

**REAR ADMIRAL SIR RICHARD JOHN TROWBRIDGE**

*Condolence Motion*

**DR G.I. GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Premier) [2.02 pm]: I move -

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Rear Admiral Sir Richard John Trowbridge and tenders its deep sympathy to his family.

Rear Admiral Sir Richard John Trowbridge passed away in England on 4 May this year. Sir Richard was Western Australian's twenty-fifth Governor, from 25 November 1980 to 24 November 1983, and the last British vice-regal representative in Australia.

Sir Richard was born on 21 January 1920 in England to a farming family. He was fully expecting to become a farmer until a downturn in agriculture saw him leave school at 15 years of age to join the Royal Navy as a boy seaman. Quickly promoted through the ranks, he was commissioned in 1940 and served at sea throughout the Second World War. At the end of hostilities, Sir Richard specialised in gunnery, and as a staff gunnery officer in Singapore he met and married Anne Perceval, on 26 February 1955.

Sir Richard captained the destroyer *Carysfort* in the Mediterranean from 1956 to 1958, and then served as the second-in-command of the cruiser *Bermuda* from 1958 to 1959 before returning to the gunnery school at Whale Island in Portsmouth, where he was promoted to captain in 1960. From 1962 to 1964 he was in charge of the fishery protection squadron, and from 1967 to 1969 he commanded the guided missile destroyer *Hampshire*, which for many years was the flagship of the Western Fleet.

Sir Richard became extra equerry to the Queen in 1970 and he served as Flag Officer of the Royal Yachts from 1970 to 1975. He was the first officer to rise from boy seaman to captain of the Queen's yacht *Britannia*.

Sir Richard served Western Australia with distinction during his term in office and earned the respect of the many Western Australians who met with him during his extensive visits throughout the State. On behalf of all members of this House I extend our deepest sympathy to Lady Trowbridge and her family.

**MR C.J. BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the Opposition) [2.04 pm]: Members of the Liberal Party and I express our sympathy and condolences on the loss of Sir Richard Trowbridge. As the Premier said, Sir Richard Trowbridge had a most distinguished military career with the Royal Navy and then served this State with distinction. I well remember him during his time as Governor of Western Australia. He was a very distinguished, very able and very intellectual person. He had a great empathy with Western Australia and got to know and love this State during his time here. It is always sad when people of such distinction and with such service to the State pass on. I extend my sympathy and that of Liberal members of Parliament and the Liberal Party at large to the members of his family.

**MR M.W. TRENORDEN** (Avon - Leader of the National Party) [2.05 pm]: I and my colleagues in the National Party also add to the list of tributes to Sir Richard Trowbridge. As already mentioned, Sir Richard came from a farming background in England. A slump in agriculture changed the course of his life. Some members of this House could also say that about themselves. Having gone to sea at the age of 15, he went on to become a distinguished seaman, and rose to the rank of rear admiral. Following Sir Richard's retirement, former Premier Sir Charles Court visited London and persuaded him to become Governor of Western Australia. Because of Sir Richard's history, many Western Australians who had lived with the uncertainties of working on the land had a soft spot for him when he arrived in Western Australia. He took up his post in November 1980. In office he was a charismatic Governor who brought style and military bearing to the post. We offer our deepest sympathy to Lady Trowbridge and her family.

The SPEAKER: I ask members to show their support for this motion by standing and observing one minute's silence.

Question passed, members standing.