



Speech by

## Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Wednesday, 20 May 2009

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### WATSON, SIR BRUCE; MARTINUZZI, MR A

**Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.28 pm): I rise to pay tribute to two life members of the former Queensland National Party who we have lost in recent times. The late Sir Bruce Watson, a former long-serving trustee of the Queensland National Party, passed away on 1 November 2008 aged 80. Sir Bruce was born in Stanthorpe in 1928. Educated at Toowoomba Grammar and the University of Queensland, he graduated with degrees in Engineering and Commerce and worked in the power industry in Tasmania and North Queensland before joining the Mount Isa Mines subsidiary, Copper Refineries Pty Ltd, in 1956. He was involved with the Mount Isa expansion program in the early 1970s until moving into the mining industry in Western Australia in 1975. Sir Bruce returned to Brisbane as a director of MIM in 1977. He was appointed managing director in 1980 and succeeded Sir James Fooks as MIM's chief executive officer in July 1981 and as chairman in November 1983. He stepped down as CEO in December 1990 and as chairman of the board in 1991.

Sir Bruce served as a director of the National Australia Bank and as chairman of the Gas Corporation of Queensland. Sir Bruce served as president of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in 1992 and was national president of the Australian Institute of Company Directors in 1993. In 1985 he was knighted in recognition of his service to Queensland industry and in 1989 the University of Queensland conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering.

I do not claim to have known Sir Bruce Watson well, although I did know him and I did share with him membership of the former Queensland National Party and the Sir Samuel Griffith Society. I think Sir Bruce Watson was a great Queenslander and I wanted to put that on the record in the Queensland parliament along with my condolences to Lady Watson and the Watson family.

Alfred Martinuzzi was a life member of the former Queensland National Party who passed away on 8 May 2009 aged 94 years. He was born in Mourilyan, a small town in my electorate of Hinchinbrook, in 1914. Alf was educated at Mourilyan, Herberton, Nudgee College and the University of Queensland, where he read arts and law. Alf returned to North Queensland, where he worked his parents' farm and was employed by the Shell oil company. Unfortunately, during World War II Alf was interned with many other people of Italian heritage, despite being born in Australia and having never been to Italy. A generous man, Alf held no grudges and assisted Italians to migrate to Australia in search of a new life after the war.

Alf was very committed to the Roman Catholic Church and was a life member of the Knights of the Southern Cross. Alf was very committed to the arts and was instrumental in setting up the North Queensland Conservatorium of Music, successfully serving as chairman for many years. Alf was awarded an MBE in 1982 for his services to cultural activities in Queensland. Alf was also a strong supporter of the Innisfail and District Historical Society. Alf was a long-serving member of the management committee of the former Queensland National Party, and I was privileged to present to him in 2007 his 50-year membership certificate. Alf Martinuzzi was a great North Queenslander and I offer my condolences to the Martinuzzi family.