

EDDIE ROCHESTER — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Kalgoorlie

MS A.E. KENT (Kalgoorlie) [12.27 pm]: As the member for Kalgoorlie, I want to pay homage to Eddie Rochester, who sadly passed in late November 2022, and acknowledge his long linkage with the Labor Party.

Eddie started out helping his dad by volunteering in election campaigns back in 1972. He joined the local branch in 1974. He took over the role as booth captain at North Kalgoorlie Primary School in 1978 and held that job until his passing. It is incredible to believe that one person could run a booth at every state and federal election for 44 years! Over the decades, Eddie held many positions in the Kalgoorlie branch. He was an important member who served as secretary, vice president, president and, finally, treasurer, a role he held to the end. Such was the high regard with which Eddie was held by WA Labor that in December 2022, he was awarded the prestigious honour of life membership.

My thoughts are with Eddie's wife, Wendy, and children, Kylie, Mark and Wayne. You know how important your dad and pop were and how he was respected throughout the goldfields. His dedication in volunteering his time for thousands and thousands of hours is a true testament to this great man, who will be greatly missed by so many people in our community. Eddie's legendary status will live on in the goldfields community, but certainly within the Labor Party.

Thank you for the support, volunteering, friendship and laughter, Eddie. I shall never forget it or the amazing man you were.