

**ARTHUR DIX MARSHALL — TRIBUTE**

*Statement*

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan)** [9.45 pm]: I am not normally of the practice of rising when this house adjourns to make speeches such as this, but I feel obliged to do so out of a sense of duty to someone who has recently passed away and who made a quite extraordinary contribution to the community here in Western Australia on a number of levels and who, frankly, was a friend of mine and of yours, Madam President. He was for a number of years a member of the Parliament of Western Australia, though not in this place. I imagine that in due course there will be a condolence motion in the Legislative Assembly but not here, of course, because he was not a member here. However, a lot of us knew him and through this opportunity that I take now, I want to convey my condolences to his bereaved family. I refer to the late Arthur Dix Marshall, a remarkable character who has achieved so much, including in sport. He was no mean character in a number of sports, including tennis, football and table tennis and probably half a dozen other things as well.

He contested the seat of Fremantle at a by-election in 1990 when, for the first time probably ever, the Liberal candidate topped the primary vote in an election in Fremantle. Later, in 1993, Arthur successfully stood for election for the then seat of Murray, taking a seat off the Labor Party, which is always a good thing and there should be more of it. Arriving then in the Assembly, he was always wont to remind Jim McGinty, who by then was the member for Fremantle, "Jim, where I come from, the winner is the person who is first-past-the-post. I need to remind you that I was first-past-the-post when we ran against each other." That is a fairly valid point.

He made the successful transition to the new seat of Dawesville and, indeed, it was in connection with the seat of Dawesville that I saw Arthur for the last time. I had been around to the family residence to catch up with him. He had asked to see me and I wanted to get around there anyway. He had recently published a book. I could not get to the launch and I picked up a few copies. In fact, I think I picked up one for you, Madam President, when I was down in Fremantle, and I went around to Arthur's to get him to endorse the inside flyleaf, and he did that. Arthur was then quite infirm. I will not go into the details, but I will relate this story. We were going to look at another part of the house in Preston Point Road and I went down the stairs with his wife, Helen, and my wife, Joy, came down in the lift with Arthur. The lift had just been installed in the house; that was the level of Arthur's unsteadiness and infirmity at that stage. He said to Joy just as we were going to go, "Make sure you look after the boy"—not many people around refer to me as "the boy"—"because I'm not going to see him again." It was a difficult remark to respond to so I determined to respond to it when I found out about it by making sure, "Right, I'll sort you, you old codger" and made damn sure that we would see him again. That is how, just after that, a function was organised down in Falcon for the members for Dawesville, who were three in total. Arthur Marshall was the original member. Hon Dr Kim Hames was the second member, who has recently retired. The third is the current member, young Zak Kirkup, MLA, who I think will go a very long way in this game. I was delighted to be there to catch up with not only Arthur, but also his wife, Helen, and their son Clark. A few years ago when I was Minister for Transport, I presented Clark with the award for being taxidriver of the year, which just shows, in some way, what a small town this is.

To those family members I have mentioned and also his other children, Dixie and Scott, and their respective families, I want to offer publicly my condolences and assure them that their father's life was indeed one well lived. They all know that but it is important that we who have been involved in public life affirm it as well. Arthur recently launched his autobiography and I advise members to get hold of a copy. I think we have one up in the Parliamentary Library. The last time I saw him, he asked me what I thought of it and I said, "Arthur, it was an amazing story. I enjoyed hearing about you riding a Lambretta around Europe when you were young and competing on the tennis circuit as supposedly amateurs, but you were all semi-pros." I enjoyed it. It was interesting to find that he once lived at 30 Carrington Street. I did not know that. I have lived in Carrington Street myself, although many years later. I said, "All in all, it was a good yarn, Arthur, and I enjoyed reading it. I thought it got to its peak at page 351." That is where I cracked a mention, Madam President. I said, "After that, it was all downhill." He smiled and said, "Good on you, Simon" and that is how I would like to remember him. So long, Coach. May you rest in peace.

*Statement by President*

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust)**: Members, before I give the call to Hon Robin Chapple, I would also like to extend my condolences to the Marshall family. Arthur was always a very good colleague to work with, highly entertaining and certainly committed to his electorate. He was ably assisted by my aunt, Fran Boucaut, who was his long-term electorate officer, which also enables that connection. My condolences to all the Marshall family on the passing of Arthur.