past 17 years, Doug has been heavily involved in the Kalgoorlie hotel industry. He was the owner of Kalgoorlie's Star and Garter Hotel and the historic Hannans Hotel. He was well known in Kalgoorlie and the industry as a successful publican. He was well respected and acknowledged as an astute and effective businessman; the same reputation he enjoyed as a parliamentarian.

Before I make my concluding remarks, I knew Doug. He was here in my first term of Parliament from 1996 to 2001. He sat in the middle where the Attorney General now sits and I sat in the far corner, near where the member for Cottesloe now sits. I used to watch him from across the chamber. He was a robust and controversial parliamentarian. He had a sense of humour and it shone through in his answers to questions. Even when under pressure, he always had a quip, a joke or the capacity to pacify the audience with the sense of humour that he exhibited in here. He was a very prominent parliamentarian and he was highly respected by former Premier Richard Court. I think Richard Court held him in very high esteem, and after Doug's departure from Parliament,

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rather than dwelling on what might have been or what had occurred, he went on to recreate a successful business career and get on with life afterwards, which I think is an important lesson for all of us once we leave this place.

Doug's death last month in Kalgoorlie was sudden and unexpected. Dealing with loss is always emotionally challenging, but when that loss is unforeseen, the impact on family and friends is especially profound. I hope Doug's family can take solace in his legacy of service through his parliamentary and hospitality careers and take heart in his most important legacy—the one of commitment and care he has left each of them.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Doug's family and friends, and I again acknowledge those family and friends who have been able to join us in the gallery today.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [12.08 pm]: Douglas James Shave was born in Perth in January 1947. He was educated at Nedlands Primary School, Scotch College, Christ Church Grammar School and Hollywood Senior High School. His talents were practical rather than academic, and after experience in insurance and real estate, he became the owner and operator of the North Fremantle Railway Hotel at the age of 23. Doug Shave successfully ran this hotel from 1970 until 1987, serving as president of the Australian Hotels Association (WA) between 1984 and 1988. In this role, he instituted a special training course for the unemployed; an issue that he remained passionate about throughout his long life.

Doug was a keen and successful sportsman. He played for Claremont and Subiaco in the then Western Australian National Football League, for North Perth as a grade cricketer, and for Western Australia in table tennis. In 1988, Doug Shave won Liberal Party selection for the seat of Melville, which had been held easily and continuously by the Australian Labor Party since its creation in 1950. It had been the seat of Hon John Tonkin until 1977, popularly then known as "Honest John". The Liberal prospects had been enhanced by a redistribution that added the suburb of Attadale, but it still included Labor strongholds Willagee and Hilton. The Liberal Party needed a swing of nine per cent at the February 1989 election to overturn a majority of more than 3 000 votes. A very disciplined campaigner and an assiduous doorknocker, Doug Shave dead-heated with incumbent Barry Hodge, each gaining 8 159 primary votes or 44.3 per cent of the vote. After the distribution of preferences, he won by 32 votes. That was a notable achievement in the 1989 state election in which the Liberal Party failed to gain a number of key marginal seats, each of which was more winnable than Melville.

I might add that when I stood for the seat of Riverton, Doug Shave was put to me as an example of how to win a seat held by the Labor Party—that is, through hard work. He doorknocked assiduously all of his electorate and kept in touch with his constituents for the whole period. I will give a lot of credit for my victory—in fact, I did better than he. In the 1989 election he won by 32 votes and I won by 64. It was exactly double.

He worked equally hard as the local member, setting himself the goal of doorknocking his seat twice in the course of a parliamentary term, and served as shadow Minister for Employment and Training, and Small Business after May 1992. At the 1993 election, in a field of eight candidates, Doug Shave won an absolute majority and a final vote of 60.3 per cent, which was the largest swing gained by the Liberal Party in that election, and a cumulative swing of nearly 20 per cent over two elections. That is outstanding and it was due to hard work.

He joined the new Court coalition government as Minister for Tourism; Housing; and Sport and Recreation. However, he resigned his portfolios in August 1993, which is a difficult thing to do, to concentrate on the welfare of his daughters in difficult family circumstances. While being a member of Parliament, he successfully raised two teenage girls, both of whom are here today and are no longer teenagers. He subsequently served in the Legislative Assembly as a parliamentary secretary for two years from February 1995 in the portfolios held by Hon Norman Moore, MLC, of Education; Employment and Training; Sport and Recreation; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs; and Tourism.

Doug Shave faced a major challenge when the 1994 redistribution abolished the districts of Melville and Applecross and created the ultra-safe Liberal seat of Alfred Cove and the safe Labor seat of Willagee. Having won a tight Liberal Party preselection for Alfred Cove, he was challenged by his rival for preselection who ran as an Independent in the December 1996 election. Although his opponent benefited from the preferences of the ALP, Doug's strong primary vote of just under 50 per cent—due to his hard work—ensured his re-election with a majority of 1 034 votes or 52.4 per cent. When doorknocking his electorate, Doug Shave took care to remember those whom he met. He handwrote a Christmas card to each household in his electorate annually for the term of his political career. He most likely started the tradition, which many other members have followed, of asking children at a local primary school to draw a Christmas card for him. As part of this competition, Doug would select a winning card that would then be printed, personally signed and sent to all of his constituents. The student who submitted the winning card always got a present from Doug. A Liberal colleague recalls that in the suburb of Hilton, represented by Doug Shave until 1996, electors would state that he was the only member of Parliament to have knocked on their doors, as some of us have heard.

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Doug returned to cabinet in January 1997, holding the portfolios of Lands; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs; and Fair Trading. He preferred to work without the aid of computers, but he always managed to get through his work manually. He insisted on reading and personally signing each piece of correspondence that left his office under his name. As Minister for Fair Trading, Doug Shave came under sustained criticism over the activities of financial brokers whose failures had impacted on the savings of many retirees. In the words of Hon Norman Moore, he was the victim of the precarious and generally poorly understood relationship between ministers and statutory authorities.

At the 2001 election, the Australian Labor Party stood aside in Alfred Cove, with two significant Independent candidates exchanging preferences. Doug Shave led on the primary vote count, but with a vote of 32.8 per cent he was defeated by Dr Janet Woollard with a margin of 3 186 votes. Despite this defeat, Doug Shave deserves to be remembered as an assiduous and caring local member with a particular concern for his older constituents, many of whom were invited to lunch with him at Parliament House. He was also a generous host to the veteran community. There were many occasions when, through his electorate officer, he left some of his own private money at Coles in Melville to assist in the payment of groceries for elderly people in need. He would buy taxi vouchers for elderly people to visit their spouses who had been placed in care facilities.

After leaving Parliament, Doug Shave resumed a successful business career, operating and rejuvenating the Hannans and Star and Garter Hotels in Kalgoorlie, where he enjoyed many friendships, strongly supported by his staff. He was an astute businessman with a dry sense of humour and a quick wit. Above all, he was able to concentrate on his family, resume fishing and visiting Rottnest, and enjoy some recreational overseas travel for the first time in his life. It has been said of Doug Shave that on a personal level he was not big on being the centre of attention. He just wanted to get the job done to the best of his ability and he always had the electors' best interests at heart. He foreshadowed this view in his first speech in the Legislative Assembly in April 1989 when he said —

My reason for entering Parliament was very simple. I consider I have been extremely lucky to grow up in a free society and I want this country to remain one of free enterprise. If that happens my children and future generations can hopefully enjoy the opportunities and freedom which I and every member in this House have enjoyed. At the same time, I recognise the need to care for those people who through sickness or some other reason cannot care for themselves.

We extend our sympathies to his daughters Georgie and Anna, his sons-in-law Tom and Allister, grandchildren Felix, Ava, Lola and Macleod, and to his partner Claudia and her son Sean, and his circle of close friends and family. It was a life well led. May he rest in peace. He died too young.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [12.17 pm]: On behalf of the National Party, I rise to make a contribution to this condolence motion for Hon Douglas James Shave, MLA, a former Liberal Party member. Doug was born on 4 January 1947 and passed away unexpectedly last month. I would like to express our sincere condolence to his family, specifically his daughters, Georgina and Anne, who are seated in the gallery today. Doug Shave, the first Liberal member for Melville and then Alfred Cove, was a member of the WA Parliament for 12 years, from 1989 to 2001.

He will be remembered, as previous contributors have said, as a hardworking member and a minister of the Richard Court government, holding a number of ministerial portfolios, including Tourism, Housing, Sport and Recreation, Employment and Training, Lands, Fair Trading, and Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs.

Before politics, he was involved in the hotel industry for some 20 years. This passion and interest continued after his political career when he returned to the Star and Garter and Hannans Hotels in Kalgoorlie.

He was tenacious in his efforts as a member of Parliament and a fierce advocate for his constituency. The Leader of the Opposition referred to his maiden speech, which always provides some guidance on what a member holds important. The remainder of the quote that the Leader of the Opposition started reads —

As each day passes it becomes clearer to me that it is not only the exorbitant amount of money that Governments take in in taxation that is causing individual financial hardship, but also it is the way in which Governments spend the money they collect.

Our Prime Minister has said that no Australian child will live in poverty by 1990. Such a comment may appeal to media headline writers but, unfortunately, the sad reality is that many people remain in poverty because of Government policies. Politicians like ourselves too quickly forget that this place should be the House that genuinely protects individuals' rights. Unfortunately, the converse is often the case.

...

While all these billions of dollars are being spent, a diabetic woman in her thirties, living in poverty in my electorate, is now in a coma because the system we created forced her to make a decision between vital medication and necessary nutrition.

...

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While the opportunity prevails I will endeavour to resist Governments that waste millions of dollars on irrational, ideological schemes while truly needy individuals get little or no support.

He was clearly a compassionate individual. The Leader of the Opposition spoke about his commitment and caring nature towards those whom he represented in this place. I conclude my contribution today by acknowledging that Doug was clearly dedicated and hardworking and our condolences go to his family, who are here with us today, and his friends and staff and everyone who has had the opportunity to work with him in his contribution to this state.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [12.19 pm]: I rise briefly to also offer my condolences to the family of the late Doug Shave. I first met Doug on the playing fields of Neddies primary school when we got our new malthoid cricket pitch in 1957, as I recall. Doug was quite a sportsman, quite a bowler and quite a young footballer, too. I knew Doug for over 60 years. Besides being the publican of the Railway Hotel, he was the first licensee of the bar at the Fremantle Markets. He stood on the steps of that bar as the doorman every Friday from about four o'clock until stumps. When I used to go to the South Fremantle Football Club on a Friday evening, I would always see and chat to Doug. I saw him and his late brother, Bob, a lot at the Railway Hotel. He was always courteous to everyone who came to the premises. I never saw him, as a licensee, either outwardly affected by alcohol or display an aggressive nature to anyone he had asked to leave the premises. He had a very even temperament and a very quiet voice. He was also a friend of a mutual friend, Bill Breheny, who was at the time the licensee of The Esplanade Hotel before it was taken over during the America's Cup. We used to get together a lot. As I said, he was a quietly spoken man of very firm views, but of even temperament, and he was well mannered.

He went on, of course, to join Parliament. I was not involved in politics at the time, but I knew him as a hardworking parliamentarian who was very well respected. I also enjoyed the opportunity in my legal practice of being favoured with his business as a client. I always had a lot of respect for Doug. We were not close over these last number of years, as he moved his business interests back to Kalgoorlie, but I wanted to rise to extend to his family my sincere condolences on the passing of my late friend Doug Shave.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police) [12.22 pm]: I would like to pay brief tribute to the life of Doug Shave and to his parliamentary career and extend my condolences to his two daughters and his other family members. As has been commented on, Doug was known for being a legendary campaigner, for his doorknocking and for his other campaign activities. He certainly was respected in those efforts by people on both sides of the house. Like the Premier, I served in the Parliament in the 1990s with Doug Shave. The Premier is quite right; he sat where the member for Victoria Park now sits, alongside Richard Lewis and Graham Kierath. They were a relatively formidable team of ministers sitting on this bench. From my perspective, I considered that Doug both worked hard and played hard. He liked to drink and he liked to joke. He was a very sociable member of Parliament. Those things probably stood him in good stead in his electorate. Doug did not die wondering; he had a go. He was a character in this place. Sometimes I reflect on those times and think that we had a few more characters on both sides of the house back in the day. Some of the characteristics displayed by those people probably would not go down quite as well today with social media, smart phones and the like. It may well be that we still have a few characters in this place; they just have to hide their light under more of a bushel because of the greater exposure that members of Parliament get these days.

Doug was always a very friendly and considerate person. Certainly, as the Premier said, he had the respect of the Premier and most of his colleagues. I appreciate that oftentimes when there is a larger-than-life character like Doug in Parliament and in the public eye, it can pose difficulties for family members. It is to his credit that post-politics, he devoted so much of his time to his daughters and his grandchildren.

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe) [12.25 pm]: A lot has been said about Doug Shave and I just want to add a few comments. Doug certainly had legendary status in the Liberal Party for his campaigning, particularly when he won the seat of Melville in 1989. Comment has been made about that and it is true; he knocked on every door, he kept notes, he knew the name of the dog or the children or the flowers and he would write letters to people and call them. I do not think anyone in the Liberal Party has ever matched Doug's campaigning technique as such. I remember Doug telling me one day that he had put an advertisement in the local newspaper stating, "I am Doug Shave, your local member. Please contact me if I can help you." He got a call from a single mum with two or three kids who said that she had seen his advertisement and her fridge had blown up and she needed a new one. Doug bought her a fridge. He was very much like that.

When I first came to politics a year later in 1990, Doug was the only person I knew at that stage. I was an outsider to the Liberal Party—and perhaps I still am today! Doug and I knew each other. We did not always get on well in politics; that is true. Politics back in the 90s was, as the member for Midland said, certainly more colourful. I can remember the day Doug shirtfronted me in Parliament in the corridor behind members. That was pretty interesting! I was not too intimidated because what was probably not known was that Doug and I grew up together either side

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of the lane in Dalkeith. Doug was a few years older than I, but as kids, we kicked the footy around in the park. We played football with each other at Claremont, we played against each other when he went to Subiaco and we played a bit of footy in amateur competitions later on. I knew Doug well, but, as I said, we seemed to have some sort of factional difference. The only problem was that in the early 90s, I did not even know what a faction was, but Doug did, so we had some differences.

As has been said before, before politics and after politics, Doug was a very successful person in the hotel industry. I can well remember listening to jazz on a Saturday afternoon at the Railway Hotel in North Fremantle in my electorate. It was a whole new world for me, but Doug ran a pretty good pub. He also was a successful and high-profile president of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Hotels Association, and I have no doubt that that is what led him into politics. He was a champion for business, particularly small business.

Doug was a knock-around sort of guy; there is no doubt about that. He enjoyed having a bit of fun. He was also, in some sense, a bit vulnerable and a very emotional person. I am not making a political point here, but some members may recall the Easton affair from the early 90s, which resulted in the tragic death of Penny Easton. I do not know whether Doug even knew Penny Easton, but I can remember Doug virtually breaking down in the chamber because he was so distraught at the circumstances that led to the tragic loss of that young woman's life. He virtually broke down in the chamber over that and I think all of us saw a different side of Doug Shave. He was very emotional.

As a minister, he certainly had some challenges and none bigger than the finance brokers scandal in the late 1990s. There is no doubt that some very dodgy people were operating in the finance broking industry and there is no doubt that perhaps hundreds of people, or of that order, lost their life savings, many of whom were retired and on fixed incomes and the like. Doug was the Minister for Fair Trading at the time and he got the blame. In reality, most people who had invested with finance brokers and lost their money lost it well before Doug was even the minister. But when people suffer loss like that, they will look for someone to blame, and I am sure that we can all think of examples of that. Doug copped it in a big way. He clearly suffered from that. I think he also had some personal issues to deal with. Doug was not in a good place. There is no doubt about that; he was suffering in this chamber. He was mercilessly taunted in this chamber, and I think he was really struggling to cope with it. Even though Doug and I were not close at one stage, I urged him to step down from cabinet. He needed a break. He probably would have done that but maybe he was advised by others that that was not a good thing to do.

I think of Doug when examples come up. This is a rough and hard place. We never know what is going on in people's own lives and how people might be affected. There is an ironic sequel to the events surrounding that but that is another story for another day. As I said, Doug and I knew each other from when we were really young children. We had a testy relationship around politics but we also had a personal relationship and we got on. He was a guy who wore his heart on his sleeve in many respects. He deserves respect. I certainly wish to extend my sympathy to Georgina and Anna and to his wider family and friends. He was a good bloke; he was a good knock-around guy. He had lots of friends. It was sad that he lost his life at a comparatively young age. My sympathy to all Doug's family and friends.

The SPEAKER: I ask all members to rise for one minute's silence in order to carry this motion, please.

Question passed; members and officers standing as a mark of respect.